

INTELLIGENCE INSIDER

Your Oxford Health Libraries' monthly newsletter

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My name is Mpilo Siwela



Looks recent, but its almost six years ago when I decided to cross from the East to work in the West. I joined Oxford Health in January 2018 as an Outreach/Reader Services Librarian, with the aim of getting my chartership and head back to the East as it was nearer home, least did I know that I will stay longer and go away with not being just a chartered

librarian but with other qualifications- getting a distinction for my Academic Professional apprentice course and studying for a [master's degree in library and information studies](#).

Outreach/Reader Services Librarian was quite an exciting 2 in 1 role, involving Collection Management and Information Skills Training. I delivered training on information retrieval skills and access to resources both print and electronic to support evidence-based practice for the diverse staff in the organization: for excellent patient care and for personal development.

The positive user feedback I received from the users, just a few comments below, kept me motivated despite the long drives and M25 and M40 queues to and from work.

Wow! thank you Mpilo – you are officially awesome at researching!

Fantastic thank you so much Mpilo – efficient as ever!

Wow this is amazing. Thank you so much Mpilo.

In this role, I have managed to introduce [educational board games](#) to our collection, making our library the first one in the SWIMS network to have such a collection. I was invited to share to the SWIMS network about how we use them and authored an article about [Making learning easy and fun at Oxford Health](#) which was later published in the library research journal.

I have also supported the patients in their recovery journey by coordinating [patient reading groups](#), attending activity coordinators' meetings, visiting patients reading groups and liaising with public libraries to get books and reminiscence collections. This made me really feel part of the bigger team. I had a responsibility also to apply for [World Book Night books](#) and this has been a success for six years now and has resulted in the creation of more patient reading groups. This gave me another opportunity to show case our success when I delivered a lightning talk at the Psychiatric Libraries Cooperative Scheme (PLCS) conference in 2021.

The uniqueness of this role also attracted the attention of the Oxford University library Graduate trainees who asked me to write a blog about my role as an Outreach/Reader Services which was published in [Oxford University blog](#). The oxford graduate trainees wrote "It is so lovely to be able to share your fascinating testimonial with current and hopeful Library trainees". I was also invited as a guest speaker at the University of Strathclyde to share about healthcare librarians and evidence-based practice.

In 2021 I was appointed as the Assistant Library Manager, covering for the manager on Mondays and Fridays, grateful about being trusted with such a big responsibility. My other responsibility was to supervise the Assistant Librarians in collection development, this was another exciting role, which really went well, not that I am trying to blow my own trumpet.

I am currently working on an Information Pack for international nurses at Oxford Health for my master's project, even if going back to the East will never forget the West. It was indeed a greener pasture worthy the long drives I endured to work.

Goodbye! Salani kuhle!

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE

GIVE MANY MORE LIVES TO OUR
PRINTED JOURNAL PAPERS.

Contact the library to collect as many journals as you want to make them into something nice with your patients, your family or for yourself.



Green Knowledge Café for the Knowvember Library Campaign

Fiona Sutherland,
Outreach Librarian

Katie Treherne,
Outreach Librarian

This was our first in-person Knowledge Café held in Warneford Library Upper Reading room on Monday 27th November and it was a great success. The theme was “The use of therapeutic Green Spaces for Health and Wellbeing.” We had four Oxford Health staff – two Occupational Therapists from Cotswold House, one OT from the CAMHS School Service and the newly appointed Green Space Co-ordinator.

Participants played the OH Libraries, [Garden Joys](#) as an icebreaker. They were blinded and had to guess garden scents. It was a great networking event and the Cotswold House OTs were able to talk about recent therapeutic green space developments for the Patients of the Adult Eating Disorder Unit and exchange ideas around the topic. Plenty of cake was enjoyed by all!

Oxford Health Libraries received some great feedback.


Oxford Health Libraries would like to host more Knowledge Cafes on relevant topics. Please contact the library if you are interested.

“The green knowledge café was perfect timing with me just stepping into the role of Green Space Coordinator. It was great to hear of current green space activities and I was delighted to hear about the nature walks that Miriam has been enjoying with doctors and service users all going out together on a weekly walk, fantastic!

“I am currently working on a calendar of green space activities and I will be offering workshops at sites to guide staff and service users through horticultural and green space activities in the new year. It would be great if the knowledge café sessions could help to feed ideas into this so that everyone has some input and ownership over the programme of activities. It would also be a great way to receive feedback on activities and engagement too.”

Laura McCarthy Green space Co-ordinator,
Oxford Health

Require an article or a book? Want to learn how to perform a quicker and more effective search on specific topics? Need a literature search for guidelines, case studies, research papers or a quality improvement project? Want to keep up to date with the latest information in your field of interest?

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