



## Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare

**Wednesday 22 October 2025, Issue 5**

Welcome to this month's bulletin providing news and information for NHS staff and learners, helping you to make the most of your NHS knowledge and library service for lifelong learning, research, innovation and everyday decision making.

Find out more about the work of the [national NHS Knowledge and Library Services team](#) or take a look at [Knowledge for Healthcare](#).

### **In this issue:**

- **A message from Louise Goswami, Chief Knowledge Officer, NHS England**
- **Health Literacy Month**
- **Green Libraries Week, 27 October to 2 November 2025**
- **USA Government shut-down – what does it mean for PubMed and Medline?**
- **Coming up: KNOWvember**

- **Resource of the month: Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures**
- **Partnership Perfection: Patient Information Forum (PiF) Partnership**
- **Spotlight on the Quality Improvement Outcomes Framework for NHS-funded Knowledge and Library Services**
- **Quality, Improvement and Impact: NHS knowledge and library specialists bringing the evidence you need to inform your decisions**
- **Please help to promote the National Education and Training Survey (NETS) 2025**
- **10 Year Workforce Plan call for evidence**

### **A message from Louise Goswami, Chief Knowledge Officer, NHS England**



The national NHS Knowledge and Library Services team, are delighted that our work with NHS App colleagues in public libraries has been reflected in the priorities of the 10 Year Health Plan.

This is part of a National Health Literacy Partnership with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, Libraries Connected (the strategic lead for public libraries) and Arts Council England.

It aims to increase access to health literacy tools and high-quality health information through libraries in different sectors. Working alongside NHS App colleagues, we are providing learning resources and communications tools for public libraries staff to enable them to signpost to the NHS App and high-quality health information. You can find out more about the work [here](#). We have just started to recruit public libraries to take part in a second wave of activity. If you know of public library services that may wish to be involved, do share [this link](#) with them.

This month NHS library and knowledge staff across England have been raising awareness of health literacy as part of international Health Literacy Month and highlighting the contribution of libraries to achieving the NHS net-zero targets as part of [Green Libraries Week](#)

## Health Literacy Month

October is international [Health Literacy Month](#). The annual campaign provides an opportunity to raise awareness of health literacy, or the ability to access, assess and use health information to make decisions. In England, 43% adults struggle to understand health information that just uses words, rising to 61% when numbers are added ([Rowlands et al, 2015](#)). If you would like to find out the health literacy levels in your borough, you can use the [geodata](#) we developed in partnership with the University of Southampton. This month, local NHS knowledge and library services have been promoting tools from within the [health literacy toolkit](#) and running local health literacy training events.

Whilst we are at the close of the month, you can still [check your local geodata](#) and [review which tools to use](#). You can contact [your local NHS knowledge and library service](#) to find out about activity in the past month and plans for the future.

## Green Libraries Week, 27 October to 2 November 2025

[Green Libraries Week](#) is an annual celebration that focuses on sustainability and climate change initiatives within libraries across the UK. This year it is taking place from Monday 27 October to Sunday 2 November 2025. Many NHS knowledge and library services take an active role in raising awareness of sustainability and climate change, contributing to a greener NHS and reaching targets outlined in [Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service](#).

Knowledge and library activities include supplying books and articles about sustainability, sharing updates about the latest research in green issues running gardening sessions and seed libraries and contributing to energy-saving and recycling initiatives.

There is an active community of practice hosted on the Future NHS platform for knowledge and library staff and others with an interest in doing more about sustainability. The community organises regular events with speakers and work collaboratively on maintaining a toolkit to inform sustainable purchasing activities within in knowledge and library services.

[Get in touch with your local NHS knowledge and library service](#) to find out how you can work in partnership to raise awareness of sustainability.

## USA Government shut-down – what does it mean for PubMed and Medline?

If you subscribe to auto-alerts from PubMed or Medline databases, you may notice that you have not been receiving any new records recently. This is due to the current US government shutdown because of a lapse in government funding. You might notice a warning like this on US government funded websites:

*Because of a lapse in government funding, the information on this website may not be up to date, transactions submitted via the website may not be processed, and the agency may not be able to respond to inquiries until appropriations are enacted. The NIH Clinical Center (the research hospital of NIH) is open. For more details about its operating status, please visit [cc.nih.gov](https://cc.nih.gov). Updates regarding government operating status and resumption of normal operations can be found at [opm.gov](https://opm.gov).*

For an explainer about the situation, [see here](#). Previous US government shut-downs have been resolved quickly but this one may take a bit more time.

**What can you do?**

If the shut-down lasts for longer than anticipated, consider moving your searching and alerts to an alternative bibliographic database such as [EMBASE](#).

Even though the Medline component of EMBASE will not be updated, the publisher will continue to index core EMBASE content as usual. There is a significant overlap between [EMBASE and Medline](#) but you may notice differences in your search results.

For help on how to do this please [contact your local NHS knowledge and library service team](#) or contact the [Knowledge and Library Hub Service Desk](#).

### Coming up: KNOWvember

The month of November is an opportunity to pause and consider how well you are tapping into knowledge and know-how to inform all aspects of your work. Consider how regularly you connect with others to exchange and share learning from experience and use this alongside data, published research evidence and examples of good practice before you start out on a piece of work, as part of a mid-point check-in and at the end to capture and re-use learning.

As part of #KNOWvember25 we invite you to [reach out to your local NHS knowledge and library service](#) and take part in knowledge sharing activities to learn before, during and after all that you do. Ask about [tools and techniques](#) to help you effectively share and use knowledge within your team, organisation and across your healthcare system.

### Resource of the month: Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures

The Royal Marsden Manual provides over 350 evidence-based clinical procedures for all aspects of nursing and patient care. Highlights include:

- Brand new videos showing step-by-step procedures
- Support for your learning and revalidation

- Flexible access – designed for smartphones, tablets and desktops – giving you access to content wherever suits you best
- A new search function that helps you find procedures faster than ever before

A national resource, the Royal Marsden Manual is available to all staff with an [NHS OpenAthens account](#). Log on directly [here](#) or access the resource through the [NHS Knowledge and Library Hub](#).

### Have you got your NHS OpenAthens key to unlock knowledge resources?

To make the most of the [national collection of e-books, e-journals, databases and clinical decision support tools](#) check you have an active NHS OpenAthens account.

[Sign-up here](#) or [refresh your password](#)



Search, find, read with the [NHS Knowledge and Library Hub](#)

Partnership Perfection: Patient Information Forum (PiF) Partnership



The [Patient Information Forum](#) (PIF) is a membership organisation for producers of health information. As part of our partnership with PIF, we collaborated on workshops with NHS library staff and with public library staff to improve the web interface for the PIF directory of information resources produced by organisations and individuals who meet the [PIF TICK quality standards](#). The library staff were particularly keen to introduce a search function to help with signposting from libraries to producers of high-quality health information. The new [PIF TICK web interface](#) was launched on 6 October 2025 as part of Health Literacy Month.

Do share the updated [PIF TICK online directory](#) details with colleagues who provide health information to members of the public.

## Spotlight on the Quality Improvement Outcomes Framework for NHS-funded Knowledge and Library Services

[The Quality and Improvement Outcomes Framework](#) enables NHS organisations to demonstrate commitment to enabling access to proactive high-quality NHS knowledge and library services.

The national NHS Knowledge and Library Service team is currently working with all NHS organisations to discuss progress through the framework and to consider areas for service improvement.

One of the outcomes has been to identify some of the innovative and good practice taking place in NHS

funded knowledge and library services across the country. Starting from next month we will share and celebrate areas of good practice in each issue of Spotlight to both celebrate and to support spread and adoption.

## Quality, Improvement and Impact: NHS knowledge and library specialists bringing the evidence you need to inform your decisions

### Book share service for staff, patients and visitors

The Library and Knowledge Team worked in partnership with Gateshead public libraries to develop and evaluate a book share service, including easy read titles.

The book share has now been adopted in the maternity department to increase access to health and wellbeing resources for staff and patients.

*“Strengthened inclusivity and collaboration by connecting staff, patients and visitors, encouraging interactions across different groups in the Trust.”*

Deputy Director of Corporate Services and Transformation, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust



Find out more about [#AMillionDecisions](#) or watch our [short animation about how NHS Knowledge and Library Services give The Gift of Time](#)

Other news

## **Please help to promote the National Education and Training Survey (NETS) 2025**

[The survey](#) is open from 7 October to 2 December 2025 and provides a vital opportunity for healthcare learners, trainees, apprentices and resident doctors to share their experiences and help shape the future of healthcare education and training across the NHS – including knowledge and library services.

### **10 Year Workforce Plan call for evidence**

NHS partners and stakeholders are asked to contribute to a call for evidence open for six weeks until 7 November 2025, to support the development of the 10 Year Workforce Plan.

The aim is to create a plan that empowers staff, delivers world-class care, and secures the future of the NHS.

Please share examples of best practice and innovation that can be scaled to meet the 10 Year Health Plan ambitions, as well as feedback on research and modelling.

This plan aims to create a sustainable workforce that is fit for the future, ensuring the NHS has the right people, in the right roles, with the right skills, so that every patient receives world-class care whenever they need it. It will support staff to work flexibly, grow their skills, and feel fulfilment in their careers.

Your expertise and partnership will be central to making this vision a reality and ongoing opportunities for expert input will be shared as it develops.

Please join the call for evidence here: [10 Year Workforce Plan - GOV.UK](#)

**How to contact your local NHS Knowledge and Library**

You can [find details of your local NHS knowledge and library service](#)

Once you've found your service, give them a ring or drop them an email to find out about membership and availability of local NHS knowledge and library services, including help in finding and using resources.

### If this bulletin has been forwarded to you...

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