



**Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Knowledge, Library & Information Service

International Clinical Librarians Conference 2017, Leicester Racecourse 21-22nd September.

I have worked in the field of healthcare librarianship for more than two decades (yikes), and for the last two years have worked at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as Clinical / Outreach Librarian. I have enjoyed attending HLG conferences in the past, and love the mixture of talks, workshops, and socialising there. However, sometimes only a specialised conference can get to the nuts and bolts of a role like clinical librarianship. As ICLC 2017 was organised by the Clinical Librarian team at Leicester, it was always going to be stimulating and friendly with opportunities to discuss unique aspects of our profession; that much was certain. I was aware that Yorkshire and Humber region (YoHHLNet) had some funding available to support career development requests, so I successfully applied for a bursary which covered conference fees, and my employer covered my other expenses including a night in a hotel, which enabled me to attend the conference dinner to wring every last drop of benefit out of my bursary place.

As a relatively recent convert (and I use that in the sense which implies a degree of kicking and screaming) to social media, I used the conference to polish my “conference participation via the medium of Twitter” skills. I tried to follow the maxim “Tweet what you think, not what you hear” so alongside my notes I also have a barrage of Tweets to act as a reminder of what struck me most strongly during the two day conference. The programme was packed full of goodies, and as usual it was tricky to choose what not to attend. The following sessions give a flavour of the event and gave me the most in terms of inspiration and learning points.



Keynote speaker Margaret Foster set the tone for the conference beautifully with her witty and insightful talk on “Assembling the Puzzle of Librarians and Systematic Reviews”. One of the take home messages for me was when working with researchers who want your input into a systematic review, teach people how to ask you for what they need, and be clear about the different roles a librarian might have in reviews, for example consultant, contributor, author.

Lunchtime on the first day gave an opportunity to browse the poster displays, and I made a bee line for “Developing a Regional Clinical Librarian Group” by my lovely colleagues on the East Midlands Clinical Librarians Network, a group I still belong to even though I’ve jumped regions, on the grounds that due to a quirk of geography and healthcare funding, my base of Bassetlaw Hospital is actually in Nottinghamshire and therefore in the East Midlands, even though it belongs to a Trust which is part of Yorkshire and Humber. I was intrigued by the poster from Kleijnen Systematic Reviews which reflected on a project to assess the risk of bias in published systematic reviews due to avoidable failures in searching. Later that day I attended their excellent workshop on assessing search strategies where more fascinating, amusing and frankly shocking details of published search strategies were aired. The session was in two practical parts, and Kate Misso and Janine Ross from Kleijnen took us through using the ROBIS tool to judge risk of bias from common inadequacies found in reported search strategies in systematic reviews. Next we used the

PRESS Evidence Based Checklist to evaluate a search strategy. This was the kind of thing I had looked forward to so much – an opportunity to learn new stuff from experts in our field that has real world practical applications, and enhance my skills while meeting up with old friends and making new ones. Could that be the definition of the perfect conference experience? There was plenty here to bring back to inform day to day practice, particularly as we have recently introduced peer review among the lit searcher team, and the PRESS Check is on my to-do list to introduce down the line.

Day two and the morning Lightening Talks saw my East Midlands colleague Lisa Lawrence kicking off with an overview of her role as Clinical Librarian to Dermatology at Derby Teaching Hospital. As well as attending monthly meetings which generate literature searches, she is also part of their training team and supports undergraduate training. Her role is multi-disciplinary, and includes working with nurses to support revalidation. Her fellow Derby CL Cathryn James also had a poster presentation on her award winning work on revalidation in NICU, with many useful tips and ideas to bring back to our Trust. Another highlight after chatting with her at dinner the evening before, was hearing Irene Lubker (aka @LibrarianDiet) from Virginia Commonwealth University speak about her work with clinicians in medically underserved areas of the United States. The vast geography made physical access to resources difficult, as journals were kept in university hospital libraries many hundreds of miles away. No NHS Copyright Licence or national core content to help them:



Tom Roper gave a useful session on apps and tools to help Clinical Librarian productivity, but had to explain his talk title to the international audience – “Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana”!

In the late afternoon I was intrigued by Emma Silvey’s talk on registering a clinical audit to investigate literature search request volume, type and resources used. Lots of detail included looking at use of subscription databases vs HDAS for use in finding results, counting how many resources were used per query and calculating hour spent with costs attached. This was done for three types of request, described as standard, Clinical Librarian, and Clinical Librarian at the point of care. We are currently in the process of examining how we count and measure elements of our literature searching service, and insights like Emma’s are invaluable in giving extra perspectives.

As I reflect on my attendance I am struck by how relevant and uplifting the event had been, with the right mix of practical, sociable, funny and inspirational talks and workshops. I have learned new skills in critiquing search strategies which I can use with my colleagues to add to our continual quality improvement work. I have new insights into working smarter not harder, new perspectives on how to measure productivity, new appreciation for Athens and new friends – I think YoHHLNet got good value for their bursary money! And I got to practice listening and Tweeting simultaneously, with the following predictable result:

