

# CONVENOR'S FOCUS

## December 2020

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Wow – I can't believe that we are almost at the end of 2020. There are moments throughout the year where I thought we would never see 2021!

I hope that you have some downtime over the festive season where you can reflect on the value and impact that you and your colleagues in the health library industry have had during a global pandemic. Our roles are more critical than ever as we find ourselves awash in a world of misinformation and fake news. We know access to the evidence base is of utmost importance and we are often an organisation's only dedicated, secure, permanent, and trustworthy source of authoritative information. Well done to everyone in what has been an extremely challenging year.

This issue of *JoHILA* is the first by our new editor Daniel McDonald. Thanks for taking on this challenge Daniel! Behind Daniel there is an Editorial Board who often work tirelessly without thanks – so thanks to Catherine Voutier, Ann Ritchie, Cheryl Hamill, Jane Orbell-Smith, Peter Murgatroyd, Rob Penfold, Taryn Hunt and proofreaders Helen Giltrap & Patrick O'Connor. Thanks also goes to those on the HLA Executive who voluntarily give their time and energy across the year. Many others also step up to help (like Alex Petrie our e-list administrator), sit on reference groups for projects such as our Guidelines Project or represent HLA in numerous ways such as at Publisher Round Table meetings. Together we are definitely stronger and I thank everyone who helps contribute to this incredible profession.

The last few months have seen some exciting events. We had our July online event ***Now, Next, Beyond COVID-19 – Health Librarians' Experiences***; our November online event ***Health Libraries Australia Seminar: Future Gazing – Innovation, Disruption, Transformation!***; two online ***Automation Tools for Systematic Searching*** events facilitated by Justin Clark (with more to come); and an ALIA Town Hall event on ***Professional Pathways – The Future of Library and Information Science (LIS) Recognition in Australia***. Thanks to everyone who has attended, presented and helped organise these events. Events such as these have really highlighted the breadth and depth of health libraries showcasing innovation, skill development and future directions.

On 12 September 2020, Cheryl Hamill was presented with the **HCL Anderson Award**, ALIA's highest honour. An active member of ALIA for more than 30 years, Cheryl has enjoyed a distinguished career in health librarianship, and has made a significant contribution to ALIA, as an active and long standing member of ALIA Health Libraries Australia (HLA). Congratulations Cheryl on your well deserved award.

HLA are also pleased to announce that the winner for the 2020 Anne Harrison Award is Ms Raechel Damarell, Dr Suzanne Lewis & Professor Jennifer Tieman for their project ***Improving the development and reporting of search filters: An e-Delphi study of international experts in the field***. The project aims to bring together an international group of search filter developers to discuss and create consensus around filter terminology and development processes.

In case you missed it we announced at our November event that the live literature searches focused on the Australian National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards have been updated. Following their initial release in July 2018, these [live literature searches](#) have been expanded and updated in October 2020 to reflect the NSQHS 2nd edition. These searches have been developed, tested and endorsed as part of the [Health Libraries for the National Standards \(HeLiNS\) Research Project](#), a joint initiative of [Health Libraries Australia](#) and [Health Libraries Inc.](#) Thank you to the library teams at Austin Health and South Metropolitan Health Service for their collaborative efforts as part of this recent review project.

Finally this issue of *JoHILA* brings a fantastic array of articles together looking at health libraries through different lenses. We hear about a library website chat initiative; a Words for Wellbeing program; moving of a hospital library; an overview from health librarians in New Zealand about their PD Day; and the implementing of a customer relations management system during a pandemic. Other articles touch on outcomes of HLA Awards and look at collaborations with international colleagues. It's safe to say that health libraries are resourceful, inspiring and pioneering!

Have a fabulous break, Gemma