



Health Science Libraries Group Annual Report 2013

Chair: Brian Galvin (*Health Research Board*)

Treasurer: Anne Murphy (*Librarian, the AMHD, Tallaght Hospital*)

Secretary: Michael Doheny, (*Athlone Institute of Technology*)

Communications Officer: Breffni Smith (*RCSI Library Beaumont Hospital*)

Continuing Professional Development Officer: Anne Madden (*St Vincent's Hospital*)

Committee members: Bennery Rickard: (*Regional Librarian, HSE East*); Louise Bradley: (*Institute of Public Health*)

The HSLG committee met six times in 2013. There were also eight meetings of the Shelli group and a number of meetings of the conference organizing subcommittee. The HSLG annual conference took place on 11th – 12 April and the HSLG AGM took place on the 11th of April.

Chairperson's Report

Following publication of the Status of Health Librarianship and Libraries in Ireland (Shelli) report in 2012 the HSLG established a working group tasked with implementing the recommendations under the broad headings of advocacy, gathering evidence and staff and service development. The new working group met a number of times during 2013 and the work focused on the topics of advocacy, marketing and gathering evidence. The annual conference in April was very successful. Jean P Shipman of the Eccles Health Library, University of Utah, USA gave the keynote address. The CPD working group has responded to difficulties faced by members in attending training by working towards providing online courses through the University of Sheffield's School of Health and Related Research (SchARR) FOLIO programme. This is being developed in cooperation with the ASL group. Early in the year The National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) sought the support of clinical librarians in the literature review phase of clinical guideline development. Following a consultation process, the HSLG established a national network of clinical librarians to support clinical teams. The HSLG coordinates a centralized query service for clinical teams and provides literature searches and advanced search skills training to ensure a consistent and excellent standard of evidence forms the basis of new national clinical guidelines. The contribution of health librarians has already been acknowledged by policy makers and fellow professionals working on NCEC and it serves as a good model of effective collaboration and sharing of knowledge.
By Brian Galvin

Reports from Committee Officers

And Working Groups

Communications Officer Report

The HSLG 2013 annual conference “Visible Evidence: the role of health science librarians in Ireland” was held in April in Dublin, with international keynote speaker Jean Shipman, and presentations by healthcare professionals and librarians on clinical audit, KPIs, critical appraisal, evidence based medicine, research impact and library PR. Our members also attended and reported from the MLA annual conference in Boston and EAHIL in Stockholm. The HSLG and A&SL committees hosted a joint networking event in the Royal Irish Academy in January 2013. The HSLG established a new network of clinical librarians to support the development of national clinical guidelines in Ireland under the auspices of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee and the Department of Health. In 2013 the HSLG initiated a new Pathways to Learning (PAL) collaborative regional access scheme to midlands academic, HSE (Health Service Executive) and Institute of Technology libraries. A new website was set up to collate information on library jobs in Ireland by Margaret Irons. The national health repository LENUS was included into RIAN, the national open access portal which collates the research output of ten higher education repositories in Ireland. 2013 was a particularly active year for the HSLG in terms of collaboration at both regional and national levels and raising the profile of health librarians in Ireland.

By Breffni Smith
HSLG Communications Officer

Continuing Professional Development Working Group Report

The first event this year was “The Researching Librarian” – an interactive workshop with Prof. Mike Clarke which took place on 23rd May in Trinity College Dublin. Professor Mike Clarke is Director of All-Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research at Queen’s University Belfast and an Adjunct Professor in the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery in Trinity College Dublin and NUI Galway. The workshop filled quickly and feedback was resoundingly positive.

Over the summer, the biennial HSLG/A&SL CPD Survey took place. This year, the management of the survey was opened to Librarians who were recently qualified and/or were currently unwaged. A small completion fee was agreed, and Sarah Nolan was the person chosen to carry out the survey. Under her management, topics were expanded to increase the currency and relevance of the results and as always, the feedback is providing a valuable basis for future CPD activity.

The final CPD event of 2013 was the hugely popular “Digital Preservation Workshop” which took place on 1st November in the RIA. This was a DPC/A&SL/HSLG sponsored workshop led by William Kilbride and proved hugely popular. This is obviously an area of growing interest.

By Anne Madden: CPD Officer HSLG

The SHELLI Working Group

The SHELLI Working Group set up by the HSLG to pursue the recommendations of The Report on the Status of Health Librarianship and libraries in Ireland (SHELLI), reviewed the Report's 30 recommendations which are grouped under three strategic aims: identify champions and promote visibility; build a body of evidence; and staff and service development.

The SWG prioritised the recommendations, considered what was achievable, what was not achievable, reviewed timeframes and defined the desired outcomes. This first stage established the framework for the WG's remit. It was completed in February 2013 and went before the HSLG Committee for ratification in spring 2013. The recommendations of the Working Group were approved by the HSLG Committee at its meeting in March 2013. Additionally, the HSLG Committee has agreed that, for the purposes of the implementation of the recommendations of the SHELLI report, the SHELLI Working Group (SWG) are to assume responsibility for any role designated to the HSLG.

The review resulted in a less complex picture, with short and medium term recommendations and three responsible bodies, a change that brings the recommendations within the power of the HSLG and health librarians to bring to effect.

The SHELLI Working Group diminished in size as members moved into new posts and responsibilities and the SWG thanks them for the huge contribution they have made to the work of the group. The Group's diminished size required a re-prioritisation of the work so that each of the 3 strategic areas identified in the Report will now be worked on in turn, rather than in parallel.

The SWG is pursuing work on the strategic theme of 'Promote Visibility & Identify Champions'. It is planning an event for health librarians to share and raise awareness of marketing, and partnership good practice, in the health librarian community, on Friday 14th March 2014 in Dublin. The day will be a lively mix of keynotes, interactive sessions and lightning talks.

By Anne Murphy, Chair, SHELLI Working Group



Photograph of the launch of the Midlands Pathways to Learning, (PAL), collaborative regional access scheme to midlands academic, HSE (Health Service Executive) and Institute of Technology libraries. The Midlands PAL committee consists of representative from HSE Libraries, County Libraries and the Athlone Institute of Technology library. Midlands PAL is chaired by Mary Reynolds (Longford County Librarian)