Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Library Newsletter

Intelligence Insider – April 2026

In this edition

Hello my name is Tom Rogers.....1

A space for wellbeing.....2

World Book Night 2026.....3

Hello, my name is Tom Rogers



Tom Rogers

Senior Library Assistant

April has arrived, and with it the submission of my master's dissertation! The final piece of a two-and-a-half-year part-time MSc in Information and Library Studies at Robert Gordon University.

The dissertation asked the question of how healthcare librarians in the UK perceive AI tools in the evidence retrieval process. Specifically, I wanted to understand what librarians working in mental health and wider healthcare settings actually think about these tools; what is seen as useful? What is worrying? And what training and support is needed to engage with AI confidently? I sent a mixed method survey to librarians across the country to gauge these perspectives.

What is clear is that AI is beginning to change how the evidence retrieval process looks. These tools can assist with searching, screening, and summarising at a scale that wasn't possible before. But I as the researcher and the librarians who responded are increasingly aware of the fact that speed and scale do not automatically translate to better evidence.

The research showed me that healthcare librarians around the country are cautious but keen to engage with AI, and more structured support is certainly needed to get the most out of

these tools. Questions around the transparency and accuracy of AI tools and professional responsibility cropped up repeatedly. The idea that the role of the critically evaluating librarian will become less important is a myth, in fact, respondents felt that the critical skillset of librarians will become more important as these AI tools become more prevalent.

After juggling study and work over these past months and years, I am glad to have reached the finish line… And I now have my evenings back!

A space for Wellbeing



Laura Nunzi
Senior Library Assistant

A few days ago, I welcomed some Italian friends on a visit to Oxford.
We met in front of the Oxford Brookes library building and, once the usual pleasantries were out of the way, it felt natural to point out the Warneford Hospital and mention that I work there.
"Mental health hospital", in my mind, conjures up health and care, while in the Italian society psychiatric hospitals often carry an association with mental illness rather than recovery. Because of this, my friends asked whether I was afraid to work there, which I'm certainly not, but I understand why the question came up.

This conversation led us to reflect on mental wellbeing more broadly, and I found myself talking of how the Trust as a whole (estates, facilities, IT, admin staff, doctors, nurses, and many others) works every day to support their patients' health; and also what the hospital, and in particular the library, does to promote staff's wellbeing as well.

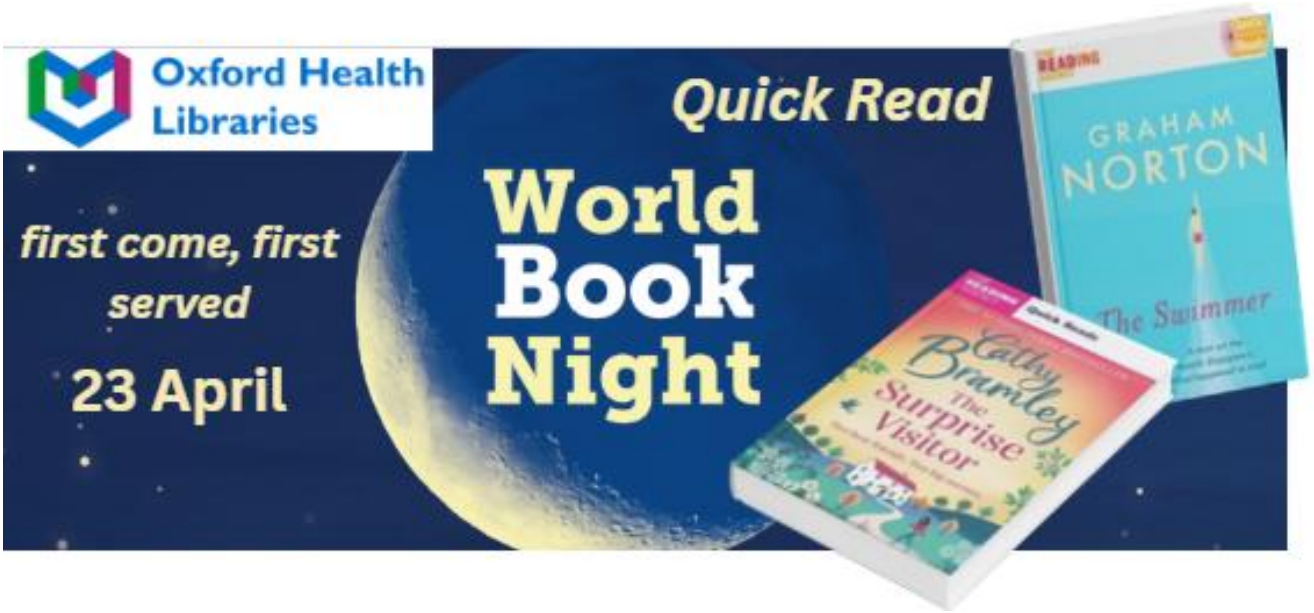
Periodically, for instance, **Coffee Connections** offer the opportunity to catch up with other staff members; this initiative is a huge hit and is in constant demand. Other popular activities are our **book clubs** tailored to specific topics because not every book club is the same, and each one opens up conversations on issues that matter to different groups of people. As a team, we even organise **library visits**, to see how other libraries work, sharing experiences, and bringing back ideas that inspire our own practice.
All of these activities help shift our focus and, within the context of our workplace, give us space to talk with colleagues who may come from very different backgrounds and professions but share a similar journey. These moments are important for our wellbeing; they broaden our perspective and give us a chance to decompress from the stresses of work life: back-to-back meetings, minute-taking, constant emails, and the unexpected challenges that appear just when you think you have caught up with the backlog.

For me, wellbeing is also about continuous learning. I'm fortunate to work in an environment where our outreach librarians set aside time to teach the rest of the library team how to run

literature searches, understand what critical appraisal looks like in real scenarios, and develop skills that strengthen both our confidence and our practice.

In the end, that's what I wanted my friends to understand: that wellbeing isn't just something we talk about here but it's something we actively build, together, every day.

World Book Night, few copies left!



If you would like some copies to give to service users (particularly those who don't read for pleasure and who may have difficulty accessing reading materials), please email us at **library.enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk**.

You can request either title, or multiple copies of the same title if you will be using the books for a patient reading group.

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