

Parallel Sessions D  
D2 – Library Innovations for Clinically Effective Practice

Saturday, September 21, Room C, 9.30

## **The Right Information at the Point of Care - Library Service Delivery via Hand-Held Computers**

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Clinicians these days are under increasing pressure to be able to show that they are basing their decisions on the best available evidence. Evidence-based health care has become the catch-cry of the past years. Libraries have a key role in the provision of information in a form in which it is useful, as well as in educating clinicians in its use. Increasingly, information-based clinical decision making translates into access to appropriate information at the patient's bedside – a location which suits the hand-held computer, especially when enhanced by a wireless network connection. This paper describes how we at the RAH/IMVS library have responded to the advent of the hand-held computer. There have been several stages: building close rapport with the IT department (responsible for the selection of the device and installation of the wireless network); discovering which products are available and/or suitable for use with hand held devices; learning how to use the devices ourselves and finally, training the clinicians in their use for a pilot project.

Our adoption of the technology is very much a 'work in progress' and the final paper will reflect the picture of the time rather than the current one.

It is hoped that this paper will give delegates an insight into the evaluation of the library material suitable for migration to hand held devices, and an understanding of their advantages and limitations.