NHS/HE Forum
The NHS Library Review

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Key Questions for the Review of NHS Library Services

- Content Procurement
- Open Access
- NHS/HE Forum’s technical solutions
- Supra-national collaboration
- Conclusion
Content Procurement

- **Content**
  - HE spends much more on the acquisition of content, particularly e-content, than NHS
  - NHS, on its own, does not carry enough financial clout to convince publishers to modify their terms

- **Opportunity**
  - For NHS and HE to work together on joint procurement
    - Converge procurement routes
    - Involve discussions with JISC and all relevant NHS procurement agencies
    - Can a Road Map be drawn for future joined-up work?
    - Can this convergence be a recommendation of the Review?
Opportunity for the Report to recommend establishment of clearer frameworks for collaboration

- Possible joint HE/NHS procurement of Cochrane database of Systematic Reviews
  - Test for both partners is:
  - Where does the money come from?
  - Who can undertake procurement role for the whole of NHS England?
- Is joint national procurement by national NHS and HE bodies the new de facto model?
- Is role of local procurement to ‘top up’ national provision?
- Does NHS/HE Content Group have a role as Advisory Steering Group?
  - Similar role to JISC Journals Working Group
Opportunity

For NHS fully to embrace Open Access at a strategic and policy level

- Review should recommend that all NHS-funded research should be available to all NHS users, and the general public, in Open Access
- NHS should sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access
- NHS needs to investigate how the technical infrastructure to deliver Open Access can be put in place
- JISC and the HE SHERPA programme for Open Access repositories can help
  - [http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/)
HE repository access model

National/International Repository Search Services

Univ. X
Univ. Y
Univ. Z
UK PMC
ArXiv
BioMed C.

Google Search

OAI
NHS repository access model?

National/International Repository Search Services

Trust X
Trust Y
Univ. A
UK PMC
Univ. B
BioMed C.

Google Search

Framework run via NHS Libraries with NHS IT support

OAI
90% of its funded research is available online

% available to an NHS hospital?

UK National Health Service

'How accessible is NHS-funded research to the general public and to the NHS's own researchers?' M. Cockerill, 2004 at

http://www.biomedcentral.com/openaccess/inquiry/refersubmission.PDF
NHS/HE Forum’s technical solutions

Opportunity

- For the technical solutions identified in the Forum to be adopted across NHS England
  - But not enough to get libraries to embrace the ‘toolkit’ of solutions the Forum has identified
  - Review needs to recommend more advocacy work between NHS libraries, NHS IT constituencies, and their HE counterparts to ensure that the technical solution which best fits local needs is adopted
  - Issue is about advocacy as well as implementation
Supra-national collaboration

- Review is a review of NHS library provision in England.
- **Opportunity for Review to say something about how joined up discussions between NHS England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be progressed with HE.**
- Currently, HE and JISC have separate conversations with each NHS home country.
- Can the Review recommend the establishment of a high-level NHS/HE Advisory Group where strategic library discussions between HE and all NHS home countries can take place?
  - This would in effect formalise, but broaden, the work which NHS/HE Content Group has been undertaking at present.
Conclusions

- The Review of NHS library provision in England presents an opportunity to:
  - Put the content work of NHS and HE partners on a formal, national basis
  - Embrace Open Access, with the benefits that this can deliver to clinical practice and patient care through publications being generally available
  - Identify a new framework for collaborative library activities between HE and the NHS in all home countries
  - Advocate technical solutions for joint connectivity which have already been identified by the NHS/HE Forum
- I hope the Report has something to say in all these areas