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HINT is the newsletter of the Health Sciences Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland. It is compiled & produced by the HINT Editorial Team.
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Christmas Message from the HSLG Committee

Niamh Lucey

As another year comes to a close, on behalf of the HSLG Committee, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

This has been another incredibly busy year for the HSLG. It began with our annual conference in March, titled *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?*, which explored themes around the future of librarianship. The event saw high attendance, featured a fantastic lineup of speakers, and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The success of the conference has us (almost!) looking forward to doing it all again in a few months. As I write, we are just 12 weeks away from the 2025 Conference, scheduled for 6 March. This year's theme, *Cultivating Curiosity: a Wonderland for Librarians*, and keynote speaker, Sue Lacey-Bryant—former NHS England Chief Knowledge Officer and incoming CILIP President—promise another exciting event. The call for abstracts is now open, with submissions due by Monday, 13 January, so there's still plenty of time to share your ideas.



One of our major achievements this year was the launch of the Mentoring Programme at the conference. You can read more about it in this issue. We are thrilled to see it grow in the coming year and encourage readers to apply for mentorship support if needed. For those who have completed our training programme, we invite you to consider becoming mentors to support others in our community.

Christmas Message from the HSLG Committee
 Niamh Lucey

Other highlights of the year included hosting two CPD events: one on *Developing a Graphic Medicine Collection* (in collaboration with the Graphic Medicine conference in Athlone) and another on *Strategic Foresight and Quality Reviews* presented by HRB Librarians. We also co-hosted a networking evening with the Academic & Special Libraries Group. Additionally, Committee members Julianne O’Callaghan and Mary Dunne contributed an article to *An Leabharlann* on supporting CPD for health librarians, while Mary Dunne and Nicola O’Shea presented on peer support at the EAHIL conference in Riga in June.

We didn’t stop there. This year, we hosted two virtual journal clubs, facilitated two rounds of the Literature Search Peer Review Buddy Scheme, and produced the final three issues of this long-running newsletter.

The first issue of *HINT* was published in Autumn 2003, so it seems fitting that the newsletter reaches its conclusion as it celebrates its 21st birthday and you can read more about plans to launch our new journal in this issue. Over the years, more than 50 issues have been produced. We would like to take this opportunity to thank every single person who has written for, edited, and produced these issues. *HINT* has been a vital way for health librarians to stay connected, share developments in our profession, and support one another. Its legacy is a testament to the strength of our community and the commitment we’ve shown to each other over the years.



Rotunda Hospital Commemorative Plaque Unveiling

Anne O'Byrne, Rotunda Hospital

On 1st November 2024, a historical event took place that was nearly five years in the making. Back when the Rotunda was in its infancy, it was known simply as Dublin's first 'Lying-In Hospital,' the old-fashioned term for maternity hospital.



An image of the original building that housed the hospital, opened 15th March 1745.

It was a revolutionary innovation for a city that was plagued by poor living conditions, which were particularly dangerous for women giving birth and their newborns. Bartholomew Mosse's dream was to improve outcomes for these women and lessen maternal and infant deaths. Once he raised enough money, he purchased a modest three-story townhouse (unlike today, it did not cost €2 billion+) within which he began his hospital. It had only 3 wards and 28 beds, but over the course of just 12.5 years, 3975 mothers were delivered of 4049 children. But the hospital soon outgrew its small

premises, and so it was moved to a newly purchased site—our current site on Parnell Square.

The plaque has been placed as close to the original site as possible, at 60 South Great George's Street. It was the culmination of a process that took several years, beginning in 2019. Of course, the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and subsequent lockdowns elongated the timeline, but the Historical Committee were determined that it come to fruition. It required a huge amount of research, as well as communication with stakeholders. First, the site of the first Lying-In Hospital had to be tracked down with the use of historical maps of Dublin, cross-referenced to the modern day city streets. A formal application then had to be submitted to Dublin City Council's Commemoration Committee, which occurred in February 2020. This application then required a number of revisions, which was



Lord Mayor of Dublin James Geoghegan (l) and Master of the Rotunda Prof. Sean Daly (r) pose with plaque.

Rotunda Hospital Commemorative Plaque Unveiling

Anne O'Byrne, Rotunda Hospital



The plaque has been placed to the right of a gated laneway.

complicated by the first COVID lockdown. The DCC and the Historical Committee engaged over a number of revisions to the plan, particularly with regard to the plaque's wording. Furthermore, amidst it all, the site owner had to be sought out and their agreement to the placement of the plaque had to be secured in writing.

Then, finally, the date for the unveiling had to be agreed with all involved— the Historical Committee, the Master, the office of the Lord Mayor and the DCC, not to mention all the invited guests! It was a few months of work that turned into a few years due to circumstances beyond everyone's control, but finally, the unveiling ceremony was held on 1st November 2024, attended by the Master, the Historical Committee, the Lord Mayor, and other distinguished guests, including direct descendants of

Bartholomew Mosse himself. It was followed by a lunch in the Rotunda boardroom, graciously provided by the Catering Department. The event was a great success and enjoyed by all, and the plaque is available for any passing member of the public to see. The plaque has been placed to the right of a gated laneway. When the First Lying-In Hospital was in use, this alleyway would have been used to gain access to the building itself.



The Master of the Rotunda, Prof. Sean Daly, speaks to the crowd.



L-R: Anne Renshaw (desc. of Mosse), Prof. Sean Daly, Ruth Schwartz (Rotunda Midwife), Anne M. O'Byrne (Rotunda Head Librarian), Lord Mayor James Geoghegan.

Renovation of the Library at University Hospital, Kerry

Jennifer Butler, Executive Librarian, University Hospital Kerry

The University Hospital Kerry (UHK) Library has reopened following a comprehensive renovation. What initially began as a quick three-week spruce-up evolved into a complete transformation of the space. HSE Library staff, Mary Lehane and Anna O'Shea, packed 300 boxes of books for what turned into an eight-month storage period. The building underwent major upgrades, including rewiring, plumbing, the removal of asbestos tiles, and the installation of new, user-focused furniture.



300 boxes of books ready for storage



Major upgrade of the Library at University Hospital Kerry

During the library's soft opening in May, Prof. Brian Kinirons, Medical Director of National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP), emphasized the importance of such facilities in attracting and retaining top healthcare professionals. He stated,

"To attract and retain top healthcare professionals, you need to support world-class medical education and training facilities, including libraries."

The full renovation of the library and its classroom was a collaborative effort between NDTP, UHK, and the HSE Library. Key supporters of the project included UHK General Manager Mary Fitzgerald, UHK Operations Manager Damien Moyles, and Jared Gormly of NDTP.

The newly renovated library offers a variety of enhancements, such as eight new user computers, Wi-Fi boosted hotspots, dedicated training and study spaces, and an extensive health sciences print collection. Professional library staff are available during business hours to assist with health science research queries and provide training. Additionally, a 24-hour access area equipped with user computers is now available.

Renovation of the Library at University Hospital, Kerry

Jennifer Butler, Executive Librarian, University Hospital Kerry

One noteworthy aspect of the renovation is the positive impact it has had on hospital staff. A consultant at the soft launch shared that he had spent much of his career in libraries, both in person and online. To him, the library represents a steady beacon amid challenging times. The redesigned UHK Library offers hope and inspiration, symbolizing the promise of better things to come. This space is crucial for attracting and retaining healthcare professionals and students, ensuring that they stay or return in the future.



Soft Opening of UHK Library, May 2024

The photo includes Damien Moyles, UHK Operations Manager; Dr Daniel Creegan, National NCHD Lead; Brendan Leen, HSE Library Area Manager South; Prof. Brian Kinirons, Medical Director of NDTP; Library team: Jennifer Butler, Mary Lehane, Anna O'Shea; Aoife Lawton, National HSE Librarian; Melanie Surkau, UHK Librarian; Donna Dennehy, Admin; Dr Lorraine O'Neill, Clinical Lead Postgraduate Education NHK; Dr Claire O'Brien, Consultant Physician, UHK; Dr Jannush Kylanathan, NCHD Lead, UHK.

Professor John Cooke, Clinical Director for Postgraduate Medical Education and Training at South/Southwest Hospital Group (S/SWHG) praised the library during a visit in August, stating, "You have future-proofed the library."

Nearly a year after the books were packed away, the library's grand opening on November 21, 2024, marked the official return of users to the newly revitalized space.



Brendan Leen – HSE Library Area Manager South
Librarians -Jennifer Butler, Kerry; Shauna Barrett, Cork;
Emma Quinn, Kilkenny; Shona Nolan, Waterford; Gabriel
Graves, Wexford.

Librarians of the World—Past and Present

Belle da Costa Greene: A Librarian's Legacy

M.J. Tooley, MLS, AHIP, FMLA Retired Dean, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore

My interest began with a book, *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This historical fiction chronicled the life of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to American financier, J.P. Morgan, who was responsible for building one of the greatest private libraries and collections in the world. While this fictional imagining of her life was itself remarkable, entertaining, and engaging, the real story of her life was even more amazing and until then, I had never heard of her. Recently, I learned there would be an exhibit focused on Belle da Costa Greene at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City and I just happened to be going there.



Belle da Costa Greene

The Library of Congress, No restrictions, via Wikimedia Commons

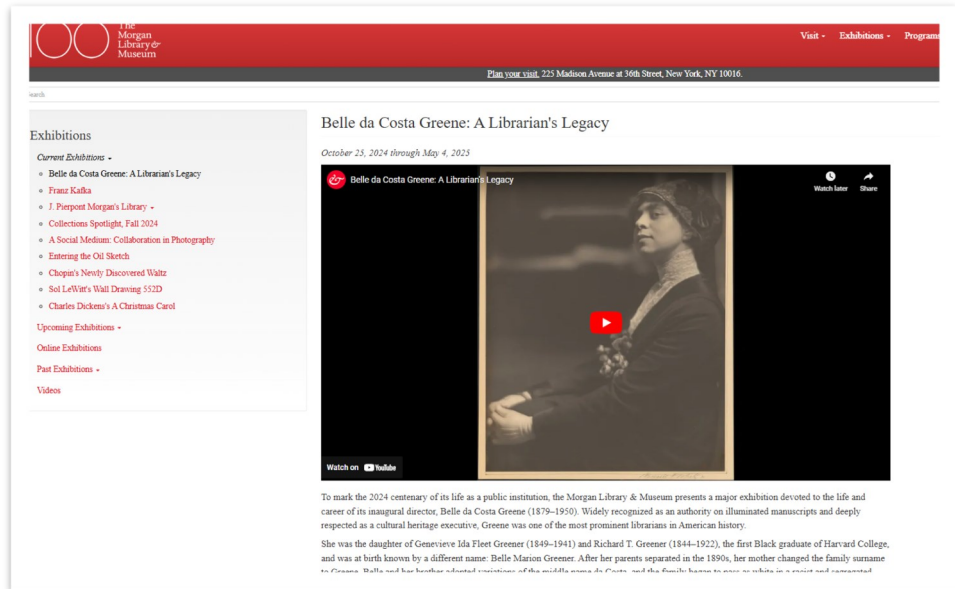
Why was her life so remarkable? Firstly, she was a young woman, seemingly plucked unknown from Princeton University by Morgan, upon the recommendation of his nephew Junius, to oversee the acquisition, organization, and curation of his library. Morgan's goal was to use his vast fortune to build a collection of manuscripts and art into his Pierpont Morgan Library, and into a world-class institution. Throughout *The Personal Librarian*, Morgan's confidence in Belle da Costa Greene's acumen and taste in acquiring the best of the best grows and grows. She becomes a formidable and respected force internationally in the world of fine art and manuscripts. She was accepted at the highest levels of society, was a fashionista, and became one of the most well-paid women in the United States. Her salary at one point was \$25,000 per year, equivalent to almost \$1,000,000 today.

However, the bigger story is that Belle da Costa Greene was black and spent her entire life passing for white. Born into a prominent black Washington, DC family in the post-Civil War Reconstruction era as Belle Greener, Belle's mother left her father, who was the first black graduate of Harvard University, taking her children to New York City. She changed her surname from Greener to Greene to survive in a racist and segregated society. Because they were fair-skinned, they "passed" as white, explaining their darker complexions by attributing it to Portuguese or Spanish heritage. Belle received an excellent education and began her library career at Princeton.

Belle da Costa Greene: A Librarian's Legacy

M.J. Tooley, MLS, AHIP, FMLA Retired Dean, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore

The Morgan Library and Museum's current exhibit, [Belle da Costa Greene: A Librarian's Legacy](#) takes the story much further. This excellent exhibition commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Library and Museum and the



amazing contribution of Belle da Costa Greene to its success and astounding collections. The exhibit begins with a look at the history of both her mother and father's families, very prominent and well-known in black society in Washington, DC at the turn of 19th to 20th century. Then the exhibit takes a darker turn as it explores the issue of "passing" for white by black members of society. Many "black" citizens were actually of mixed race, however, even a one-eighth fraction of black ancestry (an octoroon) was considered black. One cannot know what went on in the mind of Belle's mother when she decided to leave Richard Greener for New York City, where her children passed as white. The first part of the exhibit looks at popular culture and the societal prejudices and perceptions of the post-Civil War, Jim Crow era.

The second part of the exhibit is all Belle, Belle, Belle and the trusted relationships she had with not only J.P. Morgan but his son Jack, who succeeded him as Belle's employer upon J.P. Morgan's death. Their total faith in her abilities and knowledge allowed her to build the magnificent collection that became the Morgan Library and Museum. Additionally, she became the director of the library and persuaded Morgan to open what started as a personal collection, to the public. The exhibit is filled with wonderful treasures and artifacts from the collection along with anecdotes about Belle's travels and shopping sprees in search of the best of the best. The exhibit comments on her fashion sense and forays into society. She was also a collector in her own right, all the while keeping her secret about her race. It is not known if any of her employers, colleagues, or fellow collectors ever knew her secret. However, she couldn't escape it. It was believed her nephew Bobbie, who Belle raised and adored, committed suicide after his fiancée discovered his mixed race and broke off their engagement.

Belle da Costa Greene: A Librarian's Legacy

M.J. Tooley, MLS, AHIP, FMLA Retired Dean, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Belle da Costa Greene was a force of nature and a force to be reckoned with in her pursuit of the beautiful and the best for the Morgan Library and Museum. She is the reason it is what it is today. A remarkable woman doing remarkable things, while living with a lifelong secret.

National Public Radio (NPR) ran a piece on the exhibit on October 29th. Read or listen to it here: https://www.npr.org/2024/10/28/nx-s1-5159998/the-true-story-of-a-famed-librarian-and-the-secret-she-guarded-closely?fbclid=IwY2xjawGQzZ9leHRuA2FibQIxMQABHU-CQ8k-c0k23bSlvaq_KZL-rYxp3doD5GkFgPPwOo8TKTHv_pzls3vphw_aem_AgD9BS6SBQZxW9zYjPWrw

[Belle da Costa Greene: A Librarian's Legacy](#) runs at the Morgan Museum and Library until 5 May 2025 and the accompanying book of the same name will be published in hardback by DelMonico, in December 2024.

“The Morgan Library & Museum is finally paying homage to the woman who assembled the private collection, amplified its splendour, and, 100 years ago, became the institution’s first director” – Ariella Budick, The Financial Times

Librarians in interesting roles

Louise Farragher, Senior Information Officer, Health Research Board

As I sat to write this piece, I tried to find the kernel of what I think makes my current role interesting, or at least a little different. We recently gave a short presentation on 'A Day in the Life of a HRB Information Specialist' at a HSLG training event, and it forced us as a team to really think about the nature and scope of our work and turn those thoughts into something insightful and illuminating. Like most librarians, we do so much more than it says on the tin!

Before joining the HRB Evidence Centre I had worked for 10 years in the HRB National Drugs Library, and, before that, as maternity leave cover in a busy hospital library – my first real job as a qualified librarian. Since then I have completed a Masters in Health Services Research, helping me feel confident and assured in my knowledge of research methods to better inform my work.

Health libraries have always offered librarians the option to try out many roles (usually at the same time!) often as a busy solo librarian with little clerical support. The restructuring of the HSE library system has offered opportunities to develop specialised services such as expert searching and dedicated information specialist roles, while developing and expanding a wider range of shared services and collections. The expansion of information specialist roles in the universities and in agencies such as HRB, HSE and HIQA has resulted in the emergence of a core group of skilled information specialists in Irish libraries.

I lead a team of three information specialists who work as part of a larger evidence review team in the HRB Evidence Centre. We work as an integral part of each review team, to ensure completion and publication of high-quality evidence reviews and briefs on behalf of the Department of Health, to inform Irish health policy.

It sounds very lofty when written out like that – it certainly can be motivating to know that your work is informing national policy development. In reality, all library work is impactful - whether to the student urgently seeking a research paper or advice on how to search a database, or a consultant reviewing current literature.

Our work is different to most libraries, though: firstly, we don't work in a physical library, we are 'embedded' or office-based (and home-based these days), like the researchers we work with. We still require all the resources of a library, of course – access to a range of health and social care bibliographic databases, journals, reference books and a good document supply service. These services are organised in collaboration with our colleagues in the HRB National Drugs Library. On a day-to-day basis, we work in 'pods' of 3-4 research officers and one information specialist, working on 2-3 evidence products simultaneously, all at varying stages of completion.

Louise Farragher, Senior Information Officer, Health Research Board

The TLDR summary could be written as:

- No two days are alike!
- Expect the unexpected and
- Team working and good communications are key.

Review work

Most of our time is spent in the production of evidence reviews, working with our teams through every stage of the review. Attending initial meetings with the research commissioners is essential and we work closely with the research officers to clarify and finesse the research question(s) and scope of the review. After that point, the usual stages of a systematic review apply: develop and publish the research protocol; design and implement the search strategy and supplemental searches; implement and document the search strategy; set up and manage the review management software (in our case using Eppi Reviewer); write up the search methods for the review; and prepare the PRISMA flow diagram and relevant material for the review appendices. In reality it is never quite as linear as I have outlined, and more often than not, two projects may be at the same stages, forcing the information specialist to juggle tasks for the various teams. As I said, good communications skills are essential to keep the workflow on schedule and ensure teams don't have to wait for the completion of essential tasks. The work usually culminates with a presentation of findings to the Department of Health and other stakeholders, and the translation of a large evidence review into a research paper for publication.

Day-to-day librarianship

In my managerial role, I have the typical tasks involved in managing a team and managing resources: budgeting and procurement, performance management, licence management and ensuring in-office and remote access to resources and tools. All four of us provide the necessary technical and expert advice to the team to get the most from the paid resources we have available. We are involved in mentoring (of new staff and new information specialists), maintain a research-focused Libguides resource, and participate and provide continuing professional development activities for the Evidence Centre team across a range of topics including how to improve search strategy development and reporting using quality assessment tools. And then there are the days where you struggle to make Zotero work with MS Word in a OneDrive environment or are trying to figure out the intricacies of SAML Authentication in order to access a suite of essential resources.

Louise Farragher, Senior Information Officer, Health Research Board

And I won't mention user testing a particular new database interface. Never a dull moment, as they say!

Cross-organisation and external work

It is important that the information team are visible across the organisation, and we regularly participate in cross-organisation committees such as strategy development, website management, house style and writing guides, Open Access policy development and the Green Committee. We also participate in quarterly directorate presentations of our recent work, promoting useful resources to the wider research teams across the organisation. That work complements our contribution at national level through HSLG (participating and contributing to the annual conference, the HSLG journal club and HSLG CPD days). We have also contributed farther afield to a CONUL learning day on mapping the Irish experience of systematic reviews, and more recently, our colleague, Cairtriona Lee, presented to the Manitoba Association of Health Information Providers in association with Saskatchewan Health Libraries Association on the weighty topic of AI in health libraries. Over the years, our team has served on the LAI Council, HSLG committee and EAHIL conference organising teams.

Future challenges

I can see two significant challenges increasing over time, and they are certainly with us already. The first is the challenge of managing the increasing number of article retractions now part of the research ecosystem. The Retraction Watch database contains more than 50,000 retractions to date. The latest version of Zotero reference management system has an integrated retraction monitor that provides automated alerts of retracted articles, but we now need to develop new work processes to ensure articles included in a review are regularly monitored for retraction and we need a process to deal with the retraction, including reporting in the final publication. More broadly, this challenge comes under the heading of research integrity, research reproducibility and fraud. Librarians and information specialists can support research teams to be aware of these challenges and offer strategies to mitigate their impact.

And of course, the other challenge has to be AI – the challenge to master skills and approaches to using AI effectively and ethically to support systematic review and research work. The best advice I can offer is to stay aware and look to the established evidence experts for guidance and training (Cochrane have hosted webinars in this area and published preliminary guidance documents.) and of course, to try using it. Learn about the different types of AI tools there are (I can highly recommend a Phil Bradley Power Hour for a quick introduction to a bewildering array of products). Be aware of their limitations and ethical challenges.

In reality the biggest challenge to us all is to manage the pace of change, for ourselves and our users. Change is not new for librarians – papyrus, parchment, vellum, paper, mass publications, CD roms, the internet, and now AI, and we are still here

Latest News from the HSLG Mentoring Programme HSLG Committee

The HSLG Committee announced the launch of a mentoring programme for all members at our conference in March with a 'fireside chat' between Executive Coach and Mentor, Eimear Carney, and committee member, Jean McMahon, who as well as her librarian role, is also a coach and mentor at Tallaght University Hospital.



Eimear Carney and Jean McMahon

We all know that mentoring already happens in an unofficial way for many in the LIS world. This project was designed to create a formal structure for mentoring, with supports in place, whereby experienced librarians and library assistants can register to be mentors, and HSLG members will also be able to request a mentor.

A two-hour, free, online training programme was provided three times by HSLG during 2024. This was also facilitated by Eimear Carney. Anyone wishing to sign up as a mentor was asked to join the training and it proved a really interesting and engaging way to learn more about mentoring, either as a mentor or mentee.

Please get in touch via the mentoring email address to arrange a chat about mentoring or to request a place on a future training session. Don't forget, being a HSLG mentor only commits you to one session a month with your mentee for a period of 6 months and is a great addition to your CV!

New Email Address

hslgmentoring@gmail.com is the email address that will be used for all future correspondence on mentoring and is monitored by members of the HSLG committee only. Please email this address for any enquiries or to have a chat with a committee member about getting involved, either as a mentor, mentee or both.

Call for mentors who have done our mentoring training:

Please now consider signing up as HSLG mentors. All we need is a word document with a bio. Some bios are live on the [mentoring section](#) of the HSLG website so you can get inspiration from these. The bios will be viewable publicly so potential mentees can choose a mentor who they feel best suits their requirements. There is no set template or word count. You can include a photo or avatar but this is optional. The request for a mentor will come via the committee and not directly to you. You will only be set up with a mentee when you have agreed to accept one.

Please send your bios and photos/avatars to hslgmentoring@gmail.com. Requests for mentors will come via this email address and if someone requests you as a mentor, you will be contacted on their behalf, so you do not need to share your contact

Latest News from the HSLG Mentoring Programme
HSLG Committee

details. You will also be able to indicate if you are available or not, so you won't have to receive requests when you are already engaged in mentoring someone or just busy with other things.

For those who wish to engage with a mentor

You can read the mentor bios and then click on the 'Request a Mentor' button to indicate which mentor you would like to be matched with. You will be contacted by a committee member once your mentor has agreed to take you on.

Feel free to email if you have any questions about being a mentor or requesting a mentor.

For all our mentors

We will be arranging a mentoring peer group session in the new year so you can connect and support each other in this process.

We look forward to hearing from you.



HINT Transition to Open Access Journal HSLG Committee

As announced at our AGM in November this year, the HSLG Committee are working towards moving our excellent HINT newsletter to an open access journal. We felt that the standard of so many of the contributions is so good that it is worth giving them greater visibility through an open access journal that will be indexed effectively by search engines.

The committee are working on developing policies that will follow guidelines developed the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and the Committee on Publication Ethics.

The journal will have two issues per year and will provide an opportunity to publish original peer reviewed research articles, but also practice or experience-based articles, regular features, news, commentaries on ideas or new developments, and reviews of events or products.

Recurring sections will include:

- Research articles – involving original research or evaluation. These may be peer reviewed.
- Practice-based articles – such as: case studies, project reports, evaluations, commentaries, dissertation summaries, opinion pieces etc.
- Regular features – such as: articles submitted by regular contributors or regular topics/themes of interest. For example to “Librarians in interesting roles”, “Research intersections”
- Commentaries and reviews – on events, publications, tools or products, websites or other information resources
- News and new developments

We will be looking for Journal Advisory Board Members in the New Year to bring their skills and experience to provide advice on issues relating to the quality, value and reputation of the journal. The board will be governed by a chairperson and meet at least twice a year so there will not be huge time commitment required.

We will also be putting a call out for Editorial Team members to help with publication of the journal. Watch this space!

Book Recommendation

Self –care for winter: seven steps to thriving in the colder months
by **Suzy Reading, ISBN 978-1783256358**

Yohanna Anderson, HSE Library, St Conal’s Hospital, Letterkenny University Hospital

There are things I quite like about winter. I like the twinkly Christmas lights, cosy nights by the fire, and, now that the trees and hedges have dropped their cover, you can have a nose into neighbours gardens and their lit up windows as you pass. (Don’t look at me like that. I know you all do it too! “what WERE they thinking when they painted the wall THAT colour?”)

However, like many people, the winter season for me is a long dark slog. This is particularly the case when winter follows a gloomy wet “summer”.

Wellbeing and “resilience” rhetoric has been bombarding us for the past several years and, though it is important, it can feel that the responsibility is all on the individual, while systematic societal failings that undermine our personal wellbeing pass unchallenged. Therefore, when “Self-care for winter” was recommended to me by a friend, I confess that I was cynical about it telling me anything new. However, despite myself, I was very pleasantly surprised.

The book is like a lovely warm hug, it is beautifully illustrated, and the content is very accessible. Is there anything groundbreaking in it? No, but it is very honest and realistic about the sheer effort it is to just get out of bed in the morning and is designed to be dipped into whenever a boost or a strategy is needed to get through the gloom, even if it is just to remind you that it is OK to slow down sometimes. I have been carrying this book around in my bag, with other essential seasonal supplies such as lip salve, sertraline and vitamins. First-aid for a weary wintered soul, if you will. The pictures alone cheer me up and bathe me in sunlight.

So far I have already gifted a copy of this book to 3 of my friends and have a list of others I also want to get it for.

I know this is a book I will be bringing out and making use of every winter and felt it would be remiss of me not to highlight it to others of you who may benefit from it too.

Finally, it will delight librarians to know that the assertions made by the author, a chartered Psychologist, are fully referenced!



Research and Information Intersection

Bernard Barrett, National Research & Information Specialist, Tusla

When we come to discuss Research, Information and Knowledge, while each can be said to be distinct, nonetheless, they all relate to and inform each other and could be said to form a continuum.

Another element of this continuum which is often overlooked or sometimes taken for granted is the need to develop effective relationships, both at the professional as well as human level. Research involves asking questions to uncover new knowledge and can therefore mean moving into new and unexplored territory – and when such questioning is directed towards us as professionals, and towards our clients and service users, it can lead to fear and insecurity.

Like many organizations at the current time, Tusla has articulated a core set of corporate values which are meant to govern how both the organization, as well as each person in the organization, behave towards each other – ideally at least! However, reflecting on how we personally embody the values listed below can make a huge difference to the efficacy of the research, information and knowledge process, and to the building of relationships within.

For example: **Respect** for all those involved in the research process is critical and is the starting point for the development or building of any relationship; whether it is with academic or professional colleagues or those we refer to as clients/service users/participants etc. While boundaries are always necessary, and it can sometimes be challenging to interact with people who are different to ourselves, or perhaps those whom we might not want to relate to, each research participant/each client/each colleague deserves to be recognized as a unique human being who deserves to be treated in exactly the same way as we ourselves would like to be – they are not simply there to be used.

If the starting point is discerned correctly, then **Trust** between the parties follows from this – but can't just be taken for granted. Trust is always based on a relationship between at least two people/two parties and has to be built and maintained with a clear set of expectations for both sides, which evolve as the research moves forward. Trust means being really prepared to listen and sometimes be challenged!

Kindness should underpin all transactions and govern the ways and expectations in which all involved with the research interact with each other. An expectation should be that all involved in the research, information and knowledge process see themselves as partners, always open to learning, and prepared to use language (whether spoken or written) which is inclusive and sympathetic as well as questioning.

Research and Information Intersection

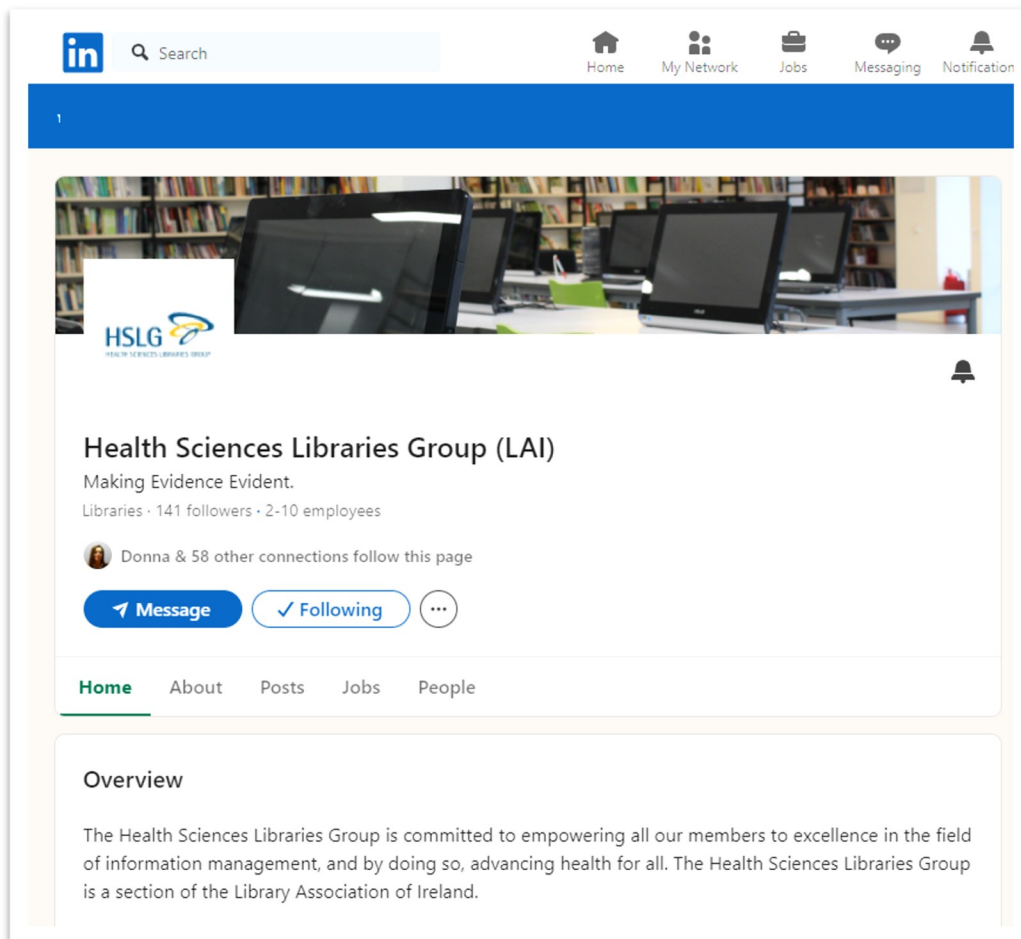
Bernard Barrett, National Research & Information Specialist, Tusla

Empowerment (and Enablement) are the end goals in any research project – not just as a nice feeling, but in terms of overall human growth and development – helping everyone to make the step into the unknown, embrace it comfortably, grow individually and collectively – and be ready for the next challenge!

Research, Knowledge, Information and Relationships have to go hand in hand.



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LITE Reading (Library, Information, Technology & Evidence)

Mary Dunne, Health Research Board



Vol. 112 No. 4 (2024): October 2024 <https://jmla.mlanet.org/ojs/jmla>

Prevalence and impact of remote and hybrid work in academic health sciences libraries.

David Petersen; Matthew Covey; Janet Crum (2024) JMLA 112(4) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1905>

Researchers surveyed administrators at Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) member libraries in the US in March 2022 (71 responses) and library staff at academic health sciences libraries in March 2023 (383 responses). In the first survey, 95% of respondents indicated that remote/hybrid work was allowed in their libraries. Majorities indicated that remote/hybrid work had a positive impact on morale (86%), recruitment (53%) and retention (67%). In the second survey, 78% of respondents indicated they were allowed to work remotely, and majorities indicated remote/hybrid work positively impacted work/life balance (75%), morale/job satisfaction (69%), likelihood of staying at their current institution (64%), and productivity/overall effectiveness (58%). Respondents were less likely to accept a fully onsite (45% unlikely) or fully remote (20% unlikely) position than a hybrid one (1% unlikely). In a list of 9 factors associated with recruitment, retention, and job satisfaction, only salary and benefits ranked higher than remote/hybrid work.

Consulting with an embedded librarian: student perceptions on the value of required research meetings.

Susan R. Franzen; Caitlin Stewart; Mallory Jallas; Joshua Newport (2024) JMLA 112(4) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1793>

This qualitative research project was undertaken to discover how students perceive the embedded librarian in their nursing class. Based on the data, a required research meeting with an embedded librarian, who is familiar with the course assignments, reinforces classroom instruction, point-of-need assistance with search strategies, and the opportunity to strengthen the relationship with the librarian for future research needs.

Understanding the performance of geographic limits on Web of Science Core Collection databases, using the United Kingdom as an example.

Helen A Fulbright; Claire Stansfield (2024) JMLA 112(4) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1669>

Within Web of Science Core Collection (WoSCC) databases the authors tested and appraised the inbuilt functions and search field options that support identification by countries/regions and affiliations. They compared these with an adapted filter to identify healthcare research on or about the UK. They calculated the recall of the inbuilt limits and filter using 177 studies and investigated why records were missed. They also calculated the percentage reduction of the overall number-needed-to-screen (ONNS). They found that inbuilt limits within WoSCC enable identification of research from specific countries/regions or affiliations if there is data in the address field. Refining by affiliations allows retrieval of research where affiliations are in the 200 or 500 most frequent for a set of results. An adaptation of the UK MEDLINE filter achieved an average of 97% recall. ONNS was significantly reduced using the filter. However, studies where the countries or regions are only mentioned within the full text or other non-searchable fields will be missed.

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Designing a framework for curriculum building in systematic review competencies for librarians: a case report

David P Farris; Rachael A Lebo; Carrie Price (2024) JMLA 112(4) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1930>

The authors present a case report on creating a framework for developing a new course in the Medical Library Association's Systematic Review Services Specialization. The objectives of the course were intended to align with six systematic review competencies for librarians developed and published by a group of health science librarians from the University of Michigan in 2017, which include 1) conducting a reference interview, 2) performing preliminary searches, 3) selecting appropriate resources to search, 4) building an extensive, comprehensive, and documented search strategy, 5) peer reviewing search strategies, and 6) reporting search methods. With these objectives in mind, the instructors created four separate modules and an activity.

Finding full texts in bulk: a comparison of EndNote 20 versus Zotero 6 using the University of York's subscriptions.

Helen A Fulbright; Connor Evans (2024) JMLA 112(3) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1880>

Using the University of York's subscriptions, the authors tested and compared EndNote and Zotero's full text retrieval. 1,000 records from four evidence synthesis projects were tested for the number of: full texts retrieved; available full texts retrieved; unique full texts (found by one program only); and differences in versions of full texts for the same record. They found that EndNote retrieved 47% of available full texts versus 52% by Zotero. Zotero was faster by 2 minutes 15 seconds. Each program found unique full texts. There were differences in full text versions retrieved between programs. For both programs, 99% of the retrieved full texts were accurate. Zotero was less consistent in the number of full texts it retrieved. They concluded that EndNote and Zotero do not find all available full texts. Users should not assume full texts are correct; are the version of record; or that records without full texts cannot be retrieved manually. Repeating the full text retrieval process multiple times could yield additional full texts. Users with access to EndNote and Zotero could use both for full text retrieval.

Exploring librarians' practices when teaching advanced searching for knowledge synthesis: results from an online survey.

Glyneva Bradley-Ridout; Robin Parker; Lindsey Sikora; Andrea Quaiattini; Kaitlin Fuller; Margaret Nevison; Erica Nekolaichuk (2024) JMLA 112(3) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1870>

This study identified the topics taught, approaches, and resources that academic health sciences librarians employ when teaching students how to conduct comprehensive searches for knowledge synthesis projects in group settings. The survey received responses from 114 participants, 74 of whom met the target population. They found that although searching related topics such as Boolean logic were the most frequent, librarians report teaching throughout the review process. Live demos and lectures were the most reported approaches to teaching, whereas gamification or student-driven learning were used rarely. Results suggest that librarian's application of formal pedagogical approaches while teaching knowledge synthesis may be under-utilized, as most respondents did not report using any formal instructional framework.

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Vol. 112 No. 4 (2024): October 2024 <https://jmla.mlanet.org/ojs/jmla>

Effect of librarian collaboration on otolaryngology systematic review and meta-analysis quality

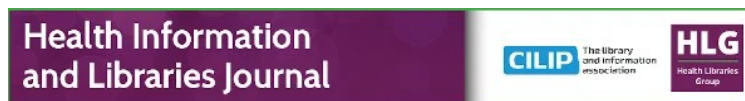
Rachel Whitney, AHIP; Michael C. Shih; Tamar Gordis; Shaun A. Nguyen; Ted A. Meyer; Emily A. Brennan (2024) JMLA 112(3) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1774>

In this retrospective cross-sectional study, PubMed was queried for systematic reviews and meta-analyses published in otolaryngology journals in 2010, 2015, and 2021. The main outcomes include association of librarian involvement with study reporting quality, search quality, and publication metrics in otolaryngology systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Librarian involvement was associated with improved reporting quality and search strategy quality. The study supports the inclusion of librarians in review teams, and journal editing and peer reviewing teams.

Large-scale systematic review support for guideline development in diabetes precision medicine

Maria Björklund; Krister Aronsson (2024) JMLA 112(3) <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2024.1863>

Involving librarians as team members can lead to better quality in reviews. To improve their search results, an international diabetes project involved two medical librarians in a large-scale project planning of a series of systematic reviews for clinical guidelines in diabetes precision medicine. This project gave opportunities to test methods not used before, such as overlap comparisons between whole search strategies. It also gave insights into the complexity of performing a search balancing sensitivity and specificity and highlights the need for a clearly defined communication plan for extensive evidence synthesis projects.



<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14711842>

Use and application of geographical restrictions in systematic reviews with the aim of including studies about Germany: an update of a methodological review

Catharina Munte MA, Alexander Pachanov, Julian Hirt, Falk Hoffmann, Rebecca Palm, Silvan Munschek, Dawid Pieper (2024) HILJ, <https://doi.org/10.1111/hir.12555>

In systematic reviews (SRs), geographical limitations in literature searches can aid in focussing research efforts. This study updated a methodological review published in 2016 that examined the approaches SR authors use to identify studies about Germany, analysing 36 SRs. Thirty-two additional SRs were newly included (total = 68). Geographic restrictions were applied in 57 SRs, representing 72% in the original review and increasing to 97% in the newly included SRs. Moreover, there was an increased use of truncations and field tags. They concluded that although geographical restriction methods are increasingly utilised, additional tools are necessary to enhance the robustness of search strategies. The development of a dedicated geographical search filter would facilitate the identification of studies about Germany.

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JEAHIL, 2024, 20(3)

<http://ojs.eahil.eu/ojs/index.php/JEAHIL>

Development of a competency framework for health information specialists in the Netherlands.

Chantal den Haan et al (2024) 20(3). J Eur Assoc Health Info Libr <https://ojs.eahil.eu/JEAHIL/article/view/632>

Competency frameworks are essential for identifying job-specific skills, highlighting training needs, and enabling skill development. Therefore, the Dutch Association for Biomedical Information Professionals (KNVI-BMI) created a framework for health information specialists. Competencies were defined as the integration of knowledge, skills, and attributes required for effective job performance. The framework was developed through literature review, job postings analyses, and consensus meetings to select and categorize relevant competencies. An expert opinion survey validated the preliminary framework. The final framework includes nine domains: 1) healthcare environment, 2) information and literature services, 3) management of information resources, 4) information systems, technology, and applications, 5) didactics and teaching of information literacy, 6) research methodology, 7) research data management, 8) leadership and management, and 9) professionalism.

“Lift off to leadership: elevate your impact by cultivating skills and mindset for working with senior leaders” – reflective highlights from EAHIL 2024.

Jamie Gray & Nicole Capdarest-Arest (2024) 20(3). J Eur Assoc Health Info Libr <https://ojs.eahil.eu/JEAHIL/article/view/629>

Effectively communicating and collaborating with senior leaders across an organization is an essential skillset for any library leader. This article highlights several key takeaways to consider when crafting a compelling business case or project proposal for your organizational decision-makers.

Contribution to the sustainability of the library in terms of climate change using the example of the acquisition department of a medical library.

Justyna Kopiec & Aleksandra Guziątek (2024) 20(3). J Eur Assoc Health Info Libr <https://ojs.eahil.eu/JEAHIL/article/view/633>

The fight against climate change is one of today's most critical issues. With their vital community role, libraries are obliged to be leaders in this fight by enhancing their sustainability. This study reviewed the literature to pinpoint sustainable practices for libraries, focusing on the role of the acquisition department. That became a reference point for an interview with the Medical University of Silesia's Library Acquisition Department, which, along with loan statistics and collection analysis, established the department's strategic initiatives for environmental sustainability. Furthermore, students and faculty were surveyed to determine their preferences and attitudes toward collection policy. Findings confirm the Acquisition Department's commitment to environmental sustainability, demonstrating a responsive and forward-thinking approach to collection development.

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evidence based
library & information practice

EBLIP 2024 19 (2)

<https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/ebliip/index.php/EBLIP>

Evidence based principles to accelerate health information flow and uptake among older adults. Ubels N, & Albrecht L (2024) EBLIP, 19(2), 109–118. <https://doi.org/10.18438/ebliip30529>

This article describes the development of evidence-based principles for increasing health information flow among older adults and how those principles were implemented in a major knowledge mobilization project in Canada. An understanding of the information needs, behaviours, and contexts of health care providers was embedded within their organization, however, the authors lacked critical information about older adult patterns of seeking, encountering, receiving, and integrating health information. Effective information flow can be understood as three interdependent domains: people, venue, and formats, which is how the review findings are presented.

This is your HINT!

HINT is the newsletter of the Health Sciences Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland. It is compiled and produced by the HINT Editorial Team.

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