

Libraries for Nursing Committee news

Continuing from the last edition of the Bulletin here is the next in our series of "a day in the life of..." a member of the Libraries for Nursing Committee feature and profiles of two of our new committee members.

A day in the Life of Julia Abell

The following summary is an outline of the roles I am likely to cover during a typical working day at the School of Community and Health Sciences Library, City University London.

My current responsibilities are centred on Inter-Library loans, where I helped set up 'Secure Electronic Delivery' (SED) at the West Smithfield site, and Public Services where I deal with enquiries, help resolve loan and registration issues, and monitor fines. I am also responsible for promotional displays and utilise design and marketing experience gained from previous employment and by attending courses such as 'Promoting and Marketing Information Services'; a four month distance learning course run jointly by the University of Sheffield and the NHS.

Since starting at the Health Sciences Library, the range of work and the responsibility I have has at times far exceeded the title of Information Assistant. For example, for more than a year I was the main person responsible for electronic resources, 1-2-1 information skills training, and a range of work associated with Academic Liaison, such as collection development, compiling reading lists, and producing curriculum based information guides for ten health related subjects.

During this time I took advantage of the lack of support for these areas to identify my interests and strengths and to develop the skills and experience needed for health related information literacy training, and subject support. I followed this through by drawing on previous teaching experience, and attending relevant courses, such as Facilitating Information Literacy in Education (FILE) and becoming an active committee member of Libraries for Nursing (LfN).

A typical day includes staffing the library desk and answering enquiries, shelving, ordering and processing inter-library loan requests, responding to emails, delivering 1:2:1 information literacy skills training, plus marketing library and information services through posters and displays.

I feel fortunate to have a job that I really like doing; this is mainly due its diversity, the opportunity for CPD, and the ability to organise and plan my workload accordingly. I am currently preparing my Chartership portfolio for submission and in the future would like to focus more on Information Literacy skills training, Subject Support, and Reader Services.