

### Reflections of a HSLG Chairperson

*Bernard Barrett retired this year after eight years as HSLG chair. We asked him to give us his thoughts on his time with the HSLG Committee and his hopes for the future of the Group ...*

I was both pleased and honoured to be asked to contribute an article to this edition of HINT. A number of people have commented that I seemed to have been very quiet since stepping down as Chair of the group in February of this year. I can assure you that life has been busy here, but hope that this article will help to redress the balance! In many ways, I was sad to step down as there is still so much to do, but the most important thing for me is that the group continues to grow – and after a time, there is always a danger that personalities can predominate over issues. For me, the issues and challenges affecting the group come first and foremost.

When looking at what has been achieved over the last eight years, it's essential to stress that so much of it comes down to the willingness of people to work together. Granted, the Chairperson can sometimes seem to be the most vocal and visible of all committee members, but he or she is only as effective as their committee – personally, I benefited enormously from committee members (past and present) who worked with me, and took the time to challenge me on many issues – this is the way it should be. We can all take pride in what has been achieved.

One of the first things to occur was the discussion list, ([list@hslg.ie](mailto:list@hslg.ie)) Rarely a day goes by now without postings of some kind from members of the list, which has a wide membership – not only Irish, but UK, European, and even from outside the profession.

A number of Working Groups were established. We chose the name “working group” to emphasise the fact that there was work to be done – that these groups would not be talking shops – and neither have they been. The earliest and most striking example of these has been the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Working Group, which over the last six years, has undertaken a huge amount of work to organise courses, which assist us in growing towards new roles and developing aspects of our existing roles. I know from committee meetings just how much time and work goes into organising this: scoping a programme for 12 months ahead, finding effective course presenters, marketing and budgeting etc – as well as more recently taking on responsibility for CPD courses at our Annual Conference...

...and the Annual Conference has also become an event which is

looked forward to. We've moved this from being a “traditional type conference” with just the presentation of papers, to being a learning event as well, which has offered all of us a chance to become actively engaged, rather than just passive listeners. I know that not everyone has always been happy with this. Perhaps a useful question to ask ourselves, is what do we feel ought to be achieved as a result of attending a conference? When we attend a conference, we make both a time and a financial commitment. Yes, we additionally come together to meet and network – but primarily we attend a conference to learn, and it is this thinking that has guided the development of the conference to date. If we are to make the commitment described above, we need to ensure that we acquire benefit from attending – and that any learning that takes place is not a matter of chance. Consequently, what we've tried to do is to create targeted work-related learning opportunities – not forgetting the night at the bar as well of course!

Another significant event was the launch of the second edition of the Standards for Irish Health Care Libraries in 2002, the authorship of which was overseen by the Standards Steering Group. It's been interesting to see how other groups, even from outside the profession, have responded to and used the document as a planning framework.

Over the last eight years, we've seen an evolution in the way that the committee works on behalf of us all – this is evident in the growth of the number of Committee posts to include a Communications Officer and International Liaison Officer. I've had the benefit of a Vice Chairperson with whom I could (and still do) discuss so many issues and ideas. The post of *Treasurer* has never been so important, given the amount of money passing through the group account these last few years, as well as issues that are currently before the LAI Executive Board.

Many of you will remember a previous HSLG conference, where led by Shane Godbolt, we began to learn the principles of Strategic Planning.. In small groups, we formulated the goals and objectives for our first three year planning cycle. It was hard work and having to be SMART about everything we did required considerable discipline. But we all worked on it together, and if we look at where we are now – it worked! – we've achieved virtually everything we set out to do – and so preparations for the next planning cycle are currently underway.

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#### Special points of interest:

- As with all HSLG work, HINT is a product of the voluntary collaboration between group members. In order to become a more regular publication, the HINT team require new recruits. The work is interesting and fun and can be carried out from your own office. For further details on how to join the HINT team, please turn to the back page.

## Reflections of a HSLG Chairperson Continued...

Planning implies organisation and agreed process, and to this end, we discussed and agreed through a ballot, a set of policies and procedures for the group at our Annual General meeting in 2005. Documents such as these are not intended to legislate, but to provide an agreed framework and set of principles within which the group and committee can operate. Essentially, it's about sound administrative procedures – and as Chairperson, I've been grateful for the guidance and support that these have offered me on a number of occasions.

We have been very fortunate to have had members of our committee elected to the LAI Executive Board for the last number of years. Initially, this was myself, but then the task was taken on by Louise Farragher, the group's vice-chair. Representation at these meetings has become absolutely essential for us. Important decisions are made or discussed at these meetings which affect the profession as a whole – and it's vital that we have an opportunity to comment on and influence these discussions.

A number of people in previous years have commented to me, that there seems little point in being a member of the LAI, and as someone put it to me a few months ago – what does it do for me? Well, if we are unhappy and want to change things, we have to be prepared to make the time, get involved and over a period of time, influence change – if we don't, we cannot complain about the actions of others who have got involved – and we are a part of the LAI. The question must become – what can I do to make the LAI the organisation it needs to be.

Some of you may have seen the news about an international

insurance company that plans to move some 500 or more jobs from Ireland to India. For many people in the UK, this is not new news. It was interesting therefore to read in the most recent issue of CILIP's Update Journal, that many commercial companies in the city of London have begun to outsource aspects of their information work to foreign countries. It's an indication that we live in times of constant change. We can either respond to what has been decided, or be proactive and attempt to engage and fashion what is happening in a way that best utilises our most professional asset – namely ourselves.

Like many of you, it comes almost as second nature for me to think about those I work with as "users" and to characterise the work I do as a "service". We have to change the script. The words or language we use define a relationship – and those of "use" and "service" define a relationship of subordination – even if they are intended as noble ideals. We hold professional qualifications – just as teachers, bankers and other groups do – and as a consequence when we work with people, we must insist on doing so on the basis of equality. Or to phrase it in the words of our upcoming EAHIL Workshop – we need to work with others to "Explore, Engage and Extend". Standing still is not an option – however much one might desire stability!

It's been both a privilege and a pleasure to work with so many of you as HSLG chairperson. I'm still involved as a member of the All Ireland Electronic Library for Health Advisory Group, and have been told that the current committee wish to keep me as involved as possible. I look forward to meeting you all at future events.

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## Chairperson's Corner : Learning and Planning

We all know that today's information professional must graft skills, knowledge and insight from a range of disciplines onto the core information management competencies. We learn about information technology not just to manage our resources more effectively or provide more efficient services, but also to understand better the systems which support our work and be aware of the impact of the technology and our work and social environments. From the management disciplines we learn more than just how to run things better; we also learn how to position ourselves within these wider environments to take advantage of the opportunities and demands that comes with rapid change. We are aware of the developments in policy and try to predict how it will affect our day to day work and how we might be in a position to shape it in the future. This is particularly true in the health sector where a detailed knowledge of the policy context is a prerequisite for effective planning.

Looking at the development of our group over the past few years this notion of continuous learning from a diverse range of disciplines and contexts has been the dominant theme. The excellent and frequent courses arranged by our CPD working group have helped members keep abreast of developments in many of these disciplines, but all of our activities have a learning aspect and those who participate in them gain knowledge and confidence from their contribution. Our annual conferences have provided rich opportunities to learn from experts in

several fields and for intensive discussion of the implications for our work.

The organisers of the conferences, the managers of the website, those who compile and publish HINT, manage the group's affairs through the committee and working groups or engage in any way in the groups myriad of activities, learn from this work and can bring the experience back to their workplaces. EAHIL 2009 will be an enormous challenge but also an enormous learning opportunity.

Another significant learning opportunity was provided by the group's Strategic Plan 2004-07. When we began to work on it many of us were unfamiliar with the lexicon of strategic planning or may have had doubts about adapting this managerialist concept to our requirements. However, all who participated gained considerable knowledge about the process of planning and defining strategy and the group as a whole gained from the often conflicting, articulations of what we should be about. We are now in the process of evaluating that strategic plan and will begin work on a new plan this summer. There will be an opportunity for all members to participate in this and we look forward to working with you as we set new goals and consider how best we can develop and help our membership, our profession and health services in general.

*Brian Galvin is Acting Chair of the Health Science Libraries Group.*



## We need you...to be our PubMed Trainer!

Are you interested in learning more about PubMed? Would you be willing to provide PubMed training to other Irish Healthcare Librarians? The HSLG CPD Working Group is looking to identify a potential PubMed trainer from within the HSLG membership base.

### Why do we need a PubMed Trainer?

PubMed training was one of the top 10 most requested courses in our 2006 members training survey. It has however been difficult for us to meet that training need as no PubMed trainer could be sourced within Ireland. This scheme provides us with an opportunity to train someone, who will work with the HSLG CPD Working Group to provide a minimum of two PubMed/NLM training courses per year.

### How will the trainer be identified?

Anyone interested in becoming the HSLG PubMed trainer will be expected to complete an application form (details will be announced shortly). The applications will be reviewed by three librarians (Fiona McCarthy, Chair, HSLG CPD Working Group, Kathryn Smith (HSLG CPD Working Group) and a third reviewer). The successful applicant will be announced to the group during the first week of September 2008.

### What support will the PubMed trainer receive?

The trainer will be expected to attend the following US National Library of Medicine (NLM) courses in Bethesda, Maryland: 20/10/2008 – PubMed  
21/10/2008 – NLM Gateway  
22/10/2008 – Toxnet

This is a unique opportunity as these courses are usually restricted to NLM member libraries. The HSLG will fund the trainers travel, accommodation and incidental expenses.

### What's expected of the trainer?

After the NLM training the trainer will be expected to keep up-to-date with PubMed/MEDLINE developments. The trainer will be expected to work with the HSLG CPD Working Group to provide a **minimum of two PubMed training courses annually**. The trainer will be expected to liaise with the HSLG CPD Working Group with regard to all aspects of these two training events.

Full details and the application form will be issued shortly by the CPD Working Group. If you have any queries please contact Fiona McCarthy, Chair of the HSLG CPD Working group at [Fiona.McCarthy@cuh.ie](mailto:Fiona.McCarthy@cuh.ie) or Kathryn Smith at [Kathryn.smith@ucd.ie](mailto:Kathryn.smith@ucd.ie)

## International Horizons

On the international front, there has been plenty of activity both at home and abroad and I will highlight just some of these.

Recently, a special report was published on MLA's Standards for Hospital Libraries 2007 in *J Med Libr Assoc*, 96(2), April 2008. These standards were updated from the last edition and developed as a guide to hospital administrators, librarians and accrediting bodies to ensure that libraries have the resources to meet user needs.

NLM's drug information portal which is a sister site to Medline-Plus, provides in depth information about many prescription pharmaceuticals. More than 12,000 drugs can be searched using this facility making it easier to access different resources. The portal covers drugs from the time they are entered into clinical trials (Clinicaltrials.gov) through their entry in the market place and is available from <http://druginfo.nlm.nih.gov/drugportal/>

Plans of the National Library of Medicine are shared in an article "Leading into the future: Library Operations at the National Library of Medicine" by Sheldon Kotzin which is freely available in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* via PubMed Central.

An article by Jeannette Murphy (2008) entitled "Globalization: implications for health information professionals" (*Health Information and Libraries Journal* 2008 Vol. 25/1) reflects on globalization of healthcare staff, health services and how new technologies have facilitated this and are creating opportunities and challenges to share the evidence.

Whilst Lisbon is on Irish and European lips, the theme at the EBLIDA Council meeting in May 2008 was "Advocacy and Libraries". EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library,

Information and Documentation Associations and an independent umbrella association of national library, information, documentation and archive associations and institutions in Europe. Gerard Leitner, EBLIDA President posed the question "Do we have a common Library Policy for Europe?" and if not do we need one? He mentions the lack of comprehensive information on European libraries and the requirement for having this information now to lobby for libraries at a European level. It was decided to establish a Knowledge and Information Centre which would collect and disseminate this information. For further information check out [www.eblida.org](http://www.eblida.org)

The CILIP Health Libraries Group Conference was held at Cardiff City Hall from 21st July to 22nd July 2008. Our colleagues David MacNaughton (TCD Library), Kathryn Smith (UCD Health Sciences Library) and Aoife Lawton (HSE Dublin) presented at this conference. David MacNaughton and Kathryn Smith spoke at the parallel session "A meeting of minds: a collaborative approach to information skills training. Aoife Lawton (HSE Dublin) presented a poster "Matching CPD activities to professional needs - an Irish case study". Kathryn Smith also had a project showcase entitled "Going the distance: supporting the needs of students of the National Distance Nurse Training Program".

As many of you know by now, June 2009 will see the Health Sciences Libraries Group in association with the Health Research Board host EAHIL in Dublin Castle. The theme will be "Working with Others: Exploring, Engaging, Extending!" and it is hoped as many of you as possible will participate, so keep your diaries free!

*Joanne Callinan is HSLG International Liaison Officer.*

## A Day in the Life of...Claire O'Brien!

### Who are you?

Claire O'Brien (née Ervine), Nursing & Midwifery Librarian, Brookfield Health Sciences Library, University College, Cork

### Where are you from?

I am originally from Ballymena, Co. Antrim. In library terms I'm from mainly a public library background – children's library service and a college library in Belfast, branch library in Bangor, Schools Librarian in Derry and a small research library in Cork.

### Why did you become a Librarian?

Now there's a question! I have a very clear memory of confessing to the desire to become a librarian at school – I have no idea why. I did a general humanities degree and hit the streets of Belfast in the early 80s, when there were very few options for a humanities graduate of indeterminate skills. After a couple of years working in the customer services and cash office sections of Dunnes Stores I spotted an ad for a library assistant post in Belfast. My first job was working in the Children's Library Service with Liz Weir (a human dynamo in children's librarian circles) and I was hooked on the profession. What other job would have you making posters (in the days before computers), reading new books and getting paid for it, and storytelling all around the city? It was a great introduction to the endless scope and possibilities of librarianship.

### Where do you work?

I work in the Brookfield Health Sciences Library which is a branch library of University College Cork.

### Who do you cater for?

From a Subject Librarian point of view my client group is the School of Nursing and Midwifery staff and students of UCC. I'm also the branch manager so that has a wider remit of any users of the library – usually the staff and students of the College of Medicine and Health but potentially anyone from the university.

### How do you cater for them?

Where do I begin? I provide Information Literacy training for the staff and the students. This can be formal classes or more informal follow up sessions or one-to-one sessions with anyone who needs help. Sometimes these are timetabled months in advance, sometimes they are on the spot or over the phone. I keep an eye out for anything of interest in general for the discipline of Nursing & Midwifery and specifically for the individual academic staff members who are researching different areas. I answer any queries that arise on any number of library and information related issues – using databases, ordering books and journals, setting up alerts, tracking down articles – the possibilities are endless. There are always things to be monitored and reviewed in running the Library itself – staffing, communicating with users, stock management issues, circulation issues, dealing with students who have forgotten ID cards or set off security alarms, leaks and air conditioning problems – you name it and it could land at my door!

### Who works with you?

There is one other Subject Librarian based here, a Senior Library Assistant who supervises the day-to-day running of the library and 5 part-time library assistants. There is also an E-Project Librarian here at present.

### What is the first thing you usually do each day?

Nothing very spectacular, I'm afraid. After I put the lunch in the fridge and put on the kettle I fire up the PC and check the e-mail and voicemail. I only recently worked out how to filter out the mountain of spam I was receiving. It's these little triumphs that get us through the day. Sad, but true.

### What type of task occupies most of your working day?

One of the joys of librarianship is that every day can bring something completely different. One day I could be on a long round of information literacy classes. Other days could be devoted to the stock, staff or procedures. Then again, it could be a series of meetings of a more general library nature or concerning the School or College. Often they converge at the one time, so the work changes all the time. It seems to me that the key theme to my work is communication and liaison. E-mail has changed the way we operate and I find myself compelled to respond to emails immediately, although I really must try to break this habit – I think I need a course on focusing my attention.

### What is the most unusual request you have had?

I was doing my stint in the Reference area of a public library when I got a call asking a few random general knowledge type questions. Then the phone rang again and I got asked the same questions. By the third phone call the penny had finally dropped and I realised that Gay Byrne was running a quiz – I asked for a cut in the prize winnings, but it never arrived. You'll never be rich as a librarian, but you have the joy of helping others on the road to success. ☺

When I was Science Librarian, in the days before everything became available full text on Google (!), I was asked by a student what book or journal a photocopied item came from. There was absolutely nothing on it to indicate where or what it came from (except that she had a memory of a green cover). The student was in despair because it appeared she had based her entire masters thesis around this article and would need to rewrite the whole thesis if she couldn't come up with the reference. There's nothing that a librarian relishes more than an impossible challenge, so we rolled up our sleeves and started going through the Science Citation Index with any tiny clue we could extract. We tracked it down – and it was from a red book!

### What do you feel you are good at?

Despite what you might read here, I feel I'm quite good at written communication. I hate jargon and long-winded explanations and like to be able to give the core of the message as clearly as possible.

### What do you feel you are bad at?

I'm bad at thinking of the right thing to say at the time – I always think of exactly what I should have said a few days later, which is absolutely useless!

### What do you enjoy?

I enjoy that moment when students "get it". When you see the shoulders relax as they realize that they can tackle searching with more confidence.

## A Day in the Life continued...

### What do you dislike?

I dislike people using twenty big words when a couple of short ones would do. Life is short and complicated enough already – why add to the stress?

### What are your ambitions /career goals?

My life's journey has made me quite philosophical about ambitions and goals. I left a wonderful job in Derry doing work I loved with a great bunch of people to begin married life unemployed and unknown in a different country. A few years later I took a career break from a job I was enjoying with an equally great bunch of people to look after my children, and spent too long away from work. Now I just take life as it comes and try to do my best in my own way.

### Do you have any unfulfilled personal ambitions/ goals?

I always regret that I didn't travel when I was young and I have started to make amends in small ways. I have tried to instill a love of travelling in my own children with a view to staying with them when they have apartments in New York and villas in Italy. A girl can dream!

### How would you like to see Health Librarianship develop?

To be honest that's not something I have ever given any thought to. I suppose coming from a public and broader academic background I have never seen myself exclusively as a Health Sciences Librarian – in theory I could be moved in the morning to any other subject or department.

I think that Health Librarianship is in a very healthy shape – so to speak! The HSLG do a great job and our equivalents in the UK are excellent also. We are good at tuning in to what is required by our clients and being responsive to their needs. However, I think we fall down slightly when it comes to devoting time to our own needs – I certainly feel that I am constantly changing and adapting based on my own professional instinct, rather than establishing the evidence first. I'd like to see more research done to support our practice.

Any move towards cooperation is very useful for all parties and is something that we as a profession have always been good at. I'm full of admiration for the NHS National Library for Health.

### What is the last thing you usually do each day?

Put on the voicemail, close down the PC, make sure to line up any documentation for meetings or training sessions the next day so that I don't have to go looking first thing in the morning. A little switch clicks in my head at about 4.55pm which shifts my focus from the day job to the family. When I walk out the door all memories are wiped clean so every day is like starting afresh – if I didn't have the stuff prepared I wouldn't know what was going on!

## News from EAHIL

*Louise Farragher fills us in on EAHIL 2008 as well as on the 2009 EAHIL Workshop, to be held in Dublin.*

The 11<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries took place from 23-28 June in Finlandia Hall, Finland. Team Ireland was in full force again; this year seven Irish delegates made their way to the great northern city of Helsinki to join over 420 delegates at this EAHIL conference.



This year's theme was *Towards a New Information Space: Innovations and Renovations*, and the conference was opened with an excellent opening speech by Professor Leena Peltonen-Pailotie, head of genetics, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. The following four days contained a hectic mix of plenary and parallel sessions, sponsor exhibitions and product presentations, poster exhibitions and of course, networking and social events.

This is my third time attending an EAHIL conference or workshop and it is a great feeling to bump into old friends and to make new ones, not that dissimilar to our own HSLG conferences. The Irish delegates (Paul Murphy, Muriel Haire, Niamh Lucey, GayDoyle, Kate Kelly and Beatrice Doran) spent quite a lot of time promoting next year's EAHIL Workshop, to be held in Dublin Castle 3-6 June 2009.

We distributed over 400 gold shamrock pins (courtesy of the

Dublin Convention Bureau) and over 400 EAHIL brochures. Beatrice and Gay joined me to make a formal invitation, during the closing ceremony, to all EAHIL delegates to attend the Dublin Workshop next year.

The EAHIL Dublin Workshop website is now live at [www.eahil2009.ie](http://www.eahil2009.ie) and you should check it out regularly for updates. The theme for the workshop is *Working with Others: Explore, Engage, Extend!* The call for abstracts will be made shortly, but the International Programme Committee is eager to make this a 'workshop' in every sense of the word, and will be looking for facilitated and interactive sessions. Further information can be found here [www.eahil2009.ie/scientific-programme.html](http://www.eahil2009.ie/scientific-programme.html) and a full list of members of the committees can be found on the website.

It would be great to see a strong Irish contribution, so I hope you will all think about the theme and seriously consider submitting an abstract in September. We have many excellent examples of Irish health librarians collaborating together and with others, and this is our opportunity to share our knowledge and experience with our Irish and European colleagues.

Finally, I want to thank my Irish colleagues for all the work they are putting into next year's event: This truly is a collaborative workshop!

## **iSCoP** (Information Skills Community of Practice)

The ISCoP is the Information Skills Community of Practice. It is a recently formed community or group of people who share a passion for the advancement of information literacy. The community of practice share ideas, learning resources and experiences in how to advance skills in information literacy.

The ISCoP is supported through the National Digital Learning Repository (NDLR) project. The NDLR is a HEA-funded project involving 21 partners made up of all Irish universities, all Institutes of Technology and their affiliates. Along with supporting communities of practice from a variety of disciplines, the NDLR project is about building a shared national repository of reusable learning objects. These objects are often referred to as Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs) or Reusable Learning Resources (RLRs.) Currently, there are almost 2000 learning objects in the repository.

All NDLR partners can freely use the NDLR learning objects in their own work once the author of the work is given due reference. An example object in the repository is a video case study entitled Respiratory Distress aimed to teach specific clinical skills to nursing students. That object is one of a series developed collaboratively by TCD and DCU.

Contributions of learning objects are very much encouraged and can be in a choice of many formats such as Word documents, podcasts, graphics, online crosswords, photographs, videos, Flash simulations, MS Excel animations, web pages and more.

The ISCoP is one of 14 communities of practice within the NDLR project and will be formally launched in September 2008. The CoP Coordinator is Dr Philip Cohen, Head of Library Services at Dublin Institute of Technology. If you would like to promote information literacy in your organisation and you are affiliated with one of the NDLR project partners, you can join the ISCoP by contacting Miriam Allen, NDLR Coordinator, email: [miriam.allen@dit.ie](mailto:miriam.allen@dit.ie)

See [www.ndlr.ie](http://www.ndlr.ie) for more information on the NDLR. A list of the NDLR project partners is online at: [www.ndlr.ie/about/partners.php](http://www.ndlr.ie/about/partners.php)

*Miriam Allen is Coordinator of the National Digital Learning Repository*

## Book Review: Evidence-Based Librarianship

**Evidence-based librarianship: case studies and active learning exercises/** edited by Elizabeth Connor. Oxford: Chandos Publishing. 2007. ISBN: 9781843342991



### Introduction

The intention of the editor appears to be the encouragement of all librarians to be evidence-based practitioners. She has assembled an impressive collection of academic librarians, health sciences librarians, and medical and IT academics from the US, Sweden, Australia, UK and Italy to demonstrate specific cases where EBL has proved an important tool. University libraries, Health Sciences libraries, Library Education, and Information Technology are all involved in the cases. This very readable work does not follow any particular order and each chapter could be read as an individual study.

“The main purpose of this book is to make evidence-based practice more accessible to entry-level, mid-career and experienced librarians alike,” according to the editor in the preface. Her initial definition “(EBL) can be defined as the application of scientific principles to the practice of librarianship” is repeated with some variations by most of the other writers. The editor recommends “Instead of reacting to adverse situations such as budget cuts, reduction in force and so forth, librarians can arm themselves with evidence”

The introduction by Jonathan Eldredge describes the influence on Health Sciences Libraries of Evidence-based Medicine, and compliments the authors and editor of this work for advancing into the full EBL process, not neglecting the cost-benefit analysis and using the results to further their plans. His description of the EBL process is with some adaptation accepted throughout the book:

Step 1 – Formulation of a focused answerable question

Step 2 – Collection of evidence  
Step 3 – Critical analysis of results  
Step 4 – Cost benefit analysis  
Step 5 - Evaluation

From its beginnings in Evidence-Based Medicine, recognition grew with time, that the types of questions arising in Evidence-Based Librarianship are different to the medical model, and require different types of evidence, drawn from quantitative and qualitative research methods.

An international EBL collaboration in 2001 found 3 categories of questions into which most questions can be placed: Prediction; Intervention; Exploration. Most chapters in this book describe cases which pose questions of these types.

### Physical Arrangement

The work is divided into 9 chapters. 8 chapters describe the EBLIP process in a specific case. The editor inserts exercises after most chapters. It is well presented. The research activities are described clearly. Reference lists for further reading are extensive and current.

### In conclusion

The writers are positive. The reader is encouraged at every stage to put enquiry into practice, and to include research in their daily routine. We are reminded that in our daily work, librarians have an opportunity to observe our readers. If there is something we need to change in our service, we know quite well that hard evidence will work better than hearsay. Health service librarians are comfortable discussing Evidence-Based Practice issues among their clients. The Clinical librarian role can be seen as an encouragement for all librarians to use the same skills in their own professional situation. Systematic reviews are seen as the gold standard of research methods, but EBLIP does not yet feature in many of them.

*Reviewer: Breda Bennett, Librarian, St Michaels Hospital, Dun Laoghaire*

## HSLG Conference 2008

*Julie Trimble was a first-time attendee at the 2008 HSLG Conference and kindly agreed to give us her thoughts...*

I travelled from Belfast to Athlone to attend the HSLG Conference in the Hudson Bay Hotel in February. As this was the first HSLG conference I had been to I was not really sure what to expect. I work in the University of Ulster as an Assistant Librarian to the Life and Health Sciences faculty. I was aware that many of the attendants would be librarians in hospitals and when I read the program I imagined that we might be concentrating on quality issues in the Health Service in Ireland. So how relevant the conference would be to me and my job I really was not sure. I hoped at the very least it would be a great opportunity to meet and share experiences with some colleagues from health librarianship backgrounds. I need not have worried as we did not discuss anything which I could not make applicable in some way to my own work environment.

Cathy Hudson from the Dublin Dental School and Hospital and Linda Moore from the Health Information and Quality Authority started things off with a session on how the concept of quality is being defined and developed within the Irish Health Service and how we as librarians could carry out our work with the idea of quality in mind. There was an emphasis on not just preparing and doing but checking what you have done and acting on the feedback you receive. Also to focus carefully on providing the customers' view of a quality library service which may not always match what we as librarians think a quality library service should be.

From my own point of view the move to remote access for electronic journals, databases, e-books and course content means there is less need for users to visit the library and there are some concerns over what the future of the library will be in this climate.

Beatrice Doran told us about the creation of a Clinical Informaticist in Beaumont hospital and Penny Wiggle told us about her post as a Research Librarian to the Senior Management of a hospital. It is great to hear that far from dying out librarianship is actually evolving and some new and exciting jobs are being created along the way.

There was a choice of CPD courses at the conference. I chose to take part in a workshop to design a Business Case Proposal and came away with a very useful business case template to use in the future. I also attended a session given by Paul Murphy from the Royal College of Surgeons on designing web searching instruction. I found this very useful as I find more and more of our students using search engines for their research often with limited success. I will be applying some of Paul's principles in my subject searching classes.

Day two of the conference was particularly exciting with the European movie premiere of the "Hollywood Librarian". We were not quite as glamorous as what you might expect those at a movie premiere to be but we did not look bad given the late night we had at the conference banquet the night before. Watching a movie was a nice way to ease us into the day and Anne Siedl, the movie director, is a great personality and could have kept us entertained all day with her stories about making the movie. I can not recommend the 'Hollywood Librarian' highly enough for a feel-good movie about how librarians have been portrayed in the past and how we are in reality and what worthwhile jobs we do.

I thoroughly enjoyed the HSLG Conference particularly as everyone was so friendly and made me feel so welcome. I am looking forward to attending again next year.

## HSLG 2008 Photo Gallery



Outgoing HSLG Chair Bernard Barrett & Former RCSI Librarian Beatrice Doran at HSLG 2008

Acting up: Hollywood Librarian Ann Seidl and Jane Farrelly, HSE South Library Services



Fun & Games with the Gaiety School of Acting at HSLG 2008



Quality Performers: Linda Moore from HIQA & Cathy Doyle from the Dublin Dental Hospital



## Get Involved in HINT

Fancy being an occasional author or editor on a team of talents? Or maybe you have a gift for getting other people involved or motivated—if so, you might like to join our HINT newsletter team. We are looking to get an enthusiastic team together to enhance the current newsletter.

If this tickles your appetite, just send an e-mail to HSLG Communications Officer Susan Boyle at [Susan.Boyle@ucd.ie](mailto:Susan.Boyle@ucd.ie)

Intute: Hot Topic  
for July is  
Dementia  
[www.intute.ac.uk](http://www.intute.ac.uk)

## Movers and Shakers

- Kathryn Smith, who is now Deputy Head of Academic Services (Life Sciences) in UCD Library.
- Congratulations to Jennifer Coltery, new Liaison Librarian for Medicine in UCD Library
- Best Wishes to Isabel Fleishmann, new Librarian in the Dublin Dental Hospital.
- Maura Flynn is the new Clinical Informationist in Beaumont Hospital, the first post of its kind in Ireland.

## Upcoming CPD

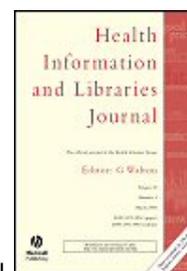
Upcoming CPD Courses include:  
Marketing Skills (October 2008)  
Teaching Skills (November 2008)  
Coaching & Mentoring skills (December 2008)

Further details on how to register will be posted on [www.hslg.ie/career](http://www.hslg.ie/career) closer to the time.

## Health Information & Libraries Journal—25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Health Information and Libraries Journal is delighted to announce the publication of its special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue in December 2008. This issue will be made available free online.

Andrew Booth, editor for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue is looking for health librarians to submit 200-250 words about HILG before the end of July 2008. Your contribution could be an appreciation of the contribution of the journal to your own professional development, it may be an anecdote about your own involvement as an author or a contributor, it may be about an influential or controversial article that you have read. It may even be about the people involved in getting it going, taking it to the next level or sustaining its development. You could even speculate on what you think that the journal should look like in the future. Submissions should be made on the journal wiki at <http://yourjournal.pbwiki.com/> Further information is available at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/health/publications/journal/>



## HINT Competition!

Enter the HINT draw for a bottle of champagne and a 40 euro book token.

Just answer the following question and send your answer and contact details by e-mail to [Susan.boyle@ucd.ie](mailto:Susan.boyle@ucd.ie)

### Competition Question:

In the film Sex and the city, what library did Carrie and Mr Big almost get married in?

All correct answers will enter the draw and the winner will be named in the next issue of HINT. Good Luck!

HINT is the newsletter of the Irish Health Sciences Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland.

It is compiled & produced by the HINT Editorial Team.

Contact details: Send submissions to [communications@hslg.ie](mailto:communications@hslg.ie)

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