

NAME: _____ WORK AREA: _____

Thank you for sparing your time

Life of a military nursing librarian!

Johanna Westwood
Nursing Librarian
Royal Hospital Haslar

I am the Nursing Librarian for the Defence Secondary Care Agency (DSCA) and provide information support to all nurses within the agency. My post is based at Royal Hospital Haslar in Gosport (Hampshire) although the users are of based much further afield.

Originally, Royal Hospital Haslar was a military hospital, but on 1st April 2001, Portsmouth Hospitals Trust (PHT) took over responsibility for the majority of the clinical areas, while the MOD maintained responsibility of its key sections, including radiology, nuclear medicine and Hyperbaric medicine.

The library itself is not funded to support any PHT staff, which can cause problems when people who work together see one person getting a service they can't have, but we have negotiated service level

agreements, whereby PHT staff can receive non-costed items, such as accessing our book and journal stock, and applying for regional interlibrary loans.

Our other users are based in Cyprus, Gibraltar, Ireland and Surrey. Also, wherever a unit may be deployed, we will provide support for them, for example Kosovo.

Now that the majority of staff within the hospital are PHT, we do not encounter very many face to face enquiries. More often, we receive e mails, faxes and phone calls and lots of letters!

The majority of services we provide will not differ from that of a NHS hospital, we help to develop clinical guidelines and provide evidence based research to all wards and departments. We also provide a lot of literature searches to our users, as they simply cannot access the resources that they need when they are deployment.

Working with the services is very interesting, and we are faced with unusual and difficult enquiries regularly. All the more to challenge us!

If you have any queries about the sort of services we provide, or want to know more about the work I do, then contact me using the details below.

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