

Reflections on a career: from index cards to iphones -

Gabrielle Doyle, recently retired Information Specialist, St Luke's Institute for Cancer Research

I did the Diploma in Library Training in Earlsfort Terrace in the late 1960's. It was the era of the index cards. We presented our bibliographic projects on index cards and the library catalogues were card catalogues - the information about each book was typed on a card. Then I worked in the Commerce Library in Belfield. The Commerce faculty was the first faculty to move to the newly completed Arts building and its Library was housed in the basement and ground floor of the building. The books were on open access! A change from the libraries in Earlsfort Terrace where one had to write on a slip of paper to request a book! Computers in libraries were a dream of the future!

After that I went to Italy for a few years and on return worked in several administrative positions. In the late eighties I started the MLIS part time and at the same time I began my career in the Health Sciences libraries. I worked part time in Beaumont Hospital, RCSI and St. Vincent's University Hospital. On completing the MLIS I went to St. Luke's Hospital.

St. Luke's Hospital presented a challenge. I was faced with an empty room! I was employed by the newly established Institute of Cancer Research and its focus was scientific. My task was to build up resources for the institute and the hospital. In the hospital, textbooks and journals were only to be found on a personal level in some departments. Nothing was centralised. I worked on my own in a one person library for some years. As St. Luke's was the national radiotherapy centre, the subject area of the library was specialised: resources pertaining to cancer treatment, research and services and related subjects.

From the outset I wanted the library service to be all inclusive - for everyone in the institute and for every department in the hospital: clinical, allied health, admini-

stration and support staff. There was a misconception that a library service would only be for doctors. But then the changes in nursing education and continuing education for nurses helped to change that perspective! Continuous marketing of the library services to other departments gradually made them realise that



the library had a role in their work, research and education. I worked in St. Luke's for twenty years. All my work was rewarded and I felt great satisfaction when many of my colleagues from all the departments in the hospital turned up at my farewell event.

There have been many changes in work practices over the last twenty years. When I started, the CD-ROMs were a great advance on the paper Index Medicus. Now the trend is towards delivering information to mobile devices. Technological changes in delivering resources results in changing scenarios. For many years library space was a problem. I lobbied and lobbied for more space, but then when the IT network was introduced, space was no longer a major issue. Users could now access many of the library's resources from PCs anywhere within the hospital network and from home! Then the challenge was to meet these users because otherwise they were just a name on a library registration form. Lunch time update sessions on library services provided such a forum.

But I think there are some key elements in work practices that will always be there.

Continued Overleaf

IN THIS ISSUE

Reflections on a career	1-2	A Day in the Life of	6-7
Online Journal Club & Book Review	3-4	Upcoming Conferences	8
How Literature can help our Profession now!	5-6	Chairpersons Corner & Response to HIQA document	9
		Electronic Resources of Interest	10

I was chairperson for the working group that produced the first edition of the Standards of Irish Health Care Libraries that was published in 1993. Under the section of staffing, the first sentence read that the staff is the library's primary resource. This same sentiment was repeated in the 2nd edition of the Standards. No matter what the changes in technology are, competent and friendly staff are always needed to respond to the needs of the users and staff, by doing their job well also help to promote the service. Praise for the library service from one user to another is always effective advertising and brings results!

Networking and co-operation are always important too. One of the early initiatives of co-operation in the HSLG was the establishment of the Irish Healthcare Libraries Inter-Lending Co-operative; a networking partnership for document supply in 1991. At that time there were no mechanisms or bibliographic exchange available to facilitate a sharing of resources with the country. St. Luke's was one of the 11 founding libraries and it has been a pleasure to see the co-operative grow over these years.

The Health Sciences Library Group is of course a great network and I'd encourage members to encourage any health librarian who isn't part of it, to join! Working in a one person library for many years, the meetings of the HSLG were a great opportunity to meet colleagues and share experiences with them. On the European scene, EAHIL provides that forum. The first EAHIL conference I attended was in Oslo in 1994. Different nationalities, different cultures yet many of the issues in health science librarianship were common to all.

The first function of a hospital library is to provide access to current and relevant information for direct patient care. My first realisation of this was when working in Beaumont Hospital library. I had just locked the library doors at 10.00pm when a doctor came up. She wanted to look up something urgently. They had a patient in A & E. The doctor suspected an uncommon condition. She needed to verify this in the literature (this was an era before online resources). I opened the library; she consulted the literature, confirmed the diagnosis and the doctors could then prescribe the relevant treatment. During my time in St. Luke's, many queries were directly related to treatments. I think it is always helpful to see beyond the immediate library users and think about the *raison d'être* of a health science library. In the hospital setting it is patient care: there is a patient who prompted a particular query and it is good to see beyond a particular query and think that there is a patient there. The importance of evidence-based health care and the need for currency drives the health science librarian to explore all avenues when dealing with a particular query. Librarians in other health care settings can also have this in mind – supporting education, research and planning has repercussions in patient care whether on an individual or national level. Yes, health science libraries are vital for the health of the nation! Keep up the good work!

The HSLG Committee would like to wish Gabrielle a very happy retirement.

Report on CPD Activities 2010

The CPD working group was very active during 2010. Despite obvious funding problems with employers providing money and time to members for training, we did manage to organise two very successful training sessions as well as contributing enormously to the annual conference in February. Our first course took place in January and focused on Pubmed. It was a hugely popular session ably supervised by Brid McGrath. Our second course, Effective Presentation Skills, took place in September and was also very well attended. Ronald van Dieen proved to be an excellent facilitator. We had also planned to run a course on the Cochrane Library in December. Unfortunately we did not receive enough applications. I would like to remind members that in these difficult times the HSLG Committee is providing bursaries for up to 5 places per course that we run. One of the highlights of the year was being able to send two of our members to America for comprehensive Pubmed training. Gethin White and Jane Farrelly will be providing members with Pubmed training and support in the coming year. I'd like to wish members all the best for 2011.

David McNaughton, HSLG, CPD Team Leader

CPD Online Journal Club

Why an online journal club?

The CPD Online Journal Club was born from the need to offer a means of training and professional development that did not involve course fees, travel expenses or absence from work.

Journal clubs are very widely used by clinical staff and students in particular for evidence-based practice. Would a journal club work for healthcare

LIS? Given current library staff figures, at most institutions an LIS journal club would be a lonesome event. However, a virtual journal club might be an option. Having raised the idea at a CPD meeting, it was agreed to explore it further.

The screenshot shows a PBWorks workspace for 'onlinejournalclub'. The main content area displays a 'Home' page with the following text:

HSLG Online Journal Club - Welcome!

Welcome to the CPD Online Journal Club. All are welcome - no previous knowledge or experience necessary. Please feel free to make suggestions or comments on all aspects of this Club as it progresses.

For general information on working within this Wiki, please use the "help" or go to "[Using the Wiki](#)".

The proposed format will be simple and accepts the time pressures that everyone is working under. It involves no cost or travel so is an ideal way to progress your professional development in our current climate. The following is an outline of the Club format:

One topic will be covered every 2 months (more frequently if members prefer) as follows:

- o A topic of relevance is submitted by any member and a new Topic page is opened
- o Members then develop a focused question using "SPICE" (Setting, Perspective, Intervention, Comparison, Evaluation) ref Andrew Booth
- o Each member then searches for literature relating to the question and submits the most relevant article they find to the site.
- o Members then agree on which article is the most relevant
- o A topic leader is selected to appraise the selected article.
- o The leader submits their appraisal (within not more than 2 weeks) and opens the discussion to all Club members by submitting key questions or issues arising from their reading (*discussion is via the "Comments" box at the bottom of the page.*)

The sidebar on the right includes a 'Navigator' section with 'Critically Appraised Topics' and a 'SideBar' section with 'Home - Welcome to HSLG Online Journal Club' and 'Tips on how to use this Wiki'.

I used Survey Monkey to obtain two important pieces of information from HSLG members; firstly, would members be interested in the concept? And, if so, where should it be hosted? As always, a key issue relating to any online venture was to identify a host site that would not be blocked by hospital firewalls. Journal-Fire (<http://www.journalfire.com>) - a site designed specifically to host journal clubs - was not accessible in some institutions. The only option to suit all interested parties was PBWorks (<http://www.pbworks.com>). The membership by request option was chosen to increase its security but for HSLG members, this is just a formality. Initially, eleven members registered their interest (since risen to 16) - this number was sufficient to initiate the service.

With no direct experience, my next step was a crash course on journal clubs. Jane Farrelly, who gave a talk at this year's HSLG Conference on setting up journal clubs for hospital staff, provided some useful references. Evidence was sparse on journal clubs for librarians and was focused on physical rather than virtual (Pearse-Smith 2006). Lizarondo (2010) did provide some useful tips on structuring an online club. Doubtless this venture would not be plain sailing but I nonetheless decided to learn by doing and created <http://onlinejournalclub.pbworks.com>.

The finished product is a bit clunky. However, as an evidence-based practice tool for librarians, it has potential. It supports research, provides practice in the formulation of EB queries and develops critical appraisal skills. *'The skill of writing is to create a context in which other people can think.'* (Edwin Schlossberg). Appraised topics should help translate current library research into practice. Key to its success may lie in further enhancements - more structure to the process, more familiarity with navigating the site, and a focus on topics that are of direct relevance. Two months on, it is still evolving. New members - and new suggestions - are always welcome.

Anne Madden is the Librarian in St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4

Book Review by Lorraine Moran

The politics of libraries and librarianship: challenges and realities

edited by Kerry Smith

Chandos Publishing, 2009

ISBN: 1 84334 343 6 ISBN-13: 978 1 84334 343 1

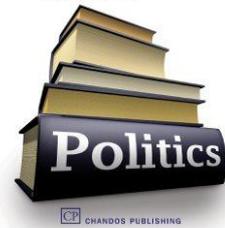
At first glance this book appears to offer an interesting and rarely investigated debate into libraries in their political context; however what follows is a series of papers in which it is difficult to uncover a unifying principle.

The series of 11 papers are contributed by a selection of well-known authors in the international library world. The 11 papers are organised into three sections. The first section is called an 'International political framework for libraries'. The second is entitled 'Politics and funding for libraries: some international examples' and the final section, consisting of just two papers is entitled 'Library education'.

Chandos Information Professional Series

**The Politics of
Libraries and
Librarianship:**
Challenges
and realities

Edited by Kerry Smith



The book begins with a paper discussing IFLA in a political context by Alex Byrne, a former president of IFLA. He chooses the Danish 'cartoon affair' to set the scene. He explains how it became an issue for libraries because of the calls to censor the publications which featured the cartoons, and because it raised questions about the limits to freedom of expression and, by implication, the right to access ideas and opinions which some found offensive. The second paper in this section by Denise Nicholson presents us with an absorbing insight into the African situation outlining how issues like intellectual property, copyright agreements and fair trade agreements impact negatively on the country. She presents many examples of how such issues can contribute to creating barriers for education and libraries. This is by far the most interesting paper in the book.

The second section contains six papers in which the relationship between libraries and politics in England, New South Wales, the South Pacific, Nigeria, Denmark and the Netherlands is discussed. These papers are very descriptive and also contain information pertaining to the place of libraries in society and to the laws and regulations governing them which only serve to deviate from the political theme. However they are all well written and it is interesting to read about the various political contexts under which libraries in these countries operate. The papers on Nigeria and the South Pacific are particularly fascinating.

The final section consists of two papers that discuss 'library education'. Michael Gorman discusses a universal approach to the teaching of library studies and the book concludes with an interesting contribution from the editor on library accreditation.

While many of the individual papers are thought-provoking and informative to read allowing us an insight into the political contexts in which some libraries are operating and the impact such politics have on libraries and librarianship; it is apparent that the authors were given a broad remit and this has resulted in the topic being treated in a diverse manner and lacking any sort of cohesive principle. Including papers from North and South America; Middle East, China, Japan etc. would have enhanced the book allowing for a more international and inclusive treatment of the topic.

Get involved in HINT

Have you ever thought of writing or editing for HINT? Why not add your expertise and knowledge and join the HINT team. The HINT newsletter is an important source of information for all health librarians, keeping us up-to-date on important issues, events and new developments in the profession.

As the saying goes 'many hands make light work'. We are actively seeking people to get involved in order to keep the high standard of HINT. If you would like to contribute or would like further information, please contact the HSLG Communications Officer, Susan Boyle at susan.boyle@ucd.ie

How Literature can help our Profession now!

Since times are tough in the Irish library world, we are looking to the literature for some positive suggestions.

With this in mind, we are trialling a new column for HINT that aims to highlight articles that focus on good ideas we can implement to help us now – The column will review a journal article in each issue that offers positive solutions to common problems we all have, the idea being to share this knowledge with HINT readers.

Reading article reviews on new initiatives is a quick way for librarians to learn about new cost saving, ideas that others have tried, see how they work in practice and explore if they could be replicated or tweaked successfully for our own organisations to good effect.

We are all busy doing more with less and there is very little time to search for such remedies so HINT is bringing the remedy articles directly to you and hopefully we will help some authors along the way.

So I invite you to submit further article reviews to HINT or suggest an article you think would be good for review.

If you want to get into discussion of an article or you are interested in reading more articles you can also join the new journal club on the HSLG list.

The first in a series of Positive Article Reviews....

The chair of the HSLG committee Aoife Lawton brought my attention to the following article at a recent HSLG committee meeting and it fits the positive article review criteria beautifully;

**Brower, Stewart and Linda Hasman, eds.(2010)
COIL on Wheels: A Library Professional Development Roadshow. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* 29 286-293.**

The article above discusses the COIL on wheels roadshow initiative. COIL stands for Community of Oklahoma Instruction Librarians and the COIL on wheels initiative they developed. COIL on wheels is a training roadshow intended to support instruction librarians who cannot travel to training in difficult economic times.

COIL on wheels is described in the article as a professional development roadshow. The instruction librarians in Oklahoma who take part, bring their expertise on the road to other librarians in various institutions who do not have a budget to travel. The idea behind COIL on wheels is to deliver customised training to the institutions visited.



The institution requesting the COIL on wheels training chooses the topic and some of the COIL members are chosen by the COIL chair to form a team with a leader, create the lesson and deliver it.

The article describes how the COIL group initially conducted an online skills inventory survey to identify COIL members' strengths, familiarity with teaching tools, methods and willingness to teach particular subjects. This skills survey acts as a starting point for each COIL on wheels training session. The COIL group profiles members to ascertain their interests and then matches these with institutional needs and uses the roadshow to facilitate peer training at little or no cost.

The article gives a very useful explanation of how the COIL on wheels programme is initiated– the COIL chair normally receives a request for a COIL on wheels presentation and deploys members from the appropriate geographical quadrant, with the appropriate skills, to fit the specific need of the requesting institution and the team prepare, travel and deliver the training programme.

The article also details the various marketing channels COIL use to advertise the idea to interested institutions, including an adapted logo, presentations, brochures and sign-up sheets along with postings on Listservs to spread the word about the initiative. The first COIL on wheels training event gives an in-depth insight to the kind of programme that can be achieved and exactly what was involved. It was definitely deemed a success by the workshop requestor. Interestingly, the article highlights a targeted tailored approach to the COIL on wheels training events. The article was articulate, well written, easy to read, and extremely proactive.

It clearly demonstrates the benefits of the COIL on wheels roadshow programme. There is good evidence of careful planning, use of research to inform decisions and leadership in the programme in the article. It equally shows that the initiative itself is simple, scalable and could have a wider application which I think earns it at least a 'recommend to read' descriptor.

My only criticism would be that it does not mention enough about the logistics involved in the process or how the COIL group and training team negotiated obstacles or difficulties along the way. However, anyone could contact the author for more information if they wanted to replicate the initiative themselves, so I would not be put off by this. The article describes the first COIL on wheels training event in depth but it did leave me feeling curious about others they have delivered beyond the inaugural training. It would have been nice to have a few sentences at the end on where the programme is at now and how many events have been held since the first successful training.

In conclusion the article is a worthy but quick read for the busy librarian, it offers realistic hope and enough information so the reader can imagine transferring the initiative to their own working context. Interestingly for health librarians, the article itself suggests it would be easy to implement in hospital libraries and it also mentions a high level interest expressed among Oklahoma medical librarians for a service such as COIL on wheels. Surely a good endorsement!

All in all... a wonderful read!

Susan Boyle, Liaison Librarian, *UCD Library and HSLG Communications Officer*

Congratulations

On behalf of the HSLG Committee we would like to congratulate Louise Farragher on the birth of her baby girl, Caoilfhionn, in September.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Louise for all her hard work and dedication for the HSLG over the years and we look forward to her returning to the

A day in the Life... Fiona McCarthy

Who are you?

Fiona McCarthy, Librarian, Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin.

Where are you from?

Originally from County Laois

Why did you become a librarian?

It stems from an early age as I held very positive memories of using my local library as a kid and as a result, it was always a profession that appealed to me. After finishing college, I briefly considered pursuing other creative avenues such as publishing and journalism but after securing a working stint as a library assistant, I quickly realized that I had found my niche. I juggled my postgraduate studies in UCD with working in the public libraries. It was frantic at the time but in hindsight, it was a fantastic learning curve and it is a career move that I have never regretted since.

Where do you work?

The Children's University Hospital, Temple Street which is based in Dublin.

A quick word about Temple Street Hospital.

Temple Street Hospital is a children's hospital specialising in Paediatrics and Child Health. We provide training at both undergraduate and postgraduate level in the area of Paediatric Medicine and Nursing and are linked to the Royal College of Surgeons, University College Dublin and Dublin City University.

Who do you cater for?

We provide services to all staff and students of Temple Street Hospital. As we are a teaching hospital, our student turnover is very high and mostly transient. Often students are based in Temple Street for only a week or two so obviously they enjoy fewer privileges than our permanent staff but we try to accommodate everyone.

How do you cater for them?

We offer an information, reference and lending service to our users and also provide training and guidance in utilising our resources. We focus primarily on Paediatrics and Child Health but also feature other areas. Our users' needs are diverse so we try to tailor our services to accommodate this. As the years have progressed, there has been a gradual shift to more of our users accessing our services remotely as many staff members cannot afford the time to call on site.

What type of task occupies most of your working day?

Due to the diverse nature of the job, it varies from day to day.



We are short staffed at the moment so I am carrying out tasks that wouldn't normally be within my remit but as a library staff member, you are required to be flexible.

What is the most unusual request you have had?

Not an unusual request as such but you have touched on a professional bugbear of mine with this question. Over the years, I have found myself amazed at the amount of diverse requests literally thrown at library staff. How are the likes of fixing a photocopier (in another department!), arranging videoconferencing, confirming general conference bookings connected with library work?? I could expand further but the list is endless! Time and time again, I have witnessed other departments attempting to "poach" library staff for non-library related tasks when it is blatantly obvious that the library is regarded as little more than a secretarial service. By all means, librarians and library staff are required to be flexible but this should not extend beyond the parameters of what is deemed normal library duties.

The onus should be on librarians as professionals and managers to ensure that there is a clear definition of what we do in a professional sense and we should be clearly advocating this; no-one else is going to act on our behalf. Thankfully, there have been lots of positive moves in this direction and there has been much recent progress in the field of advocacy but this needs to be maintained.

Ok, time to climb off my soapbox now!

What do you feel you are good at?

Reading minds! Telepathy comes in very handy when a user requests a subject search but in their minds, they are contemplating something entirely different. Seriously though, I would have hoped that through the years that I have developed some expertise in dissenting information and "breaking down" searches.....and second guessing what goes on in users' heads! It's also an area of library work that I personally believe benefits from the old reliable face to face encounter.

What do you enjoy?

I know it probably sounds like a worn out cliché at this stage but I really get a kick out of that "Eureka" moment when after all that effort, everything clicks into place and that correct information resource is located, especially as it impacts directly on patient care.

At a professional level, I've thoroughly enjoyed being a committee member of the Health Sciences Libraries Group (HSLG) for many years. I'm on a self imposed sabbatical at the moment due to a combination of staffing and domestic issues but I'm looking forward to re-joining, once things settle down. I've been involved in the HSLG's CPD Group for many years and the practical experience I have gained from organizing courses for members (and further afield) throughout the years has proved invaluable to me.

What do you dislike?

Basic maths. It was my one downfall in School and I veered towards the Arts and eventually librarianship backed by the naivety that I would manage to avoid numerical and technical issues for the rest of my working life. I had foolishly never bargained on budgeting and project management featuring in my daily work. However, once I broached that area in real life, it soon dawned on me that budgeting is really not based on maths at all, it all boils down to logic, common sense and balance. Ironically, it is now an aspect of library work that I relish.

Still, I always keep a calculator at the ready!

What are your ambitions/career goals?

Temple Street Hospital is part of the new National Children's Hospital Development Plan. Whilst developments are in their infancy at the moment, I think the future holds an exciting challenge for all the organizations involved and I would hope to be part of that challenge.

Do you have any unfulfilled personal ambitions or goals?

I'm perfectly happy at a professional level but personally, I have plenty of unfulfilled goals. However, due to a busy home life, I'm leaving everything on the long finger for now but one day.....

Is there anything unique you do in your library?

Not as such but everyday is different here and I think it is the diversity of the job that initially prompted me to become a librarian in the first place.

How would you like to see health librarianship develop?

I do honestly believe that health librarianship is in a pretty healthy state at the moment but we can never afford to rest on our laurels. We need to continue to be advocates for our profession both within our work setting and externally. We, above all need to ensure that we are recognized as the highly skilled professionals that we are.

What is the last thing you usually do each day?

Turn on the voicemail, turn off the PC, ensure that everything is in order for the next day as I hate rushing around in the mornings. Once all that is done, I automatically switch into "mammy mode" and all library matters are erased from my mind for another day.

Upcoming Conferences

HSLG Conference 2011

Date: Wednesday 2nd - Thursday, 3rd February 2011
Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Athlone

Following on from this year's successful conference, the HSLG committee is busy putting together the programme for the 2011 annual conference. The theme for the conference will be 'Creative thinking for challenging times – roles, research and advocacy – key drivers for change'.

As part of the two day conference we would like to invite you to consider participating in a "lightning presentation" session on any of the areas identified in the conference theme.

For the conference programme and further information log on to <http://www.hslg.ie>

Academic and Special Libraries Section - Annual Seminar

Library Services – so what? Survival Skills, Sustainability & Visibility

Date: Tuesday 22nd – Wednesday 23rd February, 2011
Venue: Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8

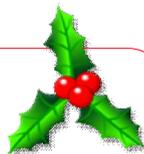
For further information go to <http://www2.libraryassociation.ie/sections-and-groups/academic-and-special-libraries-section/upcoming-events-2010/>

EAHIL Workshop: Active Learning and Research Partners in Health

Date: Tuesday 5th July – Friday 8th July 2011,
Venue: Istanbul, Turkey

For further information go to http://www.ku.edu.tr/ku/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4011&Itemid=3525

The HSLG Committee would like to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New year!



Critical Appraisal Skills for Healthcare Librarians: the basics

Date: Tuesday, 25th January 2011
Venue: CILIP, London, WC1E 7AE

Critical appraisal skills are sometimes perceived to be beyond the boundaries of library and information practice. This course challenges that view and provides a solid introduction to the process and techniques used when critically appraising research papers in the healthcare field.

For Further information go to <http://www.cilip.org.uk/jobs-careers/training/pages/critical-appraisal-skills-the-basics.aspx>

MLA 2011 Annual Meeting and Exhibition

Date: Friday 13th – Wednesday 18th May, 2011
Venue: in Minneapolis, MN

For further information go to: <http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2011/about/index.html>

1st International Problem Based Learning Conference

'Problem Based Learning (PBL) Today & Tomorrow'

Date: Thursday 26th - Friday 27th May 2011
Venue: Trinity College Dublin

For further information please contact us on info@facilitate.ie or visit <http://www.facilitate.ie>

Chairperson's Corner



2010 has been a tumultuous year and it is not over yet! There has been a lot of doom and gloom about, but amidst the fear and frustration, health libraries have been battling on and made some significant progress despite the circumstances we find ourselves in. From the HSLG committee point of view, we have finalised our "Strategic Action Plan 2010 – 2015". The action plan takes into account some of the activities already begun and includes strategic planning for the development of the group for the coming years. The action plan contains four high level goals which are broken down into "smart" objectives. The goals are:

1. To provide continuing professional development for all our members.
2. To foster promotion, advocacy and new roles for our profession.
3. To collaborate and share resources.
4. To research the development of the health library professional and health library, using an evidence-based approach.

The whole point of this plan is to ensure that the HSLG gets the most of its' committee and members and leads the way forward for all Irish health science libraries and library staff. Each one of us has to assume a shared responsibility and ownership of these goals. To that end I would encourage you all to engage with the committee and work together, collaborate and share knowledge and resources wherever possible. Collaboration and sharing is a core value of libraries so this is really a case of keeping up the good work!

One of our biggest highlights this year has been the PubMed bursaries. I'm sure quite a few of us are envious of Jane and Gethin jetting off to Sacramento in the coming weeks. We look forward to learning more about PubMed, Tox-Net and Clinical Trials in 2011 and wish them both the best of luck on their American training trip. Look out for the upcoming CPD schedule to avail of the PubMed courses.

Another major highlight has been the commissioning of work on the "Research into the current status of Health Librarianship and Libraries in Ireland". Research of this nature has not taken place since the MacDougall reports "Information for health" (1995) and "Well read: developing consumer health information in Ireland." (1998). This study will be a significant undertaking and will inform the current status of our profession, benchmark us against international best practice and make recommendations on policy and developments to future proof our skills and competencies in the health sector. I would urge you all to co-operate with this research as it will be in the best interests of everyone working in the health science library field.

Aoife Lawton, HSLG Acting Chairperson

HSLG responds to HIQA's "National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare" Document

In September 2010 HIQA requested feedback via public consultation on the "National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare" document. A conversation was initiated on the HSLG discussion list by Anne Madden, Librarian at St. Vincent's University Hospital and prompted much discussion on the list. A standard feedback form was made available on the HIQA website.

Anne and Aoife compiled the feedback from the HSLG list, collated this with themes backed up by LIS literature and made a formal submission to HIQA prior to the deadline of November 4th. The submission was posted to the discussion list and is available for any members who are interested in reading it from either Aoife Lawton or Anne Madden.

Aoife Lawton, Systems Librarian, HSE and HSLG Acting Chairperson. E-mail: aoife.lawton@hse.ie

Anne Madden, Librarian, St. Vincent's University Hospital. E-mail: anne.madden@ucd.ie

Electronic Resources of Interest

<http://rian.ie/>

This new national open access repository for Irish research contains content harvested from the institutional repositories of the seven Irish Universities. The portal boasts a jointly agreed metadata which facilitates increased accuracy when searching. The resource allows the user to browse, complete a basic and advanced search and provides statistics on the documents and research within the repository.

<http://healthmash.com/>

Developed by Weblib, a company specialising in the creation of innovative semantic search and discovery tools for libraries, this resource provides access to health information using semantic search engine and web 2.0 technologies. It is described as being powered by a health knowledge base which is generated from trusted health content and professional knowledge. This resource is currently in a beta phase of existence.

<http://kidshealth.org/>

This new website developed in the US is a useful tool for consumer health information on children and young people. The website is divided up into three sections for parents, children and young adults. Each area contains articles, information and advice for the specific audience in a user-friendly, clear and concise manner.

Congratulations to winner of the last HINT competition, Joanne Callinan from the Library and Information Service at the Milford Care Centre, Castletroy, Limerick.

The correct answer was The Time Traveller's Wife. Don't forget to take a look at the competition question in this issue!

HINT Competition. Enter the HINT draw for a 50 euro book token!

Just answer the following question and send your answer and contact details by e-mail to Susan.Boyle@ucd.ie

Who was he?

This individual was a librarian and a famous poet. He was offered, but declined, the position of poet laureate in 1984.

After graduating from Oxford in 1943 he applied for the post of librarian at Wellington in Shropshire. He went on to work in university libraries in Leicester (1946) and Belfast (1950). He became an Associate of the Library Association in 1949 and was appointed Librarian to the University of Hull in 1955. The Library Association made him an Honorary Fellow in 1980 and the University of Hull made him a Professor in 1982. In 1984 he was elected to the Board of the British Library. He died in December 1985.

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

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It is compiled & produced by the HINT Editorial Team.

Contact details: Send submissions to Susan.Boyle@ucd.ie

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