Editorial

More than 23 years ago John Hewlett began contributing a “Current Literature” column for the newsletter of the Health Libraries Group. Almost 100 issues and thousands of articles later, John has decided it’s time to retire. On behalf of the Health Libraries Group, I’d like to thank John for his tremendous contribution to the professional development of a generation of health care librarians who have used his column to keep up to date with the professional literature. Tiffany Moxham of the Royal Free and University College Medical School Library will be taking over from John in the next issue of the Newsletter. Tiffany’s contact details are on page 22 of this issue.

The next issue also sees a new editor for Internet Sites of Interest. Following three years of editing this column, Graeme Barber is retiring, as his new post with Plymouth University takes him out of the field of health information. Many thanks to Graeme for all his contributions to this column. Our new Internet Sites Column Editor is Keith Nockels (of the Great North Run). Keith is Information Librarian at the University of Leicester’s Clinical Science Library at the Royal Infirmary of Leicester. Keith’s first column will appear in the March issue of the Newsletter.

A new design for the Cilip website has brought a new address for the HLG website. It is now: http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/

Over the last 13 years medical libraries in Iraq have been experiencing the effects of UN sanctions and have received “zero attention” in terms of administrative, financial or technical support from the government. Since the introduction of the UN Resolution known as “Oil for Food Programme”, libraries are now being provided with support. See pages 4-8 for a Rehabilitation Plan for Health Sciences Libraries in Iraq.

HLG members email discussion list
Sign up TODAY by going to http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/hlg-members and follow the onscreen instructions.

It was wonderful to meet so many HLG members at the successful Conference in September in Belfast! If you are able to attend a conference or study day of relevance to health information, consider writing a report of the meeting and chose this newsletter as your first choice for publication. Helen Bingham, Meeting Reports Editor, would be delighted to receive your reports (and so would I!).

Margaret E S Forrest
Editor

The Health Libraries Group Newsletter is available on disk, in large print and on spoken word tape, on request. For further information, contact Editor, Margaret Forrest, on m.e.s.forrest@dundee.ac.uk or tel 01382 345931.
Group News

Health Information and Libraries Journal

The journal will have a general issue for December. As usual the contents may be subject to change at proof stage, but at the time of writing are:

Guest Editorial
Future directions for Health Libraries Group: creating and influencing health policy
Jackie Lord

Original articles
METRO – The creation of a taxonomy for medical education. A Haig

The use of electronic books in midwifery education: a student perspective. L. Appleton

Enhancing the MeSH thesaurus to retrieve French online health resources in a quality-controlled gateway. M. Douyere et al.

Clinical librarianship in the UK: temporary trend or permanent profession? Part 2 Present challenges and future opportunities. J. Harrison & S. Sargeant

Marketing and health libraries. M. Wakeham

The information needs of perioperative staff: Preparatory study for a proposed Specialist Branch library for theatres (NeLH). D. Nicholas et al

Developing methods for systematic reviewing in health services delivery and organisation: an example from a review to access to health care for people with learning disabilities. Part 2 Evaluation of the literature – a practical guide. A Alborz and R McNally

Brief Communications
The Medical Library Association of Great Britain and Ireland. D Crawford

Access all areas: opening up NHS libraries in Trent. R. Marriott

Beyond SALIS: extending online co-operation outside of South Australian health libraries. M. Peterson & L. Harris

Evaluating the impact of information skills training. Sophie Robinson

Using research in practice
A checker’s career? A Booth

Learning and Teaching
N Whitsed
Penny Bonnett

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Report of Cilip Council, July 13th

Apology
This report is not up to my usual standards of completeness and (I hope) coherence. There are two reasons for this. The first is that by Cilip council standards this was an unusually dull and heavily procedural agenda. The second is that about half an hour before it started I had agreed my contract for a new job and therefore had to leave the meeting at lunchtime in order to write and submit my resignation to the BMA — so my mind was to some extent on other things throughout. I hope normal service will resume after the next meeting.

Framework of Qualifications
Ethics Code
The latest and as it turns out final drafts of the Framework of qualifications and the Ethical principles and code of professional practice were presented to Council and approved nem con and with very little discussion. Both were only minor tweaks of earlier versions. The ethics code in particular is an extraordinarily good resolution of a host of difficult problems and reflects the greatest credit on Bernard Naylor and the rest of his working party. The qualifications framework is less groundbreaking though it does introduce the useful 3-tier structure of Associateship, Chartership and Fellowship levels and is admirably clear in setting out the how, who and why.
Version 3 of the guidelines for both the Revalidation scheme for chartered members of Cilip and the Cilip scheme for certification were tabled at the meeting, with their guidance for professional mentors. There was some discussion about the current insistence that mentors be from the same regional branch as the candidate, and this may change.

Cilip Membership
Tim Buckley-Owen presented some interesting membership stats, showing that membership fell by just under 5% in the last year. This is not a gradual process — there is a huge fall (15%) as members officially lapse in June and then the figure creeps slowly upwards until the next lapsing. It was presented as a strong argument for fixed fee subscriptions, which it almost certainly is, but in my view the tenor of the debate was nothing like serious enough in the face of figures like these.

Audit Committee
Cilip is setting up an Audit Committee. I regret I can’t give any more details than this because the relevant papers were tabled after I left.

Tony McSeán
HLG Councillor

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Sub-Group News

IFM Healthcare
IFMH organised a successful study day 22nd November on public health information at the University of York: “Quality research-based information and the new public health agenda”. The programme is available on the IFMH website – http://www.ifmh.org.uk/studydays.html In a break from tradition the afternoon session comprised demonstrations of resources, information stands and posters, rather than workshops. This allowed maximum opportunity for information gathering and networking. PowerPoint presentations will be available on the IFMH Web. The IFMH AGM was held at lunchtime during the study day.

Inform
As always we welcome contributions to the IFMH newsletter, Inform. The deadline for copy for the Winter 2004 issue of Inform is 6th December 2004.

HLG Conference, Belfast
Thank you to all of you who visited our stand at HLG Conference. For those of you who completed our prize draw, the winners were:
Study Day place - Rachel Philips, University of Glasgow; Booth, A. & Brice, A., editors. Evidence based practice for information professionals - Olwen Beaven, BMJ Publishing Group; King's Fund Current Awareness Bulletin - Melanie Brocklehurst, London South Bank University; Miller, M. Review of Orthopaedics, 4th edition - Margaret Valentine, Freeman Hospital Library; M&S Voucher - Sue Graham, Sunderland Teaching PCT; Chocolates - Louise Goswami, Penbury Hospital

Our session 'Supporting health policy makers in evidence-based practice' was well attended. The PowerPoint presentation on 'Improving the health of the dragon: providing access to evidence for health policy officials' is available on our Web site. http://www.ifmh.org.uk

Committee developments
The Committee wishes to congratulate our Chair, Maria Grant, on the birth of her new baby daughter Abigail on the 15th August 2004. Bertha Low has rejoined the Committee as joint Inform Editor after her own maternity leave. We have recently said goodbye to Committee members, Vivian Grange (Oxford University) and Helen Carter (Cairns Library, Oxford).

Julie Glanville, Acting Chair, Information for the Management of Healthcare (IFMH) and Valerie Wildridge, Publicity Coordinator, Information for the Management of Healthcare (IFMH) v.wildridge@kingsfund.org.uk

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Libraries for Nursing

Events
LfN held a successful event on 12 November 2004 at the Royal College of Nursing in London on the theme of 'Are we being served?: core issues in collection development'. A full write-up of the day will be available in the December issue of the LfN bulletin.

Libraries for Nursing Bulletin
The September 2004 issue of the LfN Bulletin (vol. 24, issue 3) has now been published. Articles include:
- Welsh Assembly Government Secondment, by Angela Perrett
- Report of meeting forum for Librarians working with Nurses, by Murial Haire
- Review of Equip (Electronic Quality Information for Patients) Website, by Jenny Drury
- An introduction to BioMed Central and its peer reviewed journals, by Grace Baynes
- Introduction to new committee member: Donna Duff

If you would like to see yourself published in the LfN Bulletin, then please contact Jenny Drury for more information. Email: Jenny.Drury@nottingham.ac.uk

LfN Membership
If you are interested in joining LfN, please contact Amanda Quick: email: manda_quick@yahoo.co.uk

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People

Tony McSeán, formerly Librarian of the British Medical Association has been appointed as the new Director of Library Relations by Elsevier. In his new role, Tony will be responsible for developing and enhancing Elsevier's relationships with librarians worldwide.

Steve Rose (Director of the Health Libraries Group’s successful conference in Belfast this year) has been appointed Head of Reader Services, Oxford University Library Services, from Monday 11th October. Steve is now based at the Bodleian Library.

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Articles

Rehabilitation Plan for Health Sciences Libraries in Iraq

The following World Health Organization Rehabilitation Plan was submitted to the Newsletter by Julie Robinson, International Officer at CILIP

Introduction
Medical libraries play a major role in both healthcare delivery and medical education. Access to quality health and biomedical information by healthcare professionals and the public is one of the basic rights. A fully functional and up to the standard medical library is a prerequisite for modern medical education in colleges of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary sciences. Hospital libraries and their services have started to play a central role in clinical decision making and continuous medical education and education of patients.

Health Sciences Libraries In Iraq
Health sciences libraries in Iraq are attached to the following types of institutions:

1. Medical education institutions (colleges of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary sciences)
2. Hospitals and polyclinics;
3. Primary health care centres;
4. Health administration units (ministry of health, health directorates).

Over the last 13 years all types of these libraries have been suffering from the consequences of the UN sanctions. Of course all other aspects of educational, cultural and social services had to suffer, except that libraries suffered the most. In many countries of the world, including Iraq, medical libraries are not placed high on the priority list of decision makers and planners. Medical
libraries in Iraq over the last 13 years received zero attention in terms of administrative, financial or technical support from the government. Since the introduction of the UN Resolution known as Oil for Food Programme the Regional Office has been making special effort to provide many of these libraries with the basic minimum requirements to allow them to serve their community of users. Support to the Ministry of Health libraries and to the libraries of the colleges of medicine was provided using the WHO regular budget and the funds from the Oil for Food Programme as appropriate. Support has taken the following forms:

1. Assessment of needs for capacity building, training, development of computer-based library systems and technical support;
2. Subscription to medical journals. WHO/EMRO financed subscription over the last six years to more than 240 titles which were distributed to the Ministry of Health Library and the libraries of medical colleges in Baghdad, Mustansiriya, Saddam, Mousel, Busra, Tikrit, Sulimaniya, Dohuk and Erbil;
3. Provision of medical books mainly reference books in the central area of Iraq (Baghdad, Saddam, Mousel, Busra);
4. Provision of medical books (reference and text books) in the North;
5. Provision of medical databases on CD-ROM, especially MEDLINE;
6. Provision of data processing equipment including computers, printers, photocopiers and CD drives;
7. Training of medical library staff in library techniques and services and computer applications;
8. User education and awareness for healthcare professionals and medical staff.

It should be noted that this support has always been limited to as much as the small budgets allowed. The situation has worsened by the recent crisis due to three factors:

1. Many of these libraries have been looted. Library collections, equipment and in some cases furniture were removed from libraries or damaged;
2. Many staff have left the country or changed to other jobs leaving medical libraries in most cases run by one or two staff each;
3. Books, journals, CD-ROM and other educational materials have not been reaching the country for the last three months.

Rehabilitation Plan

Objective

To put health sciences libraries in Iraq into operation in support of healthcare services, medical education and health education programmes.

Specific objectives

1. To assess needs and identify areas for urgent and immediate rehabilitation in health sciences libraries in Iraq;
2. To rehabilitate medical library buildings and sites including the physical space, shelves, furniture, power supply, air-conditioning, storage areas and networking infrastructure;
3. To rebuild the health sciences library collections including books, journals, and databases;
4. To provide medical textbooks for students of health and medical sciences;
5. To train medical librarians and information workers on library techniques and information technology;
6. To introduce computer-based library systems for managing collections and services;
7. To introduce Internet and web access services to medical colleges.
**Activities**

1. Consulting and expert services.
   Two consultants for six man-month each to:
   a. Assess situation and identify priority areas for rehabilitation;
   b. Identify needs for support in capacity building, computerization, training and library services;
   c. Develop a plan for library networking and computerization.

2. Training of national staff in library techniques, services and networking;
   a. National training workshops;
   b. Fellowships;
   c. Study tours.

3. Collection development
   a. Acquisition of medical books;
   b. Subscription to medical journals;
   c. Subscription to medical databases;
   d. Acquisition of educational materials and multimedia;
   e. Library stationery.

4. Building of the information infrastructure in libraries which includes acquisition of:
   a. Personal computers;
   b. Network servers;
   c. VSAT for data communication (internet and e-mail)
   d. Printers;
   e. Scanners;
   f. Photocopying machines;
   g. Overhead projectors;
   h. Video Data projectors;
   i. Televisions;
   j. VCRs;
   k. Fax machines;
   l. Networking equipment and accessories;
   m. Network cables;
   n. Stand alone UPS s;


**Assumptions**

Estimate of needs for library collections and equipment is made based on the following assumptions:

1. There are 17 health sciences libraries attached to medical education institutions in almost all cities of Iraq. Many of these colleges have teaching hospitals attached to them, which allows for use of libraries by hospital staff. These colleges are:

   1. Baghdad: Baghdad University: Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Veterinary medicine
   2. Baghdad: Al-Kindi: Baghdad University: Medicine
   3. Baghdad: Saddam University: Medicine (Now called Al-Nahrain University)
   4. Baghdad: Mustanseriya University: Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry
   5. Mosul: Mosul University: Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Veterinary medicine
   6. Mosul: Nineva: Medicine (Mosul University)
   7. Erbil: Salahuddin University: Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry
   8. Dohuk: Dohuk University: Medicine
   9. Sulaimaniya Sulaimaneyah University: Medicine, Pharmacy
   10. Tikrit: Tikrit University: Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry
   11. Ramadi: Al-Anbar university: Medicine,
12. Kufa: Kufa University: Medicine, Veterinary medicine
13. Hilla Babil University: Medicine
14. Baqooba: Deyalah University: Medicine
15. Deewaneyah: Al-Qadisseyah University: Medicine, Veterinary medicine in Kut city
16. Basra: Basrah University: Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Veterinary medicine
17. Nassereyah: They Qar University: Medicine.

2. Out of the 17 colleges nine of are considered major or key institutions as they cover in one campus more than one health sciences college such as pharmacy and dentistry or have a bigger student/faculty population which enables serving all potential users from one site;

3. The major health sciences library for healthcare professionals outside the medical colleges is located at the Ministry of Health;

4. There are over 15 major hospitals in Iraq which are either teaching hospitals and/or provide healthcare services to a large population;

5. Needs of medical college libraries are different from and larger than those of other libraries.

The rehabilitation Plan
This plan is divided into two parts based on availability of funds and type of libraries.

Part One: Major Health Sciences Colleges in Iraq
Part one of the Plan aims to provide support as indicated above to ten medical college libraries plus Ministry of Health Library. The total budget for this phase is US$ 3,898,000. These libraries are:

1. Baghdad University College of Medicine
2. Mosul University Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and Veterinary medicine
3. Basrah University Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and Veterinary medicine
4. Erbil: Salahuddin University Colleges Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry
5. Dohuk University College of Medicine
6. Sulaimaneyah University Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy
7. Ramadi: Al-Anbar university: Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary medicine
8. Mustanseriya University Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry
9. Al-Qadisseyah University College of Medicine
10. Ramadi: Al-Anbar university: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary medicine
11. Ministry of Health Library

Part Two: Other Health Sciences Colleges and Major Hospitals
Part two of the Plan aims to provide support as indicated above to eight medical college libraries plus seven major hospitals. This Part has two components: A: Other health sciences college libraries and B: Hospital libraries. The total budget for this phase is US$ 3,859,400 ($2,879,000 for colleges and $980,400 for hospitals). These libraries are:

1. Baghdad: Al-Kindi: Baghdad University: Medicine
2. Baghdad: Saddam University: Medicine (Now called Al-Nahrain University)

3. Mosul: Nineva: Medicine (Mosul University)

4. Ramadi: Al-Anbar university: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary medicine

5. Kufa: Kufa University: Medicine, Veterinary medicine

6. Hilla: Babil University: Medicine

7. Baqooba: Deyalah University: Medicine

8. Nassereyah: They Qar University: Medicine.

A complete list of potential hospitals will be provided based on assessment of situation of these hospitals and suitability for development of a library service at this stage. However, the most potential hospitals are: Al Yarmouk, Medical City, Khadimiya General, Al Kindi, Al-Zahrawy, Ibn-Sina, Al Raiz and Busra Hospital.

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Welsh Assembly Government Secondment

Angela Perrett
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Royal College of Nursing Wales
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This article was first published in LfN Bulletin, 24(3), September 2004 and is reprinted here with permission.

In April 2002 I moved from my post of Library and Information Services Manager at the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Wales to take up a 3 year secondment with the Welsh Assembly Government in the Health Information Department. My original role was as project co-ordinator for the EDICT (Education and Development in Information and Communications Technology) Programme.

The Programme included:
• Basic computer skills for all NHS Wales staff. The recommended qualification being the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL):
  http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites/page.cfm?orgid=367&pid=2830
• Health informatics skills for all clinicians, using the Learning to Manage Health Information (LTMHI) framework:
  http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites/page.cfm?orgid=367&pid=2831
• Professionalism of health informatics staff

Health informatics may be an unfamiliar term for some. Here are 2 standard definitions:

...the term used to describe the science of information management in health care and its application to support clinical research, decision making and practice
(Learning to Manage Health Information, 1999)

... the knowledge, skills and tools which enable information to be collected, managed, used and shared to support the delivery of healthcare and promote health

(UK Council for Health Informatics Professionals (UKCHIP), 2002)

One of my major contributions to the Programme was the implementation of ECDL. This included:
• The central procurement of ECDL logbooks for NHS staff
• The establishment of centrally funded NHS accredited test centres set up, centrally funded in every Trust and Business Service Centre
• Training for NHS Test Centre staff
• Publishing ECDL pages on the Health of Wales Information Service (HOWIS - NHS Wales’ intranet), including Welsh directories
• To initiate the central procurement of online training and testing software.
This will be available for all NHS staff next month.

The implementation of both ECDL and LTMHI required the development of Learning Needs Analysis tools to assess both individual and organisational needs.

Under the professionalism of health informatics staff area, the following groups of staff were included:

- Health records staff
- Library staff
- Health information management staff, including clinical coders
- Senior information managers and directors of information services
- ICT staff
- Clinical informatics staff, including nurses

The professionalism theme included:

- CPD programmes for:
  - Library staff
  - Health records staff
  - Health information managers
- Welsh input to the National Occupational Standards Project, including running workshops throughout Wales. This project will feed into the Agenda for Change Knowledge and Skills Framework
- Contributing to the establishment of a UK registration body (UKCHIP)

Due to my professional library background I also became involved in some strategic library projects e.g. the procurement of electronic journals for NHS Wales; the evaluation of national knowledge databases and copyright training for NHS library staff.

During my secondment I also undertook PRINCE2 project management training and gained the registered practitioner qualification. PRINCE is a structured approach for controlling and organising projects. This approach clarifies your thinking and makes you concentrate on outcomes and aims rather than activities. It is one of the key skills I am now keen to use at the RCN.

The EDICT Programme has now been absorbed into the Welsh NHS modernisation strategy Informing Healthcare: http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites/home.cfm?OrgID=365

For me personally this would have meant relocation to Bridgend and having to move to a permanent position. Even though I really enjoyed the work programme it was never my intention to leave the RCN permanently so I returned to my post a year early.

On my return to the RCN, management were very open to the incorporation of new skills into my previous role and to new developments I wished to implement. Without this flexibility I think it would have been very difficult to return to my previous role. I now work closely with the RCN’s informatics advisor and we, with June Clark, are currently organising a conference for nurses on informatics, with the intention of encouraging nurses to get engaged with the nursing/healthcare informatics agenda and to push nursing informatics onto the Welsh political top table. I also have my library assistant, Rhydian Williams, to thank for this, as he has taken on much of the responsibility for day-to-day library services.

After 2 years away from the RCN there were many new initiatives to get to grips with, e.g. the development of the RCN’s Learning Zone, an online journals service and a new appraisal system. With hindsight it would have been a good idea to have regarded myself as a new member of staff and undergone a formal induction.

At my original interview I was asked by Jackie Barker, my subsequent line manager, how I would cope with negative comments that would immediately be hurled at anyone who announced that they worked for the government. To give Jackie her due, she didn’t laugh when I said I thought that was unlikely to happen. Levels of negativity in the people who did come within our remit was certainly at times surprising. Also over the last 2 years some of the things I have found myself being criticised for include: house prices in Aberystwyth, the state of the trains and Rhodri Morgan’s haircut!
The secondment has given me a wider and more strategic perspective. This includes how library and information services are perceived and valued, which can often be uncomfortable knowledge, but still worth knowing, in order to improve the promotion and marketing of our services. I also now have greater knowledge of government and national strategies, which will help in the RCN’s lobbying role. I highly recommend any opportunities library staff can take of playing a wider role. This will help to future-proof both individual careers and the profession overall.

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Career Development

In this article, Alex Seymour, Assistant Information Officer at the National Autistic Society, provides words of encouragement for newly qualified librarians...

It is important that all librarians who work in the health sector make career and professional development a priority if they are to succeed in their chosen careers. I wholeheartedly agree with Past-President Margaret Watson’s call for professional development and Bob McKee’s excellent leadership if we are to make the library and information world as exciting and relevant in the future as it is today. How librarians should be following professional development and how often they should be doing it is a personal decision for them.

Every 6 months all librarians and information workers in this profession should be reviewing their personal progress:

- Keep a log of every major activity, event, visit, seminar, major project or enquiry work you have done in a notebook and/or computer system and update it when you can.
- Have a fully up-to-date CV (Curriculum Vitae) and list of referees always ready, a point which Michael Martin (Head of Careers, CILIP) was keen to emphasise at the Olympia Online Exhibition in December 2003.
- Read as much professional literature as you can (not just CILIP Update and Gazette).
- Go on the Internet and visit websites providing professional information in addition to CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals).
- Attend as many meetings as possible and get on some library-related committees.
- Subscribe to relevant electronic discussion lists such as LIS-CILIP plus others relevant to your profession.
- Read through the list of events on the CILIP website for details of low-cost seminars, visits and other events.
- Talk to colleagues old and new – find out as much about them as you can.
- Obtain Chartership and then Fellowship of CILIP if you have not already done so. Consider revalidation if you have already chartered.
- Take evening classes such as ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence).
- Maintain a portfolio of achievement – be imaginative and update.

Always prepare to have the evidence and lists of your achievements to hand or are easily obtainable so when that dream job comes up, you are prepared for it and better than the other 200 or so applicants for the same job.

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News and Notes

Single Search Environment to join up NHS Library Services across England

Press release received 13 September 2004 from Catherine Dhanjal
catherine.dhanjal@theansweruk.com

The NHS has begun a project to deliver a single search environment that will integrate the ‘national’ and ‘local’ information resources of NHS library services across England. The single search environment will be one of the first outputs of the emerging National Library for Health; (www.library.nhs.uk) an NHS-wide initiative that is designed to deliver the goal of an integrated English health library.
The first phase of the single search environment will be launched in November 2004, as part of the Health Libraries Week, with further developments being made available from April 2005 onwards.

The single search environment will be powered by FDI’s ZPORTAL solution, which will integrate NHS resources alongside published data and deliver the resource search engine.

The single search environment is a national service that is the result of collaboration between NHS library services, National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) and the National Core Content Group. Ben Toth, Joint Director of NeLH explains, “The National electronic Library for Health is very pleased to have been involved in the procurement of a search engine for the NHS. Building on the successes of our current information projects will deliver benefits to information delivery across the NHS, in a cost effective way.”

The North West Health Care Libraries Unit has pioneered this new initiative as Colin Davies, Deputy Director of Health Libraries North West, and leader of the project team, outlines, “The North West, like a number of other regions in England, had recognised the need to join up the library collections and information resources within their areas and had begun projects to look at making this possible. The national single search environment solution will provide a framework that each area can use to join up its local resources, plus it will put our local resources in the same place as national resources provided by the NeLH and National Core Content programmes.”

The 500+ NHS Libraries in England will use the single search environment to improve information delivery to their clinical staff, including consultants, doctors and nurses – a user population of more than 680 000 clinicians and managers. Current usage figures for existing information services, that will become components of the single search environment, show usage levels already in excess of 300 000 regular users per year. As a result the project team for the single search environment are predicting very high levels of usage for the new, integrated service.

The new information service will provide clinicians with one place to go to search popular resources such as BMJ’s Clinical Evidence, The Cochrane Library, Proquest full-text journals, and bibliographic databases from Dialog and EBSCO. Clinicians will access the new service using one national website, and the system will display local resources that are relevant to where in England they are located. By incorporating the ability to localise the service each region, or NHS Library service, can select the services most appropriate for its audience and package the resources to suit the needs of its user community.

The single search environment is designed to integrate with existing NHS IT initiatives including the NHS National Programme for Information Technology (NPfIT). The single search environment meets the technical requirements of NPfIT and will become integrated with NPfIT, as it is rolled-out.

The initial remit of the single search environment is to the needs of clinical staff, however the service is highly scaleable and incorporating the needs of students of the NHSU, whose target is largely non-clinical staff, is already a goal for the project team.

For further information contact: Colin Davies, Deputy Director of Health Libraries North West colindavies.nhs@nwda.co.uk

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Nursing & Midwifery: core books for collection development

A new edition, (the third), of the nursing core book collection, with a new title: Nursing & Midwifery: core books for collection development, was published in autumn 2004. This has been published by Tomlinsons book service, and supported by Libraries for Nursing (LfN) and the Royal College of Nursing. The selection and compilation team were: Diane Beckett,
Elspeth Everitt, Lori Havard, Jane Shelley and Rupert Williams. In addition, help was received from Mary Dharmachandran, librarian for the Royal College of Midwives for the midwifery section and Roger Tomlinson for the overall data inputting, layout and publication of the book. While the content focused on books, we hope that, even with the ever growing electronic age, the publication will be useful to libraries and individuals in identifying core materials for specific areas of nursing and midwifery practice and education. It will also have a role in helping to identify what items are needed in electronic formats to allow users access 24/7 and remotely to the resources they need.


Health Information Services Management

A new course to help health information workers to meet the needs of people affected by cancer has been launched by Macmillan Cancer Relief in partnership with the School of Computing and Information at the University of Central England, Birmingham (UCE).

The Health Information Services Management course, developed by UCE in partnership with Macmillan, is a double-module at Master's level. It is aimed at health information workers and also information professionals working in any type of organisation who want to know more about the rapidly growing area of health information.

The course covers understanding the patient journey, health information resources, how to appraise health information, managing and organising information, and health information service monitoring, evaluation and development. It also explores the sensitive communication issues associated with helping people to cope with the consequences of the information they receive. It is studied over four Friday/Saturday sessions, including one held at the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital.

Managing health information and support services for people affected by cancer, and other conditions, is a highly skilled role, however there have been few educational programmes directed at people involved in providing these services.

Those wishing to find out more about the course should contact Sarah Rudge, MSc Health Information Management Tutor, University of Central England, Birmingham, on 0121 331 5687 sarah.rudge@uce.ac.uk or UCE Choices on 0121 331 5595 info@ucechoices.com.

Product review of xreferplus

by Bruce Madge, Research Manager at the National Patient Safety Agency

Xreferplus (www.xreferplus.com) is an online reference library from the xrefer company based in the US and the UK. The official statistics given by xrefer are that xreferplus provides full-text content from almost 200 books and 40 publishers, including Blackwell, HarperCollins, Penguin and Bloomsbury. It features 2 million entries, over 80,000 images, and 76,000 audio pronunciation files.

I was particularly interested in this product as a virtual extension to the few medical reference books we had at the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA). Due to the very nature of the subject of patient safety, we needed access to other non-medical reference works and xreferplus fitted the bill very nicely. I feel that more and more NHS libraries will find they need access to reference works outside of the field of medicine especially in law and IT, and that xreferplus will start to become a standard core source.
When I first looked at xreferplus, a couple of years ago, I felt that it lacked enough medical reference works to justify a subscription but my thoughts on the usefulness of this product have now changed.

Not only is there a greater breadth of useful medical reference works which include standard texts such as Black’s Medical Dictionary and Dorland’s Medical Dictionary, but the other areas of coverage have also increased with many more texts, pictures and audio files. Their coverage of law, IT and social sciences, an area we all need to know more about, has grown and includes some very impressive acquisitions. The whole is linked together very well and the search engine is excellent. I particularly liked the Research Mapper which shows links between topics in a visual manner. Whilst this has been used on other products, mainly in the journal literature area, I think this Research Mapper actually adds a useful feature to the product.

The very nature of the product lends itself to being part of a virtual library collection and the ability to choose how many titles you want is also helpful when budgets are tight. I am told that this autumn there will be additional resources in the way of specialist reference services which will allow access to more material, such as a series of Psychology handbooks form Blackwells. There is also a move towards working with online databases to give a fuller response to any particular query.

Personally, I think that the NHS Core Content Group should seriously consider a NHS wide subscription to this valuable resource and that xreferplus deserves a wider subscription base from within the medical community.

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Internet Sites of Interest

Following three years of editing this column for the HLG Newsletter, Graeme Barber is retiring, as his new post with Plymouth University takes him out of the field of health information. Many thanks to Graeme for all his hard work over the years in developing this column into a valuable source current awareness. Our new Internet Sites Column Editor is Keith Nockels. Please send contributions and suggestions for this column to Keith at (email): khn5@le.ac.uk

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Meeting Report

This section of the Newsletter is edited by Helen Bingham. Please send items for inclusion via e-mail (as an attachment or as the text of the e-mail) to Helen.Bingham@porthosp.nhs.uk, at least two working days ahead of the copy date published in the HLG Newsletter.

World Library and Information Congress (70th IFLA General Conference and Council). Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 22th - 27th 2004

Bruce Madge
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IFLA Health and Biosciences Libraries Committee
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National Patient Safety Agency
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As it was my first time in South America, I must say how much I enjoyed my visit to Buenos Aires. Although the weather was wet on the first day and extremely cold on the second day when I did my one sightseeing trip to Tigre and the Delta, the rest of the week could not have been better with blue skies and spring temperatures.

After you got used to the slightly slower way of life and the huge amounts of steak (and very good local Malbec wine!) – the conference kicked off with the first of the Committee’s business meetings. We reviewed the year and looked at what we should be concentrating on in the coming
year. The highlight of the meeting however, was the presentations from both Qatar and Brisbane who were bidding to host the 10th International Congress of Medical Librarianship in 2009. Both presentations were excellent but the committee felt (in a closed meeting) that Brisbane had shown more preparedness for the coming event and recognised the need for great support on the ground. This decision was ratified by IFLA during the meeting – so look forward to a trip to Brisbane in 2009!

The exhibition opening went well and meeting with exhibitors was valuable as always. I was impressed by the way the CILIP stand, which I had helped erect, exhibited a large array of FACET books and the fact that the panels didn’t fall off the wall (well - not until the next day).

Sessions were interesting especially that on the new Alexandrian Library and the organisation seemed to work well. It was also a chance to meet up with old (and not so old) friends and to make new acquaintances. Our session went particularly well and included a talk from the president, Maggie Haines, on work being done at Kings College London on information literacy. The committee recommended the paper from China be published in the IFLA Journal not least for the presenters impeccable English!

I thought the social events were not as good as last year unless you were heavily interested in the Tango (which occurred on a number of occasions) but the reception at the British Ambassadors residence was excellent with very good entertainment (I managed to escape making a fool of myself by dancing)

The closing session invited us to Oslo next year in a somewhat subdued manner (or maybe I am used to the way the Americans do things?) but I was more interested in the fact that information on HIV/AIDS was singled out for special mention and I have since been in touch with Alex Byrne (President-elect) on this very subject as I was concerned about possible re-invention of wheels.

Our second business meeting went very well as we discussed and edited our Strategic Goals for the coming year. We felt that a focus on health information for developing countries and the fact that IFLA’s Health and Biosciences Committee should act as a forum for discussion of all the work going on around the world in this area would be a valid reason for the Committee to exist. The Goals will be published on the IFLA website as soon as possible.

I travelled back to London very happy with the way the conference had gone and look forward to the IFLA Conference in Oslo next year.

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Book Reviews


Celia Hales Mabry has brought together a wide variety of theoretical essays, case studies and research into this comprehensive volume about co-operation and collaboration at the reference desk.

Separated into sections, the book covers everything from the ‘intangibilities’ and practicalities of serving at the reference desk, through the virtual library, to co-operating with those working outwith the library. As one would expect from the title, the main focus of the book is on co-operation between library staff, and in the later sections, between library staff and other individuals working within (and outwith) the organisation.

The sheer diversity of topics covered in this book means that it has something to offer to any librarian or information specialist who picks it up. In particular, I found the chapter on user perception of staff co-operation especially enlightening. This chapter reported on the results of research into user experiences of a reference interaction, and
offered a perspective on co-operative reference work that I hadn’t previously encountered. Other readers may find the sections on workplace dynamics, co-operating with other librarians or reference desk scheduling equally valuable. Personally, I found the case studies less informative, but perhaps because the cases presented were so far removed from my own working environment.

I was particularly entertained by the subheading in one of the chapters entitled “Learning from Management Fads”, although the paragraph below it was sadly vague about how this could be achieved.

Cooperative Reference is aimed specifically at teams working at the reference desk, however, the book still has something to offer those working in more multifaceted roles.

With only a couple of exceptions (both Canadian) the editor and chapter contributors are based in the USA, giving the book a North American bias, which is less intrusive than one might expect. There is, however, also a strong academic bias, which has a much more significant impact on the applicability of this book to those working outside the academic sector.

Despite a logical grouping and presentation of the ideas presented in the book, sadly I found the typeface and layout of the text made it visually very difficult to read.

The book, through its sheer diversity, does have something to offer to every reader, although I doubt any other than the hardened reference librarian would consider it an essential text.

Cathy Smith, Information Officer – Public Health NHS Fife


This book brings together real accounts of library’s experiences of handling electronic data; e-serials, e-books, e-archiving, and the issues surrounding the management of these. It’s unnecessary to emphasise the importance to understand these issues as librarians, we all know that virtual library will continue to expand and replace much of the physical library, in particular when serving the distant user. We all struggle with the management of these products and by reading this book you may find consolation in that we all face the same problems, but it may also give you some ideas on how you can overcome your fear of them and feel more comfortable in finding solutions.

The discussions around e-serials were particularly useful to me. The struggle to manage lost content, problems with IP addresses and passwords and setting up purchase packages with vendors and publishers are some of the things that we all have to face in our roles as librarians. There are some very useful sections discussing these issues, from both librarians and subscription agent’s points of views. The librarians in particular give a valuable insight into their lessons learned and it’s useful to take a note of these and avoid the same mistakes.

I particularly appreciated the section on IP Ranges vs. Passwords, which gives pros and cons for both of these solutions. Unfortunately passwords are easily passed around to unwanted parties via word of mouth/email, and some libraries are posting passwords on their website to avoid too much administrative work providing it to each interested party. The problem with IP addresses is that the distant user may not have access to information, and this is certainly the case in larger organisations and higher educational institutions.
There is also an interesting section on usage data. The author supports the thought that usage data may help librarians make collection decisions for electronic products. Libraries tend to purchase packages of information, rather than content outright, and the analysis of usage data can provide important information about how many patrons actually use the information provided. One issue here is that the vendor of the product usually holds the usage data, and if possible it should be agreed with them to provide the library with this information.

There was an interesting case study from Deakin University (Australia), discussing their digitisation project of material and how to handle digitised material according to copyright regulations and also with regards to students with disabilities. The chapter brings up issues that I never considered when digitising materials or handling such material, and the complexities of technology and digital rights management are certainly something that should be considered if working with this type of material.

The book has aimed to be global and material comes from different types of libraries and other information providers. The issues discussed certainly are global in nature. It contains case studies and views from personal experiences. It’s a useful book to provide you with background information and to give you ideas of how others have found solutions, but not a reference guide giving you detailed explanations of ‘how to…’ in certain circumstances. This may be because there is a lack of standards in the information world when it comes to electronic resources, an issue which isn’t really covered by this book. It is useful in providing an insight into the problems we are facing when working with electronic materials, but has not covered and can not, cover all concerns with electronic material.

Helena Korjonen-Close
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The US 1994 Dietary Supplement and Health Act (DSHEA) defines a dietary supplement as “any product (other than tobacco) intended to supplement the diet that contains one or more of the following ingredients: a vitamin, mineral, herb or other botanical, an amino acid; a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract or combination of any of these ingredients”.

Dietary supplements are very much a hot topic, and you only have to look at the position of health/diet books in the publishing Top 10 to see this. Indeed in 2003 the Expert Group on Vitamins and Minerals at the UK Food Standards Agency felt it necessary to warn the general public about the dangers of taking too high doses of vitamin and mineral supplements. Given the popularity of supplements and the risk of diet-drug interactions, the general public and their health professionals need up-to-date information founded on first class research.

The author works for Pharmanex, a commercial company that researches and produces phyto-pharmaceutical and nutritional products, but he has a scientific background with a PhD in nutritional biochemistry from Rutgers University in New Jersey and the book certainly feels as though it gives a critical / balanced analysis.

The opening chapters provide an overview of the dietary supplement industry, product development and FDA guidance. It is important to note that the book does concentrate on US organisations, their procedures and definitions. This means that some supplements listed are not available from the UK and in the case of at least one item this is because it has been banned. Following on from these chapters, monographs on dietary supplements are listed by disease / condition. For example “Supplements for Bone Health”, “Supplements for Heart Health” and “Supplements for Support During Cancer”.

CILIP Health Libraries Group Newsletter, 21(4) December 2004
http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/
The book looks at over 140 supplements and each monograph is subdivided by the following: What is It?, Claims, Theory, Scientific Support, Safety, Value and Dosage. At the end of each monograph, a Works Consulted section lists references from respected peer reviewed titles. As with all scientific publications, research continually moves forward and the herbal stimulant ephedra, sometimes known as ma-huang, has now been banned in the USA since the publication of the book.

The monographs are short and very easy to read. However, the lack of citations within the text is a drawback for scientists and health professionals, as is the limited reference made to interactions. However, the book states that it is aimed at the "consumer’s perspective" and, given this, it certainly does match its remit.

Michelle Wake
Deputy Librarian
School of Pharmacy, University of London

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I must declare that when I volunteered to review this book, I misunderstood the title to refer to anyone involved in teaching, any age group. However, the Foreword makes clear that an ‘educator’, in this context, means those who teach “our kids”.

The contributors make a strong case that teachers from all subject areas need to understand and promote information literacy (I.L.). One chapter presents the findings from a study of pre-service teachers’ knowledge of what I.L. means. The underlying argument for the other chapters is that teachers do not just have to get children on computers, using PowerPoint for book reports and the dreaded Google for history assignments. They also have to equip them to be discerning and efficient consumers (and producers) of information.

Disappointingly, five out of nine chapters focus on what they term ‘Pre-Service Teachers’. The discussion on how teacher training programmes should equip their under- and post-graduate students is interesting as far as it goes. Unfortunately, the remaining four chapters did not answer my questions as to how in-service educators can be re-skilled to inculcate I.L. habits in their charges. Nor do they adequately discuss who should do what between school librarians, teachers and teacher-librarians (not a hyphenate likely to appear in Heat any time soon).

Whilst the authors are predominantly American, there are chapters from both Australia and Canada. The Australian essay starts with a glossary which was very useful. Although the North American chapters use formal, professional language, it was quite difficult to grasp what an ‘administrator’ or ‘school counselor’ (sic) actually do there, and whether it differs from here. All that time wasted watching Buffy suddenly paid off. I assume a school librarian or education studies librarian would not struggle so much.

Each chapter starts with a two or three page literature review. The author(s) go on to present their research findings or how their Faculty has changed their teacher-training programme. The visual and topical repetition created the overall effect of a themed journal rather than a text book. A closer inspection of the introductory pages revealed that the book has also been published as Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian Volume 22, Issue 1, 2003.

As both a reader of professional journals and ‘how to’ LIS texts, I would have preferred fewer blocks of uninterrupted text. Two contributors did use some charts, figures or images but these were (small) reproductions of surveys or excerpts from competency matrices. A smattering of pithy bullet point boxes would have helped this commuter’s tired eyes. And more seriously, the dry presentation seemed to reflect some linear
thinking. However, I am not familiar with the subject area so this criticism may well be unfair.

Nonetheless, if you are involved with preparing student teachers for their 21st century careers this could be an invaluable read. And after the nine exclamation marks in the first paragraph of the Forward, the writing is authoritative and quite heartening.

Hilary Johnson
Health Studies Librarian
University of Luton

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This is a collection of papers presented at a Library of Congress symposium, and simultaneously published as the Journal of Library Administration (2003), vol. 38, no1/2, 3/4. It can sound rather weighty, but includes some fascinating insights, such as the part of Nicholson Baker in the preservation of an extensive collection of American newspapers that was put up for sale by the British Library-on the grounds that it had them in other formats and it was to America to preserve its own. There is the serious theft from Columbia University Library in1994. The articles discussing the problems of conservation techniques are enough to give librarians nightmares, with vinegar syndrome attacking acetate microfilm, moulds, flooding, fire and the last horseman of the Apocalypse.

Each essay is quite brief, and divided into general groupings:

- Heritage at risk
- Security strategies
- Preservation strategies
- Theft and other disasters
- Budgetary strategies for preservation and security
- Measuring effectiveness
- The electronic environment
- People, buildings and collections - innovations

Articles look at the problems of modern building design, the sheer bulk of material and the competence of people to make decisions on disposal. There is the problem when extensive theft is discovered which calls into question the ability of a library, museum or gallery to manage its own stock. The necessity of all staff being involved in security is highlighted again and again - down to having keys labelled but also secured. How many of us forget the cost of materials with which we regularly work, and would only notice the absence of something when we went to use it. Disaster planning, inventory control and prioritizing conservation requirements are all well handled.

Copyright Libraries did at least secure the acquisition of much material, but with an electronic age it is becoming more and more difficult to ensure that things will remain available to scholars of the future. The authors are drawn from deans and directors of libraries, museum directors, directors of preservation programmes, a director of security at the Library of Congress.

In all, the 22 articles make fascinating reading, of interest to anyone working in libraries and museums, because they do emphasise the necessity of collaboration, of having plans in place, and of the involvement of everyone. An interesting addition to any library collection.

Margaret Halstead
Education Centre Library
West Cumberland Hospital

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Current Literature

by John Hewlett jf.hewlett@virgin.net with
information from Chrissy Allott,
Bloomsbury Heathcare Library staff, Terry
Henner (MRSQ), Rosalind McNally

This will be my last column for the Health
Libraries Group and for Health Information
and Libraries Journal, after more than 23
years. It seems appropriate that this is the first
column to include a citation from BioMed
Central, which is likely to be one of the routes
through which healthcare librarians can keep
up-dated in the future.

* * *

Additional material is always welcome:
please send the full reference, web address or
a hard copy to Tiffany Moxham, Information
Support Team, Royal Free and University
College Medical School Library, Royal Free
Hospital, Rowland Hill Street, London, NW3
2PF; t.moxham@medsch.ucl.ac.uk

The aim of this column is to cover the recent
printed literature in medical, health and
welfare librarianship and information
science; but readers are cautioned that this
list is not a systematic survey of new
literature. Material of general interest such as
computing, multimedia and library planning
is not usually covered unless there is a
specific MHW library/information aspect:
such material can be traced in general current
awareness bulletins or current awareness
columns in specialist journals.

John Hewlett

WORTH READING:

Plaice,C., Ollerenshaw,H., Hadley,S.
Supporting informed health care. Library +
Information Update (cilip) 2004
July/August; 3(7-8): 34-36.

Knowledge4health, an Internet–
hosted knowledge management
service in North Bristol NHS Trust,
supports staff in the delivery of
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resources in the future.

AUTOMATION

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Baldwin,P. PDA databases: information at
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC TOOLS AND
PROCESSES

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a cross-sectional study of location and
From http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-
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Medical Subject Headings and text-word
searches in MEDLINE to retrieve studies on
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Scaria,V. Peer review of scholarly
communication in health: perspectives in the

COMMUNITY CARE LIBRARIES AND
SERVICES

McMillen,P.S., Pehrsson,D.E. Bibliotherapy
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Calabretta,N., Cavanaugh,S.K. Education for
inpatients: working with nurses through the
clinical information system. Medical
Reference Services Quarterly 2004 Summer;
23(2): 73-79.
CONSUMER HEALTH AND PATIENT INFORMATION


EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT


HEALTH SCIENCES DOCUMENTATION
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Bird,D. Discovering the literature of nursing: a guide for beginners. *Nurse Researcher* 2004 February; 11 (2); 56-70.


HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANSHIP


INFORMATION POLICIES
*Pulse* 2004 July 19; 10. Copyright breaches could see GPs lose £4,500 quality pay.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS: INTERNET AND NHSNET


INFORMATION SYSTEMS: ON-LINE SERVICES
Edwards,N. The prohibitive cost of accessing evidence online. *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing* 2004 March/April; 35 (2): 89-90. I haven’t read this, but was there a follow-up by a librarian pointing out the costs of not accessing the evidence in the
quickest way possible? The legal costs? The ethical implications?

LIBRARIANSHIP


LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING


Shenkel, R. How to make your meetings more productive. Family Practice Management 2003 August; 10: 59-60.


LIBRARY STOCK


PUBLISHING AND PRINTING


USERS


Roberts,J. Senior student nurses information seeking skills: a comparative study. Nurse
**Diary of Events**

There is a more comprehensive and more detailed listing of events available on the HLG website ([http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/index.html](http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/index.html)). It also has links to other listings, including those for general LIS issues.

Please send items for inclusion in this list (and the webpage) to David Law (e-mail [David.Law@rwh-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:David.Law@rwh-tr.nhs.uk)). Details are correct at the time of writing, but please check with event organisers.

*The list of training events is low as providers had not released dates for 2005 by the copy date. Up to date listings can be located on the website [http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/events.html](http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/events.html)*

**1 December**

Access to information. Royal Society of Medicine, London. Further information from Georgina Brodie, Tel: +44 (0)20 7290 3856; email: [georgina.brodie@rsm.ac.uk](mailto:georgina.brodie@rsm.ac.uk);

**6 December**

Negotiating Online Subscriptions. ASLIB, London. Course Director Fiona Durrant. Website [www.aslib.co.uk/training/2/18.html](http://www.aslib.co.uk/training/2/18.html)

**15 December**

Knowledge Management. ASLIB, London. Course Director Nick Willard. Website [http://www.aslib.co.uk/training/3/01.html](http://www.aslib.co.uk/training/3/01.html)

**21 – 23 March**


**30 June – 2 July 2005**


**20 – 23 September 2005**


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Newsletter Editorial Notes

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Keith Nockels  Internet Sources of Interest
(University of Leicester)
Catherine Petzsch  Proof reading

2005 Copy Dates
Please send your contributions to the Newsletter by the following dates:
5 January (March issue); 7 March (June issue)