Reader Survey

Thank you to the many members of *SHINE* who took time to complete the Reader Survey included with the last issue of Interim. In all I received 51 completed questionnaires, a response rate of some 43%.

In the opinion of the overwhelming majority of readers (98%), *Interim* is fulfilling its aim of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, and reporting on the activities of the network. The 2% who thought that the aim was not being fulfilled, felt that it was not current enough.

I hope to redress this problem in coming months by publishing 4 issues of *Interim* a year. This is in line with the majority of 51% of readers who thought that publication should be more frequent, with most of them opting for quarterly.

Useful ideas for further issues were also suggested, some of which are incorporated in this one. These include more graphics, etc to lighten the dense print, a Chair's column, and a library profile.

I hope you find the new-look Interim informative, and enjoyable to read.

Please keep those contributions coming.

Dorothy McGinley
Editor

A full analysis of the survey is available on request.

Contents

2000 AGM - Outgoing Chair's Report of 1999

Since the 1999 AGM in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, SHINE has had a busy year.

The Committee members for 1999 were:

Alison Aiton, James Beaton, Charlotte Boulnois, Avril Conacher, Katrina Dalziel, Margaret Forrest, Enid Forsyth, Richard German, Gill Hewitt, Isla Imrie, Moira Livingstone, Dorothy McGinley, Alison McIntosh, Ann Wales, and Madeleine Young.

Courses

Five courses were held over the year. The main study day was on copyright. This was held in December in the Signet Library in Edinburgh, and comprised a session with Sandy Norman, as well as a question and answer forum in the afternoon where the panellists included David Hart, Law Librarian from Dundee University and Jim McNeillage form the Copyright Licensing Agency. From feedback and comments received, this was deemed a highly successful day.

Two one-day courses on 'Pubmed and medical information sources on the Internet' were held in 1999. We also repeated the highly successful Cochrane study days. Thanks to Alex Haig and Ruth Frankish for their input.

Membership

As of May 1999 the membership of SHINE was 115. This did not include those who were late paying, and it probable that the total membership for the year was close to the 121 in 1999.

External Relationships
SHINE has continued to be represented on SLIC, where the Rep. is Alison MacIntosh. I have been the representative on the NHS Regional Librarians' Group and the LINC Health Panel. The Regional Librarians' Group has proved to be very active and has been useful in acting as a sounding board while SHINE has been trying to push ahead with the implementation of "Enabling Access". The RLG visited Edinburgh in September 1999, and this was a useful visit, as it enabled SHINE to demonstrate it's role in supporting and representing Scottish Health Libraries. It also enabled members of the Scottish Executive Working Party, who at that time, were tasked with implementing "Enabling Access" to meet with members of RLG and to share with them their experience of the strategic implementation of US provision in England.

Interim
2 issues of Interim appeared in 1999.

Implementation of "Enabling Access"
This has been a major focus of the Committee over 1999, and in conjunction with SLIC, the Committee had been trying to persuade the Scottish Executive to implement the recommendations of the report. However, little progress was made until December 1999, when "Learning Together", a new education strategy for the NHS in Scotland was unveiled. This quoted "Enabling Access" and indicated that US in the NHS in Scotland would develop along the lines of the proposals in the SLIC report. Although it is early days as yet, it is hoped that there will be progress on this front. Certainly, the first MEL relating to "Learning Together" has been issued by the Scottish Executive, and while it is aimed at Chief Executives of Trusts and Health Boards, it was gratifying to note that it was also circulated to NHS Librarians, for one of the first, if not *the* first time.

Thanks
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues in SHINE, whether on the Committee or not, for their support throughout the period I have been Chair, firstly on a joint basis with Maureen Thom, and secondly over the past year when I have been the sole occupant of the office. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish SHINE all the very best for what promises to be an exciting and challenging future.

James Beaton
Chair
3rd April 2000

James is Librarian at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow.

New Chair for SHINE

At the SHINE AGM in April this year, I was delighted to be "sworn in" as the new Chair of SHINE. The significant role played by SHINE's immediate past chair, James Beaton, will be a challenging act to follow. I would like to take the opportunity here to thank James for all his hard work and dedication to SHINE and look forward to working with him again in the future.

My experience in healthcare libraries dates from the early 1980s when I worked at the Medical Library of Edinburgh's Western General Hospital and later, as Hospital Librarian, at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The latter post was mainly based in the General (or Patients') Library of the hospital and gave me my first opportunity to be involved in the provision of consumer health information and reading therapy. It was also at this time that I joined the committee of SHINE's predecessor, ASHSL, as the patients' library representative. It was a wonderful experience to be on the committee of ASHSL at the time of ASHSL's successful proposal to the Scottish Health Education Group (HEBS's predecessor) for the setting up of the original 'Health Search Scotland' database. (The work of this early project is still going strong in the form of the 'support groups' database of HEBSonCD and HEBSWeb).

When my two daughters were very young, I was able to maintain my interest in health information through working on a part-time and freelance basis for the Scottish Health Education Group. In 1991 I started working as a member of staff of the Health Education Board for Scotland (HEBS) and from 1994 I have been responsible for the management of its Library, the Health Promotion Library Scotland.

As Chair of SHINE I very much hope to see the continuation of the successful hard work done by SHINE members in the promotion of healthcare library and information services to health professionals and the people of Scotland. I am very interested to hear the views of SHINE members on what you believe the Committee should focus its attention. Please contact me by e-mail (margaret.forrest@hebs.scot.nhs.uk), fax (0131-536-5502), or textphone (0131-536-5593). My deafness makes it increasingly difficult for me to hear on the voice phone. However, I would be delighted to meet as many SHINE members as possible, both at SHINE study days and on your next trip to Edinburgh where you will be very welcome to visit the Health Promotion Library Scotland.

Margaret Forrest

H   E   B   S

Web Sites to Bookmark

Evidence-Based Healthcare

McMaster University EBM Home Page. The Health Information Research Unit is one of the best one-stop EBM sites available at

hiru.mcmaster.ca/ebm/default.htm

Contents include: an Overview description of EBM; Quicklinks to 17 search engines, 26 health resource directories, 16 users' guides to medical literature and links to EBM bibliographies, reviews, article databases and discussion lists; User Guides which link to over 70 self-directed EBM learning modules.

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. Based at the University of Oxford, this site is available at

http://www.cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/

and provides general information on the principles of EBM. It links to the EBM Toolbox, a collection of useful EBM tools, provides a glossary of EBM terms and tools, and provides information to encourage and enable physicians to learn about EBM in practice settings.

Clinical Evidence 1999 offers research findings on clinical questions at

www.bmjpg.com/evid99/index.html

and includes links to BMJ Publishing's extensive EBM resources, including books, journals and CD ROMs, plus other EBM sites.

University of York Centre for Health Economics provides links to collaborative research on economic evaluation and health technology assessment aspects of EBM at

www.york.ac.uk/inst/che/evaluati.htm

University of York NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. The focus of this site is on systematic reviews, and it can be found at

http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/

Most reviews are available as online full text.

UK Clearing House on Health Outcomes at

www.leeds.ac.uk/nuffield/infoservices/UKCH/home.html

is a good site to visit for explanations of what outcomes are; why they are necessary and the kind of instruments used to measure them. They offer 10 Information Sheets on measuring outcomes in general.

ACP Online – Annals of Internal Medicine: the relationship between systematic reviews and practice guidelines is found at

www.acponline.org/journals/annals/01aug97/systrev.htm

on the American College of Physicians site. The 13-page article explains the distinction between a systematic review and a practice guideline, and contains a 58-item bibliography.

The US Agency of Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) Clinical Information provides online access to health technology assessments and reviews from 1990 to 1996 and is available at

www.ahcpr.gov:80/clinic/assess.htm

Conference Listings

Doctors' Guide to Medical Conferences and Meetings at

www.pslgroup.com/medconf.htm

gives over 5,000 events in over 80 countries.

Mediconf is a subscription database of 8000 events, with the first 1000 free to be browsed by country and specialty. It is available at

www.mediconf.com/index.html

The Canadian Medical Association produces an international conference listing at

www.cma.ca/prodev/conf.htm

Journal Searching

Biomedical Journals on the Internet: the promise and the reality contains questions that clinicians and library and information professionals often ask about finding journals and journal articles on the Internet. It has been developed by medical librarians at the Dykes Library of Kansas University Medical Center, and can be found at

www.kumc.edu/service/dykes/classes/journals.htm

Alison McIntosh,
Chief Scientist Office

NEWS

The first Hazel Williamson Bursary has been awarded to Catriona Denoon, librarian at Stobhill Hospital in Glasgow. Catriona will be attending the 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship in London from the 2nd to the 5th of July with the help of the Bursary.

Con**v**erge
on London

We look forward to hearing from Catriona about her impressions of the Congress.

Reports from other SHINE members attending this presitigious event will also be welcomed for inclusion in a future issue of *Interim*.

There is still time to register for the Congress as late bookings will be accepted until the 10th June. Full details of the programme can be found on the 8ICML website at www.icml.org

Library Profile

For the first in this new series we visit the Granite City of Aberdeen and the Library and Information Service of Grampian Primary Care NHS Trust at the Royal Cornhill Hospital.

About the Library and Information Service

The principal Grampian Primary Care Trust library is located in the main concourse of the Clerkseat Building at Royal Cornhill Hospital. Through our collaboration initiative we maintain close links with Aberdeen University Library in particular the Medical School Library at Foresterhill.

Grampian Primary Care Trust Library offers an information service (free at point of delivery) to all Grampian Primary Care staff. The library service supports Trust staff to deliver high standards of clinical care, service development, research, education and training through access, help and effective use of all facilities available to them.

Our current collaboration with Aberdeen University Library gives all Grampian Primary Care staff, access to an extensive range of facilities and expertise free of charge. Similarly Aberdeen University members have access to a wide range of our facilities. Members are not limited to the resources available from the Trust or Aberdeen University Libraries. We are a gateway to local, national and international resources, whether through Interlibrary loan or Internet access to databases worldwide.

Currently being developed at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin is a library facility on site. This is a joint working initiative with Grampian University Hospitals Trust. Grampian Primary Care Trust staff will have access to this facility. For further information please contact:
Janet Fraser on 01343 543131 ext. 77538 or e-mail
Janet.Fraser@mhs.grampian.scot.nhs.uk

Membership

Staff members of Grampian Primary Care NHS Trust, staff and students at Aberdeen University Library, are eligible for membership. Registration forms are available on our intranet/internet pages, from the Library and by fax or post on request. Members have access to a full range of library services, including borrowing, interlibrary loans, literature searching and photocopying. Reference only access is available to staff and students of other organisations.

Opening Hours

The library is open Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 8:00pm

Services

Lending

Material available for borrowing (books, reports etc) is issued for a period of three months. Renewals can be made by post, telephone or e-mail subject to demand. Recalls have to be returned within seven days of issue of recall notice. The library operates a non-lending policy for journals, which are available for consultation only. At the discretion of the library staff,

journals may be issued temporarily short term, for consultation on site. Journal articles and books not held in the collection can be readily obtained through our inter-library loan system.

Photocopying

A self service photocopier is available within the library, which is compatible with those at other branches of Aberdeen University Library. Photocopy cards can be purchased from the library staff.

Catalogue (Dynix)

Through our collaboration with Aberdeen University Library we have been able to incorporate our library stock into Dynix, (The Aberdeen University Library computerised catalogue), which gives us electronic catalogue access. (http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/catalog/index.html)

Word Processing

Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint Access and Reference Manager are available to Grampian Primary Care Trust staff.

Internet

Internet access is now available in the library for all Grampian Primary Care Trust staff. A member of the library staff is always available for any assistance required.

Library and Information Service Online http://www.gpct.org.uk/library/

Intranet/Internet access to the Library and Information Service is now available online.

Scanner

The library now has a scanner available for use. Files or articles can be scanned and e-mailed to other sites.

Literature Searches

MEDLINE, EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE REVIEWS, COCHRANE, EMBASE, HMIC, CINAHL, CLINPSYC AND INSIDE WEB are now available online to all Grampian Primary Care Trust staff on site or through remote access.

We also have access to the many databases available on CD- ROM at Aberdeen University Library. Staff are happy to conduct or assist with literature searches. Please contact a member of staff, or telephone or e-mail us at isla.imrie@ghc.grampian.scot.nhs.uk

Training Courses

The Training Centre at Royal Cornhill Hospital, organises a 2 hour training course on the "Basics of Literature Searching". The purpose of this course is to provide basic skills required to carry out literature searches using Medline, Cinahi, Clinpsyc, Cochrane, HMIC, Embase or Inside Web databases and is available to all Grampian Primary Care Trust staff.

From March 2000 we are also offering a 2 hour training course "Basic Library and Information Skills on the Internet". This course will provide the basic skills required to access relevant websites from the Internet and also how to use our Library and Information Service online.

Future Aims and Objectives

Our aims are to streamline services to meet the changing needs of the Trust thus providing an efficient and cost effective Library and Information resource to all trust staff.

Future objectives include improving services and communications via electronic access to all trust sites and developing and expanding the role of Library and Information resource to support clinical governance, developments in research and development, clinical outcomes, evidence based medicine and disease management systems.

Contact details for the library are as follows:-

Grampian Primary Care Trust Library,
Clerkseat Building,
Royal Cornhill Hospital,
Cornhill Road,
Aberdeen AB25 2ZH

Phone: 01224 557485
Fax: 01224 403024
email:
isla.imrie@ghc.grampian.scot.nhs.uk

Isla Imrie

Contributions are particularly sought for this feature. Use Isla's article as a guide. See back page for submission details.

Conference Report

Medical Libraries and Publishing in the Third Millennium
A joint Royal Society of Medicine and Health Libraries Group Conference.

Held on Thursday 6th April 2000 at St William's College, York.

This stimulating conference surveyed the rapidly changing world of communicating medical information, and attempted to predict the future for medical libraries and publishing in the near future.

This was not a day devoted to practical demonstrations of the innovations, rather it provided an opportunity to take a more reflective view, and discuss the difficulties and drawbacks facing us, as well as the exciting prospects.

The speakers ranged from the publishers of medical information, through the librarians as its disseminators, to the end users, whether medical professionals, or the general public. Each speaker adhered strictly to the allocated 15 minutes; allowing many interesting issues to be raised and discussed.

The day was arranged logically into three broad themes:

♦ The immediate possibilities technology can provide for medical publishing.
♦ Some difficulties arising from the ever increasing information explosion
♦ Innovations in co-ordinating medical information and making it accessible to those who need it.

The first session concentrated on the present situation, where publishing and medical information no longer means simply books and journals. Two medical publishers, John Cox and Anthony Watkinson, focused on the role of publishers and librarians to mediate between the producers and the end-users of the data.

John Cox raised three important issues; cost; quality control; archiving. Even if printed versions of the books and journals are displaced by electronic media, the spiralling costs mean that that increasingly libraries will co-operate to achieve wider access. However the needs of all institutions will not be the same. As medical data becomes more widely sought, quality control becomes an important issue. Some journals 'or' groups of journals may emerge as 'brands', ensuring reliability. As for archiving, in the past libraries were able to retain journals for as long as necessary. Access to data transmitted electronically, whether on-line or on CD-ROM, may be removed, and no authority is as yet responsible for deciding which data should be preserved, although the British Library is examining the situation.

Anthony Watkinson did not consider that the readership is yet ready to for solely on-line journals, rather on-line versions of the printed ones. As yet readers do not read on screen - they search and print. He saw the benefits of on screen linking, allowing for faster access to information than printed data can offer. He warned though, that we should not imagine that medical publishing is about to arrive at a plateau which will be the 'new age'. Very recently it was assumed that the CD-ROM was the solution to replace printed data - already CD-ROMs are on the way out - Oxford University Press may discontinue publishing their textbooks on CD-ROM - and that change will continue in ways we cannot now predict.

Both publishers warned of the dangers of equating the Internet with 'knowledge' - we are all aware of the difficulties of widely available medical information when used by those lacking essential discriminatory skills. Both also advised that 'convergence' of technologies will facilitate on-line access even more widely, with phones or televisions replacing the PC and modem.

In the mid morning session, Mr David Pearson, Librarian of the Wellcome Trust, examined the issue of the history of medicine. Until recently, all medical literature was written or printed, in books, journals, medical records, correspondence, research notes. The problem of what to store always existed, but there was more chance of considered decisions. With electronic data, much can disappear without warning, URL's may disappear, discussion lists may be deleted. In the USA the National Library of Medicine is taking responsibility for 'preserving the contemporary record'. No such initiative has been undertaken in the UK, and we are in danger of permanently losing irreplaceable contributions to the advancement of medicine.

The afternoon was devoted to the role of the librarian in the face of so many advances and to the national initiatives in making relevant and current medical data accessible to all who need it.

John Hewlett, of the Northern and Yorkshire Regional Library Service, pointed to the advantages of medical libraries moving to a regional set up, allowing for more possibilities than individual libraries can provide.

The Health Service Guideline (97) 47, applying to England and Wales, has facilitated and funded regional organisation, and unfortunately no such initiative has followed for

Scotland. Mr Hewlett saw 'new-style' librarians as requiring to perform all their traditional functions, as well as mastering new-ones included skilled searching, filtering and critical appraisal.

The two national initiatives discussed were NHS Direct Online, and the National Electronic Library for Health (NeLH) both of which are still at the early stages of development.

Mat Jordan of NHS Direct Online described the service launches in December 1999, in conjunction with the telephone service. It is offered mainly for the general public, and is averaging 100,000 enquiries per day. Enquiries are mainly in the areas of Conditions, Treatment and Healthcare Guidance. Since members of the public may use the service prior to, or instead of, seeking professional advice, it is vital that the information is vetted, and that only the best available is used. Initial figures show that 65% of use of NHS Direct is from home users, as compared with 6% in schools and 1% in libraries.

Veronica Fraser of the NeLH described the project which is still in early planning stages. It could be two years till launch and is intended for medical professionals. It will be offered via the NHS Intranet, and though there is as yet no working prototype, progress can be viewed by consulting the NeLH website.

The conference offered stimulating ideas, and possibly as many dilemmas as solutions. Medical information proliferates, ranging from excellent to downright dangerous, access to the best quality becomes increasingly expensive, the appetite for medical information by the general public is unabated. There is still no guarantee

that the best evidence is reaching those who need it most. Our newspapers and television programmes demonstrate the public demand for medical data. Technological advances facilitate rapid transmission of information, but we are a long way from being confident in the quality of this information, or that is it being put to appropriate use.

Janice Grant, Ayr Hospital

NHS Direct Online
http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/

National Electronic Library for Health
http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/

Now also available is the National Electronic Library for Mental Health http://cebmh.warne.ox.ac.uk/cebmh/nelmh/

Interim is the newsletter of the
Scottish Health Information Network (SHINE)

Contributions should be sent to the editor at the address below:-

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Copy date for the next issue

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