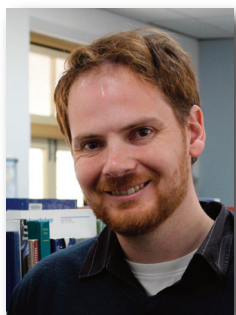


An update from Health Libraries Australia



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Health Libraries Australia (HLA) continues to be impacted by the global uncertainties surrounding disease, disasters, and despair. Nevertheless, much good work continues to be achieved and progress for the profession continues to be made.

HLA recently launched [a new website](#), which, in addition to a refreshed look and feel, will allow for improved communications with members alongside better showcasing of events and activities.

[JoHILA](#), the Journal of Health Information and Libraries Australasia, was launched in 2020, evolving out of a quarterly newsletter. It is published three times a year, providing a regional forum for scholarly communication concerning health libraries and health information. Though the focus of the journal, for both audiences and authors, is Australia and New Zealand and the Asia Pacific, international submissions (and readers) are welcome. Indeed, a highlight of the most recent issue was [an article](#) by Irish colleagues titled “Motorways to boreens: the story of the Irish Health Sciences Libraries Groups virtual journal club”.

Health Libraries Australia offers an annual innovation award and a biennial research award, with prizemoney going to further investment in ideas and novel uses of technology. Recent recipients have included [a podcast about health libraries called Shoosh](#); [a digital room booking system](#); and [research into improving the development and reporting of search filters](#).

Professional development continues to be a strong focus of HLA. In 2021 workshops included

- Automation tools for systematic searching
- Wichor Bramer presenting on systematic searching
- Discussion of the PRISMA 2020 guidelines
- A research smorgasboard with topics ranging from registered reports to research profiles to bibliometric impact measurement to digital archives to the librarian’s role in research ethics committees.
- All thing open access
- Marketing
- Designing posters and infographics
- Health literacy and the Australian “My Health Record”.

In 2022 workshops are planned around consortia and procurement purchasing, search design for systematic searching, next generation health librarians, citation analysis, and identifying unpublished trial data.

HLA continues to make active contributions to wide-ranging discussions being held in the broad library and information professional community in Australia regarding professional pathways and accreditation and industry specific education and the like. As well, the fifth edition of “Guidelines for Australian Health Library and Information Services” will be launched in 2022. Much has changed since the fourth edition was published in 2008. For this edition of the Guidelines, the Reference Group decided at the outset that to guide their decision making regarding both the structure and the content of the Guidelines, while achieving the goals of being aspirational rather than minimum standards, inclusive and practically applicable in a diverse range of settings, and becoming more evidence-based, an explicit statement of purpose was needed. The following statement was drafted:

The Guidelines provide a strategic framework for the planning, development and delivery of services, and for quality improvement of health Library and Information Services (LIS) across sectors. Health LIS enable their organisations to deliver sustainable, quality, safe, evidence-based:

- patient/client-centred care;
- health system policy, planning and programs;
- data, information and knowledge management;
- research, innovation and development; and
- education, teaching and learning.

Not simply a functional statement about how the Guidelines may be used, this Statement of Purpose places health libraries firmly in the context of their parent organisations’ core business, key to their organisations’ achievement of their strategies, goals and operations.

Despite all of the challenges of the last couple of years, and in some cases inspired by new ways of working, health libraries in Australia continue to advocate for better access to health information and better use of evidence in health care. HLA is grateful for the collegial relationship it shares with EAHIL and looks forward to further collaborations, conferences, and creativity in the future.