LECTURERS AND LIBRARY IT; PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

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As part of the School of Health Science, University of Wales Swansea review of staff IT skills a questionnaire to establish staff aptitude and attitude was developed. Both academic and support staff were sent the questionnaire. As the Librarian with responsibility for the School I was keen to discover not only the level of usage of search tools such as BIDS and CINAHL, but also to discover whether staff considered themselves to be competent or novice users.

The questionnaires were sent to all members of staff, and as we are going to use the results for developing training sessions we decided that they were not going to be anonymous, and this may have helped us achieve our 87% returns rate, as reminders were sent directly to all those who did not respond!
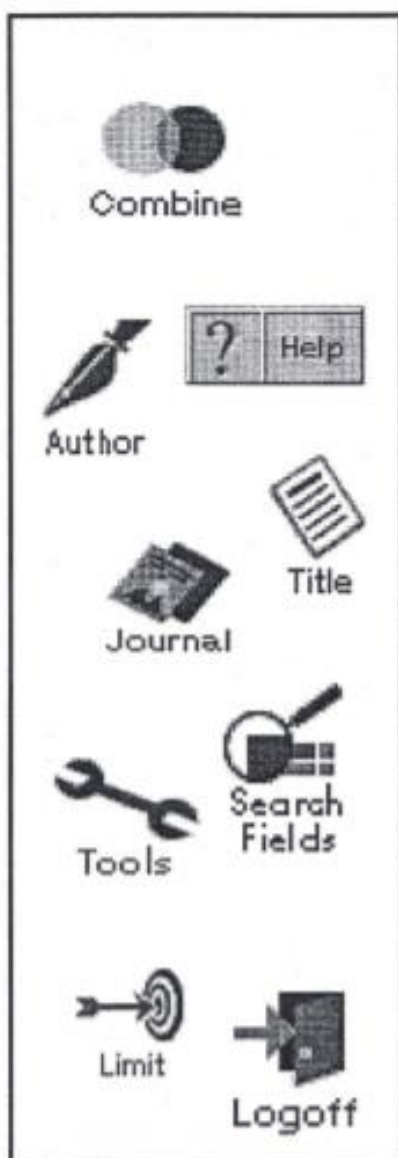
The preliminary results are interesting and indicate a number of staff training needs!

USING CINAHL

The School has subscribed to the OVID/BIOMED version of CINAHL, and the unlimited nature of access has been greatly appreciated by students – and has facilitated larger "hands on" teaching sessions. The service has been very reliable, and the previous problems that we'd encountered with accessing CINAHL, of users being thrown off in the middle of a search, or selected items being lost

" the majority of staff consider themselves to be "Novice users",

Some of the buttons from OVID internet CINAHL

have been solved. Our initial figures indicate that CINAHL is now one of the most widely used databases on campus. However we wanted to discover whether this is as a result of student use or if staff are also finding the BIOMED/OVID version more convenient. Table 1 clearly indicates that the majority of staff consider themselves to be "Novice users", with a remarkably high number (10) indicating that they have never used CINAHL. The strategies that we need to employ for training sessions will include:
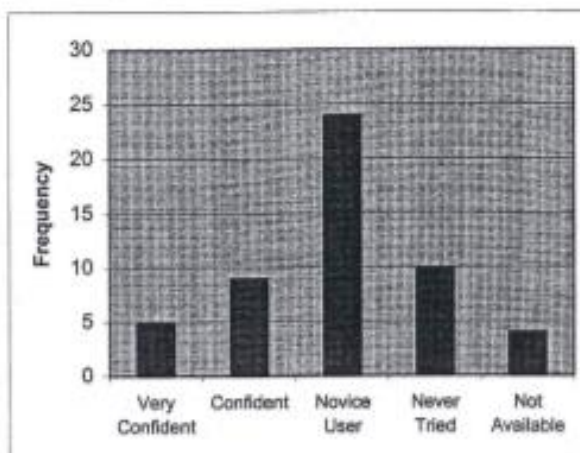

Table 1
Staff usage of CINAHL

⇒ Those who consider that CINAHL is not available on their PC need to be shown how to access CINAHL via the web, as all staff have PCs with internet access,

⇒ The value of CINAHL as a tool for staff needs to be demonstrated to the individuals who are yet to use CINAHL and

⇒ Training in the skills needed to become a confident user !

We can then hope that when we repeat this exercise after training has been provided that the responses from staff will be more like 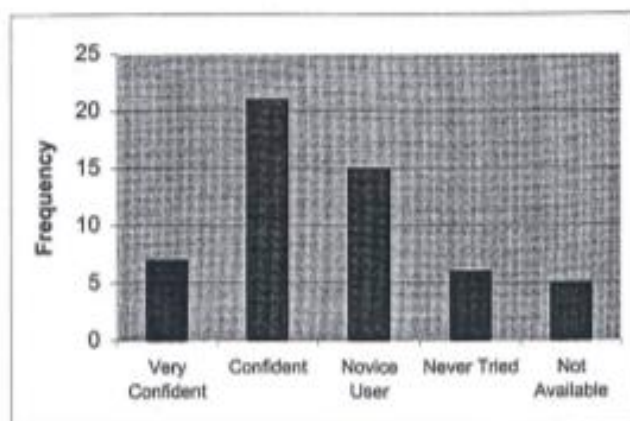those for the Library Catalogue in Table 2! Here the majority of staff are confident or very confident... but as we're changing our Library system this summer we'll try to ensure that staff confidence levels remain as high!

Rebecca Davies.

"Here the majority of staff are confident or very confident (using the Library catalogue)"

Table 2
Staff usage of the Library Cata-