

Library Services

The Trust Library services are delivered from libraries in the Education Centres of Freeman Hospital and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, and play a core role in underpinning the Trust Clinical Governance, Education and Research agendas.

Facilitating Clinical Governance by providing relevant evidence based information in a timely manner

The multidisciplinary **Libraries** support all staff throughout the Trust and include over 16,400 books and 210 current journal titles on the two sites, together with a large collection of electronic resources available from within the Trust and from home. Registered membership of the two libraries number over 4,500, consisting of 2,266 nurses and health care assistants, 881 medical staff, 952 others (e.g. Allied Health Professionals, managers, scientists, ancillary staff) and 418 medical students (who can borrow while on placement at Freeman Hospital).

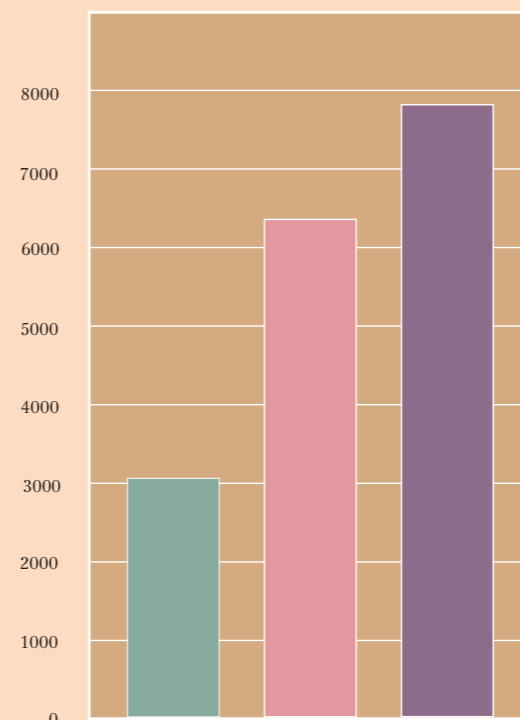
We experienced an increased demand in many areas, for example:

- Book loans – 19,605 (4% increase)
- Interlibrary loan requests – 3,463 (21% increase)
- Downloading or photocopying articles on request - 590 (This is a new service)
- Literature searches - including regular Current Awareness searches – 1,115 (60% increase).

It is worth noting that this is in addition to the extensive opportunities that users have for downloading articles for themselves.

The **Electronic Library** increasingly provides the major access point to library and information services through the Library web pages on the Intranet, 24 hours a day. A considerable number (576) of staff have been provided with passwords so that they can access resources from home via the Library's Internet web page. These resources include the major healthcare databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, BNI, HMIC, PSYCINFO and ASSIA), as well as a growing number (currently over 650) of electronic journals.

2000 - 2001 2001 - 2002 2002 - 2003
Total Searches - On-line databases



Statistics of use show considerable growth in activity.

In addition to managing the web sites, Mark Chambers, the Electronic Services Librarian, also spends considerable time in delivering information skills training sessions to individuals or groups. Over 400 people received training this year.

An evaluation of the **Clinical Librarian** initiative (where the Librarian attends selected clinical meetings and ward rounds and provides focused literature searches)



has recently been completed. This confirmed that this service can facilitate Clinical Governance by providing relevant, evidence-based information in a timely manner. Consultants in particular found it valuable, saving time and providing opportunities to follow up on clinical queries, the results of which are frequently shared with colleagues. This will require funding if it is to be promoted and developed to other areas.

Library staff are a fundamental part of the service, and they continue to work effectively and flexibly across the two sites, developing

their own skills and providing additional services to users. The post of Electronic Services Librarian was extended until December 2003, but its funding still remains to be established on a more permanent basis. The overall increase in information activity indicates that Trust staff have an increased need for information, and it is to be hoped that the provision will result in improved care and research.

Margaret Valentine, Librarian
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