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Farewell Glennys Powell

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Eastern Health

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Ruth Lawrence, Acting Director Eastern Health

Glennys Powell retired on July 31st, 2019 after contributing to health librarianship in Victoria for more than 30 years.

Glennys initially trained as a diagnostic radiographer, completing her qualification at RMIT while training on the job at Geelong Base Hospital. While working as a radiographer Glennys continued to study and was conferred with an honour's degree from the University of Melbourne majoring in English and Russian. Returning to RMIT Glennys completed the Graduate Diploma in Librarianship and then, while also raising a family, gained experience working as a locum in several libraries including the Baker Institute and the Alfred Hospital. Locum work at the Caulfield General Medical Centre Library eventually led to a permanent position as Medical Librarian, job sharing the position with Veronica Delafosse through the 1990s.

In November 2000 Glennys left Caulfield to assume the position of Chief Librarian at Box Hill Hospital which by then had become part of the Eastern Health network together with Maroondah Hospital, Angliss Hospital and the Peter James Centre. One of Glennys' first tasks in her new role was to oversee the automation of library services with the implementation of DB/Textworks. A major review in 2009 led to the consolidation of library services and the formation of the Eastern Health Library Service. Glennys was appointed to the role of Director, Library Services, and was instrumental in transforming the individual site-based libraries into a single consolidated service. As Director, Glennys was able to manage and oversee the development of the library team and the growth and development of library resources and services. Particular achievements included the implementation of a new library system, Spydus, in 2013, and her role in the delivery of UpToDate across Eastern Health. One of Glennys' proudest achievements was the formal appointment of the Library Service to the role of the Custodian of Social and Cultural History of Eastern Health in acknowledgement of the work undertaken in the collection, storage and organization of historical and cultural resources.

Throughout her career in health libraries Glennys has been a regular participant in national and international conferences. Glennys has also been a long-standing member of the Clinicians Health Channel Reference Group, and is a former office bearer of Health Libraries Inc. In retirement she would be happy to maintain contact with the many colleagues she has had the pleasure to work with during her career and can be contacted by email at Glennys.lib@gmail.com.

The HLA Executive Board extends its warmest thanks to Glennys for her contribution to the profession and trusts that she is enjoying her retirement.