

Report from the International Clinical Librarian Conference

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Abstract

The EAHIL 2015 Workshop provided an opportunity for the International Clinical Librarian Conference (ICLC) to run a satellite conference before the official opening of the Workshop. ICLC aim to hold bi-annual conferences either stand alone, or in collaboration with another meeting. Aimed at those with an interest in clinical or outreach librarianship the 2015 ICLC welcomed a range of presentations on this field of work.

Key words: clinical librarian; ICLC; outreach; conference; informationist.

Introduction

The International Clinical Librarian Conference (ICLC) was held on the first morning of the Workshop and was led by co-chairs Louise Hull and Pip Divall. Over 50 delegates attended with representation from a wide range of countries including Australia, USA, Turkey, Italy, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

We were extremely honoured to have Blair Anton from the Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University as our keynote speaker. She gave a talk on their study into how often clinical questions get answered when they arise during hospital shifts (see here for the full paper <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4076130/>). They found that many questions carried over from shift to shift with 38% never knowingly being resolved.

Catherine Voutier from the Royal Melbourne Hospital talked next about the HLA Journal Club. She showed us the website and described how the

journal club (aimed at medical librarians) worked, with a new article to appraise every month. There are a number of headings to consider in each article including objectives, population, study design, bias, results and conclusion. Participants can add their comments on an article at the bottom of each page, for others to view. There was some interest from delegates to get involved if the opportunity arose.

A quick switch around of the programme due to technical issues led us to hear from Steve Glover and Jo Whitcombe from Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. They talked about their involvement in a Stillbirth Priority Setting Partnership, who had requested the libraries help once the project was underway (leading to a short timescale)! 261 questions were identified to be answered via literature searches, within a month. It was useful to hear that they had costed the time involved which then led to income generation for the library. They also found it to be good to raise the profile of the library and their subject knowledge in this area.

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Gussun Gunes was next up presenting her work with nurse researchers, specifically on the topic of breast cancer screening. She helped with the whole systematic review process, leading nurses through the stages of literature searching, critically appraising, as well as reviewing the final draft. The main problems she mentioned were that nurse researchers lack time and skills for database searching. She highlighted the rewards of this type of work by being named as an author on the final paper.

Our penultimate talk was from a Librarian/Medical Student pairing of Tom Roper and Kathryn Crook from Brighton and Sussex. They discussed the evaluation and impact of the role of the Clinical Librarian, which is always a hot topic in this field. They looked at identifying those utilising the CL service as well as the outcome of searches, then evaluating the literature searches and looking for a link between the searches and documentation. They found searches were used for multiple purposes and many in documentation, gaining some very useful feedback in the process.

Imrana Ghumra from Health Education England (HEE) was our last speaker. She talked about how HEE are currently carrying out work into transforming knowledge services and need help from Clinical Librarians to shape competencies for workforce development. There are a number of workstreams that are helping to progress this work and any comments or feedback on their visions

would be most welcome. Further information available here <http://hee.nhs.uk/wp-content/blogs.dir/321/files/2014/12/Knowledge-forhealthcare-re-framework.pdf> and here <https://hee.nhs.uk/work-programmes/library-and-knowledge-services/>

ICLC closed with a short video encouraging participation in our next conference, a joint meeting with MLA, CHLA and ABSC in Toronto, Canada in 2016. We hope to see as many of you there as possible! On behalf of ICLC we would like to extend our thanks to everyone involved in the organising of EAHIL 2015, particularly Marshall Dozier. We loved our time in sunny Edinburgh, and thoroughly enjoyed the rest of the Workshop.

