



HSLG Annual Report 2007-2008

1. Committee Membership and Representation

Officers

- Bernard Barrett (Chairperson) Information Scientist, Mental Health Directorate, HSE Mid-Western Area
- Louise Farragher (Vice Chair) Information Specialist, National Documentation centre on Drug Use, Health Research Board
- Jane Farrelly (Communications Officer - appointed May 07) Librarian, HSE Tralee General Hospital
- David Mockler (Secretary) Medical Librarian, Trinity College Dublin.
- Brian Galvin (Treasurer) Senior Information Specialist, National Documentation Centre on Drug Use, Health Research Board
- Fiona McCarthy (Cochrane Library Liaison Officer) Librarian, Temple Street Children's Hospital.
- Joanne Callinan (International Liaison Officer - appointed Dec 07) Librarian, Daughters of Charity Service, Dublin

Committee Members

- Sue Faulkner, Librarian, Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary Services
- Paul Murphy, Deputy Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland
- Donal O'Sullivan, Assistant Librarian, Institute of Technology Tralee
- Michael Doheny, Assistant Librarian, Athlone Institute of Technology
- David O'Regan

Resignations

- Kate Kelly (Sept), Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland
- Aoife Lawton (Jan), Systems Librarian, HSE Shared Services Eastern Region.

2. Active Working Groups, Leaders and Membership

1. Continuing Professional Development Working Group

- Aoife Lawton (Leader)
- Fiona McCarthy
- Kathryn Smith
- Joanne Callinan
- Aoife O'Connor

- Tara Kenny (part-time)
- Dymphna McGettigan
- David MacNaughton
- Caroline Pfeiffer (Resigned)

II. EAHIL, Local Organising Committee

- Louise Farragher (Chairperson of LOC) Information Specialist, National Documentation Centre on Drug Use
- Bernard Barrett, Information Scientist, Directorate of Mental Health, Health Service Western Area
- Michael Doheny, Assistant Librarian, Nursing and Readers Services, Athlone Institute of Technology
- Gabrielle Doyle, Information Specialist, St. Luke's Institute of Cancer Research and St. Luke's Hospital
- Jane Farrelly, Librarian, Tralee General Hospital
- Brian Galvin, Senior Information Specialist, National Documentation Centre on Drug Use, Health Research Board
- Muriel Haire, Librarian/Web Administrator, Irish Nurses Organisation and EAHIL Council member
- Niamh Lucey, Librarian St Vincent's Hospital
- Anne O'Byrne, Librarian, Rotunda Hospital and Eahil Council member
- Julie O'Rourke, Librarian South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital
- Caroline Pfeifer, Manager, Information Centre and Library, Irish Hospice Foundation
- Gethin White, Librarian, Connolly Hospital Medical Library

III. HSLG, Conference Organising Committee

- Sue Faulkner (Leader)
- Bernard Barrett
- Anne Madden
- Gethin White
- Michael Doheny
- Niamh O'Sullivan
- Louise Farragher

3. Attendance at Meetings

The Committee met six times in venues hosted by Committee members in Dublin (4), Limerick (1) and Athlone (1). Many thanks to the staff of the HRB, RCSI, HSE South Eastern Area and AIT for the use of their facilities for Committee meetings. Attendance was as follows:

Bernard Barrett	6/6	Louise Farragher	6/6
Jane Farrelly	4/6	David Mockler	4/6
Sue Faulkner	5/6	Brian Galvin	4/6
Fiona McCarthy	6/6	Joanne Callinan	4/6
Michael Doheny	4/6	Paul Murphy	4/6
Donal O'Sullivan	0/6	Kate Kelly	1/3
David O'Regan	0/6	Aoife Lawton	0/1

4. Chairperson's Report.

2007 has been an interesting year for me as Chairperson, and also I think for many members of the committee. When writing this annual report, it's never easy to summarise the amount of work that's been undertaken in the last twelve months.

Two events, on the face of it, appear to have dominated much of the work we've been doing this year.

The first is the preparation for our 2007 annual conference. Behind the scenes, there is always a huge amount of work to be done in discussing and agreeing the programme, locating and liaising with speakers, publicity, sponsorship and more, together with discussion and argument about what type of conference we actually want – or need!

Second, is the ongoing preparation for our hosting of the EAHIL Workshop in Dublin in 2009. A Local Organising Committee has been working on this task for some months, and an International Programme Committee is shortly to be formed to oversee the scientific programme. A number of us (myself included) attended the 2007 EAHIL Workshop in Krakow, in September, as part of our own preparations for hosting same.

It's quite right to stress that both of these, particularly the second are major events, and will be extremely time intensive. As it was put to me some time ago, EAHIL really is the big event for the next two years, and we'll need to concentrate on that for 2008 and 2009 – or will we?

I'd not for one moment wish to take away from the importance of staging EAHIL in Dublin or underestimate the amount of work involved (I know only too well!), but at the same time, we have to keep our eyes and minds attuned to the bigger picture as well, and keep preparing / advocating for what is happening up till and after EAHIL as well.

No, this is not an easy task and requires careful and honest work and time planning – realism about what needs to be done and how it can be done. Our three year Strategic plan is about to end, and planning will shortly need to commence for the identification of goals and objectives for the next three year cycle. One often hears groans when the two words “Strategic Planning” get mentioned, as the process is not only time intensive, but involves considerable thought and negotiation. But if you look, at the goals and objectives, we've been working on over the last three years we've succeeded in virtually every case, and made real tangible progress – so it does work!

If we're going to move forward strategically, then there needs to be participation and discussion right across the sector as a whole. This involves the committee attempting to horizon scan, discussions with members of the group (both individually and collectively), as well as making more effective use of the resources at our disposal (such as the HSLG discussion list).

It's interesting to see how many members of the group are beginning to articulate concerns about the future of our sector of the profession, particularly as it relates to the physical library.

As these discussions begin, a plethora of issues are beginning to emerge – none of which have immediate easy answers.

These issues include questions such as

- What is / should be the role of the HSLG committee?
- If the physical library is to survive, what factors need to be taken into account for its design?
- What skills do we need as Health Care Librarians / Information Specialists? More of the same or do we need to define a radically different skill set to that with which we have been trained?
- How can we advocate for our sector of the profession and win/change hearts and minds?
- How do we define “collaboration” and “relationship building” and what are our expectations for these?

Perhaps what it all comes down to, is whether we're interested in simply "knowing", or acknowledging that we all need to make the fundamental transition to "learning" and our decision to belong to one of these camps can characterise the whole of our approach towards our profession.

There is no overnight metamorphosis from one to the other. While a fundamental commitment needs to be made, the move is a gradual transformation.

In the past year, much of the work on the committee has been based on this dawning realisation, and awareness of issues implicit in some of the questions described above.

If we are to move forward, we all have to do so and all have to be involved. It's in the light of this, that Jane Farrelly, the Group's Communication Officer, will be inviting group members to join a newly established working group to ensure that the work of producing HINT on a regular basis is more fairly shared and representative of the group as a whole.

The group's Vice Chair, Louise Farragher, was this year elected onto the Executive Board of the LAI. I'd like to publicly thank Louise for taking this on, in addition to all her other work with the group. Again, it enables us to build relationships, possess an awareness of, contribute to and learn from the profession as a whole.

One issue which has arisen this year is the feasibility/desirability of there being much greater communication between the Chairpersons of different LAI Groups and Sections. The precise details of how this might work, or what the useful outcomes of such meetings might be are as yet unclear, but will probably be teased out in the next few months.

Again with the emphasis on learning, the CPD Working Group continues to be active in facilitating learning opportunities, which enable us to broaden our experience as well as learn new skills. Committing to CPD in the current financial climate is not easy, but essential – both to support the work that our colleagues do on our behalf as well as committing to a process of continual learning. For the first time this year, our annual conference also contains a number of CPD courses.

On a broader horizon, committee members have also been involved with Steering Groups for the All Ireland Electronic Library for Health (AIELH – Bernard Barrett) and an Information Literacy Working Group established by the LAI (Kate Kelly).

As a result of a bi-annual bursary from EBSCO, we were fortunate in being able to send two group members (Kathryn Smith and Michael Doherty) to attend the 2007 MLA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

The preparation for our annual conference often involves considerable discussion with our speakers, both to brief them and to discuss session content with them. Much more than one meeting or phone call is involved. But the conference itself need not be the end of it. Both Barbara Sen and Dr Teresa O'Doherty who worked with us last year, have signalled their willingness and interest to continue working with us – all of which means that (a) the work we do attracts interest from other professions, and (b) enables us to build ongoing collaborative relationships with a range of different people.

Our website continues to go from strength to strength and contains a growing amount of content, about much of the work we are engaged in, as well as activities organised by the group.

As you can see, the committee has been extremely active and with all its work seeks to look forward and prepare and position our sector of the profession, for where it will need to be. As always, I'm grateful to my fellow committee members, as well as so many group members, who unfailingly extend me much patience and kindness when they hear my voice at the end of the phone!

Bernard Barrett
HSLG Chairperson

5. Report from Committee Officers

I. International Liaison Officer

2007 was an important year internationally for HSLG and saw the launch of the inaugural HSLG/EBSCO Bursary. The bursary was awarded via a written competition and the two lucky winners received an all-expenses paid trip to the annual MLA conference in Philadelphia, USA. This bursary will continue to be awarded on a bi-annual basis.

Although 2009 seemed a long way away at the start of the year, the EAHIL Local Organizing Committee met regularly throughout 2007 to start the planning process for the first ever EAHIL conference or workshop to be hosted in Ireland in 2009. Professional Conference Organizers have now been selected

and the LOC will continue to meet throughout 2008. As the 2009 EAHIL workshop will replace the Annual HSLG conference, it is expected that much of 2008 will be spent working on a successful EAHIL workshop.

HSLG funding was awarded to Joanne Callinan to present at the 2007 EAHIL workshop held in Krakow, Poland. Funding group members to attend and present at international workshop is vital in raising the HSLG profile abroad and promoting our work on an international platform.

II. Communications Officer

A second re-vamped issue of HINT was published in December 2007. Our goal has always been to produce four issues per year and we hope to reach this target in 2008 through the formation of a HINT working group, so watch this space!

Part of the role of Communications Officer involves assembling publicity and promotional materials for the group. Business cards are now available for all Officers on the HSLG Committee, so that they can promote HSLG at both national and international events. A new publicity brochure was also produced during 2007.

III. Cochrane Library Liaison Officer, Fiona McCarthy

Fiona McCarthy was officially elected to the position of Cochrane Liaison Officer in 2005. The primary objectives of the HSLG Cochrane Programme are to promote the use of the Cochrane Library among the HSLG membership and to develop and maintain a comprehensive Cochrane training programme for Health Librarians in Ireland.

The current terms of reference for the HSLG Cochrane Liaison officer can be viewed at www.hslg.ie/cochrane. Cochrane activities in 2007 included the following:

Training Programme

- The Annual Cochrane Colloquium was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in October 2007. This followed on from the success of the 2006 Colloquium which was hosted by Dublin. The 2007 Colloquium in Brazil was deemed to be a great success and was attended by a large international audience. Pod casts and live uploads from

the conference were made available on the Cochrane Collaboration website at www.cochrane.org

- Wiley & Sons, the publishers of the Cochrane Library introduced web based training sessions for users of the Cochrane Library at beginner's level. These courses were conducted over the phone at regular intervals throughout the year and were opened to Health Librarians. Many HSLG members availed of this opportunity of Cochrane training and the feedback from the course was very positive. Wiley hopes to implement a Training Programme for more advanced levels with the Cochrane Library at some future date.
- The All Ireland Cochrane Training Group hosted Systematic Review courses in Belfast and Dublin. Further Systematic Review courses are anticipated for 2008.
- DCU hosted its 3rd "Cochrane in Ireland" Conference in February 2007. Joanne Callinan, Librarian in St Vincent's, Navan Road hosted a poster presentation at the Conference based on her workshop on "Librarian as facilitators in the Cochrane process" which she presented at the Cochrane Colloquium in Dublin 2007.

Promotion

- The Cochrane Officer promoted training course, Cochrane updates and news via the HSLG mailing list and the HSLG website.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Health Sciences Libraries Group Income versus Expenditure:
From 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007

	Total
Income	€
Conference 2007	26,010.64
CPD	12,195.00
Total Income	38,205.64
Expenditure	€
Conference 2007	16,750.16
CPD	5,425.35
EAHIL Conference 2007	1110.57
Communications	765.00
Website development	1,000.00
Total Expenditure	25,051.08
Grand Total	€13,154.56
Surplus/(Deficit)	€
Conference 2007	9260.48
CPD	6769.65

In 2007 the HSLG introduced Budgeting Policy and Processes guidelines which outline how the HSLG plans expenditure on the various projects it administers.

6. Report from Working Groups

I. Continuing Professional Development

The CPDWG met five times in the year. Five events took place, one seminar and four traditional training sessions. Trainers from within our profession gave talks and training and others were sourced from the United Kingdom. All courses run by the group in 2006 and 2007 have been approved by the Library Association of Ireland for certification. Certificates will be issued to attendees in the first quarter of 2008. Caroline

Pfeiffer of the Irish Hospice Foundation stepped down this year and we reward her for contribution to the group over the years. Two new members joined this year – Dymphna McGettigan and David MacNaughton whom we welcome to the group.

Events organised in 2007

- Course Code: CPD0107 18th January 2007
Course Title: Identifying the Evidence for Systematic Reviews: An Introduction for Information Professionals (20 attendees)
Trainer: Su Golder, Information Officer, Centre for Reviews & Dissemination (CRD), University of York
- Course Code: CPD0207 6th February 2007
Electronic Resources Seminar (36 attendees)
Speakers:
 - Paul Murphy, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
 - Brian Gillespie, Dublin Institute of Technology
 - Trevor Peare, Trinity College Dublin
 - Anthony Linnane & Aoife Lawton, Health Service Executive
 - Suzanne Redmond Maloco, NUI, Maynooth
- Course Code: CPD0307 12th April 2007
Course Title: Presentation & Communication Skills (5 attendees)
Trainer: John Power
- Course Code: CPD0407 1st August 2007
Course Title: Introduction to PubMed (28 attendees)
Trainer: CILIP trainer Tony McCulloch.
- Course Code: CPD0507 6th December 2007
Course Title: Savvy Searching (16 attendees)
Trainer: Kathryn Smith, Dublin Dental Hospital

Learning Points:

This year we found that the majority of courses we held were fully booked out with a demand for more spaces. We had hoped to run a course on "Teaching Methods" but due to lack of availability of trainers we have postponed this until next year.

II. EAHIL Workshop Local Organising Committee

In January 2006 the HSLG Committee was informed by EAHIL, the European Association for Health Information and Libraries, that we were successful in our bid to host the EAHIL Workshop in Dublin in 2009.

In addition to the Local Organising Committee, who are charged with organising the workshop, an International Programme Committee (IPC) has been convened. The IPC will be responsible for determining the theme and content of the workshop, and the Continuing Professional Development courses. Paul Murphy, Deputy Librarian at RCSI will chair the IPC and will be inviting Eahil members to join the committee shortly.

The LOC has engaged the professional conference organisers Conference Partners to aid us in our work organising the Workshop. The LOC formally met five times during 2007, but additionally, members attended other related meeting with professional conference organisers and toured potential venues.

Four members of the Local Organising Committee and 1 member of the IPC attended the Eahil Workshop in Krakow, Poland in September 2007. It was a memorable workshop and a demonstration of what will be expected of us in 2009. There will not be a HSLG conference in 2009; our primary event will be the Eahil workshop, to be held in Dublin in June.

The EAHIL workshop will be the largest event undertaken by HSLG, and will be the most significant health library event to take place in Ireland. We hope to will make a point of adding EAHIL 2009 to your diary as soon as a specific date is announced. And don't forget; EAHIL membership is now free of charge. Eahil has a significant Irish membership, and the workshops and conference are a valuable networking and learning opportunity for all of us. Sign up the EAHIL website www.eahil.net or speak to your Eahil Council members; Muriel Haire and Anne O'Byrne.

The LOC Chair wishes to formally thank all the members of the LOC and IPC for their work during the year. This work is voluntary and taken up in addition to members' full time work. The success of the Eahil Workshop is guaranteed by their continuing efforts.

III. HSLG Conference Organising Committee

The Conference Committee organised and managed all aspects of the HSLG annual conference. They ensured the smooth running of the event; conference registration; achieved significant sponsorship and secured national and international renowned guest speakers.

7. HSLG Annual Conference

This year's conference was held in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the 14th and 15th February. 65 delegates attended. The first day of the conference comprised sessions on "Effective Teaching Strategies" given by Teresa O'Doherty, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and on "Principles of E-Learning given by Jen Harvey, Dublin Institute of Technology. There was also a presentation on Partnerships on Health Information by Shane Godbolt.

On the evening of the first day a drinks reception was held at the launch of the trade exhibition. Our thanks are extended to our sponsors Ebsco, BioMed Central, ISOxford, MDConsult, Ovid, Proquest, Book Nest and Swets. This event was followed by the conference banquet.

The second day began with a joint presentation given by Tom Prior, Prior Associates and Barbara Sen, University of Sheffield on Marketing and Promotion Strategies. This was followed in the afternoon by presentations on the All Ireland Electronic Health Library by Dr. Angela Jordan and on the Health Library and Information Services Directory by Brian Galvin, National Documentation Centre on Drug Use

The conference concluded with a Special General Meeting proposing that future AGM's be held at the Annual Conference. This motion was carried unanimously.