

# INTELLIGENCE INSIDER

Your Oxford Health Libraries' monthly newsletter



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## Leaving OHFT Libraries

As I head towards retirement from my role as Library Services Manager, I have naturally been reflecting on the past 19 + years at Oxford Health as well as looking towards the future.

I began working at the Tindal Centre in Aylesbury in 2005 as Reader Services Librarian and was appointed to my present position in 2006. My background has always been in NHS libraries, previously working for Bedfordshire Health Authority and then Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Health Authority as their Public Health Librarian.



**Sarah Maddock,**  
Library Service Manager

I can honestly say that there are no regrets in the pathway I have been lucky enough to follow as a library and information professional – even driving for over 2 hours each way to Oxford several times a week has been a pleasure, providing the opportunity to work alongside a huge variety of wonderful NHS colleagues in many different roles!

There have been so many highlights, but in particular I have enjoyed developing and expanding an integrated library service across Oxford Health following the merger of Oxford Mental Health Trust and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust and managing the implementation of the SWIMS network across Thames Valley. Working alongside senior and junior doctor colleagues and other librarians on various research projects and enabling their publication was also hugely fulfilling.

I would like to thank L&D and HEE, who supported me to study for a Masters in Computing which I completed in 2011. This was a wonderful opportunity to develop my knowledge in an area of particular interest, providing invaluable learning that I have used many times since. Not least this key tip – first check it is plugged in!

Above all though for me, the absolute highlight must be the successful recruitment of so many exceptional library staff dedicated to delivering knowledge and library services across Oxford Health and for our SLA partners, resulting in our team's excellent achievements - including having the highest usage of the Knowledge and Library Hub, the highest number of OpenAthens accounts in our sector and many other continuously improving usage measures.

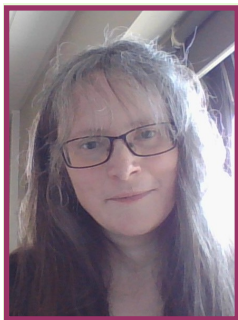
More seriously, one concern that I leave behind is that although it's recognised that NHS librarians may hold the key to the successful delivery of healthcare, their skills and expertise are still not fully utilised.

NHS libraries provide electronic and print resources, knowledge management expertise, a space to think and encourage development of ideas, enabling healthcare staff to deliver evidence-based practice. Although these benefits are appreciated by many who use them, there is still much to do to achieve their greatest potential. So, my hope and belief for the future is that there will soon be a full realisation of the qualities and benefits of NHS libraries and especially the libraries in Oxford Health and the exceptional library staff employed here.

Working with Trust teams, attending ward rounds, delivering literature searches, managing knowledge and supporting staff wellbeing can contribute greatly to the improvement of the quality of patient care in our organisation and across the NHS. Ensuring much more of this must be a priority and I look forward to hearing about future library successes.

For now, goodbye and best wishes to all!

Sarah Maddock, Library Services Manager, Oxford Health NHS FT 09/12/2024



## Planting Green Knowledge at Whiteleaf

On a chilly November day, I teamed up with [Green Spaces Coordinator, Laura McCarthy](#), to host our very first [Planting Green Knowledge](#) at Whiteleaf event.

Unlike a usual Green Knowledge Café, where we just discuss green issues, this time, with the expert help of Laura to guide us, we all had the chance to get our hands (very literally) dirty while having a chat and learning something new about the plants, and each other.

**Vicky Farmilo**  
Outreach Librarian

The team worked really hard to clear the thick layer of weeds and plant the border in the courtyard between reception and the café. We were very fortunate to be gifted some lovely plants by Wendy Blaylock. **Huge thanks to Wendy!**

The area looks beautifully neat and tidy now, but it will be next Summer when we'll really hope to see the results of our labour. Although this time of year is best for getting roots in the soil, hopefully we'll be able to attract some more fair weather gardeners to our next event in a sunnier season.

It's amazing what a difference just half an hour can make when you all work and learn together.



## Introducing Coffee Connections: Building networks one cup at a time!

If you've not tried **Coffee Connections** before, they are a great way to get to know colleagues a little better. You will be randomly matched with someone outside of your service and invited to arrange a time for a 20-30 minute conversation at a time that suits you. You can use the time to discuss anything you wish – if you are stuck for topics, ideas include sharing recent changes to your service, new challenges/initiatives, something you've learnt recently, what you did before working in the NHS or even what you like to do in your spare time.

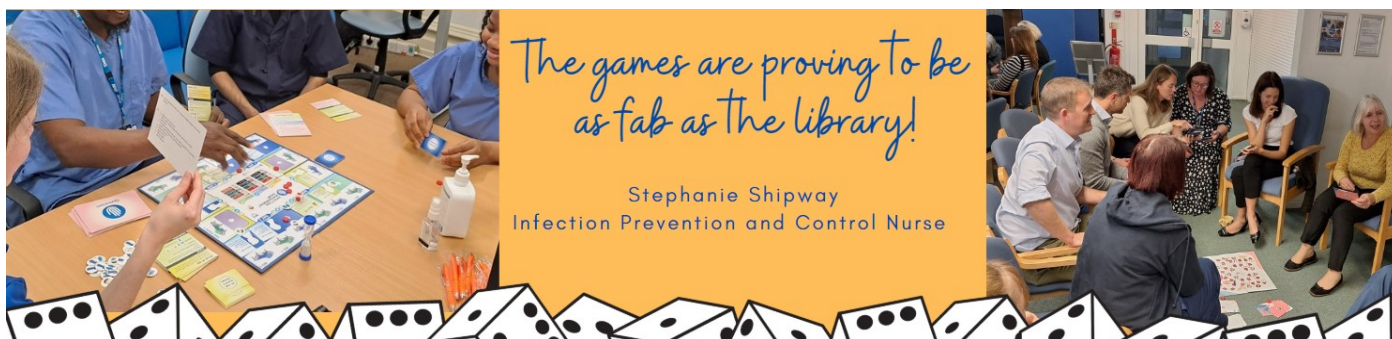


**Katie Treherne**,  
Outreach Librarian






You don't need any special equipment to participate – you can choose a face-to-face cuppa, MS Teams, or just the phone – whichever suits you!

Intrigued? Look out for the **sign up information in January**.



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?

Contact us at [library.enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:library.enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk) Follow us    @OHFTLib

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