

Health Libraries Group 2018

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I've attended the HLG conference several times now and I always find it relevant and useful. I'm a very practical person, so I like that the presentations tend to be focussed on what people are doing in practice and what worked and didn't work for them. I always come back with lots of ideas.

HLG 2018 was no different, but with the added twist that I actually had things to contribute. It's nice to realise that you've crossed that line from being a relatively new professional to someone who actually has things to contribute and give back to the community.

There were so many sessions that I had trouble choosing, and in several instances I was glad to be with a colleague who could attend a different parallel session. I won't list everything I attended here, but give a whistle-stop tour of the highlights.

I started on a high with Michael Cook's and Kevin Burgoyne's talks on being embedded in public health and primary care settings respectively. I've been working with public health teams for some time now and have just started working with an organisation that does primary care, so much of these talks was directly relevant to me. While I knew about most of the public health side of it, the primary care focus was less familiar to me. Kevin also created a collaborative space to collect people's ideas

and recommendations on various problems. I would like to see more of this!

My favourite session of the whole conference was the “fishbowl conversation” on impact that Victoria Treadway facilitated. It was a really useful session, one to learn about the fishbowl method of knowledge sharing and one to learn and share knowledge about impact and how we measure it. There was quite a bit of interest in the impact poster I produced a few years back for a conference, off the back of my library service adopting the new Value & Impact Toolkit, and I had valuable conversations not just within the session but also afterwards.

Finally, I really enjoyed Rachel Playforth's presentation on search peer review meetings, where a group of librarians come together to peer-review each other's search strategies for a query from their practice. I have already adopted Rachel's approach in my own service and our first peer review meeting went off very well.

In terms of “extracurriculars”, the conference didn't disappoint. The campus was beautiful and we definitely got in our steps walking around it.

I also enjoyed our pre-dinner entertainment, the Tenovus Cancer Care choir, which I felt was very appropriate for a Health Librarians' Group conference. Of course, Alan Fricker and Tom Roper led a running group on the Thursday morning. I am pleased to say that it was an actual group this time. The last time I attended a conference run, at the international Clinical Librarians' Conference in Leicester, it was just Tom and me.

There were a few hitches here and there, such as the CILIP health hub being down when Nick Poole introduced it, and a bit of taxi chaos at the end, but nothing majorly disruptive.

On Friday night, my colleague and I left with lots of good and achievable ideas, and having had good conversations with colleagues from outside our usual patch.