

November 2017  
Issue 101

# The Swimming Pool

Newsletter for the  
SWIMS Network



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## Institutional Repositories: the next stage

We all know that information and knowledge is of little value unless it is accessible and can be used in practice. A great way to support the sharing of organisational knowledge in your Trust is by creating an Institutional Repository (IR).

Traditionally an IR:

- Supports a Trust increase its research profile both amongst Trust staff and in the wider world.
- Enables increased visibility and citation hit rates for researchers.
- Underpins OpenAccess publishing arrangements
- Captures conference presentations and posters for sharing

However, it can do more - have you thought about using an IR to?

- Capture lessons learned
- Collate Trust policies and clinical guidelines
- Store patient leaflets
- Link to YouTube clips and videos

The different types of IR are described in our blog posting; from the simple to the bespoke including costs, resource implications, content included and some evaluative commentaries.

<http://kfh.libraryservices.nhs.uk/institutional-repositories/>

Setting up an IR plays to our strengths and uses our abilities and skillset. We know how to organise information, we understand what our stakeholders want and need in our LKS, we know how to create and make knowledge available and accessible, networking and collaborating is part of our DNA.

A new toolkit will be uploaded in November and will include

- A matrix of IRs in the NHS alphabetically and by type
- Guidance on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright
- Background information on Open Access
- Hints and tips to show how LKS staff can support the implementation of an IR and add value
- Ideas for making the case for and things to consider when setting up an IR in your Trust
- Resources
- Ideas bank: examples and case studies

<http://kfh.libraryservices.nhs.uk/knowledge-management/institutional-repository-toolkit/>

**Sue Robertson**  
**HEE South Knowledge Services Development Lead**

## International Clinical Librarian Conference (ICLC) 2017: a view from the South

I was very lucky to win CILIP HLG funding to attend the ICLC Conference in Leicester this year. I was keen to go as we've been struggling to get a clinical librarian service fully established for our library service and I was hoping to get some good advice from colleagues around the UK and further afield.

The conference did not disappoint. It was a programme packed full of interesting presentations, workshops, lightning talks and posters, on topics such as systematic reviews, establishing clinical librarian services, current awareness services, and supporting research.

The highlights for me were hearing the success stories – in particular from Bennet and Katie (North Bristol NHS Trust), Lisa Lawrence (Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), and Laura Wilkes (West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust) – where successful clinical librarian services have been set up from chance meetings in car parks, and from sheer determination and persistence!

For me, the biggest challenge was trying to 'live' tweet the conference. As a condition of my sponsored place I was obligated to try and publicise and promote the event on social media, including tweeting during the event. Wow, that was a learning curve! It was quite hard trying to keep up with what was going on, tweet relevant and interesting points, as well as trying to take it all in. You can see my attempts here: [https://storify.com/cate\\_newell/iclc-2017-tweets](https://storify.com/cate_newell/iclc-2017-tweets).

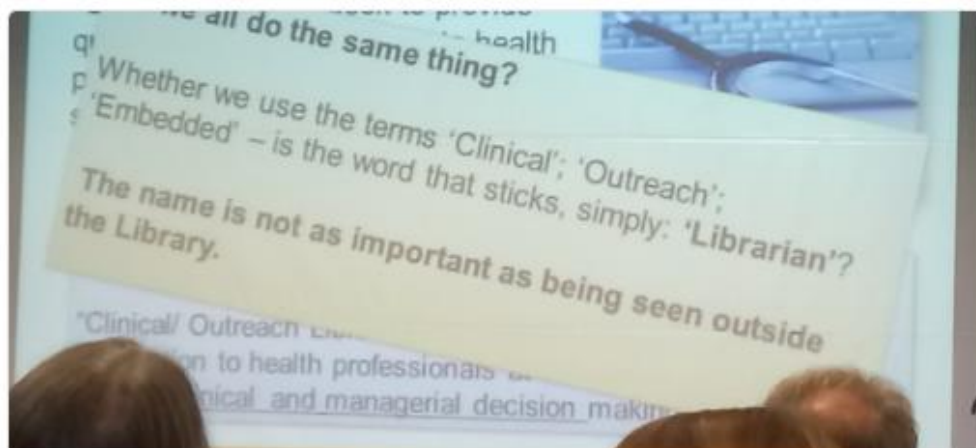
The conference gave me hope that we're on the right track in our library service – the building blocks are there, for example well-used literature search service, current awareness services, subject/specialty support resources (LibGuides), and research support (RD&E Research Repository). We just need to keep working hard and trying to make the right connections - it's all about who you know!

**Cate Newell**  
**Reader Services Librarian**  
**Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (EXE)**



**Cate Newell** @cate\_newell · Sep 21

Key message - doesn't matter what you're called, what matters is getting out of the library #iclc2017 @RDELlibrary



*Knowledge for Healthcare* makes the recommendation that, in order for library and knowledge services to best meet the demands of a fast-changing NHS, “the clinical and outreach models [should be] expanded to become standard practice” ([Health Education England, 2014, p.16](#)). It was no surprise then to find that many of the attendees of the 2017 International Clinical Librarian Conference (ICLC 2017) were new in post, and in some cases in the process of setting up their own clinical librarian services. The conference was firstly a reminder that, in a role which can sometimes feel bewildering and isolated, we are in fact not alone: Chances are high that any doubts or frustrations we feel on the job have been experienced by someone else. And secondly, ICLC 2017 was an opportunity to learn from that shared experience.

Clinical librarianship takes many forms – the classic model of a librarian completely embedded within a clinical team is just one example of what a clinical librarian can be. This model was best exemplified by Farhad Shokraneh, who described setting up the first such clinical librarian post in Iran, within a hospital emergency department. His description of 12-hour night shifts in the most intense of working environments was hugely inspiring, and a high-point of the conference.

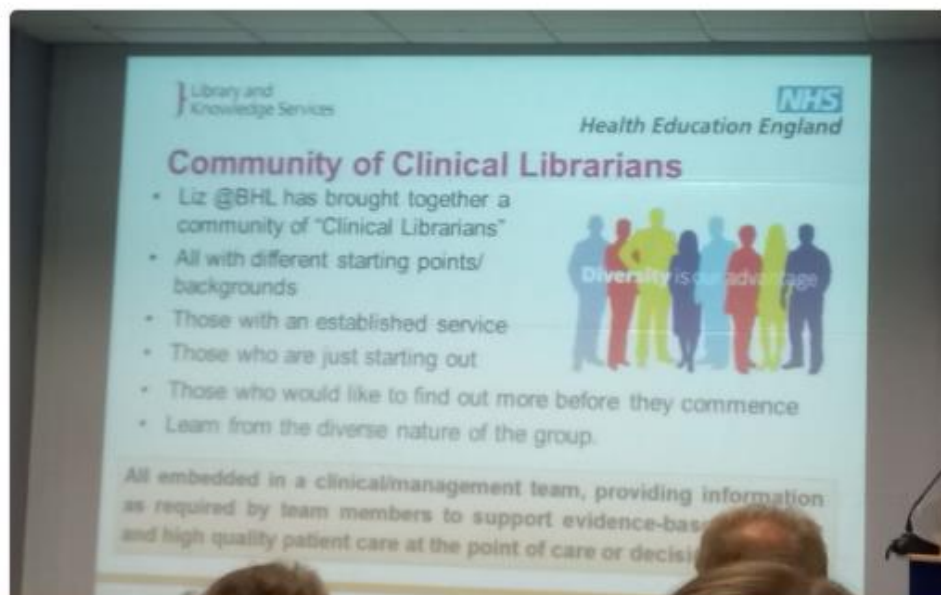
But it was useful to see that other forms of clinical librarianship are available. For many of us with commitments to wider service delivery, being completely embedded within a single team is impractical. Talks from, for example, Laura Wilkes and Steve Glover / Olivia Schaff provided elegant examples of how embedded librarianship can be small-scale or project-based. Laura’s work with the speech and language therapy team centres on their journal club; while Steve and Olivia described their role in identifying gaps in the endometriosis literature to propel future research projects (supporting the Priority Setting Partnership group). Both talks described different approaches to clinical librarianship, which in turn are very different from Farhad’s completely embedded role. Clinical librarianship is clearly an amorphous thing and we should not seek to crystallise our role.

**Bennet Jones**  
**Clinical Librarian**  
**North Bristol NHS Trust (SMD)**



**Cate Newell** @cate\_newell · Sep 21

This is why I love being an NHS librarian - so good to share & supporting each other 🥰 #iksstaffrock #iclc2017



I was looking forward to two days of learning more about how others had approached clinical librarianship so I could pick up some tips and ideas to try. I was not disappointed.

Margaret Foster, in her keynote explored how as librarians we can support systematic reviews (see note below regarding Cochrane module to learn more). She changed my thinking about how we can support this kind of work. Instead of my standard response when asked to help with a systematic review – “that is not something we can help with” – I will now try to adopt Margaret’s approach of acting as “air traffic controller – doing enough to keep them in the air”, getting someone started by helping them to understand and appreciate the process. Margaret suggests that when you are requested to help with a systematic review you first ask what the individual understands and then offer to do a quick search to see what concepts come up before they begin on the full process. The Q and A that followed highlighted the need for librarians to share and talk about searches more to improve the quality of outputs and to call-out when poorly conducted reviews are published – something for the STANDS Group here?

Further ideas were sparked by additional speakers. In particular I was enthused by the work Steve Glover and Olivia Schaff who have been working collaboratively with other NHS libraries to provide support for Priority Setting Partnerships. This involves work with researches to make a decision on research priorities based upon a lack of evidence in a particular area. The librarians’ role is to prove there is no research which requires discipline to know when to stop looking. My questions at the end of this session were: do we have a PSP working across Wessex or the South? Which library service is supporting the work? Is there scope to share and work in partnership to provide a timely service and support this kind of research work?

It was fascinating to hear Bennett Jones and Katie Barnard describe how they established the Clinical Librarian service at North Bristol NHS Trust. Many of the tips they described were reiterated throughout the conference such as what can come from serendipitous meetings and the need for good networking to build relationships.

My other take homes include reviewing the Centre for Evidence Based Dermatology Current Awareness Service and making sure this is passed-on to our dermatologists; working on a visual representation to map our spread and influence pre- and post-introduction of a named librarian service, based upon the models adopted by Laura Wilkes; considering how to measure the success of a clinical librarian service – is it just about increase in number of literature searches, increase in range of membership, record of time spent out of the library, or impact of reaching out to satellite teams? Something I had not previously considered was how the introduction of a clinical librarian service could increase the use of e-resources – something that the audit at Southend University Hospital NHS FT explored.

These are just a few of the many ideas that were presented at the conference. Attendance has made me re-assess how we offer our own named librarian service and re-think the support we provide for those undertaking research. The last word has to go to a very enthusiastic South Carolina Librarian, Irene Lubker who, when looking into developing a community of practice for clinicians working in under-served areas, came to the startling conclusion that “they just need a librarian” and then set about establishing a state-wide outreach service – enthusiasm and passion to ensure the use of evidence based practice overwhelms any concerns about funding, logistical difficulties or lack of capacity.

**Alison Day**  
**Lead Librarian (D01/2)**

To find out more about the systematic review process take a look at a free module from Cochrane:

Cochrane Interactive Learning free 30 minute open access module: Introduction to conducting systematic reviews <http://training.cochrane.org/interactivelearning/module-1-introduction-conducting-systematic-reviews>

- Recognize features of systematic reviews as a research design
- Recognize the importance of using rigorous methods to conduct a systematic review
- Identify the types of review questions
- Identify the elements of a well-defined review question
- Understand the steps in a systematic review



## HHLS Away Day 2017

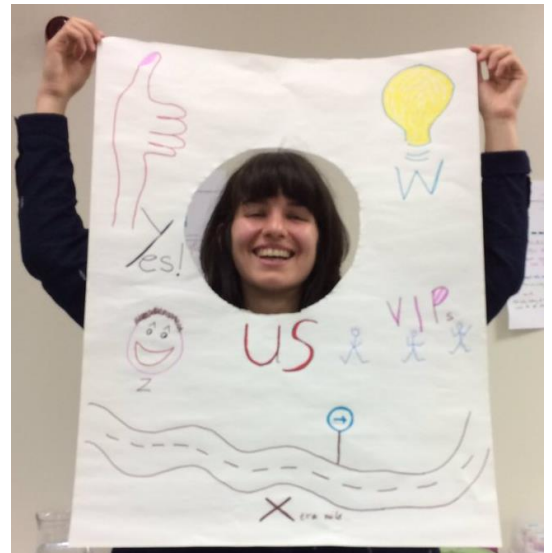
In early October the HHLS team, with the exception of Paul, gathered at the Marwell Hotel for our away day. It's very rare that we can meet as we are spread over two Trusts and several locations and so these opportunities are appreciated.

There were two points of concern for me – we had been assured “that this will be a fun day” and I am not good at fun and we did not have an agenda. No agenda - how will I know what to do?! The day was based around the responses given to a questionnaire sent to us previously by the facilitators – the People Development Team at Southern Health. The results showed that essentially the team was happy; we'd just like to get to know each other a bit better and work on our communication.

So we took part in several activities designed to do this; such as talking about an item that was meaningful to you and said something about you as a person. It was fascinating to see what people produced; walking boots, a bracelet, a wooden spoon were some examples – and how much you could learn about someone when they told the story of that object and you listened attentively. In the afternoon we also had a session where we had to say “thank you” to each other for something they had done for you which had helped in some way. However, we could not deflect the thanks (e.g. but that's just my job) and that was probably the hardest part of this exercise. In addition, towards the end of the day we were asked to share what helps to be at our best and we had such examples as tea, humour, gossip, music, and a good night's sleep!

Before lunch we were set the task of coming up with a poster to showcase what do, except.....each group had a set range of letters we were allowed to use, e.g. A-G. H-N, O-U, V-Z. The winning poster was the one that included Vasilias as the interactive element of the poster!

After a hearty lunch there was the stick exercise which for me was not fun. It seemed a simple task with four pairs of people lined up in parallel lines holding two fingers out of each hand. A bamboo stick was then placed on the outstretched fingers and was meant to be lowered towards the floor. When we started to do this our stick got closer to the ceiling than the floor as people tried to hold the stick steady whilst simultaneously lowering it to the floor!



Lots of ideas were put forward as to what we should do differently but we weren't listening to each other, everyone thought the problem was elsewhere, none of the onlookers contributed much, and no one took overall control. It was a very frustrating few minutes and didn't show us at our best. The second group that tried the exercise took some time to think and to learn from our experience after a couple of failed attempts and then followed Sam's instructions. This worked much better as this avoided the problem of too many cooks and allowed one person to take the lead on lowering the stick once we had an agreed solution.

The end of the afternoon saw us work on some action plans devised on what the team saw as priorities based on the responses to the questionnaire which were around feeling valued, joint working and openness/transparent although there was quite a lot of overlap. People are working on the SMART goals outlined in the plans and the New Year should see some of these coming into operation.

I still wouldn't describe it as a fun day but we had nice food and plenty of cake produced by various team members. We also enjoyed the opportunity to talk and work with people we don't often see and a chance to understand each other more so it was, perhaps more importantly, a productive day.

And a brief note from Sam; the general feedback from the day focuses on the fact that we did enjoy having the time to spend with each other – "Getting to know each other; opportunity to see the whole team; the day made us think together as a team instead of our own cliques; and finally; it was more relaxed than other away days"!



**June White**  
**Knowledge Specialist HHLS**

## Macmillan Coffee Mornings

On 27 September 2017 the Library & Knowledge Service at the Royal Berkshire Hospital held a cake sale for Macmillan Coffee Morning. As well as our own homemade cakes we had contributions from our Learning and Development Team and from Marina's mother – who happened to be visiting from Greece that week. As we had never taken part before we were a little anxious that no-one would show up to buy our cakes. We needn't have worried – the first customers turned up at even before we were officially opened and we raised £98.05 for Macmillan. We definitely saw some new faces and we are planning to repeat it next year – hopefully with even more cakes.



**Beverley Hixon**  
**Librarian**  
**Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust**

The Macmillan Coffee Morning was held once again at Wexham Park Hospital library on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September this year. The event was well attended, with many returning multiple times to indulge in the mouth-watering array of baked treats on offer. This year was the first time a raffle was held as part of the coffee morning in an effort to boost the funds raised for Macmillan's vital work. Tickets were sold for £1 each, and the raffle prize was a delicious lemon cake donated by local plant nursery and farm shop, Pinewood Nurseries.

Particularly popular treats included a homemade chocolate cake filled with apricot jam, made by our Senior Library Assistant Jas Kundi, a coffee and mandarin cake donated by Trust caterers Sodexo, as well as the trio of goodies (chocolate cake, gingerbread and millionaires' shortbread) baked by one of our senior staff nurses.

Overall, the Coffee Morning was a fun and successful event and a total of £512 was raised in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support's important work supporting cancer patients.



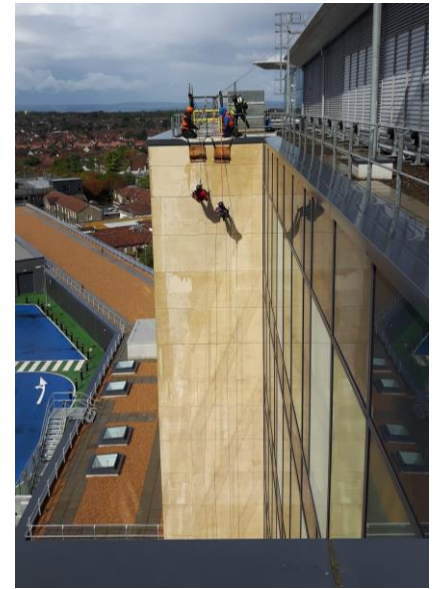
**Morgan Johns**  
**Library Assistant**  
**Wexham Park**



## Over the Top

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 117 hardy souls gathered onsite at Southmead Hospital in Bristol with but one aim – to step off the roof. This wasn't some kind of mass hysteria, but a sponsored abseil as part of the very active fundraising programme which goes on here at NBT. As the Brunel Building only opened just over three years ago the abseil was a first, with the aim of raising £10,000 to support the [Prostate Cancer Appeal](#) and purchase two surgical robots.

The organisers had wisely got us kitted up on the ground, and everybody got a chance to practice their technique, albeit leaning away from a transit van a few feet off the ground. Practicing on the ground is one thing, but it goes against every instinct in your body to stand on the top of a 7 storey building, let go of the handrail and lean out into space. Thankfully once the very scary bit of stepping off the roof was over I found I rather enjoyed the experience, and had to get a wriggle on to catch a colleague from Learning and Development who was descending parallel to me.



On the way down staff were waving from each level as you passed, and there was a large crowd of supporters below cheering us on. By the time we reached the bottom we were both exhausted; the further down you go the longer the rope gets, which means there is much greater capacity to swing around more than you would like. A good core and upper body strength are essential to keep control – we had neither, and fair to say it was not a graceful finish.

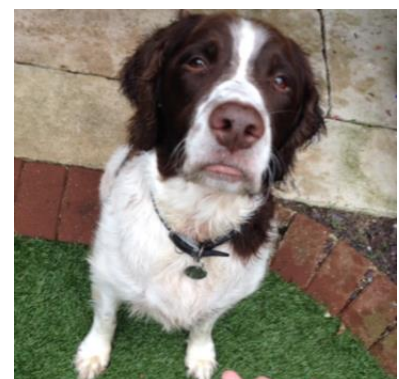
The great news is that the event has surpassed all fundraising expectations, and a month later the grand total stands as over £32,000. It has unquestionably been a roaring success, the event will certainly be running again next year and you don't have to work here to take part.... There is a [terrific Flickr album](#) which really gives a flavour of the day and if you feel the urge to support the prostate cancer appeal just [follow this link](#).

**John Loy**  
Library & Knowledge Services Manager  
North Bristol NHS Trust (SMD)

## Network News

**Emily Langdale**

Hello, I'm Emily Langdale and a couple of weeks ago I started as an Apprentice Library Assistant at both GRH and CGH libraries. I'm very excited about where this apprenticeship will take me as I hope to gain vital skills as well as experience the atmosphere of a hospital based library. I also have a dog (pictured here) called Max – he's 11 years old and a very spoilt and loved member of my family. I am also a big Yankee Candle fan and have been informing my colleagues all about my love for candles – especially Christmas ones. 😊



### Goodbye to Laura

The team at TAU are very sad to announce that Laura Hamilton, library assistant, has left us for a new role in the hospital's clinical research department.

Laura has been with us for just under three years and will be very much missed by the team, not least because most of the rest of us will now have to remember how to do things such as renew books and answer the phone, and we will be looking to our remaining library assistant Denise to keep us going!

In all seriousness, we are very pleased for Laura. It is an exciting role to be taking on and will provide a very different insight into the hospital. She has been great at helping to change and improve the way we do things in the library and we are sure her new department will definitely benefit - our loss is their gain.

We presented Laura with presents, cards and a selection of cakes to rival the Bake Off. Yes that is a cat cake...

Attached is a picture of Laura surrounded by cake.

**Jess Pawley**  
**Librarian/Trainee Clinical Librarian**  
**TAU**



## Meet the SMS (Social Media Specialists)

Hi everyone.

My name is Su Keill and I am part of an exciting development for the South.

During a previous SMN meeting there was a suggestion made to have a "Social Media Guru" that the South could use with assistance for this kind of technology which some indeed struggle with.

I became the leader of this venture and have a lovely group of willing specialists across the South to assist me on this journey.

### What are we about?

We are not aiming to teach the basics of social media, as there are plenty of great videos, guides available to do this. We are here to help with in a variety of ways:

- Assist StandS with providing links/pages/guides in a shared space. Possibly a workshop on Social Media topics you need help with
- Providing support to SMN for Knowledge Management, Digital Literacy, Communities of Practice, and Emerging technologies
- Promotion of web based activities e.g. Twitter chats, HEE projects that need promotion from launch
- Advise users with queries on topics such as Twitter analytics.

I have asked the team to write a little bit about themselves and have included Twitter handles so please follow us:

**Susannah Keill** : @SKPooleNHS

I have been using social media for many years. I have had experience with analytics and stats as well as using social media as a platform for marketing in the computer game industry.

**Rebecca Howes**: @GHNHS\_librarian

I am pretty well versed in professional social media.

In my previous working life, pre-NHS, I managed the Facebook/Twitter/G+ accounts of Bucks New University. I pride myself that I managed to reduce the seriousness of the accounts and encouraged a lighter tone – social media is all about the social, we aren't writing essays or Telegraph articles!

**Cate Newell**: @cate\_newell

Cate is responsible for the Exeter Health Library's Twitter and Facebook accounts. She also dabbles in YouTube, Instagram and Pinterest in her own time.

**Katy Peck**: @KatyYDHLlibrary

Having had some form of social media account since the age of 14, I have grown up using a variety of different social media. In more recent years, I have expanded my knowledge mainly within Twitter; its uses and the analytics of tweets, having run the YDH Library twitter since its formation in April 2013. Over the same period of time, I have gained and continually attempted to increase my knowledge of WordPress and some of its functions, as a platform for running blogs. As well as this, I also have a basic knowledge of Facebook and Instagram.

**Steven Walker**: @westernmedlib

I joined the team at AWP in November 2016 and I have a background in Information Management and Library Services through roles with the Ministry of Defence and Open University.

**June White**: @JawwhiteLibrary

I am not a Social media expert but am an enthusiast and monitor the Library Twitter account @HHLibService and find it very useful for picking up very current news to pass on to customers. I would like us to be able to engage in more conversations with our customers via Twitter – we have a group of health visitors who are very active Twitter users and we have been able to engage with them. I often post on the HHFT Staff Facebook group and the HHLS Library Facebook page and use FB a lot personally. The Two Trusts that we work with Hampshire Hospitals and Southern Health use social media and are happy to retweet some of our Tweets when they apply to staff and we haven't had any problems with accessing social media through NHS IT.

**TLDR**: There is a video I recorded which explains everything I have mentioned here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0AXlBkmuJ4&feature=youtu.be>

Remember to follow us and further contact details are in the video if you wish to contact us directly with a query.

**Su Keill**  
**Librarian**  
**Poole Hospital (D01)**

## SAS Doctors' and Dentists' 6th Annual Conference

This year there was almost no conference due to funding cuts but fortunately the conference went ahead albeit a few months' later than usual. It is normally held at the end of the week so this was different being held on a Monday and Tuesday. We were delighted to have it on our own doorstep being held up at Exeter University. Once we agreed to have a table we advertised round the region for willing volunteers to join us in displaying our regional wares!



Pam (EXE) and Catherine (TOR) attended on the first day.

### **Pam:**

I set up where a table had been booked for us but it soon became apparent that we would not have much, if any footfall as the lecture theatre door opened near the entrance/exit so people were walking away from us so definitely not ideal!

One of the other conference displays was the UEMS (University of Exeter Medical School) Masters' Programmes - <http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/cpd/> and as the marketing lead Cecilia was quickly able to relocate us to the other building where refreshments/lunch were laid out - so now we were directly in the delegates' eyesight! This enabled us to have the expected engagement to the extent we were also mistaken as the organisers and were asked where the various facilities were located!

We displayed the regional banner very proudly and handed round the accompanying leaflets together with a bibliography. We had several topical books with us as well as a running presentation on a laptop. Many queries were related to NHS Open Athens and we also signposted to the relevant library services.

Lunch was served in a white paper bag with a sandwich, packet of crisps, cold drink, piece of fruit, a delectable brownie together with a refresh wipe. Very good idea which worked well!

### **Catherine:**

It soon became apparent that everyone was very busy tucking into their lunches so unlikely to mosey on over our way for quite a while, if they ever did as most were comfortably seated. I decided it was time to take myself to them, so gathered a number of leaflets and started butting into conversations at tables to highlight our services. I don't like being pushy and don't find it easy, but nobody seemed to mind, and once I mentioned that we could run literature searches on their behalf, most groups welcomed me with open arms. I'd say roughly two thirds of the people I spoke to were aware that each trust has a library, but most only thought of us as providers of books. It was good to be able to promote everything else we do!

Cate (EXE) and Siobhan (TAU) took over for the second day.

**Cate :**

Day 2 of the SAS conference broke in glorious Devonshire sunshine (after the monsoon conditions of the day before), so we took the liberty of distributing some leaflets on all the tables in the refreshment areas both inside and outside (as we knew people would want to sneak out there for some rare sunshine!). Even if people might not come up and have a chat, they might pick up some information to read while they were tucking into their lunch.

We had a few positive chats with some of the delegates and speakers, one of whom gave us each a free copy of the book he was promoting in his seminar **'The stress of medical practice' by David C Rainham** (self-published, so no ISBN). Self-care and wellbeing was a strong theme of the conference, echoing what is happening in our Trusts at the moment (certainly in the RD&E), and the people we spoke to were impressed that the Library can help them in this area, for example with wellbeing fiction collections, book clubs, craft clubs and a 'safe' space.

**Siobhan:**

This was my first time attending the SAS Doctors' Conference so I was curious to see how the attendees would respond to the library service display (with recognition? pleasant surprise?), and how challenging it would be to engage/promote the service to them. Thankfully those whom we spoke to were very receptive, and it was heartening to meet a couple of ardent library service ambassadors. One of which was Dr Andrew Tresidder, a member of Somerset's CCG and speaker on self-care at the conference. It was a good opportunity for me to discuss how my role as Outreach Librarian can support the staff emotional health strategies which are in place in Somerset. I am out and about within both the Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, so there is potential for closer working with wellbeing officers to promote resources relating to stress management, and of course book groups for 'readlaxation'.

It was interesting to be working alongside the very knowledgeable Cate for the day- to hear about her experiences in setting up a repository, and the various platforms which she has used to share her experience within the information community (speaking at conferences etc). It was also a bonus to meet a colleague from the University of Exeter Medical School as it allowed me to return to base armed with CPD information for display within the library, and to pass on to our Learning and Development team at Musgrove Park Academy. One particular highlight was speaking to a MPH library user who as an SAS doctor also uses the Exeter University Library facilities. This allowed me a greater understanding of the context in which he was personally working, but also how the partnership between academic and health service libraries in the southwest offers a strong network to support the information needs of our users.

**Pam:**

Having attended the last two years of this important conference which were hosted in the Holiday Inn hotels (Bristol and Plymouth), I can say that the hotel environment definitely lends itself to better and more frequent interaction with the delegates. They have to pass us as they go in and out of the conference and break out rooms. More frequent refreshments are on offer so there are more opportunities to engage. This is important as their programme is so busy there are very few breaks. Lunch is the longest break but this is usually held away from the conference room so is rather more an opportunity of social engagement.

**Pam Geldenhuys (EXE)**

**Cate Newell (EXE)**

**Catherine Micklethwaite (TOR)**

**Siobhan Linsey (TAU)**

## Getting out and about at Royal Bournemouth Hospital

From touring the operating theatres to bandaging up their teddies, hundreds of people spent the day looking behind the scenes at the **Royal Bournemouth Hospital's Open Day** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Several departments opened to the public, including the Library.

Library and Knowledge Services decided to open the library inviting visitors to find out more about what we do and to promote NHS Choices and how to find good quality health information on the internet to help the public make informed decisions on their health. Sian and Alison were on hand to show the public what the library and knowledge service has to offer and how our work underpins patient care. For our younger visitors there was the opportunity to make skeleton bookmarks. The majority of visitors tended to be NHS staff or prospective students with their families so this was a good opportunity for us to showcase how we can help.

The Open Day was a great success and showed the hospital at its very best. Throughout the day the library had 47 adult visitors and 30 younger visitors taking part in our activities. The Open Day was kick-started with a week of events at Royal Bournemouth Hospital at which the library team were able to continue to promote services. The Wellbeing Day provided a perfect opportunity to show how we support health and wellbeing. We featured our small fiction section, the 'wellbeing collection' books from the Reading Agency, and promoted the library space as an area to "chill" and get away from the stress of the hospital. Involvement in the day has established a close working relationship with the hospital's wellbeing nurse and we have plans to work with them to hold further wellbeing events in the library space in the future. Events continued throughout the week and ended on the Friday with a back-to-back quality improvement conference. Su and Alison had an opportunity to speak to a variety of people about the quality improvement work they were doing and were able to suggest ways in which the Library Team could help.

To have so many events in one week was exhausting but has led to a number of contacts for us to follow-up. Next year we will try to attend even more sessions and make even more connections.

**Sian Hudson**  
**Outreach Librarian and Knowledge Specialist**  
**Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Trust (D02)**

## Five go on an away day

On the 18<sup>th</sup> October, a sunny autumnal day, the five of us intrepidly crossed Reading to go to the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) for the first ever library team away day. We've had three new members of staff in the last year, so we thought a day away from everyday tasks in order to get to know each other better and focus on new areas of the library service would be beneficial.

We had planned the day in advance – with each of us taking responsibility for a different section – but the content of our sessions weren't revealed until the day. The beginning of the day was led by our colleagues in learning and development. They led sessions where we were encouraged to write and share about our interests and achievements outside of work. As part of this, we all designed our own coat of arms (involving lots of glue and stickers), showing ourselves, what we brought to the team, what we thought the team was good at and what we thought the team could do better.

Next up was a session on critical appraisal, looking at an article about using comics as a means of proving health information. We then had a couple of team games, including trying to write the word 'library' using a pen controlled by pieces of string (see photo).



Lunch was a chat over tasty sandwiches and a walk round the MERL garden. Then it was time for an evaluation of our Libraries Week activities, followed by a look at strategic marketing. This was a quick introduction to the subject and was an interactive session with lots of flip chart paper, pens, and thinking.

Next we tested our competitive nature by going head to head in a quiz on the learning zone on the knowledge for healthcare website. This turned out to be a warm up for the most competitive part of the day..... the session started well with us practising our search skills on our new Discovery service. The questions at first seemed quite harmless before we realised that we were researching what to do in the event of a zombie apocalypse. Once we had completed our research we had to put our findings into practice to see if we could survive being chased by zombies (see photo).



We came away from the day knowing each other better, understanding the strengths and weaknesses within the team and with a list of ideas to improve the library service.

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