



“editor’s column”

notes for contributors

1. Articles and news items are welcome from all members of Lihnn, including support staff and staff in higher education institutions.

Lihnn members are actively encouraged to write up accounts of events and courses attended. Articles on new developments and projects successfully managed are also welcome.

2. News items and short pieces, which can range from factual to amusing, are also welcome.

3. All items can be submitted in print or electronic format.

please abide by the following points:

Don't forget your name, location, title of article and date of article.

All acronyms should be written out in full for the first occasion they are used in the text. Please give full details of events, courses and conferences attended. This should include:

- The name of event and location
- Date of event
- Name of organizing or sponsoring body
- Details of how support materials can be obtained (where necessary)
- Full references to any published reports, articles, etc.

Items not submitted in time for the publication deadline will be published in the following edition.

Guidelines for contributors are also available on the Lihnn website.

contributions should be submitted to:

Kathy Turtle, Librarian,
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust,
Postgraduate Education Centre,
Chorley Hospital, Preston Road,
Chorley PR7 1PP

Tel: **01257 245607**
Fax: 01257 245623
Email: kathy.turtle@lthtr.nhs.uk

Lihnn is on the web via
Aditus at www.aditus.nhs.uk.
Click on Communities, then
By Profession, to the Lihnn link.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HEALTH NETWORK NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL BOARD

Kathy Turtle (Chair)
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Rachel Bury
University Hospital Aintree

Suzanne Kelly
Health Care Libraries Unit

Hannah Gray
Mersey Care NHS Trust

Kieran Lamb
Fade, Liverpool

LIHNNK UP

by Health Libraries, For Health Libraries **ISSUE 14 SUMMER 2004**

Come on in...

We are a hospitable bunch we Librarians! We enjoy opening up our services to an ever-increasing range of fellow professionals.

This is ably demonstrated by **Katy Woolfenden's** article setting out John Rylands library's new service for NHS staff, and by **Christine Sugden** who describes an open day for social care staff. **Dawn McGowan** gives an account of how existing and potential users were welcomed to an awareness day on Alzheimer's disease, held by North Mersey.

We at Lancashire Teaching can't help showing off to visitors our brand new, purpose built facility at Royal Preston, and can you blame us! It really is superb and, as **Norma Blackburn** and **Jon Humfrey** testify, we obviously impressed the librarians of the Lalnet

group. **Maureen Horrigan** briefly describes the Diana Campbell Library, complete with a photograph providing one of the many visual delights on offer in this issue. The Heritage User Group's poster is another veritable feast for the eyes! Further visual solace is provided by **Debra Thornton**, who takes us on a trip around Oxford, and gives us the vital gen on the critical appraisal skills course.

Intrepid Merseysiders **Joan Edwards** and **Sue Curran** tell us about the Aditus training course they attended at Alder Hey.

For those of us who missed the NeLH Roadshow and LIHNN/HCLU Briefing, there are comprehensive notes to give us a flavour of what was discussed. As this issue will probably reach you as we approach autumn, there's a timely reminder that November sees the Health Libraries Week event underway again.

Kathy Turtle

IN THIS ISSUE

Health, Academic and Public Libraries meet at Preston <i>Norma Blackburn & Jon Humfrey</i>	2
HUG Hats Poster	3
NeLH Roadshow and LIHNN/HCLU Briefing Notes	4
NHS WELCOME! John Rylands University Library opens its doors <i>Katy Woolfenden</i>	6
ADITUS TRAINING at Alder Hey Hospital <i>Joan Edwards and Sue Curran</i>	7
Diana Campbell Library <i>Maureen Horrigan</i>	7
Alzheimer's Awareness Week 2004 : Mersey Care NHS Trust <i>Dawn McGowan</i>	8
Open day for social care staff Care Librarians Birmingham <i>Christine Sugden</i>	9
CASP: Critical Appraisal Training <i>Debra Thornton</i>	10

Health, Academic and Public Libraries meet at Preston

On the morning of the 12th May the Lancashire Academic Library network (LALnet) visited the new Library and Education Centre at the Royal Preston Hospital, as part of their annual professional visit programme. The visit was organised by LALnet member Norma Blackburn, health libraries representative, and Jon Humfrey, LALnet chair.

The Lancashire Academic Library Network provides a forum for Librarians/Library Managers from colleges, health service, land-based/veterinary, university and public sector libraries in Lancashire to meet and discuss professional issues within their specialist areas, benchmark on professional standards, share experience and take professional development opportunities through speakers and visits such as the one described in this brief report. Formal meetings are hosted in turn by the different member organisations – the most recent being in March 2004 at Blackpool Victoria

impressed with the facilities, the service, the staff structures and the role of the NHS Library.

The Lancashire librarians were warmly welcomed by Debra Thornton, Clinical Librarian, and Andrew Craig, Electronic Services Librarian, both from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust. Following welcome refreshments, the group were then given presentations from both Debra and Andrew.

Debra explained her role. As health libraries are evolving it is important to be aware of the



Hospital Library where it was confirmed that this visit to the new facility at Preston would go ahead. LALnet's main aim is to break down what have traditionally been barriers between different library sectors and encourage professional co-operation in the interests of all library clients. This visit to the new Library and Learning Resource Centre at the Royal Preston Hospital provided a good opportunity for the health sector to 'show case' its own excellent library facilities to colleagues from all other sectors of the library profession. It also gave an insight into its own good practice and the importance of libraries within the Health Service in terms of the direct impact they have, through health professionals, on the care delivered to the public. All representatives from the Library and Information Profession who attended this visit were very

impressed with the facilities, the service, the staff structures and the role of the NHS Library. The Lancashire librarians were warmly welcomed by Debra Thornton, Clinical Librarian, and Andrew Craig, Electronic Services Librarian, both from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust. Following welcome refreshments, the group were then given presentations from both Debra and Andrew. Debra explained her role. As health libraries are evolving it is important to be aware of the information needs of all clinical staff and enable them to keep up to date with research information in their particular field. The role of the Clinical Librarian is to support Clinical Governance and promote Evidence Based Medicine by bringing the best research evidence to busy clinicians as and when they need it - at the point of patient care. Thus the clinical librarian liaises regularly with doctors, nurses, physiotherapists etc to find out what they need in terms of information and ensuring that the best quality information is delivered to them rapidly. 'Quality information' means critically appraised research evidence from sources such as the Cochrane Library, Clinical Evidence, Bandolier and a variety of medical databases (including Medline). This ensures that the patients they are treating receive therapies


based on the best research evidence and that Clinical Governance is adhered to by improving the quality of patient care and staff CPD

Andrew's presentation focussed on how the Library and Information Service is attempting to handle its electronic resources. A database has been developed by the library to handle all electronic resources, including electronic journals, electronic books (for example those available free via resources such as PubMed) and useful web sites. Emphasis was placed on how the database was used to keep administrative information about electronic journals such as subscription numbers, administration and user passwords etc. Andrew highlighted how at present the database is being used to generate static HTML pages for electronic journals as well as other resources. Finally a demonstration was provided of the database's link checker, which helps the library keep the number of broken links to a minimum on their intranet site.

The group were then given a tour of both the new library facilities and the education centre. A very pleasant and informative morning was then followed by lunch, kindly organised by Mandy Beaumont, Library Services Manager.

Norma Blackburn
Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust

Jon Humfrey Myerscough College



Heritage Heart

Is heritage getting you down?
Feeling alone & frustrated?
Just need a helping hand?
WELL LOOK NO FURTHER!

HUG HATS to the rescue!

We are a group of 6 'hand picked' advisors/trainers who have been brought together to help and advise Heritage users in the North West, in particular, Lancashire; Cumbria; Greater Manchester; Cheshire and Merseyside.

From August 1st 2004, The Heritage User Group 'Heritage Advisors and Trainers' can offer:

- Casual local 'first point of contact' telephone and/or email support to other Heritage users in our geographical areas
- Give advice regarding the Heritage Support systems, including Websites, Marvin and helpsheets
- Offer 'virtual' advice in the form of PowerPoint presentations
- Offer training workshops on various aspects of Heritage

Group members & contact details

Lucy Anderson—Royal Oldham Hospital—0161 627 8462—Lucy.Anderson@pat.nhs.uk
 Darren Dunleavy— North Man Gen Hospital—0161 720 2722—Darren.Dunleavy@mail.nmachtr.nwest.nhs.uk
 Suzanne Ford—Whiston Hospital—0151 430 1342—suzanne.ford@sthkhealth.nhs.uk
 Sharon Reilly—Ashworth Hospital, Liverpool—0151 471 2432—sharon.reilly@nhs.net
 Andrew Craig—Royal Preston Hospital—01772 524763—andrew.craig@lthtr.nhs.uk
 Jean Williams—Royal Bolton Hospital—01204 390935—Jean.Williams@boltonhtr.nwest.nhs.uk

Details of HUG HATS Terms of Reference, Presentations and Training Workshop dates will be made available through the Lihnn Virtual Community via Aditus in the near future



The photo shows Lancashire Librarians from higher education, further education, public and health libraries.

NeLH Roadshow and LIHM

JULY 1, 2

National Library for Health

Alison Turner

The National Library for Health is being introduced as a way to integrate NHS libraries and the NeLH so that the physical and digital sides of libraries are not separate. The impetus for the change is the pressure to improve procurement processes, to provide more patient-centred services, and to conform to the activities of the NHSU and NPfIT (National Programme for IT).

We should ensure that users understand that NLH is made up of National Core Content (Dialog, Cochrane, e-journals), NeLH, and NHS Trust Libraries.

The National Library for Health will not involve new buildings, a new bureaucratic structure, new line management, or centralisation.

The NLH will be launched in November 2004 with a web site, a National Service Framework, and new services and resources.

Keep up to date at the following web sites:
www.library.nhs.uk
www.nelh.nhs.uk/dlnet

Map of Medicine

Laura Tucker of University College London

The Map of Medicine is a new electronic product that allows clinicians to follow flow charts that guide clinical decision-making. The Map is customisable, so that local information can be integrated with

the flow charts. For example, if the flow chart suggests that a patient with certain symptoms needs to be referred to a urology consultant, the contact details of local consultants can be entered into the Map. This product is not free – it has to be purchased at the Local Service Provider level. The producers of Map of Medicine are hoping that local librarians will champion the product to their LSPs and get involved in customising the product for local use. Implementation of Map of Medicine can start in January 2005.



Core Content Update

Priscilla Morley

Document Delivery is going to be available in connection with Dialog databases. If the user's local library opts into this service (via Athens), the user will be able to make interlibrary loan requests directly from the citation they see in Dialog. We will also be able to upload our local holdings, so that our Athens users can see what journals are locally available. Librarians can also allow users to make requests directly to the BMA and/or BL. The payment method for this is unclear. This service will be trialled in the Northwest by the end of this

year and rolled out next year.

The Core Content team conducted an online user survey in March/April 2004. Most users find the Core Content useful. The last time they used the service, 63% found what they were looking for, 30% found something that was not quite what they wanted but still useful, and 7% did not find the information they wanted, so we still have a ways to go with database training. Also, 14% found the service not very easy to use, and 3% found it difficult to use.

If you want input into the Document Delivery system, send an e-mail to:
priscilla.morley@nhs.net

NeLH Specialist Libraries

Heather Williamson

Heather demonstrated the specialist libraries for us. There are now 10 libraries – Cardiovascular, Child Health, Infection, Emergency Care, Health Management, Mental Health, Musculoskeletal, Oral Health, Respiratory, and Women's Health. They all have a common look and feel. There are 9 more libraries in development. The libraries contain clinical and non-clinical information, so that they provide a 'community of practice' as well as evidence from Cochrane, NICE Guidelines, Bandolier, etc. Look for them in the bottom left-hand corner of the NeLH home page.

LIHNN/HCLU Briefing Notes

, 2004

NeLH Marketing and Communications

Fran Wilkie

NLH will be launched during Health Libraries Week, 15-21 November. There will be new promotional items (which look very attractive!)—leaflets, triangular displays, stickers, badges, bookmarks, etc. The new Poster on Demand (POD) system allows libraries to order customisable posters for printing in the library.

LIHNN News

Norma Blackburn, current Chair of the Lihnn Co-ordinating Committee introduced the committee.

The deadline for the next issue of the Lihnnk Up newsletter will be mid-July.

Helen Blackburn, LIHNN Treasurer, asked librarians for their views on allocating some of the funding raised from library subscriptions. For this year, Lihnn will be sponsoring a member of staff to attend the Health Libraries Group conference in Belfast in September.

Marie Ford reported that the Copyright Group will be disbanded and a new Information Governance group will be started in its place.

Jean Williams gave an update on the work of the Heritage Group.

Lucy Anderson summarised the work of the Trainers Group

Kieran Lamb reported that the next marketing seminar will be about communications.

HCLU News

HCLU has secured new recurrent funding for library services. Cheshire and Merseyside SHA has provided £200,000 recurrent funding for developing services in primary care. Greater Manchester SHA has indicated that £100,000 has been agreed (not yet in writing, however).

The MPET funding review isn't going to happen for the time being, so the current MPET levies will continue as at present.

The QAA has been commissioned by Dept of Health to review / inspect all HE courses provided to the NHS. This is known as "major review". All HEIs will be reviewed over the next two years. Each SHA has a major review lead – and HCLU are in touch with all 3 in the NW. Experience of placement students will be an important element of the process.

HCLU has agreed a new service level agreement with John Rylands University Library of Manchester that will provide access and loans to all NHS staff in the NW. Katy Woolfenden has sent information via the LIHNN email group.

David noted a trend in NW university libraries to appoint NHS liaison librarians to work with NHS libraries that provide services to students on placement.

The union periodical catalogue is currently being maintained at Rochdale. The data has been loaded into the new software and Colin Davies has reported that some additional work is needed on the data before it goes live via ADITUS.

The single search environment contract has been awarded to Fretwell Downing Informatics.

Our cluster for NPfIT is Northwest and West Midlands.

The next LIHNN/HCLU briefing will be September 29.



NHS WELCOME!

John Rylands University Library opens its doors

I am really pleased to be able to publish news of the John Rylands University Library (JRUL) NHS membership scheme here in LIHNNK UP. Those of you who have been around for a while will know what a significant moment this is in the history of the relationship between the NHS & JRUL in the North West. It's always been lively, mostly healthy and of course always rewarding, but I think this scheme represents a new and welcome openness between our sectors; one which I am sure we will continue to build upon together.

As you will be aware, for many years we have made our printed stock available to the North West NHS workforce via NHS libraries by providing the JRUL Health Libraries Document Supply Service (HLDSS). Whilst this is a much used and valued service, it has never really made provision for those who wish to use our stock more directly. JRUL membership has traditionally only been granted to a member of the NHS if they held some sort of association with the University; a member of Manchester Medical Society, an Honorary member of University staff, a clinical mentor or a registered student, for example. Without such an association only a one day reference pass would be issued (and this limited to only three occasions per year). There has been quite a strong feeling amongst those of us working closely with the NHS community that this rather protective approach didn't really sit too comfortably with the principles of "equal access for all" that we were working with NHS colleagues to achieve in the clinical environment. So we are now delighted to be able to offer an annually renewable baseline membership scheme to all NW NHS staff, whether ambulance staff, administrators, consultants or nurses, irrespective of their University association - it should really help to break down some more of those barriers!

The best news, however, is that, thanks to sponsorship from the Health Care Libraries Unit we are able to offer this membership, without any direct charge to the NHS employee. All they will need to do is show us their NHS ID card, fill in an application form and come in to have their photograph taken.

Once NHS members of JRUL, they will then be able to make use of the Main University Library & Gateway House and borrow up to 4 items for

constraints of the publishers' licenses they will not be able to remotely access any of our e-journals and databases. They will also be able to make postal requests for photocopies or loans from our printed stock via our DELIVER for All service or they can of course continue to make use of the HLDSS via their local NHS library.

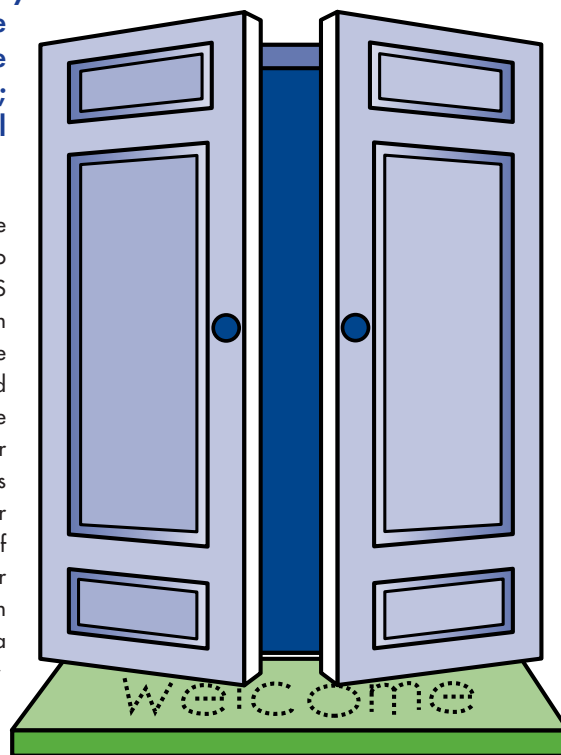
Members of the NHS who do have a clear association with the University will, of course, still be eligible to apply for more comprehensive membership of JRULM where appropriate. For example, if they are members of Manchester Medical Society, Honorary members of University staff, clinical mentors or supervisors to University of Manchester students. If you are in any doubt as to which category of JRUL membership one of your users might fall into please do contact the JRULM Membership Department or myself for advice.

For more information on the basic NHS membership scheme, including the application form, please see our website at:

<http://rylibweb.man.ac.uk/health/nhs.html>

Katy Woolfenden

NHS Liaison and Faculty Librarian
for Medical & Human Sciences
John Rylands University Library
The University of Manchester



four week periods. During a visit they will also be able to get access to any JRUL e-journals and databases which permit "walk-in" access under the terms of their publisher licenses, make use of our self service photocopiers and ask for any help they might need via our network of information desks. We are also happy to arrange orientations and training. From the workplace or home, NHS members will get basic access to our non licensed resources, such as the library catalogue, our general and subject related web pages and our internet resources pages, however, due to the

ADITUS TRAINING

at Alder Hey Hospital 9th July 2004

It was with some trepidation that Sue and I ventured forth as total beginners, to sample the delights of Aditus literature search training, at Alder Hey Library and Education Centre.

Our trainer was Steve Molloy and we received a warm and friendly welcome and access to a purpose built training room, ideally placed and designed to make our training as comfortable and user friendly as possible.

The session was delivered clearly and with humour and skill to a small group, whose experience of Aditus ranged

from the total beginner to the slightly more experienced user. We were introduced to a wide range of National Health Service Databases and full text journals which provided access to vast amounts of knowledge relevant to all disciplines.

Amidst much laughter and several mishaps we navigated the basics of Free Text Searching, Subject Searching and the process of building up a literature search. The session was interactive and there was time to discuss any difficulties. We returned to our library with a new found confidence and the ability to find information for and guide our library users in

the use of Aditus.

This course was both enjoyable, informative and an excellent tool for the dissemination of valuable knowledge and information to National Health Service Staff.

With thanks to Steve for his calm and supportive approach.

Joan Edwards and Sue Curran

Knowledge and Information Assistants
Ashworth Hospital Library
MerseyCare NHS Trust

“Diana Campbell Library”

Historically the “Diana Campbell Library” was a reference only and the library resources where predominantly medical specialties due to space constraints.

The library was run by Margaret Kiely, Senior Library Assistant. Margaret run the library for nearly 10 years and retired in May this year. Natalie Yates has now been appointed as Library Assistant and my position has been made permanent.

Since the pre-accreditation visit in June 2002, the library service has changed beyond all recognition. As you can see the library has been refurbished and extended.



Maureen Horrigan
Trust Librarian

Alzheimer's Awareness Week 2004

MERSEY CARE NHS TRUST

As the newly appointed Knowledge Services Assistant at Mossley Hill Library (part of Mersey Care NHS Trust), one of my first challenges was to organise and promote Alzheimer's Awareness Week 2004. This was the first time our library services have taken part in such an event, and also the first time I had been given the opportunity to publicise this type of project. Our aim was to both create an awareness of the disease and how it can best be dealt with, as well as highlight the resources (both printed and electronic) that we provide as part of the Mersey Care Knowledge & Library Service.

Alzheimer's Awareness Week is an initiative by the Alzheimer's Society (alzheimers.org.uk). They were to be my first port of call. I contacted them for information and was most pleased by the response. They kindly provided posters, fact sheets, leaflets, competition forms and bookmarks. With the information gathering well underway, I decided to start to spread the word about the upcoming event. A poster was distributed around the organisation via email, containing the place and dates, and people were asked to print this off and

display in their areas of work. The whole team then added a couple of lines to their email signature, so that every time they sent an email out, the recipients were told of Alzheimer's Awareness Week and where to go for information. Posters titled 'What's going on in Granddad's head?' which publicised Alzheimer's Awareness Week from the Alzheimer's Society were also displayed.

The theme of Alzheimer's Awareness Week

2004 was to educate and inform children and young people about the disease. This was done by using easy to understand colourful cartoon guides, and the Alzheimer's Society are running a competition for under 16's to draw what goes on inside the brain, with the prize being a trip to Disneyland Paris.

But our work wasn't all about the young people, we had plenty of information to share with service users, carers and staff. Information included everything from, understanding dementia, respecting people with Alzheimer's, practical tips for both service users and carers, details of local support groups and an Alzheimer's café, and medication guidelines. As well as lists of books, journals and reports

carers requesting information. On one occasion an upset family member rang up requesting information that explained Alzheimer's in layman's terms. It was rewarding to be able to provide those details, and also put them in touch with their local support branch. It was, however, important to make people aware that the library team were not medical experts, but merely information providers – i.e. we might not know the answer but we know a man that does!

Perhaps the most lasting effects of the whole experience were the links we managed to forge with the local area branches of the Alzheimer's Society. By linking in with them to promote their events and resources, we have established future contacts in an area which is very relevant to the work we do at Mersey Care. We have in turn created an awareness of our own presence within the realm of providing information, not only for people with Alzheimer's but also other areas of mental health. Communication established with local, national and even international groups helped broaden the experience and make it a worthwhile positive week, and as a result we hope to build on this for future awareness weeks, to help increase our profile to both internal and external groups of people.



we hold on the subject, we also publicised the online links to relevant journals and databases via aditus, and researched and produced a list of useful websites relating to Alzheimer's.

We had a lot of interest over the week from staff who had come along especially for Alzheimer's Awareness Week after seeing the posters, staff who became interested through visiting the library for other reasons, and we had phone / email queries from both staff and

Dawn McGowan
July 2004



Following on from our successful Open Day last December, the library at Keyll Darree decided to chance its arm by holding another such event on Tuesday, July 20th - but this time it was aimed specifically at Social Care Workers on the island. Why social care staff?

Earlier in the year, the library, in partnership with Michael Bennett, Staff Development Officer for Social Services, successfully put in a bid for £10,000 development money from the North-West Health Care Libraries Unit describing how they would develop library and information services for this group of staff on the island. The aim was to create within the Library at Keyll Darree a Social Care resource section and to actively promote and encourage its use by those working the Social Care field - hence the Open Day in July.

Invitations were sent to all managers from a list compiled by the Staff Development Officer and a global e-mail invitation also sent to staff on the government network over here who work in Social Services or Mental Health - on the Isle of Man, Mental Health comes under Social Services. In total, approximately a 100 invitations were sent out. Around 80 people came through the doors, including a visit by our new Minister for the DHSS, Mr Steve Rodan, who took time out from his busy schedule to pay us a visit, which was much appreciated. Not all who attended were social care staff, it has to be admitted, but we work on the basis that publicising the services we have to offer to any staff can only be of benefit.

We organised the Open Day very much along the same lines as before but with the slant focused towards social care information and resources. The Open Day gave us the opportunity to show what some of the development money had been spent on so far - a DVD player, drinks machine, books, to name a few resources. However, we have also used the money to pay for promotional items - we produced small "business cards" with key web addresses for social care sites like eLSC, SCIE, etc and enlarged upon these by producing an A4 handout describing these same sites in more detail; in similar vein, we paid for pens, pencils and rulers with either the library contact details printed on or other web addresses like ADITUS and eLSC. Last December, we had printed a general library bookmark showing where subjects could be found on the shelves; this time round, we added to our repertoire by having printed 4 different coloured bookmarks for areas of particular relevance for social care staff - namely, single bookmarks for the Elderly and Child Health, with double-sided ones covering Mental Health on one side and Learning Disability on the other, and the fourth with Social Work on the front with Sex, Marriage and the Family printed on the reverse. An added advantage of choosing these particular subject areas, is that they are also of interest to other staff groups, and indeed have proved popular with other users since our Open Day, as have all these "freebies", perhaps not surprisingly! A display of books of interest to social care staff stocked by the library, together with a selection of journal titles available, was also mounted in the library.

From back left to right: Michael Bennett, Staff Development Officer, Social Services; Rose Lunt, Library Assistant; Stephen Fraser, Library Assistant;

Front row, left to right: Anita Gould, Librarian; Christine Sugden, Library and Information Services Manager, Liz McMahon, Library Assistant; Myatt Co, Student.

We also held a free prize draw - every one who attended was given a raffle ticket and a winner picked the following day. Dr Adaeze Onhoha was the lucky winner of the £25 gift voucher from Lexicon.

Library staff were kept busy showing people around the library, explaining what services and facilities were available to them, drawing their attention to the displays of social care resources, and not least, ensuring that people's plates and glasses were replenished regularly. We had employed the same outside caterers, Greshams, as before, to provide the buffet, this time supplemented by strawberries and cream for "afters" - we can vouch that food certainly is a magnet for such events!

We had decided, deliberately, to aim for an Open Day that would be enjoyable and informative, without being too "heavy" on user education. Social care staff, whether on the island or elsewhere for that matter, are a group that has not traditionally been able to access traditional library and information services, so we wanted to give them a "taster" and show them generally what was available for them. We took every opportunity to emphasise that follow-up sessions, either in the library or at their place of work could be arranged, and it's nice to report that this has in fact already been acted upon. We also asked for their suggestions and comments about what resources they felt they would like the library to stock - books, videos, DVD's, journal subscriptions, etc.

This is the second "Open Day" that we have organised, and the overall feeling from both library staff and those who attended, is that they have been worth while and achieved the objective of promoting and publicising the library's existence, its services and resources. Realistically, they do take a lot of planning and organising, and one is always conscious of the "day to day" work accumulating whilst preparations are being made. On balance, however, that is a short-term price worth paying for keeping the service in the public eye. We must think so, for we've already been thinking about our next one in December...!!

Christine Sugden

CASP

Critical Appraisal Skills Training

Debra Thornton, Clinical Librarian, Royal Preston Hospital.



In sunny July I was fortunate to be sponsored by HCLU to attend this week in Oxford. I was joined by Lucy Anderson, who is the chair of the LIHNN Trainers Group and boat-woman extraordinaire.



Punting on the River Cherwell. (A large glass of wine was later needed to steady the nerves)

Having attended a number of critical appraisal events and journal clubs previously I had a little knowledge of Evidence Based Practice and critical appraisal but always felt that everyone else knew more than I did. I was terrified of statistics – how on earth do you interpret the statistical data in a research paper, let alone understand the clinical implications of it.

However, this intensive course has finally convinced me that I CAN DO CRITICAL APPRAISAL! Yes, I really feel that I have got to grips with the things I didn't understand and can stop worrying about trying to know everything.

What is critical appraisal

To provide effective care to patients, clinicians need to know what treatments are going to work best. To do this they need to be able to find research evidence, decide whether or not the research has been done well and then put this knowledge into practice. The process of critical appraisal is really very simple – there are only three points to consider:

- Is the study valid
- What are the results
- Will the results help locally

The training

We began the week by looking at different types of research study – randomised controlled trials (RCTs), cohort studies, case series etc and by the end of the day we had a fairly good idea of which study to use in a number of different scenarios and why it is not always

feasible or possible to carry out a randomised controlled trial.

Obviously a major part of the course was the need for research – why do we need to carry out expensive research projects to find a treatment for asthma when the current treatment seems to work ok most of the time. Well, of course, there will always be those who believe that the practices they have been carrying out for years - and have always worked - are the best (and aren't we all guilty of this?)

But we need to be aware that change is happening all around us and that to continue to deliver high quality services (whether clinical or not) we need to seek out the best way of working.



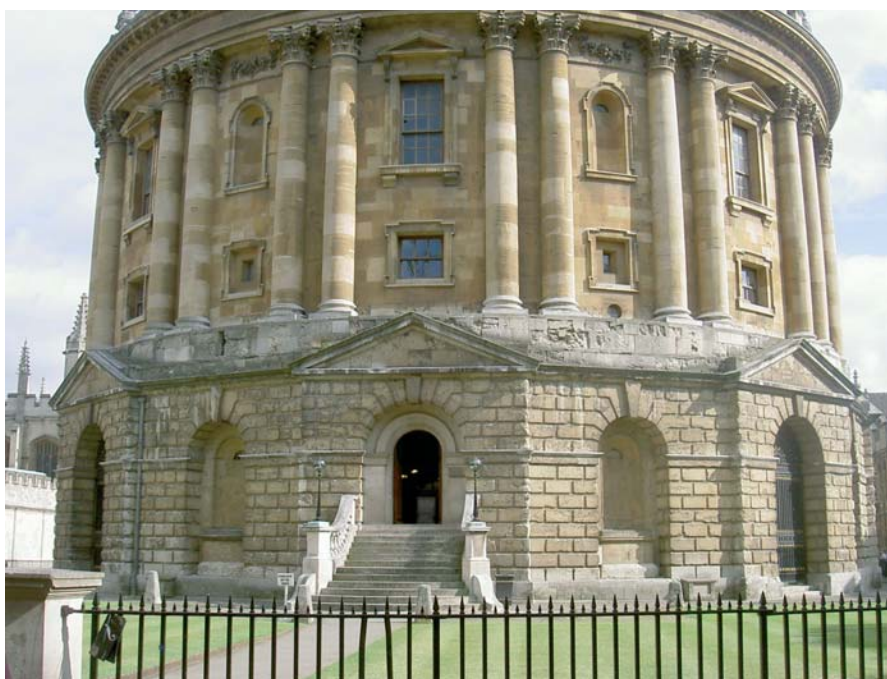
Sheldonian Theatre

And the way to do this is by finding out what works well and what doesn't. In other words – Evidence Based Practice. Research can be carried out in any discipline - nursing, medicine, even librarianship – to try to identify new and better ways of working. In the healthcare setting this is particularly important in terms of clinical effectiveness and clinical governance. We need to ensure that our patients are receiving the best care possible.

Finding the evidence

Literature searching was a major focus of day two and both Lucy and I found this very interesting from a trainer's point of view. Even though the subject matter was very familiar to us we were able to pick up a few training tips to use in our own courses.

Then it was down to work – appraising a systematic review. A big shock to us all was that



The Bodleian Library (Radcliffe Camera – Britain's first circular library)

we were expected to do homework. Suddenly our free time was diminishing before our eyes – the dreaming spires of Oxford were likely to remain a dream. However, most of us realised that to get the most from this learning experience we would need to read and understand the systematic review we were going to appraise.

With a good mix of professionals attending the course we were able to have a comprehensive discussion about the paper – each person contributing their own knowledge and skills. As well as a number of librarians there were nurses, doctors, dentists, clinical governance managers, researchers and pharmacists from Norway, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Spain and the UK.

It didn't take very long to get over our initial reluctance to show our ignorance and soon we were talking as though we'd all known each other for years. This helped later in the week when we were each expected to give a presentation on 'clinical effectiveness' and deliver part of a CASP workshop.

The pace of the learning was dictated by the students – the tutors were very happy to answer any of our questions and repeat things constantly until we felt we understood.

There were many gems during the week:

- Learning about odds and probability by choosing sweets from a packet.
- Winning the million in 'Who wants to be a millionaire'
- Learning how (not) to punt.
- A lively discussion with an awkward participant (one of the tutors who was winding us up)

Views of Oxford

And the good thing was that we did have some free time in which to explore the wonderful city of Oxford. I no longer worry about being 'a bloody tourist' and was quite happy to jump aboard an open top bus to see the sights. This was a delightful afternoon and we saw and learned much more about the city than if we'd had to walk around, including a visit to Blackwell's vast subterranean terraced chamber of over 10,000 square feet housing 160,000 volumes on over three miles of shelving.

Why librarians?

Overall, this was one of the most useful and enjoyable courses I have attended. For those of us who spend a lot of time searching for research evidence to support patient care (and I know that more and more librarians are doing this now), it is very helpful to be able to see



Bridge of Sighs



Christ Church, Oxford

things from a clinician's point of view. As librarians we are in a unique position to support evidence based practice. We are already much better at literature searching than most clinicians, we don't have to decide whether or not to implement new treatments and so, in fact, our job is the easiest of all – all we have to do is find and appraise the evidence.

Sounds easy? Well come along to one of our training sessions and see for yourselves. As the funding for this came from HCLU Lucy and I

have agreed to be nominated as the North West trainers in critical appraisal skills.

The LIHNN Trainers group will be running critical appraisal workshops commencing in the Autumn – see the Trainers page on Aditus for more details.