

Gaining and keeping a higher profile – Developing a new 'corporate' Clinical Librarian role

Louise Hull

Glenfield Hospital, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester, UK

Presenting Author: Louise Hull

It has become increasingly evident that Health Librarians need to support non-clinical staff in hospitals in an appropriate and useful manner, helping to achieve "mission-critical" goals within the organisation¹. Evidence-based practice is equally important in corporate areas, however health managers' use of library services in our NHS Trust has been low.

A new Clinical Librarian role was developed, to specifically work with corporate areas of the hospital trust. The main aim of the service is to increase evidence-based (or experience-based) practice in non-clinical areas, using a 'top-down' approach as opposed to the traditional 'bottom up' approach which is implemented within Clinical Teams.

The 'Corporate' Clinical Librarian has now become embedded in trust-wide services such as strategy, infection control, audit and policy. A flexible way of working has been developed and the Librarian has needed to adapt and up-skill to meet the differing needs of corporate teams.

Health Managers' use of library resources has increased in terms of Athens registration, library membership and literature searches on non-clinical topics.

This paper describes the pilot phase and roll-out of the full implementation of this new role and service, giving key tips for those considering similar services. It discusses some of the challenges experienced, exploring measuring the impact of the service and possible future directions.

¹ Holst, R. *et al.* 2009. Vital pathways for hospital librarians: present and future roles. *The Journal of the Medical Library Association*. 94(4), 285-292.