



HSLG Annual Report 2008-2009

1. Committee Membership and Representation

- Susan Boyle (Communications Officer) UCD
- Joanne Callinan (International Liaison Officer) Daughters of Charity Service [Resigned 2008]
- Michael Doheny, Athlone Institute of Technology
- Louise Farragher (Vice Chair) Health Research Board
- Brian Galvin (Acting Chairperson and Treasurer) Health Research Board
- Jane Farrelly, HSE Tralee General Hospital
- Seán Hughes (Events Office) RCSI, Beaumont Hospital [Resigned 2008]
- Majella King, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
- Fiona McCarthy (CPD Working Group Leader) Temple Street Children's Hospital
- David Mockler (Secretary) Trinity College Dublin [Resigned 2008]

2. Reports from Committee Officers and Working Groups

I. Chairperson's Report

For the HSLG 2008 has been a period of assessment and reflection, as we evaluated what had been achieved under the various objectives we had set ourselves in our 2004-07 Strategic Plan. For the HSLG committee it has been a period of rebuilding as long-standing members left and we welcomed new ones. But most of all it's been a year of preparation and planning as we look forward to hosting the 2009 EAHIL workshop in Dublin. The HSLG was awarded this major international conference in 2006, partly as a result of the reputation already established by the group, but mainly by the hard work of a small number of committee members who lobbied and networked to secure this prestigious event for Ireland. We will finally see the fruit of several years' hard work in Dublin Castle in June.

During the year the excellent and frequent courses arranged by our CPD working group have helped members keep abreast of developments in many disciplines. Our annual conferences again provided rich opportunities to learn from experts in several fields and for intensive discussion of the implications for our work. The organisers of the conferences, the managers of the website, those who compile and publish *HINT*, manage the group's affairs through the committee and working groups or engage in any way in the groups activities have all contributed to the group's success and their energy and commitment will be needed more than ever as we face more difficult economic times in the coming years.

The strategic planning process which has guided our work over the last few years could not have been started without the willingness of members to think beyond immediate concerns and engage in the difficult task of imagining, and making plans for, the challenges which we would face several years hence. Having a plan in place has made it easier for members to make effective and rewarding contributions through involvement in the group's activities. In early 2009 the group will develop a new plan to guide our development over the coming years. The landscape which information professionals in the health sector now have to negotiate has changed significantly since this plan was put in place and goals that we set ourselves now must be more clearly defined and realistic. However, we are confident

that a plan emerging from cooperative endeavour, and which reflects the aspirations and concerns of the members, will help to ensure that the group can continue to make an important contribution to our professional and intellectual lives.

II. Treasurer's Report

Health Sciences Libraries Group Income versus Expenditure:
From 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2008

Income	€
Conference 2008	34,728
CPD	14,628
Irish Health Libraries Journals Consortium	1,050
Total income	50,406
Expenditure	€
Conference	19,811.64
CPD	8,695.27
EAHIL	1,726.42
Website	916.59
Communications	104.90
International Liaison	655.71
Total expenditure	31,910.53
Grand total	18,495
Surplus / (Deficit)	€
Conference	14,916
CPD	5,930

III. Communications Officer

Susan Boyle was newly elected to the position of Communications Officer in February 2008. The primary focus for the communications office this year has been the publication of the HSLG publication *HINT* and the promotion of key events such as the Joint Christmas Networking Events with the Academic and Special Libraries Group and the HSLG Strategic Planning Day.

Two packed issues of *HINT* were published in 2008. The Communication Officer would like to thank Jane Farrelly fellow HSLG committee member for her ongoing key involvement in the publication of *HINT*, her contribution is invaluable.

It was agreed that a *HINT* Working Group would help with production and generate more member driven content for future issues of *HINT*. This was agreed at the HSLG committee and a promotion campaign to invite members to join the *HINT* working is currently underway. This will be ongoing in 2009. A *HINT* Working Group project space has been set up in the HSLG 'Basecamp' system to facilitate discussion and file sharing between the *HINT* Working Group members. It is expected that with the new *HINT* Working Group, the publication target of 4 issues per year in 2009 will be reached.

The aim for the Communication Officer in 2009 is to focus on promoting HSLG at both national and international events and to assist the other committee members with promotional materials or any communication issues.

IV. Continuing Professional Development Working Group (CPDWG)

Fiona McCarthy (Team Leader)
Aoife Lawton
Aoife O Connor
Kathryn Smith
David MacNaughton
David Mockler
Dymphna McGettigan
Anne Madden
Tara Kenny (Part time)
Sheila O Flynn

The CPDWG held 6 meetings and organised 6 training events this year. These consisted of 4 traditional training sessions, 1 workshop and for the first time, we were invited to organise

CPD sessions at the HSLG Conference in Athlone, February 2008. These took the format of short parallel sessions with 4 trainers who were assigned to respective sessions. All sessions were very well attended and judging from the very positive feedback received, we hope these CPD sessions might become a regular feature at future HSLG conferences. One of our courses entitled "Writing for publication" was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of interest. All our trainers in 2008 were sourced externally from Ireland and the UK.

Aoife Lawton resigned her post this year as CPD Team Leader; she will remain as a member of the working group. Aoife has given tremendous commitment and energy to the CPDWG throughout her years as Team Leader and has been vital to the flourishing growth and continued success of the group. We would to extend our immense gratitude for all her hard work and contribution. Fiona McCarthy replaced Aoife as CPDWG Team Leader; initially in an acting capacity. Joanne Callinan also stepped down from the group to take up a new position in the Mid West. We would like to reward Joanne for her contribution to the group over the years.

The group were delighted to welcome a number of new members in 2008 – Anne Madden, David Mockler and Sheila O Flynn whom we welcome to the group and look forward to their future contribution.

CPD events organised in 2008

30th January 2008

Course Title: Evidence based Library & Information practice workshop: Walking the walk (24 attendees)

Trainer: Andrew Booth, School of Health and related research, Sheffield University

20th & 21st February, CPD parallel sessions delivered at the HSLG Conference, Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone

Title: Thinking inside the box: Making the most of Library space

Trainer: Niamh Lucey, St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin 4 (presented by Anne Madden)

Title: Preparing a business plan

Trainer: Cathy Doyle, Dublin Dental Hospital

Title: Principles for designing web searching instruction
Trainer: Paul Murphy, RCSI Mercer Library

Title: Emerging technologies
Trainer: Cathal McCauley, UCD Library

Date: 29th May 2008
Course title: Web 2.0 – Tools to make life easier (15 attendees)
Trainer: Helen Blanchett, Netskills, Newcastle University

Date: 3rd July 2008
Course title: Information skills: Is Google enough? (15 attendees)
Trainer: Helen Blanchett, Netskills, Newcastle University

Date: 8th October 2008
Course title: Marketing Information Services within the Health Sector" (6 attendees)
Trainer: Miriam McDonald, Irish Marketing Institute

Course date: 10th December 2008
Course title: Effective coaching and mentoring for Managers and Team Leaders (6 attendees)
Trainer: Deirdre Murray

The latter part of 2008 proved a challenging time for all as the Health Sector and the economy in general faced an economic crisis. Many of our HSLG members were restricted by funding and travel and this is reflected in a sharp drop in attendee numbers in our latter 2 courses. This is in no way a reflection of a reduction in the quality of our courses and trainers as our high standards remain consistent and these courses have received very positive feedback despite the low numbers in attendance. 2009 poses more challenges and the group will have to take the likely economic downturn into consideration. We have scaled down our 2009 training programme slightly, hopefully with a view to increasing our CPD profile in 2010.

Our primary objective is to consistently offer high quality courses that meet the requirements of HSLG members.

V. EAHIL Workshop 2009 Local Organising Committee

Louise Farragher (Chairperson), Health Research Board
Michael Doheny, Athlone Institute of Technology
Gabrielle Doyle, St. Luke's Institute of Cancer Research and St. Luke's Hospital

Jane Farrelly, HSE Tralee General Hospital
Brian Galvin, Health Research Board
Muriel Haire, Irish Nurses Organisation and EAHIL Council member
Niamh Lucey, St Vincent's Hospital
Anne O'Byrne, Rotunda Hospital and Eahil Council member
Julie Hayes, South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital
Caroline Pfeifer, Manager, Information Centre and Library, Irish Hospice Foundation [resigned 2008]
Kathryn Smith, UCD Health Sciences Library

EAHIL Workshop 2009 International Programme Committee

Isabel Andrade, Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública, Portugal
Suzanne Bakker, Library Director at NKI-AVL Netherlands Cancer Institute/ and President of EAHIL
Andrew Booth, University of Sheffield, UK
Helena Bouzkova, Narodni Lekarska Knihovna, Czech Republic
Noemia Canas, University of Coimbra, Portugal
Manuela Colomb, Janssen-Cilag, Italy
Louise Farragher, Health Research Board, Dublin
Muriel Haire, Irish Nurses Organisation, Dublin
Arne Jakobsson, University of Oslo Library, Norway
Niamh Lucey, St Vincents University Hospital, Dublin
Anne O'Byrne, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin
Ioana Robu, Biblioteca Centrala, Romania
Friedhelm Rump, Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule, Germany
Hilde Stromme, Ullevaal University Hospital, Oslo, Norway
Wouter Schallier, LIBER, Belgium
Enrica Veronesi, Facolta di Medicina e Chirurgia/Universita, Italy
Michelle Wake, University of Londo, UK

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 2008, the EAHIL Local Organising Committee continued to meet and plan for the forthcoming EAHIL Workshop, to be held in Dublin Castle 2-5 June 2009. In addition, The International Programme Committee, chaired by Paul Murphy, Deputy Librarian at RCSI, was convened and met in Helsinki in June 2008 and again in Dublin, hosted by RCSI, in November 2008.

Seven Irish delegates joined over 420 health librarians and information professionals from all over Europe and Beyond at the 11th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Helsinki in June, and the LOC issued a formal invitation to EAHIL members to attend the June workshop. Once again,

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.

The LOC Chair wishes to formally thank all the members of the LOC and IPC for their tremendous work during the year. Like the majority of work in the Health Sciences Libraries Group and the Library Association of Ireland, 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.

VI. HSLG Conference Organising Committee 2008

Bernard Barrett (Leader)
Louise Farragher
Jane Farrelly
Sue Faulkner
Sean Hughes
Fiona McCarthy
Anne Madden
Aoife O'Connor
Pamela O'Connor

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.

This year's conference was again held in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the February 20-21 February 2008. The theme of the conference was 'Quality and Innovation: Creating Opportunities.'

61 delegates attended over the course of two days. The first day of the conference comprised interactive sessions on 'Quality' facilitated and presented by Cathy Doyle, of Dublin Dental School and Linda Moore of HIQA-Health Information and Quality Authority.

In the afternoon the inaugural Beatrice Doran Lecture was given by Beatrice herself, who informed us about her work in the development and assessment of a clinical informationist in an Irish teaching hospital, as well as a detailed overview of the history of Irish health librarianship. In a departure from tradition, HSLG offered a series of four parallel 45-minute Continuing Professional Development courses. The organiser would like to thank Niamh Lucey, Anne Madden, Cathal McCauley, Paul Murphy and Cathy Doyle for making these sessions possible.

Finally, Penny Wiggle, Research Librarian in the Adelaide and Meath Hospital provided us with an outline of her work as a research librarian to the Senior Management of the Hospital. Penny's post is currently the only one of its kind in the country, and is a concrete example of the way in which we contribute to the quality agenda within the health service.

The HSLG Annual General Meeting was held in the late afternoon, and a drinks reception was held later in the evening to launch the trade exhibition. Our thanks, as always, are extended to our sponsors: Ebsco, ISOxford, Wolter Kluwer/Ovid, Proquest, Book Nest, Swets, Thieme, Pharmaceutical Press, RPS Publishing, Infocandy, Elsevier and 3M. Our conferences could not take place without their support. This event was followed by the conference banquet.

The second day began with another departure from tradition: a film! *The Hollywood Librarian* had its European premiere in Athlone, and we were very delighted that the director, Ann Seidl, travelled to Ireland to launch the film. Many thanks are due to conference organiser, Jane Farrely, who made this possible and who originally came up with the idea of screening the film at the conference. Ann went on to participate in many of the Library Association of Ireland's Library Ireland Week events, including a screening of *The Hollywood Librarian* in Cork and in the IFSC in Dublin.

Anne participated in a 'question and answers' session after the screening of the film, and joined with delegates in yet another departure from tradition, as we invited a team from the Gaiety School of Acting to help us learn to use one's voice, good physical posture, as well as knowing how to improvise. In a highly interactive session, delegates were invited to 'role play' in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Although this session was a big departure from our usual events, delegates really got into

the spirit of it and made it a success, and the conferences ended on a high note.

As always, the success of these events is the result of voluntary work by dedicated HSLG members. The conference committee is to be congratulated for an exciting and innovative event.

Long standing HSLG chair and active committee member Bernard Barrett, Information Scientist in the Mental Health Directorate of the Health Service Executive Mid West Office, stepped down from his position on the HSLG committee following the HSLG AGM in 2008. Bernard was presented with an engraved silver salver in thanks for almost 8 years of service on behalf of the group. Longstanding and active committee member Sue Faulkner, Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary Services, also stepped down after over five years commitment to the committee. HSLG wishes to record their thanks to Bernard and Sue for their invaluable contributions to the development and continued success of the group, and wish them all the very best in the future.