HSLG conference 2026

Celebrating Our Collective Power: Finding Strength in Difference
Ashling Hotel, Dublin, 12 March 2026 #HSLG #medlibs

09.15–09.45	Registration, refreshments, networking with colleagues and sponsors
09.45–10.00	**Welcome address —** Niamh Lucey, Chair HSLG
10.00–11.00	**Keynote speaker: Brendan Kelly, Professor of Psychiatry —** Information, intelligence, instinct: navigating knowledge in an ocean of AI.
11.00–11.35	**Tony Linnane —** One-person libraries in healthcare settings.
	Bryn Murphy & Emily Adydan — Growing together: scaffolding systematic review training for early-career librarians.
	Platinum sponsor— Ovid and UpToDate from Wolters Kluwer
11.35–12.05	**Coffee with sponsors**
12.05–13.00	Platinum sponsor — Ovid and UpToDate from Wolters Kluwer
	Niamh Walker-Headon — HSE Library partner organisation collaborations.
	Bennery Rickard — HSE Library day, 24th September 2025: light a big fire.
	Louise Farragher & Aoife Lawton — A national eHealth Library for all – how can we meet the needs of a nation?
13.00–14.00	**Light lunch in the conference area**
14.00–14.45	**Mairéad McKeown & David Lombard —** Preparing future talent for the AI Era: the Bord Bia & UCD Michael Smurfit Business School - International Graduate Copilot Upskilling Programme.
	Mary Hearne — Beyond the individual: a collective approach to AI literacy for librarians.
14.45–15.00	**Coffee with sponsors**
15.00–17.00	**Workshop: Aphra Kerr, Professor of Digital Media and Communication —** Libraries, Expertise and Literacy in the AI Era: a hands-on workshop for busy professionals.
17.00	Close
17.15	Drinks reception in Nancy Hands

Keynote speaker

Brendan Kelly — Information, Intelligence, Instinct: Navigating Knowledge in an Ocean of AI
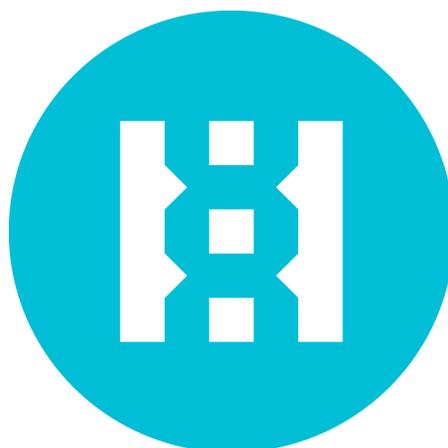
Artificial intelligence is increasingly shaping how health information is created, accessed, summarised, and shared. From literature searching and evidence synthesis to public-facing health information, AI systems now sit alongside established information practices. Used thoughtfully, these tools offer opportunities to improve access, efficiency, and responsiveness in a diverse and complex health information environment.

This talk explores these developments through the lens of information, intelligence, and instinct. It begins with information: the growing scale and reach of AI-mediated health knowledge, and the potential of AI tools to help navigate, synthesise, and personalise information for users with differing needs, backgrounds, and levels of health literacy. It then considers intelligence, examining what contemporary AI systems can and cannot do, including their capacity to reveal patterns, challenge assumptions, and - when carefully designed and monitored - help identify or mitigate human blind spots and unconscious biases. At the same time, the risks of bias amplification, opacity, and misplaced authority are openly acknowledged.

The final section focuses on instinct: the human qualities that remain central to good health information work. Professional judgement, ethical sensitivity, cultural awareness, and humility are essential in deciding when AI supports equity and when it may undermine it. Learning is a shared and ongoing process - learning about AI. systems, learning from diverse users, and learning to reflect critically on our own assumptions and practices.

Brendan Kelly is **Professor of Psychiatry** at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Psychiatrist at Tallaght University Hospital. In addition to his medical degree (MB BCh BAO), he holds masters degrees in epidemiology (MSc), healthcare management (MA), Buddhist studies (MA), and mindfulness-based interventions (MSc); doctorates in medicine (MD), history (PhD), governance (DGov), and law (PhD), and a higher doctorate in history (DLitt). Professor Kelly has authored and co-authored over 400 publications in peer-reviewed journals, over 800 non-peer-reviewed publications, and 23 books, including 'Asylum: Inside Grangegorman' (2023) and 'Buddhism and Psychiatry: Moving Beyond Mindfulness in Mental Health Care' (2025).

Tony Linnane — One-person libraries in healthcare settings

One-person libraries, also known as solo-staffed or single-staffed libraries, are a common feature within healthcare and academic organisations. Solo librarians manage all aspects of their service independently, from acquisitions and cataloguing to research support and space management. While this role offers significant autonomy, variety, and professional growth opportunities, it also comes with serious challenges. These include isolation, workload pressures, service discontinuity, and the physical challenge of geographical distance from peers.

This opinion piece examines the realities of solo librarianship in healthcare contexts, outlining both the benefits and drawbacks of the role. It highlights strategies for supporting solo library staff (librarians/library assistants), protecting library spaces, and ensuring the sustainability of services that are often undervalued yet essential to clinical excellence, education, and staff wellbeing.

Tony Linnane is Area Library Manager for the HSE Library service based in Galway. He received his primary degree from NUIG. Librarian since the 90's, when America used try to do good in the World. He has spent time in England working in the British Library and the University of London. Since 1998 he has worked as a healthcare Librarian with the HSE. He was Chair of the group which set up the national eLibrary, www.hselibrary.ie. And is responsible for pillar 2 of the HSE strategy.

Bryn Murphy & Emily Adydan — Growing together: scaffolding systematic review training for early-career librarians

Two early-career librarians (one in their first year, one in their second) at Vanderbilt University Eskind Biomedical Library underwent a two-year scaffolded training process before joining the review services team.

Progress was tracked through both an external specialization process (online courses and webinars), and an informal mentoring system (practice searches, feedback, and consultation observations). As part of the ongoing process, the first-year librarian continues to join in on consults with colleagues and perform practice searches. They will be added to the review service upon completion of mentoring at the end of the academic year.

The scaffolding process provides a positive experience, with low stress and high support. Robust peer review and feedback from colleagues proved essential components in the advancement of each librarian's skillsets. Formalizing this approach could benefit future librarians in similar working environments.

Bryn Murphy works as one of the Health Sciences Informationists at Eskind Biomedical Library at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Bryn holds an MLIS degree from University College Dublin and previously worked as an education and instruction librarian. With nearly two and a half years of experience in upper education health sciences informatics, Bryn's areas of expertise include instructional pedagogy, consumer health, and citation management software such as Zotero.

Emily Adydan is a Health Sciences Librarian at the Eskind Biomedical Library at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. She has a master's degree in library science from the University of Kentucky, School of School of Information Science, where she interned with the National Library of Medicine. Emily holds a Systematic Review Services Specialization I from the Medical Library Association and has received formalized training in evidence-based practice through the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Her main areas of interest are equity in university libraries and evidence-based medicine in healthcare.

Niamh Walker-Headon — HSE Library Partner Organisation Collaborations

HSE Library has a history of engaging in collaborative projects such as HJNI, NULJ, and the provision of access to BMJ Best Practice via national IP. In addition, HSE Library provides access to 'eLibrary' services for over 15 public sector organisations. These vary in type and size. This service is formalised via a collaborative agreement document. This collaboration via technology can and does deliver impact.

As part of this service, HSE Library undertakes procurement, sets up authentication and provides support to the organisation and the individual user. The procurement element of the service includes tendering at EU level, and the associated documents and contracts for eLibrary Resources. Authentication from March 2026 is via OpenAthens, allowing for reporting and off site access, while providing secure authentication for the user. Support is via a LibAnswers helpdesk queue, this ensure more than one person can step in to solve an issue, and that trends with access issues are easily identified. Training is provided addressing OpenAthens and accessing resources. In 2026 we intend to investigate providing counter 5.1 dashboards.

Niamh Walker-Headon MSc Lis, ALAI is the Library Resources Manager at the Hse Library with responsibility for procurement and library systems. Ensuring access to eLibrary resources and library systems is at the core of this role. Niamh was the systems librarian at TU Dublin Tallaght Campus for 18 years before she took up her role in the Hse in 2020.

Straddling two areas of responsibility is the provision of access to a subset of the HSE eLibrary resources to Section 38 & 39 organisations etc. This includes collaborative agreements, contract negotiations and the provision of access via OpenAthens to the agreed resources.

Bennery Rickard — HSE Library Day, 24th September 2025: Light a big fire

The inaugural HSE Library Day took place in September 2025, highlighting the essential role libraries play in supporting evidence-based practice, professional learning, and improved patient care.

This presentation explores how HSE Libraries planned, delivered, and evaluated a national day of celebration. Our libraries are dynamic, responsive knowledge hubs that empower health professionals to make evidence-informed decisions daily. On the day, we demonstrated that through the provision of trusted resources such as clinical guidelines, systematic reviews, clinical decision making tools and services such as evidence searches and information literacy training, that libraries and library staff make a real difference to patient outcomes.

Outlining our journey from vision to impact, three key dimensions will be explored. First, the work of our Marketing Group in planning, promoting, and coordinating the day.

Second, how HSE library staff country wide delivered diverse activities including pop-up information stands, resource showcases, training workshops, mindfulness sessions, coffee mornings, and interactive competitions. Third, our collaboration with senior stakeholders to deliver the national webinar "Bridging the Gap: Empowering Evidence-Based Practice through Research and Library Resources 2025," where library leaders and health professionals examined how evidence and research are shaping Irish healthcare. Finally, we'll share our findings—what worked, what didn't, and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

Bennery Rickard, is an Area Library Manager at the Health Service Executive (HSE), directing library services in HSE Dublin Midlands and HSE Dublin North East. She joined the Eastern Health Board in1998 and throughout her career served on the Health Sciences Library Group, Careers Development Group and the Executive Council of the Library Association of Ireland. Bennery has a strong interest in health literacy, cross-sector collaboration and a new found curiosity for library marketing.

Louise Farragher & Aoife Lawton — How do we ensure our services meet the varied needs of library users

A national eHealth Library for all – how can we meet the needs of a nation? Aoife and Louise discuss progress to date with a national eHealth library for Ireland, next steps and the challenges and opportunities involved.

Introduction: The CHAD report was published in 2021 with a set of recommendations for the HSE Library service, some have been implemented, some have not. To propel this project to the next level a national eHealth library steering group was set up in 2025. Two working subgroups arose from this, chaired by L. Farragher and A. Lawton respectively.

Methods: The working groups work independently on a business case and a roadmap for a national eHealth library. A pilot website ehealthlibrary.ie went live in December 2025 with the support of the HRB, HSE and HSLG. The pilot will be assessed together with a survey and interviews with key library users in 2026.

Results: the results from the survey, interviews and pilot website will help inform the work of both groups and drive the alignment of the national eHealth library with the varied needs of healthcare workers in Ireland.

Conclusion: the project is estimated to take two years. Although good examples exist in other countries of similar initiatives, in Ireland we have the willingness, we need to find the way. Key to this 'way' is working in broad, inclusive partnership and listening closely to users, including patient representatives. This will help to ensure that the project will address the varied eHealth Library needs of the nation.

Aoife Lawton is the HSE National Health Service Librarian, the first person to hold this role since its creation in 2016. Aoife oversees the implementation of library strategies for the HSE Library service and is responsible for ensuring any assigned national service plan objectives related to the library are implemented. Aoife contributes to library futures through being a Board member of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries and 5 Nations Knowledge Exchange Group. Aoife holds a Masters in Library & Information Studies from University College Dublin and BA from Trinity College Dublin.

Louise Farragher is an information specialist with over 20 years' experience in health libraries. She currently leads a team of information specialists in the HRB's Evidence Centre providing specialist information support across the full range of evidence review and related evidence products.

Mairéad McKeown and David Lombard – Preparing Future Talent for the AI Era: The Bord Bia & UCD Michael Smurfit Business School - International Graduate Copilot Upskilling Programme

"The Bord Bia Graduate Copilot Upskilling Programme is an innovative initiative embedded within the MSc Global Business Practice—Bord Bia's flagship graduate programme in conjunction with the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School. Designed to prepare future talent for Ireland's food industry, the Copilot action learning programme equips graduates with essential digital and AI literacy skills needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving world.

Our presentation details the journey from the programme's inception to the successful rollout and assessment of a three-phase curriculum. Graduates from varied backgrounds took part in self-directed LinkedIn Learning, hands-on Microsoft Copilot experimentation and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and reflection. This strategy-built adaptability, creativity, and efficiency, while fostering a community of practice and developing a prompt library and use cases focused on real Bord Bia business challenges in the flow of work.

By developing our own AI skills, we were able to innovate in library service delivery and promote AI literacy, benefiting not only the graduates but creating a ripple effect throughout Bord Bia teams. The programme's success is reflected in higher adoption of AI tools, enhanced digital skills, and lessons that will shape future iterations.

This session will provide practical insights for librarians and information professionals aiming to harness technology, deliver impact, engage learners, build resilience, and foster lifelong learning amid change. We will present the programme objectives, outcomes, outline, evaluation, and the insights gained first-hand.

Mairéad McKeown is the manager of Knowledge & Market Intelligence, incorporating Library & Information at Bord Bia. She holds a higher diploma in Library & Information studies. She is a Certified Knowledge Manager, also certified in Conversational Leadership and Knowledge Management and Enterprise AI, and an active member of the Government Libraries Section of the LAI and local and global Knowledge Management communities of practice. She has been awarded Senior Associateship by the Library Association of Ireland. Mairéad provides access to knowledge, information and insight and facilitates conversations that help people navigate and adapt to our complex world.

David Lombard is a finance professional serving as an Accounts Administrator at An Bord Bia, working with the EU Co-Funded Promotions team. He has a degree in Electronic Engineering and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Studies. He brings over 15 years of expertise in managing the financial aspects of EU funded programmes. He has a keen interest in Technology and always looking at ways of leveraging it to improve business processes.

Mary Hearne — Beyond the individual: a collective approach to AI literacy for librarians

Expectations around AI in libraries are escalating rapidly, from user guidance and vendor evaluation to workflow automation and critical appraisal. As highlighted in recent HSLG conference keynotes, the demand for AI literacy is high, yet many library staff feel ill-equipped to meet it. With time and resources already constrained, the pressure to upskill often feels like an overwhelming individual burden.

This presentation argues that no single librarian can know everything about AI, and that our success will be defined not by individual heroism, but by collective action. Drawing on 15 years of industry experience as an AI Linguist (a novel role marked by the constant need to adapt to AI evolutions) and findings from my recent MLIS Capstone project, I will outline a practical framework for shared progress. Moving beyond the idea of the "expert individual," we will explore specific, collective interventions, including:

 - Sectoral Alignment: Establishing baseline learning objectives and certifying training through existing CPD bodies.

 - Resource Sharing: Leveraging Open Educational Resources (OERs) and partnerships with expert bodies (e.g., Adapt, AlgoWatch) to reduce duplication of effort.

 AI Literacy specialist **Mary Hearne** is a Research Assistant at the Health Professions Education Centre in RCSI, applying her dual background in AI research (PhD, DCU, 2005) and information pedagogy (MLIS, 2025). She has over 15 years of industry experience at LinkedIn and Google, where her work on AI included systematic critical appraisal and data curation. Her current focus is on developing AI literacy training for healthcare professionals. Her MLIS research, which examines the professional challenges facing Irish libraries in supporting AI literacy, directly informs her talk on a collective upskilling approach for librarians.

Aphra Kerr — Libraries, Expertise and Literacy in the AI Era: a hands-on workshop for busy professionals

Specialist libraries provide important spaces for access to knowledge, learning and guidelines on appropriate use of digital research tools. At the centre must be the librarian whose media and information skills are core to shaping the information culture of the library, selecting appropriate online tools and guiding library users. AI literacy is a much talked about concept, but it is crucial that it is informed by a robust media and information literacy approach grounded and grounded in competency frameworks. This workshop will provide a media literacy and competency informed approach to understanding AI and allow space to discuss concerns and strategies for appropriate use of AI tools, building upon ongoing research projects and the talks earlier in the day. Bring your phone or a larger device if you prefer. No prior AI knowledge will be assumed.

Aphra Kerr is **Professor of Digital Media and Communication** at the School of Information and Communication Studies at University College Dublin in Ireland and co-PI at the ADAPT Research Ireland Centre for AI and Digital Content Technology (2021-2026). Her research and teaching focuses on the ethics and values underpinning the design and governance of AI. She is co-PI of the FORSEE project (2025-2028) which researches how to shape more socially successful AI applications and is funded by Horizon Europe. She was co-PI on the Algowatch project (2023-2025) funded by Creative Europe. This project co-created interactive resources to improve algorithmic and AI literacy, critical thinking and digital competencies, including developing workshops for AI literacy. Aphra has a PhD in Communication Studies (DCU, 2000). See more at https://people.ucd.ie/aphra.kerr and you will find her on Linked in, and @aphrak.bsky.com

The Health Sciences Libraries Journal (HSLJ) is the official journal of the Health Sciences Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland. Our purpose is to provide a forum for those working in the library and information sector to share and showcase knowledge and experience. Through harnessing our collective knowledge, we aim to enhance our ability to make evidence-informed decisions in practice, enable creativity and change, and promote our value and professional abilities. https://hslg.ie/hslj/

The HSLG of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) represents the interests and concerns of those who work in Irish health libraries and associated information settings. Membership is open to all members of the LAI.

Email: contacthslg@gmail.com

Our website: https://hslg.ie/

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/health-sciences-libraries-group/

Social media: @healthlibraries.bsky.social

Membership in the HSLG entitles members to reduced fees for attending HSLG events, eligibility for bursaries, and participation in the committee.

If you are not an LAI member, you can still join our **email discussion list** (which is open to any information professional with an interest in health information and librarianship). To join the discussion list, fill in our application form at https://hslg.ie/about/.

Our **Virtual Journal Club** (VJC) is open to everyone included in the HSLG email discussion list. To see more information, check out the website https://hslg.ie/hslg-virtual-journal-club/. You can see details of past discussions and upcoming meetings.

The website is also the place to find out about upcoming events in our **calendar** https://hslg.ie/calendar/ and our **mentoring programme** https://hslg.ie/mentoring-training/

And don't forget to submit an article to our **journal** https://hslg.ie/hslj/

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