Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Library Newsletter

Intelligence Insider – October 2026

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Knowledge does not simply appear



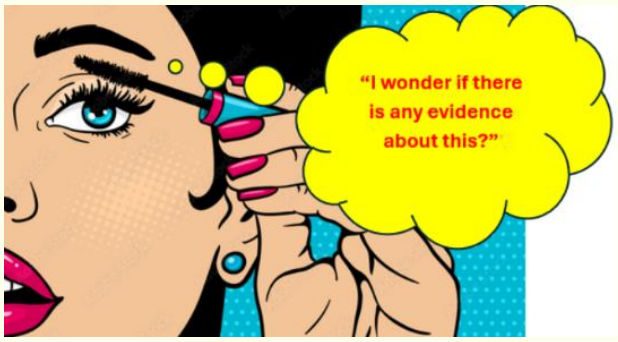
Bertha Calles Cartas
Assistant Library Manager
Outreach Librarian

In healthcare, we talk constantly about evidence. We search for it, critically appraise it and use it to inform services and clinical decisions. With resources such as our Knowledge and Library Hub, PubMed and, increasingly, our favourite AI tools, it can sometimes feel as though evidence begins when we type a question into a search box. But knowledge does not simply appear, and evidence does not begin in a database.

Someone gathers information, analyses it and communicates what has been learned. Someone else discovers it, questions it, evaluates it and perhaps uses it to make a decision. In other words, evidence-based practice relies on knowledge travelling.

I have been thinking about this beyond my own work. Recent reports of **Israeli forces raiding Palestinian civil society organisations** in Ramallah caught my attention. Among them was Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, whose offices were searched and equipment reportedly confiscated. I have also been interested in the work of librarian and archivist **Ghada Dimashk.** At the Palestine Land Studies Center, her work has included digitally archiving social media documentation relating to the war in Gaza. She has also written about social media's role in **documenting and archiving the war.**

What interests me about these examples is the journey information makes. Someone witnesses something. Someone documents it. Someone organises and communicates it. Someone else discovers it, questions it and perhaps uses it as evidence. Knowledge doesn't move itself. People move knowledge. Our circumstances are, of course, vastly different, but this brings me back to something fundamental about librarianship: having information available is not the same as making it accessible, discoverable and usable. Ultimately, databases don't ask questions. People do.



One thing I love about being an Outreach Librarian is going where those questions arise. They emerge during meetings, conversations, clinical work or simply when somebody thinks: "I wonder if there is any evidence about this?"

My work this month has made me consider this from different angles. Between library stands, EDI activities, completing our annual report and reviewing electronic resource usage, I keep returning to the same question: how well are we connecting people with the knowledge available to them?

Being out and talking to colleagues reminds me that making information available is only part of the job. We also need to think about how people discover it. Electronic communication offers enormous opportunities, but will not necessarily reach everyone.

This is where creativity can mean going back to basics. A library stand, a leaflet and, most importantly, a conversation may reach someone our electronic communications do not. It is also an EDI question: who knows what is available, who can access it and who might we unintentionally leave out?

Usage statistics offer another perspective. They tell us what people use, but not necessarily why. Understanding that takes us back to people: listening, asking questions and learning about their needs.

Perhaps these are all different ways of helping knowledge travel, reducing the distance between people, their questions and the knowledge that might help them. And that is what we are here to help with. Invite your Outreach Librarians to your meetings and events. Tell us what you are working on or curious about. We may identify useful evidence, resources, literature searching or training together. You don't need a "library question" ready. Let's have a conversation and find out together.





Katie Treherne
Outreach
Librarian

Health Literacy Awareness: A Small Change That Makes a Big Difference

Every day, Trust staff share vital information that shapes patients' decisions and health outcomes. Yet many people struggle to understand medical terminology, treatment instructions, and how to navigate services. This can lead to missed appointments, medication errors, and increased demand on already stretched services.

Better communication is one way to reduce health inequalities and give patients the opportunity to access, understand, and act on health information. Oxford Health Libraries offers **Health Literacy Awareness training** to give you the facts and figures, techniques to use, and the chance to reflect on everyday practice.

To find more or book a session for your team, contact: library.enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

APA PsycTherapy licences available.

Oxford Health Libraries provide access to **APA PsycTherapy**, APA's video platform featuring real psychotherapy sessions led by expert therapists. It offers more than 900 therapy videos covering over 150 therapeutic approaches and 350 topics, allowing clinicians, counsellors, educators, and trainees to observe authentic therapy sessions and enhance their therapeutic skills.

To access APA PsycTherapy, sign in to the NHS Knowledge & Library Hub with your NHS OpenAthens account, navigate to **Quick Links > Databases**, select **EBSCOhost Databases**, then on **Choose Databases** select **APA PsycTherapy** and videos will appear below your search!



What they said about us…

I wanted to say how impressed I am with the library service. I am not sure all staff realise what an asset it is or the value it can add to our practice.

I regularly receive papers of interest from the library team, which I then share more widely and file with the social work community so that others can benefit from them too. The papers are consistently relevant, interesting and useful.

Of course, I could search for this material myself but having the library service do this saves me valuable time and, importantly, helps ensure that I remain current and informed in my practice. It is a fantastic offer and one that I am extremely grateful for. **Andrea Davis, Temporary Social Work Professional Lead.**

From the Functional Skills team:



For information contact the **Functional Skills Team** at: functionalskills@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

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