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Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare

Wednesday 25 March 2026, Issue 10

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](#).

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



Welcome to the March edition of **Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare**. This issue highlights how we curate national resources and systems to make it easier for people across health and care to access the knowledge they need to make evidence informed- decisions.

You'll find a new guide to library resources for Healthcare Scientists, developed during Healthcare Science Week, alongside practical examples of how NHS knowledge and library specialists support the research process at every stage. We also spotlight the work of the Resource Discovery team, whose work helps ensure staff can access the right evidence at the right time.

Our impact case study, from Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, shows how national resources were used to create evidence summaries on priority learning topics and how this summarised evidence contributed to shared learning and a 50% reduction in never events.

Finally, we invite you to share your views through our short survey to help us continue developing resources that meet your needs, and to encourage colleagues to do the same.

Library resources for Healthcare Scientists

During Healthcare Science Week 2026 we produced a [short guide highlighting the full range of library sources available for healthcare scientists](#). Whatever your healthcare science role you will find something of interest in the national collection of journals, E-books, databases and clinical support tools. Don't forget there are also videos and E-Learning modules to help you make the most of these resources.

Please take a look at the [library resources for healthcare scientists guide](#) and share with colleagues.

What is it like to be an Outreach Librarian in the NHS?

Colleague, [Oluwatobi Salaam](#), is featured on the [NHS Health Careers website](#) sharing their real-life story about how they got into the role of Outreach Librarian at East and North Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Oluwatobi shares what they do in their role, "ensuring frontline staff have access to up-to-date information that supports their professional growth and enhances patient care".

What is Health Research? New E-Learning modules and how your knowledge and library specialist can help

A [suite of E-Learning modules](#) is now available to embed research awareness and capability across the NHS workforce. Co-developed by the Embedding Research team, NHS England and the NIHR Research Delivery Network the modules introduce fundamental research concepts to increase staff confidence to support and participate in research.

[Speak to your local NHS knowledge and library specialist](#) to find out more about how they can underpin your research development. At every stage of the research process, knowledge and library specialists provide assistance:

- helping to design your search question
- advising on search strategies to find existing research papers
- sharing good practice about how to document your research protocol
- managing research data
- knowledge mobilisation
- facilitating discussions about research papers
- critical appraisal of published research
- dissemination of research findings

You can use these modules in conjunction with the E-Learning modules created by the national Knowledge and Library Services team to develop skills relating to [literature searching](#), [knowledge mobilisation](#), [health literacy awareness](#) and [critical appraisal of research papers](#).

Don't forget you can also access the wide-range of library resources including the [Cochrane Library](#), journals, books and research databases. Take a look at the [library resources for researchers guide](#) for further information and please share this with anyone curious about research.

Coming up: Share your views about what you 'need' to access and use knowledge and evidence in your role in the NHS

Please take a few minutes [to complete our short survey about user needs](#).

We are researching NHS staff access and use of evidence to inform future delivery.

Following the completion of interviews with staff from all professions, roles and settings across the NHS in England, we are looking to validate the needs that have been identified.

Help us to understand the picture for clinical and non-clinical staff, students and apprentices, those in regular contact with their Knowledge and Library Service and those who are not.

You can read about previous [user research](#) that informed the creation of the [Knowledge and Library Hub](#) and be assured that your input can make the difference.

If you can help, please complete this [brief survey](#) and circulate it to your colleagues. The survey will close on 12 April 2026.

Coming up: BMJ Best Practice and state-of-the-art care for Sepsis in Adults Webinar

 **Wednesday 26 April 2026, 2pm to 3pm**

Improve sepsis outcomes for adult patients by joining our expert speakers, **Dr Kieran Walsh** (BMJ Clinical Director) and **Professor Matt Morgan** (Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine, Cardiff), for a focused webinar. This session will guide you through practical strategies for leveraging [BMJ Best Practice](#) to provide outstanding care and address common clinical challenges in sepsis management.

- **Key Topics:** Managing comorbidities, overcoming implementation challenges, and avoiding clinical pitfalls.
- **Who:** Ideal for all NHS Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists and Students.

- **Takeaway:** Practical strategies for evidence-based care at the bedside.

👉 [Register via Microsoft Teams here](#)

Resource of the month: Ovid Databases

Wolters Kluwer is the current provider of key bibliographic databases Medline, EMBASE, Emcare, Social Policy & Practice, and (where available locally) PsycINFO. The NHS England Knowledge and Library Services team has been working with Wolters Kluwer to create an improved user experience of the platform for searchers across England.

The team uncovered that there were historical differences which meant that different NHS organisations had varying search settings. This was unhelpful for those moving between Trusts, and for the delivery of training and support. After consultation with the expert NHS knowledge specialist, a default NHS view was agreed and has now been implemented – [take a look at our resources for advanced searching](#).

How do I learn to search effectively?

If you're new to literature searching, or need a refresher, try our e-learning programme, [How to Search the Literature Effectively](#). This will help you build confidence and covers principles of good searching which apply whichever search tools you use.

Where can I get more help with advanced searching?

[Find your local NHS Knowledge and Library service](#) and speak with your nearest knowledge and library service manager to see what training and support is available to help you use the databases and carry out a literature or evidence search.

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](#)

Spotlight on: The Resource Discovery team

The Resource Discovery part of the national Knowledge and Library Services team at NHS England delivers access to the digital knowledge resources and associated infrastructure for over 700,000 staff, learners and trainees across the NHS in England. By doing things once, nationally, rather than hundreds of times locally, the team can achieve savings for the whole healthcare system and provide universal access to these valuable resources across health and care settings.

The team commissions, manages and delivers a core collection of digital knowledge and evidence

resources including journals, books, bibliographic databases and BMJ Best Practice to underpin evidence-informed decision making at the point of health and care delivery and enable lifelong learning and research. It is estimated that the national core collection produces a cost efficiency of 15% per annum on subscriptions. National procurement also ensures universal access across all sectors.

The team prioritises making improvements in the discoverability of NHS funded content by maintaining the Knowledge and Library Hub, supporting LibKey Nomad implementations and developing library systems to provide a universal user experience, streamlining access to evidence, saving staff time and making best use of all NHS-purchased content. Central management of this infrastructure saves £6 million per annum on system costs and streamlines access to knowledge and evidence.

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

Summarising evidence to support Trust wide learning on safety incidents

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust introduced the *weLearn* programme to share learning from across the organisation, including learning from excellence, incidents and errors.

The NHS Knowledge and Library Specialists produced monthly evidence summaries on priority learning topics agreed by the *weLearn* Lessons Steering Group. Ten summaries were created on topics such as air vs oxygen, spinal cord compression and acute kidney injury, and shared widely across the Trust.

Following the *#weLearnlessons* campaign, the Trust saw a 50% reduction in never events between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

“An important element of the learning is assuring ourselves that we are evidence based and can take learning from elsewhere. This is where we will be reliant on our Library and Knowledge Team to inform and engage with the cultural foundations of a ‘just culture and learning’ as key to the success of PSIRF.”

Deputy Director of Learning and Governance,
Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust



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

Quality, Improvement and Impact: Celebrating good practice

National systems and local delivery for faster evidence access

The Library and Knowledge Service at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust secured the [central roll out](#) of the LibKey Nomad tool. [LibKey Nomad](#) is a browser plug in that makes it simple for users to discover access to library collections. Nomad provides a seamless link to the full text of the article or populates a document supply request form if it is not immediately available.

The roll out drove a substantial immediate increase in the downloading of articles by Trust Staff. Downloads rose from around 6-700 per month to a sustained level regularly exceeding 2000 per month (an overall rise of 236% over an equivalent 6-month period in 2023-24).

This increase in use represents healthcare workers more readily accessing the evidence they need with fewer clicks, freeing up time for patient care and other front-line clinical and management tasks. Alongside the increase in immediate downloads the Library saw an immediate leap of 20% in the number of document supply requests received and almost a 100% increase when looking across the equivalent periods (October – March).

Supplying articles can be time consuming for library staff and a significant increase in this activity would be expected to require additional staff resource. Thanks to the adoption of INCDocs and PrintDocs it has been possible for the existing library team to meet this increased demand. Turn around of requests is faster often within hours rather than days as was previously the case and this encourages confidence in the service and hence further use.

The speed of access to evidence contributes to informed decision making and patient safety across the Trust. You may be able to [install Nomad](#) for yourself or [work with IT](#) to get it on all Trust desktops for maximum benefit.

Other news

Annual Reporting: Guidance and Support for the Updated Health Inequalities Statement

As annual reporting begins, NHS England reminds ICBs, trusts and foundation trusts to review how they have exercised their functions in line with [the updated statement on information on health inequalities](#). The 2025 statement sets expectations for collecting and using data to identify need, understand inequalities and drive action, and outlines reporting requirements. A drop-in session will support teams with questions and provide resources to help embed guidance. [Click the link to register](#).

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.

No access to a local service? [Contact us to discuss options](#).

If this bulletin has been forwarded to you...

Our monthly bulletin provides news and information for NHS staff and learners, helping you to make the most of your NHS knowledge and library services for lifelong learning, research, innovation and everyday decision making.

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