

Launch of the new look and feel for the National Library for Health Specialist Libraries

Sharon Hadley
NLH Training and Promotion Facilitator

Laura Tucker UCL.gastroliver@medsch.ucl.ac.uk
Project Manager, Specialist Library for Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases, and Knowledge Resources Librarian,
Royal Free Hospital Medical Library

Details about Specialist Library content coverage and their standardised look and feel.

The National Library for Health (NLH) is a library and information service for the NHS in England, bringing together all NHS library and information services, and working with other service providers. The NLH aims to deliver the best health library service to all NHS staff, students, patients and carers and offers a range of services and resources to support patient care, staff development and research. It is a networked library and information service, available via the Web <www.library.nhs.uk> 24-hours a day, 7-days a week and via local (physical) library services. NLH, including its Specialist Libraries (SLs), is a programme of work within NHS Connecting for Health, and is being closely integrated with other NHS Connecting for Health programmes so that clinicians have seamless access to the best current know-how and knowledge to support healthcare-related decisions.

SLs are an important NLH resource which draw together the best available, relevant resources within a specific subject area. They are led by senior NLH clinicians, involve key stakeholders, and use the expertise of experienced information scientists in order to ensure the highest possible quality standards. SLs integrate knowledge resources, develop communities of practice, and are based on the needs of their users – NHS staff and students, patients and their carers.

In April 2006, the new look and feel SLs were launched. This work was undertaken to improve accessibility, ensure standards compliance and browser compatibility. The move to the new architecture means consistent branding across all NLH resources and services.

As well as a new look and feel the SLs have a range of new and improved features:

- 1. The left-hand navigation has improved usability to meet accessibility standards. The topic headings are presented more clearly with intuitive symbols better indicating the ability to expand or contract; the expanded heading is more obvious.*
- 2. SL-specific content, e.g. about us, has been moved to a new menu strip to make left hand navigation tidier.*
- 3. On the results pages, the right-hand navigation now gives greater emphasis to introductory articles and editor's picks.*
- 4. An introductory article may be a synopsis, or offer context about the evidence available on a topic.*
- 5. An editor's picks may highlight 1–5 items within a topic. Introductory articles and editor's picks are written or selected according to the editorial practices of the SL and add value to the content of the SL.*

The most significant changes are in how the search results are displayed and how they can be manipulated. Results are still displayed under tabs but tab design and behaviour are more sophisticated. There are now five tabs and they appear left to right – Guidance, Evidence, Reference, Education/CPD, and Patient Information.

The tabs have been redesigned to be clearer, the open tab is highlighted and any tab with zero results is greyed out. Further new search results features include: the ability to search within results sets; to sort results by title, publication date, publication type and publisher; to show or hide summaries; and to

All SL Library Web addresses now branch from the NLH Web site
<www.library.nhs.uk>,

control the number of results displayed per page.

The News and Events tab has moved to the new menu strip and only appears in SLs with content in these fields. News and Events are now separated and have improved search facilities. Items may be searched for by date or using the right hand navigation search box.

More additions and changes include:

- a more obvious 'email to a friend' option in the right-hand navigation column*
- the ability to subscribe to RSS feeds for SL News and Events*

- the ability to search across all SLs or within a specific SL (resources from collections like the Cochrane Library and Clinical Evidence will only appear after being filtered for inclusion by SLs)
- a clear total number of hits found to enhance search feedback
- an expanded Site Map, now found in the new menu strip.

Whether you are a new user or have not used the SLs for a while, we invite you to make use of these resources. All SL Library Web addresses now branch from the NLH Web site <www.library.nhs.uk>, e.g. <www.library.nhs.uk/cancer>.

There are 22 SLs currently available:

[Cancer](#)

[Cardiovascular diseases](#)

[Child health](#)

[Clinical genetics](#)

[Complementary and alternative medicine](#)

[Diabetes](#)

[Emergency care](#)

[ENT & audiology](#)

[Eyes and vision](#)

[Gastroenterology and liver diseases](#)

[Health management](#)

[Knowledge management](#)

[Later life](#)

[Learning disabilities](#)

[Mental health](#)

[Musculoskeletal](#)

[Oral health](#)

[Palliative and supportive care](#)

[Respiratory](#)

[Screening](#)

[Skin disorders](#)

[Women's health](#)

A further six are in development and will be launched in the coming months:

[Ethnic health](#)

[Infection](#)

[Kidney diseases](#)

[Neurological conditions](#)

[Surgery and anaesthesia](#)

[Trauma & orthopaedics](#)

Making practice-based learning work

Chris Turnock

chris.turnock@northumbria.ac.uk

Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator, Northumbria University

Details of the Making Practice-Based Learning Work project and the learning materials and resources made freely available on the Web.

Do you:

- *Supervise students who learn in the workplace?*
- *Deliver courses to prepare people for supervising students in the workplace?*
- *Learn in the workplace?*

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then there is a Web site for you.

The *Making Practice-Based Learning Work* project has developed a Web site that aims to enhance the quality of student experiences whilst on practice, i.e. work-based placements. Key parts are the learning materials and resource sections containing materials that can be used by anyone involved in many aspects of practice-based student supervision, including supervisor preparation and support. These resources were either commissioned by the project or externally sourced Web materials have been peer reviewed. The materials are freely available for anyone to use in enhancing the nature of practice education.

The problem

Successful practice-based learning needs practitioners able to recognise learning opportunities and able to communicate their professional knowledge. Many practitioners have not acquired the necessary language to describe their practices and need opportunities to help them in preparation for sharing their practice. Supervision can be one medium for learning such skills but has mixed success in healthcare settings. This may be because it is often seen as an add-on activity resulting from insufficient numbers of suitably experienced and

prepared staff expected to cope with clinical workloads that often fail to reflect their educational responsibilities.¹

The proposed solution

The *Making Practice-Based Learning Work* project aimed to: Enhance the professional development of the practice educator thereby maximising the learning experiences of health and social care students undertaking practice. The project's objectives were to:

1. *Identify and collate evidence from a range of healthcare disciplines on how practitioners are prepared for their educational role in supporting student learning during clinical placement.*
2. *Identify practitioners' needs in the provision, support and supervision of practice-based learning.*
3. *Agree on principles of good practice that meet the identified needs.*
4. *Design, pilot and implement an open learning (including e-learning) and communication resource to enhance practitioner awareness and understanding of good practice.*
5. *Prepare, pilot and implement the learning resource for culturally diverse health and social care teams.*
6. *Disseminate and embed the project outcomes in a planned and comprehensive manner within and across health and social care disciplines.*

The project had three distinct phases.

Phase One

The project team comprised Joan Mulholland (Project Director, University of Ulster), Chris Turnock