

Parallel Sessions C
C1 – Exploring the Clinical Librarian Model

Friday, September 20, Room B, 16.15

The role of the Clinical Librarian: A Cairns Library Project in Support of Clinical Governance and Clinical Effectiveness

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Present day clinicians need rapid access to high quality literature in support of patient care. Computer databases have improved the availability of information but their complexity and other factors can make it difficult to carry out effective searches within the required time. A number of libraries and healthcare organisations worldwide have established *Clinical Librarian* programmes to address this situation.

A pilot study carried out by Cairns Library staff in 1998, in partnership with Professor David Sackett, raised a number of issues including the need to investigate alternative models of service delivery. Building on this work, the Cairns Library has been awarded funding for a one-year Clinical Librarian project to identify and investigate further the various models of Clinical Librarianship that have been developed in the UK and elsewhere and to apply an appropriate model or models to facilitate the provision of evidence-based patient care.

Project staff will provide a range of information and support services either in direct support of patient care or in support of in-depth projects. The exact model used will depend upon the specific information needs and culture of the clinical departments involved.

Following a number of expressions of interest from departments in the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals, two groups have been selected to participate in the project: the Emergency Department and the Cardiac Directorate at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The paper will discuss the preparation, methodology and models used to design the project and will report on the progress and interim findings since the March 2002 start date.