

New South Wales Health Libraries Update

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This paper is part of an ongoing commissioned series on health library updates from around Australasia. Please note information was correct at the time of writing, but some time has elapsed between then and the article being published.

Professional Development in NSW

NSW health librarians have been sharing information and ideas via Hospital Library Professionals (HoLP), an association of NSW Health Libraries. Northern Sydney LHD (NSLHD) manages the HoLP Teams channel which provides a forum for discussion and action about issues affecting Health staff in New South Wales. The group shares best practice and has established a professional network to foster quality improvement across the health library service of New South Wales. Amongst other activities, we have the HoLP Professional Development Series, which facilitates team-based learning delivered by vendors covering resources we all have access to or are interested in. NSW Health Libraries access a range of resources provided by NSW Health via the Clinical Information Access Portal (CIAP).

Recently Lippincott® Advisor Australia and New Zealand and Lippincott® Procedures Australia were added to CIAP. NSLHD Libraries hosted a webinar in March about Lippincott Solutions under the heading of the HoLP Professional Development Series. 37 library staff from across NSW Health attended a presentation by the vendor who demonstrated how to use the product and answered questions. As a result, library staff can assist their patrons with the use of these valuable resources.

EBSCO gave an hour-long presentation about the new EBSCO interface in April 2024 and shared the development path, which gave us the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the new interface and its implementation. Several important features such as bulk download of selected articles are currently unavailable in the new interface. 27 library staff attended this session and as a result of the information provided by EBSCO, most NSW Health Libraries have decided to delay transition to the new interface until certain important features are available.

BMJ presented at the HoLP Professional Development Series in June 2024 on another CIAP based resource, the UTD Lexidrug and Formulary. 17 library staff attended this session. MIMs also presented in June, with a presentation demonstrating the new portal and app. Library staff are now prepared to assist staff in the use of the new

eMIMS. The vendor indicated they were also happy to do inservices to staff within our various LHDs.

We thank the vendors and others who have made these sessions possible, which have been recorded for HoLP members who were unable attend.

Barry Nunn, HoLP

NSW Health Library Staff Award Reform Update

Objectives

1. To negotiate new Awards for Health Professionals, which result in increased real wages, improved career progression, safe staffing, and workloads, and improve conditions.
2. To improve the operation and effectiveness of Awards through amalgamation and use of plain English, consistent wording.

In order to achieve these goals, the Health Services Union (HSU) established a number of Industrial Advisory Committees in May 2023 to review and update existing profession specific awards. For NSW Health Library staff, a Library Staff Industrial Advisory Committee was formed with representatives comprising librarians, library technicians and library assistants from across the state. The Library Staff IAC meets monthly with an HSU Industrial Officer.

Achievements to date:

- Endorsement of the principle of amalgamation of Awards. NSW Library staff will be included in a combined Clinical, Health and Associated Professionals Award
- Award descriptors for each grade of the existing library staff classifications were reviewed, updated and enhanced with features of related interstate awards that were considered useful additions. In the case of Library Technicians, a Grade 2 classification was proposed.
- The HLA Competencies (2018) were mapped against the existing award descriptors and incorporated where appropriate
- The TAFE Library Technician competencies were reviewed and incorporated into the award descriptors where appropriate
- Interstate pay comparison for all Library staff classifications
- Endorsement of the Core Conditions Log of Claims

Tasks to complete:

- State-wide roadshow presentation to all NSW Health Library Staff on the award reform
- Compilation of a Works Value statement incorporating examples of changes in work value

Rolf Schafer | Chair, HSU Library Staff Industrial Advisory Committee