

Title: Multidisciplinary Writing Club in an NHS Trust

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Background: Journal clubs have been in existence for many years, and now NHS employees are being encouraged to focus on their own writing. Many of the queries being received by the Clinical Librarians at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) were on the topic of writing up case reports for submission to peer-reviewed journals. With this in mind, we decided that it would be useful to provide guidance and support for writing for publication.

Method: A search of the literature found that librarians are offering sessions similar to journal clubs, focussing on writing articles for publication.<sup>12</sup> We set up a Writing Club at UHL primarily to support junior doctors and other clinical staff wishing to publish articles in peer-reviewed journals. The club takes the form of a quarterly meeting in which members present topics relating to writing and research. The main focus of the club is peer support and instilling confidence in inexperienced writers. The Clinical Librarians convene the meetings and provide support in literature searching and referencing material. We have set up a wiki for the group at <http://uhlwritingclub.pbworks.com/> with the intention for the group to also become a virtual peer support network. Presentations from the club have been uploaded to the wiki for those interested parties who have not been able to attend the lunchtime meeting sessions, as our Trust is spread over three hospital sites. On the wiki there are also links to the resources held within the library, and to useful articles that may help with writing for publication.

We have held three sessions up to December 2009 and a fourth is planned in March 2010. Session one was entitled "That's an interesting case, maybe you could write that up?" which focussed on spotting opportunities to write up case reports, and session two was "A Crash Course in Statistics" both given by junior doctors here at UHL. The third session was given by a nurse consultant aimed at nurses wanting to get into writing for publication, and entitled "Writing for Publication: is it our professional responsibility?" Each of these sessions has been well attended and interesting discussion has arisen from the presentations.

Results/Discussion: This club has come about as a result of appraisal objectives for one of the Clinical Librarians to attend a course on how to write for publication and

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<sup>1</sup> Doyle, Jacqueline D. and Harvey, Sally A. (2005) "Teaching the Publishing Process to Researchers and Other Potential Authors in a Hospital System", *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*, 5: 1, 63 – 70.

<sup>2</sup> Ryan, Jean. (2008) "Writing for Publication: The Role of the Librarian", *Health Libraries Group Conference*, Cardiff, UK (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/health/events/conferences/past-conferences/Pages/presentations-2008.aspx>) [accessed 25/1/2010].

realising that there are no "quick fixes" out there. By supporting clinical staff in their research endeavours, the library can raise its profile within the organisation, help to identify background research and assist with referencing articles as well as build on the Clinical Librarians' own skills to get published. Peer support is a very important part of professional development.