DIAMOnD: The Derby IntegrAted MODel

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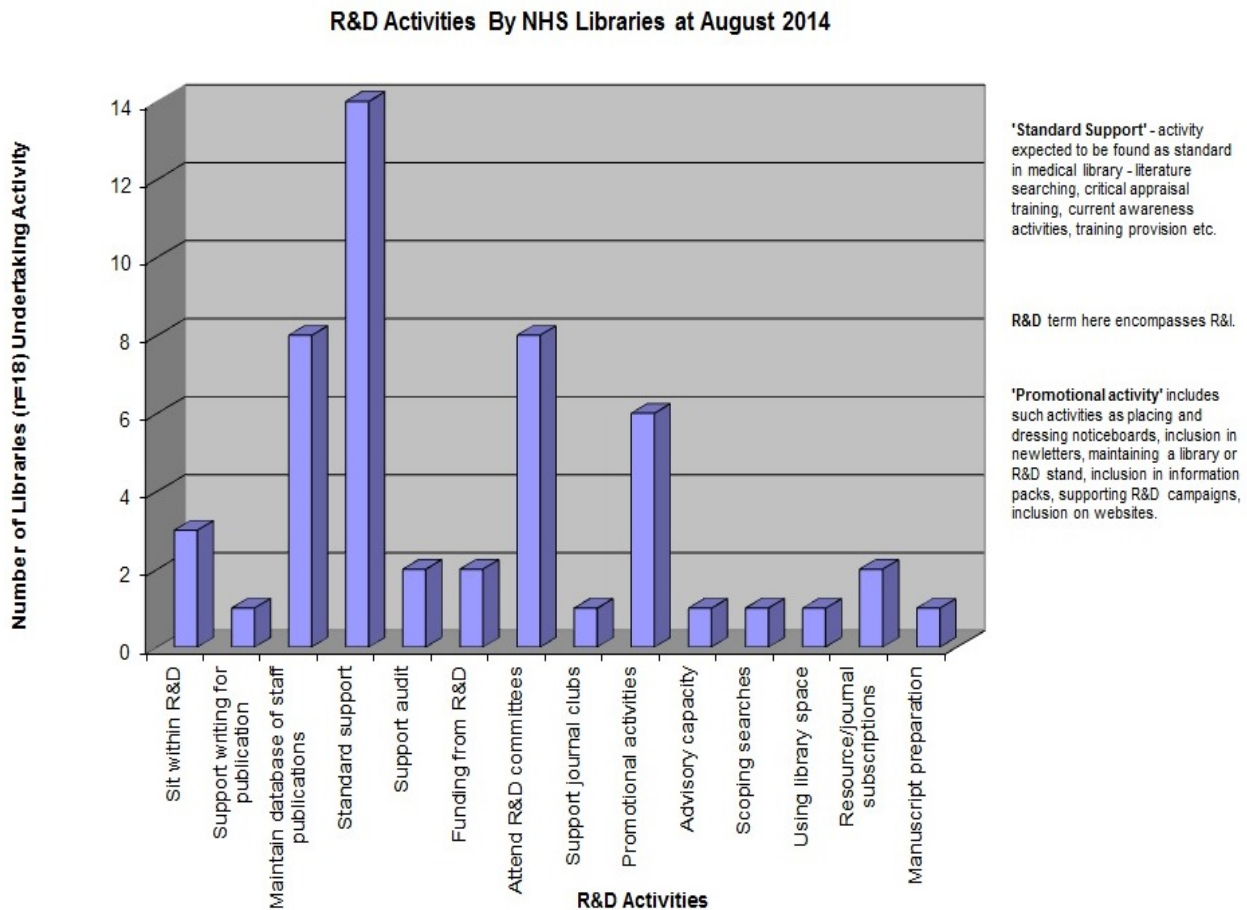*Library & Knowledge Service, Royal Derby Hospital, Derby*
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Collaboration and integration between the library and knowledge service, and research and development [R&D].

Background

A survey was undertaken in order to provide a benchmark against which to measure our innovation. In order to obtain a national picture of the kind of support offered by NHS libraries an email was distributed to the NHS library discussion list [Lis-Medical]. The message was placed on 13th August 2014 and 18 responses were received from which data were culled [see Fig 1].

Fig 1

R&D Activities By NHS Libraries at August 2014

'Standard Support' - activity expected to be found as standard in medical library - literature searching, critical appraisal training, current awareness activities, training provision etc.

R&D term here encompasses R&I.

'Promotional activity' includes such activities as placing and dressing noticeboards, inclusion in newletters, maintaining a library or R&D stand, inclusion in information packs, supporting R&D campaigns, inclusion on websites.

The question asked was very simple:
"Do you support their [R&D] work in any way? If so, how do you do this?"

The highest number of respondents was overwhelmingly in the 'standard support' group. This encompassed areas/activities that could reasonably be expected to be carried out by an NHS medical library as routine [Fig 1]. None of the critical appraisal R&D training was solely led by the library. The other highest responses concerned maintaining a database of staff publications, attending some form of R&D Committee, and cursory promotional activity.

Libraries appeared to adopt a passive, reactive role, instead of proactively creating opportunities or making use of existing ones. **The main difference to our model was the lack of any embedding of the library service in any R&D policy or procedure. The support appeared to be ad-hoc with little understanding on either side of the possibilities or needs of the other.**

The Model
Following the results of this survey, the **Derby Integrated Model (DIAMOnD)** was developed. This model is based on full integration between R&D and the library, which enables research teams to empirically conduct and deliver successfully high-quality, systematic literature reviews through multi-disciplinary support.

Team members include medical statisticians, clinical librarians, programmers/developers experienced in e-learning packages, experienced trainers, consultant clinicians with systematic literature review experience, finance officers with experience in managing large awards, and expertise in involving patients and the public in the review process.

Support is provided in a structured way and the key components of DIAMOnD are:

- Support and advice on writing a protocol for systematic literature review using a protocol template;
- Undertake a scoping review on their behalf to determine the appropriateness of conducting the review, the level of support needed and the clinical impact of the full review;
- Collaborate with clinicians with expertise in the clinical area of the review;
- Develop a strategy for patient and public involvement (PPI);
- Register the protocol in PROSPERO or Cochrane databases;
- Identify appropriate external funding for systematic literature review and support investigators to apply for funding;
- Assist with formulation and execution of search strategy;
- Assist with the development of the data collection sheet;
- Support investigators to analyse and synthesise the collected data appropriately;
- Assist with preparing the systematic literature review results for publication.
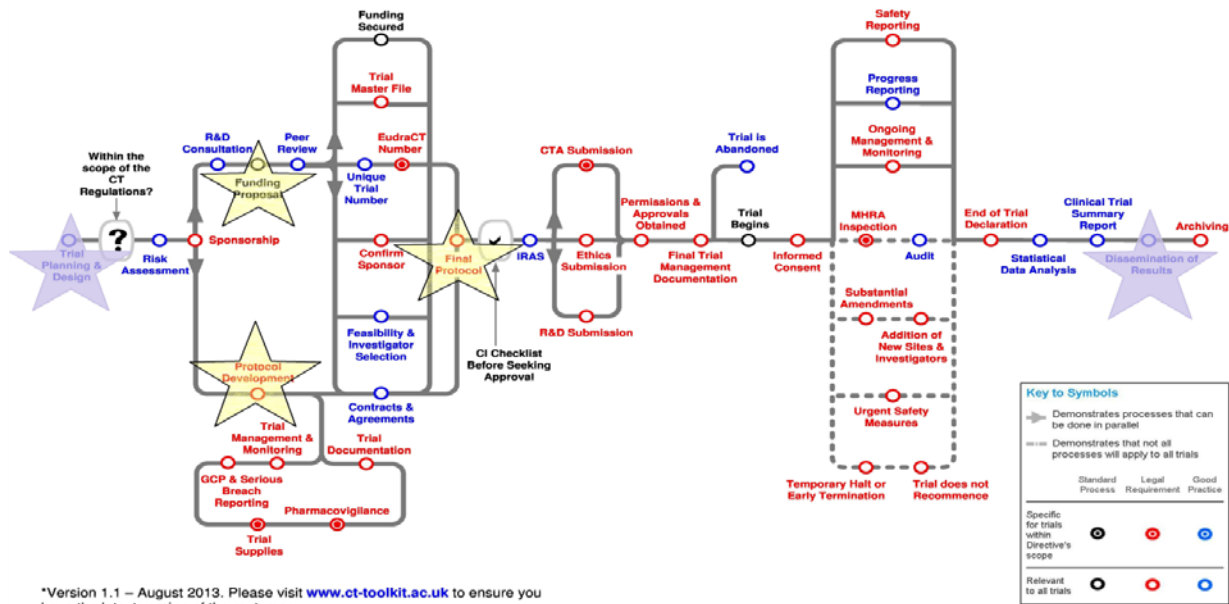- Reviewing manuscript

The model can be implemented at any of the stages on the **clinical trials route map [Fig 2]**:
- to shape the design of a research protocol;
- to inform the research funding proposal;
- to inform the sample size estimation of a research project;
- to provide a definitive answer to the research question at the end of the research.

Fig 2

Areas of CL input on clinical trial routemap identified with stars

The support covers several **key areas**: Individual Participant Data/Clinical Study Report Meta-Analysis; Non-Randomised Studies; Prevalence Reviews; use of Routine Data; Reviews of Safety Data.

Future Capacity & Capability

We plan to build capacity for researchers for conducting their own systematic literature reviews independently of the library and R&D by providing the following services:

- Online training, such as e-learning, training in a more virtual environment using Webex to deliver training via the phone & computer as well as face-to-face training covering all aspects of the systematic literature review;
- Online platform for accessing useful resources and documents related to systematic literature review process, meta-analysis, evidence synthesis and literature searches;
- Access to our website with information about the available services and how to contact the appropriate support personnel;
- Access to appropriate support personnel
- Routine training on the systematic literature review process and services is provided to all staff within the Derby Integrated Model.

Conclusion

The integration between the two departments has been a mutually beneficial experience, allowing expansion of both departments without increase in costs.

References

Fakis, Apostolos. 2015. **SRP Complex Reviews Research Support Unit Programme Application**. NIHR.

Surtees, J. 2014. **Audit of support other NHS libraries in UK provide to R&D departments**. Library & Knowledge Service, Royal Derby Hospital.