Health Inform 2015, volume 24, no. 2


Jessica Ware, Librarian, Austin Health Sciences Library

I wish to thank the Health Libraries Inc. committee members for allowing me the opportunity to attend this year’s Health Libraries Inc. Conference at the State Library of Victoria, Friday October 23 2015. As a recent library graduate, here is what I have learned from my attendance at the conference.

Digital serendipity: enabling e-Journal discovery on the go through BrowZine
Steven Chang, Western Health

Steven Chang is a hospital-based librarian at Western Health in Melbourne whose passion is focused on user-experience design, mobile technology and systematic reviews. Steven discussed the recent implementation of ‘BrowZine’, an app that allows users to browse and keep up to date with scholarly journals across a uniform interface. BrowZine has been optimised for its use across a variety of Apple and Android handheld devices. It is aimed at addressing the users’ rapid move into the mobile space and the library’s role in meeting them there. Client relationships at Western Health have been strengthened as a result of the BrowZine implementation. While there have been limitations, such as slow connection speeds and minor publisher issues, BrowZine has proven to have a positive impact on issues such as readability, findability and collaboration between the librarian and client.

Library as a conference exhibitor – being on the other side of the fence
Laura Foley, ANZCA

Laura Foley is the Knowledge Resources Manager at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA). The college offers its services and training to 7000 remote and specialist users across Australia, and predominantly coordinates these services through an online environment. Laura discussed the recent promotion of the library at the ANZCA lounge during the annual scientific meeting (ASM) in May, where an estimated 1500 research presentations were presented. The presence of the library at the ANZCA lounge has strengthened links across the college departments, including the development of a curriculum working group. The research committee at ANZCA is now working with the library on a training module program, which will focus on the library’s ‘tips and tricks’. Laura also discussed the mutual benefit of face-to-face contact between the publishers and clients. With the ANZCA library proving to be the busiest conference exhibitor at the ASM, this increased the value of the college overall to its members.

Informed choices – new patient information website
Ilana Jackson, Western Health

Ilana Jackson is the manager of the Western Health Library Service in Melbourne. Her recent project includes the development of a new patient information website. It was identified that patients entering the hospital have an overall low level of health literacy, with 60% of patients at an unsuitable level for daily health literacy function. The patient information service was developed with a ‘best care framework’ where the patient is at the focus. The patient information website was also developed under the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard 2: Partnering with Consumers, which focuses on the benefits consumer partnerships have on a health service. The project is a great initiative where the library’s involvement is central to the support of patient-centred care.