

Editorial

Welcome, one and all, to the spring issue of HLG Nursing Bulletin, wherein, we sincerely hope, you will find articles intended to inform, educate, and also entertain, on a veritable smorgasbord of different topics that, we also sincerely hope, you will find of interest.

In our profession, having the skills to search a database or e-resource well are vital, both for us to act as searchers for other users, but also in our being able to pass on those skills to our users so that they are able to undertake their own searches. As with everything else though, maintaining and updating those skills is important, and finding resources to aid us in this is extremely helpful. Michael Cook here provides us with a review of Levay and Craven's *Systematic Searching – Practical Ideas for Improving Results*, newly published by Facet Publishing, as one such resource to help us in this task.

While we as professionals are always encouraged to reflect on what we do, how often do we ask our users to do likewise? While we will ask for feedback when we have done some training, or given some assistance, and while there are resources such as Knowledge for Healthcare's own [Quality and Impact section](#), it seems to be rare that we ask our users to sit back, think on and reflect about their experience as library and information service users. Here, nurses Grace McCarthy and Jane Farrelly-Ward do just that, looking at how their own library service has provided help to them both as educators and as students.

Weeding is an essential part of a library's growth and evolution. Having books that are twenty, thirty, forty years old sitting unused, gathering dust on shelves for which there is little space given the constant renewal of collections with new editions and new titles, is something that the

modern library service is not able to do. And yet, Dr Frank Houghton argues that the disposal of older texts risks losing potentially important knowledge from libraries.

For people starting out in our profession, often entering at the lower grades, getting out and meeting contemporaries who are doing similar jobs can be both important and difficult. The increasing instance of study days aimed at Library Assistants, which allows them to get together, learn from each other and build networks is only helpful as they make their way and climb the greasy pole. Rebecca Gower and Brianna Cook discuss one such event, held for Library Assistants in the West Midlands.

As is always the case, we want articles from you. Have you attended an event (perhaps a Library Assistant networking day)? Is there a book you'd like to review? Has your library obtained a new resource, or started a new service? Do you have an opinion about some aspect of the profession? If there's anything you'd like to write about, let us know, because we'd love to publish it. Details on how you can contribute are at the end of the issue, and can be found on our website.

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