Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Library Newsletter

Intelligence Insider – May 2026

In this edition

Turning everyday questions into evidence.....1

Batgirl: a librarian.....3

Health Libraries: My (work) experience.....3

International Staff Book Club.....4



Bertha Calles Cartas
Assistant Library Manager

Turning Everyday Questions into Evidence, developing staff confidence in research through library support

Every day, staff across the Trust ask important questions about their practice, services, and patients. These questions can be developed into research by exploring who has already thought about them, how they approached them, and what answers were found. In academic terms, this process is known as a literature review.

Conducting searches for publication, or undertaking a literature review, might sound daunting. However, research starts with questions that can be explored by reading, reflecting, and discussing ideas with colleagues and other practitioners.

As part of her journey, Lucy Powles contacted the library service to be put in touch with our former Primary Care Librarian, Kate Jones. Lucy wanted to explore what had already been written about using songs to help people with learning disabilities complete activities of daily living such as bathing. She found that some work had been done using song-based interventions to support functional skills in people with learning disabilities and learning difficulties, although most of the literature was based in paediatric, educational, or music

therapy settings. There appeared to be very limited evidence exploring their use specifically with adults with learning disabilities in relation to activities of daily living.

Through her own practice, Lucy developed '**Sing It, Do It**', a song-based intervention designed to support adults with learning disabilities to complete activities of daily living. Following positive outcomes in practice, she decided to analyse and document the approach to explore whether this accessible intervention may be underrepresented within occupational therapy literature.

Reflecting on this journey, Lucy said:

> *"I have been incredibly impressed by the support the library service can offer, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the team for supporting me throughout this journey to publication. When beginning research, it can be difficult to know how to access relevant information or where to start with the literature, but the library team were extremely supportive throughout the process. They offered valuable guidance and advice, as well as carrying out the literature search on my behalf, which was instrumental in helping me develop the work further. Their support has been invaluable, and I am genuinely grateful to have access to such an excellent service."*



Lucy Powles
Occupational Therapist

Publication can take place in academic journals such as the ***International Journal of Developmental Disabilities***, in which Lucy published, or **BMJ Case Reports**, for which the library has a code to support clinicians in publishing case reports. Research can also be shared at conferences and through quality improvement (QI) posters, among other formats.

You or your team may have questions that have already been explored within the Trust or by other professionals, and you may find that others are asking very similar things. Sometimes, the first step is simply to start a conversation and explore what might be a reasonable answer. These questions can often be explored **over a coffee** or through reading publications.

Publishing is ultimately about communicating observations and insights that arise from a question. Research is not limited to clinicians or to direct work with patients. Corporate teams may also have questions in their everyday work. Decisions should be informed by evidence: what have others done in similar contexts? This may be a cost-saving option, but is it ethical? How did these decisions affect staff wellbeing? Among many other considerations.

Through **ORKA**, the Trust's online repository, you can access research produced by colleagues across Oxford Health. This is maintained by the library team. ORKA helps you identify what has already been explored, learn from existing work, and build on it. It also provides an opportunity to share your own work, making practice visible and contributing to wider learning across the Trust. You can now find Lucy's publication information **here**.

In addition to this, the library can help connect you with this evidence through literature searches, current awareness services, specialist bulletins, and informal opportunities such as coffee connections, to which you can subscribe to be randomly matched with another member of staff to meet and have a conversation about anything that comes to mind.

Lucy's journey shows that research is not out of reach and that it can grow from everyday practice. It also highlights the value of working in partnership, where library support helps staff explore ideas, build confidence, and take their work further.

If you have ever wondered "Has anyone looked at this before?", that is exactly the place to start - do get in touch with the library to explore it further.

Did anyone know Batgirl was a Librarian?



Vicki Farmilo
Outreach Librarian



Batgirl
Crimefighter

This month the library was given the chance to contribute a session to the Oxford Health People **CPD week**. An action-packed week of sessions all designed to help the whole Trust People Team to learn something new to help them in their lives and careers.

I was fortunate enough to be given a prime lunchtime slot on the first day and had a super number of attendees for my 'What have librarians ever done for us?' session. My presentation was a mix of how we can help Trust staff with their everyday tasks – carrying out literature searches, training, buying new resources etc – and lesser-known facts about librarians (both real and fictional) through the ages.

I've had some really lovely feedback, with everyone leaving with a smile on their face and more than one 'I didn't know that about librarians!'

Health Libraries: My (Work) Experience

Riccardo B.
y10 work experience

With the unforgettable, ever-looming dread of GCSE mock exam season fast approaching, every school in the country is scrambling for a way to calm their students' nerves. In my school's case, a proud comprehensive school by the name of Cheney that any regular Warneford-goer should recognise, they chose to cast us anxious Year 10s away from school life for a week, asking us to find employment in our local areas instead.

Naturally, I chose to follow my mother in her path as a senior library assistant, and to visit the Warneford Library for the week. I informed my school's career advisor of my choice and sat around uneasy as I waited for May to strike me.

When the dreaded week of May the 11th May arrived to bite me, I mustered up my courage and walked through the intimidating wooden doors of the Warneford hospital, and prepared myself mentally for what I expected was going to be a massive failure on my part: I thought I

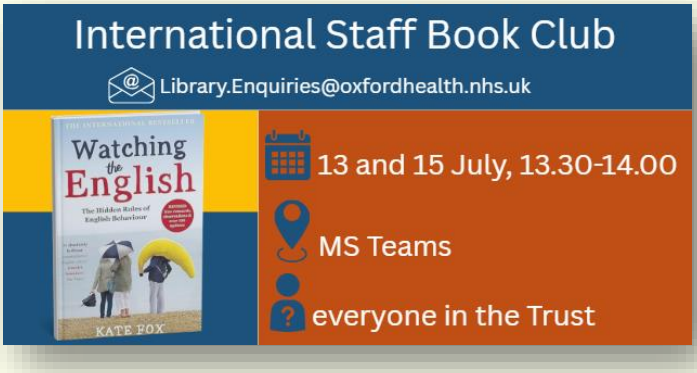
would introduce myself with a stutter, or fall over vomiting at the very idea of a social interaction with someone new, or that my legs would give in, or my voice would shake too much, or that I would look unpresentable, or---

Yet as I walked through the doors of (what I presumed to be) my custom-made Hell, and introduced myself to the receptionist, asking them to ring the library staff to show me to the library, I strangely found that my voice didn't shake or stutter as much as I presumed it would. My legs did not wiggle, or falter. My body behaved as it should, denying my anxiety the pleasure of winning over me.

With my renewed confidence and positivity ringing within my very soul, I reached the library alongside the librarian -Tiziana- who had come to greet me, and set my bag and coat down in the Library office as I introduced myself to the other librarians in the library on that day (Vicky, one of the outreach librarians, and Bertha, the assistant manager, who also gave me a tour of the site).

Every new staff member I met (both library workers and from other departments, of which I met many at Unipart on Tuesday 12th and at Whiteleaf on Wednesday) was just as nice as the last, all sharing a piece of their own workday to teach me the ropes of librarianship at a health library. Although the work was tough at times and chore-like at others (I think I definitely, utterly hate shelf tidying), compared to the infernal exams awaiting me back at school, this was a nourishing oasis that left me with a library-shaped cavity in my soul.

I had dozens of new experiences during this week that I may never have again, or never in the same way, considering how quickly library life can change from one day to the next. If you made me do another week of work experience, there is no doubt in my mind that my first application would go to this very library again. Thank you for reading this reminiscence of mine. Hope to see your lovely library again soon.



We are pleased to launch the **International Staff Book Club**, to foster cultural understanding among our globally diverse staff. Our first reading will be ***Watching the English*** by anthropologist Kate Fox. Copies available as first come first serve basis!

Join the meeting for the 13th
Join the meeting for the 15th

Contact us

Require an article or a book? Want to learn how to perform a quicker and more effective search on specific topics? Need a literature search for guidelines, case studies, research papers or a quality improvement project? Want to keep up to date with the latest information in your field of interest? **Contact us**