

NHS SHALL Group

11 September 2012

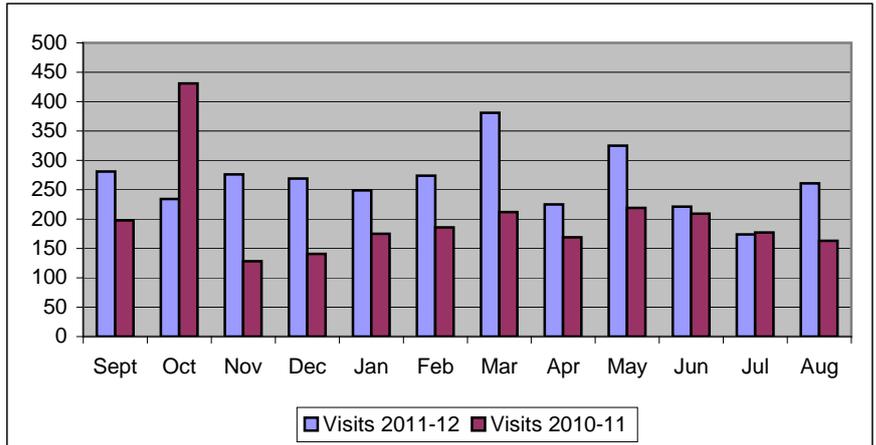
Report on the Commissioning Handbook for Librarians

Commissioning Handbook Activity

This analysis covers the past year – September 2011 to August 2012. In this period, there have been a total of 3,200 visits from 1,967 unique visitors.

Visits

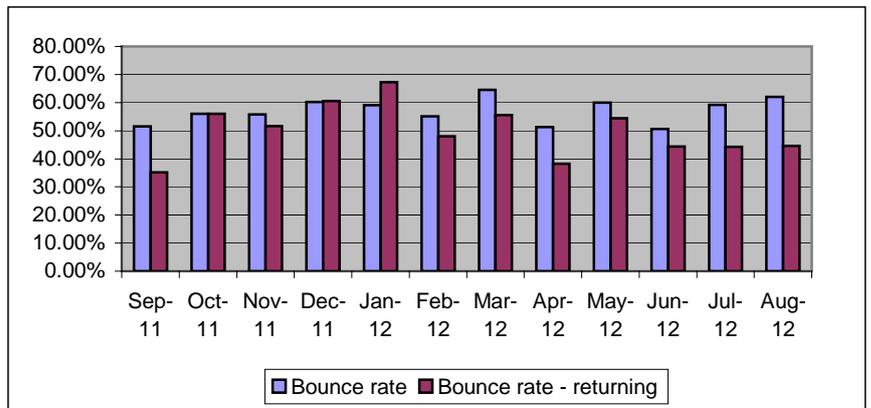
The number of visitors continues to fluctuate, but there is a general improvement from last year's activity. This graph demonstrates how this year's visits compare to 2010-11.



Bounce rate

The bounce rate for all visits is still high, but is more positive for returning visitors, who are more likely to be our target audience.

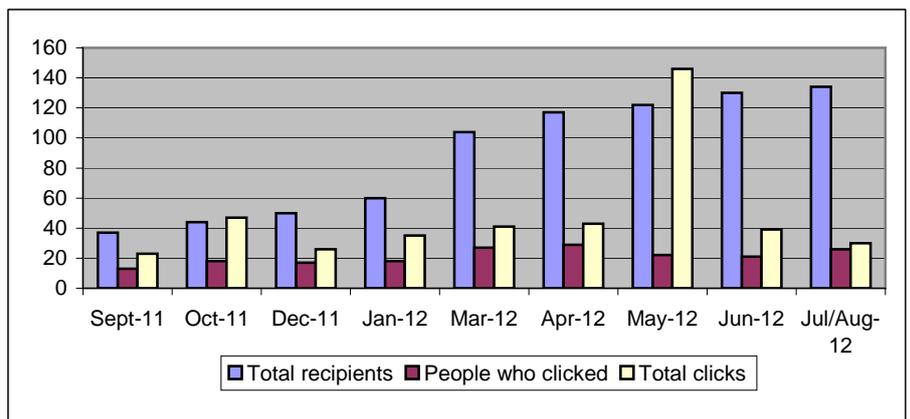
Work has now started to revise and reformat parts of the handbook. Also, a decision was taken at the last Editorial Group meeting to remove “for Librarians” from the title. It is hoped that these steps will have a positive effect on the bounce rate.



Newsletter

The newsletter continues, and the number of subscribers has risen to 134.

This graph indicates that the number of subscribers continues to grow, but the number of people clicking on links is fairly static.



Statistics on how many people have opened the newsletter have been removed, as it is possible to read the text without opening.

Concluding remarks

- Visits to the Handbook have improved since last year. It is hoped that continued work to improve the Handbook will result in this overall trend continuing.
- It is hoped that current efforts to develop content (eg Hot Topics) will have a positive effect on the bounce rate.

Sharon Riddle and Anne Gray
September 2012

Article submitted for publication in HLG Newsletter December 2011

Commissioning Handbook for Librarians – where is it going?

The Commissioning Handbook for Librarians at <http://commissioning.pbworks.com/> is a wiki based resource that has been developed by – and for – the NHS library community to support NHS staff involved in the commissioning of health services.

The aim of the Handbook is to provide a working collection which contributors regard as key resources and good starting–points for investigation as well as examples of best practice amongst library services. It was created to fulfil a need recognised by librarians who were increasingly being asked to find out about service development, and retrieve service specifications, and information about models of service developed by other trusts. Answers to these questions lie deep in Board papers, government documents, reports and case studies – the ‘grey literature’ which is not readily retrieved from traditional library resources or databases. Colleagues recognised that this was a new area for most librarians and this led to discussions about the quality of the service they were providing, and how it could be improved and shared? The answer came in the form of a wiki – one of the new online collaborative tools which can be accessed by all, developed and maintained on a shoestring and is flexible enough to be adapted as the landscape changes. (For a detailed description of the early development of the Handbook see the article by Alison Price¹)

The structure of the Handbook reflects the stages of the commissioning cycle and was guided by World Class Commissioning, at the time a new government approach to commissioning of health service in which evidence based practice and knowledge management was key.² When the Handbook was conceived Specialist Collections around Commissioning and Health Management were available via the National Library for Health. These were key collections of resources compiled by the Kings Fund and the Handbook aimed to compliment, not duplicate, these collections giving librarians both a supplementary place to look and a place to share their findings with others.

Following a rapid development phase the Handbook (then known as the Commissioning wiki) went live in late 2008. Since then the landscape of NHS primary care in England has changed radically following the election of a new coalition government, the mothballing of the World Class Commissioning initiative, introduction of the Health & Social Care Bill heralding GP consortia and then Clinical Commissioning Groups. In some cases, the radical restructure of PCTs and SHAs has been accompanied by the loss of some primary care librarian posts, and the services they offered. In addition the dispersal of the former NLH Health Management and Commissioning Specialist Collections across NHS Evidence has left librarians and health managers without ready access to key collections at a time of major change across the NHS. Primary care clinicians, most of whom have little or no previous experience in service development, are asking questions relating to commissioning and management of services. Library and information services must be prepared to pick up these questions from the clinicians in their new roles to support evidence based development of high quality services and to brief clinicians on their new role. Further, librarians will want to demonstrate the contribution they can make in the new commissioning support landscape. Because of its flexibility the

¹ The Commissioning Handbook: dynamic collaboration, Alison Price
Inform: newsletter of IfM Healthcare, 2910, v20(2), p14-18, <http://ifmh.org.uk/commwiki.pdf>

² World Class Commissioning - Vision, DH 2007
http://www.dh.gov.uk/dr_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_080953.pdf

Handbook is ideally placed to provide practical support to information professionals - a new page around the coalition government health policies and another on Clinical Commissioning Groups have been added to reflect political changes on the ground.

One of the original aims of the Handbook was to provide a place to share searches and strategies which may of interest to others, not as examples of best practice but rather as a means of sharing learning amongst librarians, enabling improvement in knowledge and skills across this emerging area. In practice few searches have been put forward – whether through lack of time, lack of confidence, or because searches have not been considered to be of interest to others is unclear. However involvement in the Ask an Expert service at <http://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/ask-an-expert> is a key development to support collaborative working and to raise the profile of libraries to commissioners. NHS Library and Knowledge Services from across the country have joined with NHS Primary Care Commissioning ([See http://www.pcc.nhs.uk](http://www.pcc.nhs.uk)) and the South East Coast Quality Observatory to pilot this new online help desk for NHS Commissioners who have questions about data sets, contracts, rules of competition and procurement as well as evidence from research. Library services from across England have volunteered to take questions from NHS staff in their locality and hopefully form new links between commissioners and their local NHS libraries. The resulting reports are being shared through the Handbook. See <http://commissioning.pbworks.com/08-2--Examples-of-search-strategies>

Development of the Handbook is under the guidance of a Steering Group and regional champions from each SHA. The Handbook initially benefited from some funding from NLH, and later SHALL for project management, administrative and website support. This was particularly important in the initial development phase, and to ensure that the pages are kept up to date to a standard expected from a group of information professionals. In recent months a large number of broken links to the Commissioning and Health Management Specialist Collections have been removed. With the changes to SHAs and library services the future of funding is uncertain.

Over the past year there have been nearly 2,000 visitors to the Handbook, over 300 of whom have visited 9 or more times. If this is a useful tool worth revisiting, it is important that librarians maintain and develop it, supporting our ongoing work with commissioners of the future.

See the latest additions to the Handbook by signing up for the **Commissioning Handbook for Librarians Newsletter** here: <http://eepurl.com/ft8xn>

Anne Gray
Change Information Analyst
NHS Milton Keynes and NHS Northampton
Commissioning.librarian@miltonkeynes.nhs.uk

Commissioning – Internet sites of interest

Commissioning Handbook for Librarians

<http://commissioning.pbworks.com/> - the librarians' resource.

The Commissioning Zone

www.networks.nhs.uk/commissioning

A collaborative portal for clinicians, managers and anyone else involved in commissioning bringing together the best sources and resources. Resources are assigned to Policy & guidance, Reports & analysis, Data & tools and Resources. The

weekly update is a good way to keep up to date with the latest publications and government documents.

Quality MK – Knowledge Zone

http://www.qualitymk.nhs.uk/knowledge_zone.htm

A collection of pages, including Hot Topics, Where to find, and alerting services from the NHS primary care librarians in Milton Keynes to support their emerging Clinical Commissioning Group.

Health and Care

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/>

News and resources from the Department of Health around developments in health and social care.

RCGP Centre for Commissioning

<http://commissioning.rcgp.org.uk/>

Support for GPs from the RCGP

QIPP - Quality, Improvement Productivity and Prevention

<http://www.qualitymk.nhs.uk/default-ContentID-4034.htm>

A collection of useful resources around the QIPP agenda – the Department of Health’s guiding principles to help the NHS deliver its quality and efficiency commitment.

NHS Networks – Long Term Conditions

<http://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/commissioning-for-long-term-conditions/> -

Resources supporting the government’s agenda around Long term conditions

Primary care libraries google group

<http://groups.google.com/group/primary-care-libraries>

An email group of librarians and knowledge managers who support primary care and public health. The goal of the group is to exchange information and ideas, pose questions, share good practice and promote collaborative working. A low activity but high quality email group.