

CILIP Health Libraries Group Conference - Thursday 14th- Friday 15th June 2018



Not only was this the first library and information conference that I had attended but it was also my first time presenting a poster which had been developed with colleagues within the University of Leeds. So I was feeling doubly excited and a little nervous heading into HLG 2018.



Naila Dracup @nailadracup · Jun 13

Very excited that be in Keele for my first #hlg2018 conference. Thanks to generous support of #YOHHLNET. Looking forward to all the sessions.

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HLG Co-Chair Sarah Hennessey (HLG Co-Chair) officially opened the conference which led on to the keynote speakers.



CILIP Chief Executive, Nick Poole went through the societal changes having an impact on the sector. Major initiatives included the launch of [Health hub](#), CILIP's new dedicated area for librarians and information professionals in the health sector. CILIP will also be launching a new black and minority ethnic librarians' network at the CILIP conference in July.



The second keynote of the morning came from Dr Mark Murphy, a GP and lecturer from Dublin, who gave a fascinating talk on the acquisition of evidence-based information, the language of treatment and how to communicate the complex phenomena of treatment with patients. The link to Mark's paper on this in the HLG Virtual issue is [here](#).

The rest of the day was comprised of our selected parallel sessions. The first standout session for me was from Jane Falconer, User Support Services Librarian at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Jane described how being inspired by Alicia Fátima Gómez', et al's presentation at EAHIL 2016 detailing evaluating the methodologies of systematic reviews published between 2004-2014 which highlighted that less than 1/3 had good quality literature searches or search methods, Lisa conducted an audit of published systematic reviews from within her own institution which highlighted a number of issues and that involvement from LIS professionals demonstrates a positive impact. One way of overcoming this issue, Jane suggested is for more LIS professionals to get involved in peer reviewing articles to ensure that PRESS and PRISMA guidelines are upheld.

The second standout session was from Elinor Harriss, Knowledge Centre Manager and Outreach Librarian at Bodleian Health Care Libraries, University of Oxford on the use of qualitative methods for evaluating your service. Elinor provided her reflections and tips on conducting qualitative research based on her experiences following on from her recent research project. I was really interested in this session, having carried out a small amount of qualitative research to inform our poster. Embarking on this work, I hadn't anticipated just how difficult qualitative research is, from drafting questions, employing active listening skills and not to mention the arduous process of transcribing! I wholeheartedly agree with Elinor's reflections that qualitative research methods are: "not for the faint hearted but can be exhilarating" and "can allow for findings that can surprise you". I'm really interested in seeing more qualitative research being conducted within the LIS sector as the rich and fluid nature of this type of research would provide significant insight across the profession.

After the parallel sessions and the closing remarks it was time to head to the conference dinner in the atmospheric Keele Hall to catch up with delegates and enjoy the quiz.

The Tai Chi session led by David Ashbey, Knowledge and Information Officer at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHSFT/Doncaster Council in the beautiful Keele Hall Gardens was a fantastic way to warm up the body and brain for what would be a busy day of sessions. Having never done Tai Chi before I was surprised that it's a lot more strenuous than it looks! David was a fantastic teacher and we were even joined by some ducks.

The first keynotes of the Friday's session were from Louise Goswami (Head of LKS and TEL for London and the South West) and Sue Lacy Bryant (Senior Advisor, Knowledge for Healthcare Programme Lead Topol Review, Health Education England) who gave us an update on the CILIP, HLG and HEE #amilliondecisions campaign. Having a background in public library work, I was really interested in the second keynote presentation on the collaborative pilot 'Engaging libraries' scheme by Andy Wright and Rachel Heydecker from the Carnegie UK Trust. It was great to hear about the vast range of activities that are being run in public libraries across the UK to promote health and wellbeing.

The standout parallel sessions for me were from Kate Misso, Information Specialist Manager, Kleijnen Systematic Reviews Ltd on 'How LIS professionals can contribute to improving systematic review quality and minimise research waste' or "librarians saving research from the bin". Kate outlined how Information Specialists had reviewed a subset of 312 systematic reviews from their repository of systematic reviews KSR Evidence, highlighting myriad of issues with the reporting of literature searching methods. I enjoyed the examples of badly reported systematic reviews, such as publishing a 'systemic review', oh dear... However, this is a really serious issue and as Kate pointed out, a poor literature search will result in an unsound review.

I also really enjoyed the session 'Ready from day one: developing evidence-based practitioners' by Shirley Yearwood-Jackman, University of Liverpool. Shirley described what I'm sure would be very common to many LIS professionals involved in the teaching of literature searching and research methods in that when gathering feedback students will say that they have increased in confidence but you suspect that for many students the message might not be getting through. Shirley gave a really interesting talk on the pedagogical use of peer learning to develop meta-cognitive skills and deep learning to ensure that the students can apply these skills to a new problem.

After all of the sessions I was feeling very tired and enthused to be able to bring back so many tips and innovative ideas to share with colleagues. It was fantastic getting to meet and make contacts with so many other LIS professionals. I am very grateful to YOHLNET for the generous support in providing me with a bursary to attend.

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