

Report of the Pharmaceutical Information Special Interest Group



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The meeting was held on Wednesday 11th July 2018, 17:30 – 18:30, in the Gibson Studio, at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff. A brief report is given below.

Attendees

Six people attended the meeting. Five librarians work in information services in pharmaceutical companies and 1 in a higher education institution.

EAHIL Continuing Education Courses

The Chair invited everyone to share their experiences of any Continuing Education Courses they may have attended. Delegates attended the sessions on the following topics: open source tools used for text data mining (TDM); resource licencing; student-activated information literacy; critical appraisal in health care research; gamification; synchronous online teaching. All delegates gave positive feedback on the sessions, some remarking on the immediate applicability of the content in their local settings.

Resource Discovery

The secretary asked what benefit this special interest group would have to members. One delegate highlighted the group's potential as a good forum for networking and sharing ideas. There was near-consensus that pharmaceutical industry librarians sometimes work in isolation and initiate their own solutions or make individual purchase agreements. One hot topic discussed in detail was resource discovery and delivery, which is moving from the model of licenced material on a commercial discovery platform to an on-demand document delivery service. One delegate recommended 'RightFind', a copyright clearance company based in the United States that supplies articles on a token scheme. One company uses subscriptions, pre-paid tokens, document delivery or links to Open Access articles. Another company has subscriptions and pre-paid tokens.

Analysis of resource usage

Every information service represented conducts granular analysis of usage of subscribed material to anticipate trends, justify spending and improve budget allocation. One delegate can see how many times an article has been downloaded.

One attendee noted that PubMed users select the institutional link resolver link over Open Access ones. This is useful because it generates statistical data. Analysis also reveals to the same librarian that there has been a significant number of turn-aways from pay-walled articles, which does not correlate to the number

of document delivery requests received. It was that suggested new models of statistical data may reveal topical trends but for now it is mostly used for spending justification.

It was suggested that one topical focus of the group should be Text Data Mining (TDM) and Big Data. This could well be the future of literature research and it was argued that we should know how it works. All present supported the notion that TDM should be a topic for the group.

Importantly however, all attendees were mindful of protecting copyright and IP when sharing news and views.

Inter-sector harmony

Making reference to the minutes of the meeting in Dublin, one delegate reported that, as an information professional in industry, they had experienced offensive and prejudicial hostility from clinical librarians at conferences, although not necessarily at EAHIL. Another delegate reported the same. All present found the hostility perplexing and upsetting, whether they had experienced it themselves or not. Another delegate argued that there is no need to apologise for working in industry, which in their experience is collegiate and purposeful. Another delegate described the daily prejudice experienced as a librarian (regardless of the sector) from other professionals and members of the public.

Summary

The group adopted two themes for future action:

- improve the group's visibility and reach so that it becomes a positive network, particularly for people working in industry;
- explore TDM and its usage as a topical interest for the group with the potential for developing expertise and advocacy.

The next meeting will be in Basel in 2019.