

Title: Supporting nurses towards publication: the librarian's role

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Nurses increasingly turn to librarians for advice and assistance regarding writing for publication. Career progression is not the only motive. In the centres of clinical excellence and university hospitals experienced nurses may come under pressure to contribute to the publishing output of their multidisciplinary teams in order to secure future funding. At other times they may be expected to disseminate the findings of their own academic work, postgraduate dissertations or theses, often with their mentors as co-authors.

Oxford University Health Care Libraries have established the practice of one-to-one consultations arranged by outreach librarians who specialize in particular healthcare fields. This format is perfectly suited to provide help and support to nurses who are preparing articles for publication.

The consultation usually takes 45 minutes to an hour and may cover the following:

- Review of the literature search strategy and recommended resources
- Specific journal title: impact factor, in-house formats and style, author guidelines
- Common pitfalls when adapting academic work into articles
- Harvard or Vancouver citation style
- Submission and peer review process, authorship and copyright issues
- Examples of published work – preferably by nurses in the same field

The aim of this presentation is to highlight the instruction on how to approach writing for publication as an integral part of user education content. Senior nurses are increasingly likely to approach librarians for assistance and support. This is best achieved through individually tailored training sessions.