

FOCUS ON THE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH LIBRARY OLWEN WILLIAMS

As Assistant Librarian at the Institute of Child Health (ICH) Library, my main area of responsibility is to develop library services and resources for nurses and allied health staff.

The Library

The library's full name is The Friends of the Children of Great Ormond Street Library, and it supports the research, teaching and clinical commitments of ICH and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. The library, which is located on the 2nd floor of ICH, houses the main collection of paediatric materials within the University of London. It currently subscribes to approximately 225 journal titles, and stocks some 8,000 books, including historical materials. The library collection also incorporates the Resource Centre, which supports all teaching and research in the Centre for International Child Health (CICH) department within ICH. It provides access to multimedia materials relating to the fields of Mother and Child Health, and Disability in less developed countries (LDCs). The TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Cost) Bookshop is also located within the library - the only retail outlet in the UK where books and other teaching material published and distributed by TALC are available for sale.

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Databases

The library benefits from excellent networked facilities which include access to:

- Medline • CINAHL • Embase
- Psychlit • BIDS • Cochrane Library
- Internet

There are also a number of non-networked databases including:

- ChildData • Popline

Training

We provide individual and small group training sessions in the library for all the databases, the Internet, the Cochrane Library, or any other aspect of literature searching. We are also currently expanding the provision of training in GOSH, using computers in the wards and within resource/seminar rooms located in the hospital. Internet access is becoming widely available to all staff in GOSH, and the availability of the OVID Biomedical Service for a trial period has provided an excellent opportunity to increase training in the hospital, and to work more closely with their IM&T Department.

Evidence-Based Practice

We are also involved in a number of three-day short courses entitled, How to Practice Evidence-Based Child Health, provided by The Centre for Evidence-Based Child Health. The Centre was established by Great Ormond Street Hospital Trust and ICH, as part of a national network of centres for evidence-based health care. The overall aim of the Centre is to increase the provision of effective and efficient child health care through an educational programme for health professionals. The short courses are offered to paediatricians, nurses, general practitioners, healthcare purchasers and others involved in child health, and are held in November/December and May/June each year. The course consists of plenary sessions, small group problem-solving and critical appraisal sessions based on clinical and policy scenarios in child health, and practical sessions on how to search the scientific literature. We provide practical sessions on searching the literature, using one of the computing unit's training rooms, which focus on mastering Medline (SilverPlatter version). There are also optional search sessions during which time course participants have the opportunity to use a variety of other databases and the Internet.

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