

New developments in College library service

ICGP librarian Gillian Doran highlights some recent developments which will help members access information more easily



ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF ICGP membership is the facilities and support of the ICGP Library and Information Service.

My colleague Trish Patton and I are here to try and assist you with your information needs. In this regard we provide advice via telephone or email for any of your information queries.

We can supply inter-library loan articles on demand (some charges may apply) and we can also provide assistance with research and information skills training for individuals, course participants and specific groups, etc. These are the core features of the library service; however, there are several exciting new developments taking place throughout this year that we wish to draw your attention to.

Online information skills module

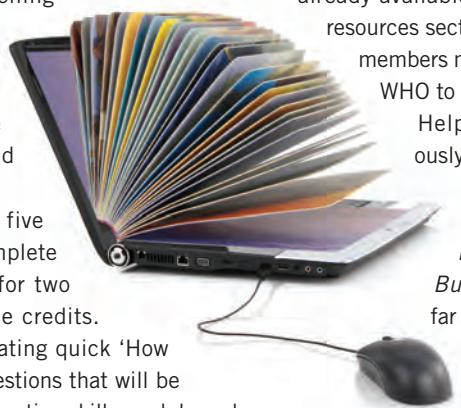
Firstly, the information skills module was launched at the ICGP AGM in May 2012. This module is designed to give you a foundation in online searching skills. It is divided into five short lessons which are in the format of videos that can be paused and revisited at any stage. These are available for use on PC, Mac and iPads, etc.

When you have completed the five lessons there is the option to complete an MCQ test which is credited for two external professional competence credits. We are also in the process of creating quick 'How to' guides for frequently asked questions that will be available both throughout the information skills module and also in the ICGP library catalogue. For further details on the information skills module please refer to the June issue of *Forum*.

Online journals

This autumn we are also making online access available to the journals that we previously held in hard copy in the ICGP library. Therefore, for example, the *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin*, the *British Journal of General Practice*, the *European Journal of General Practice* and the *British Medical Journal*, etc will now be available to browse and for acquiring articles from simply by logging into the College website with your member ID and pin number. This will allow online access via the College to current and also previous issues of many journals.

We hope this service will be of great benefit to members throughout the country as it will make many clinical and educational articles available directly to our members from their surgeries or home 24/7. Further details on this new



service will be available on www.icgp.ie/library and *Forum* later in the year.

New look on www.icgp.ie/library

Another interesting advance is the new-look homepage for the ICGP website and also the ICGP library section. This new look will have a new search feature for the library catalogue which will operate in tandem with the enhanced overall ICGP website search. The aim is that members will be able to locate information and ICGP publications more effectively. I will produce a guide to the online library and information section when this new look is available, both on www.icgp.ie/library and in *Forum*.

Current features

While this 'new look' aims to facilitate members searching and using the library and information service on the web, many core features will remain, including the aspects already available in the 'resources' section. The current resources section provides useful links to resources that members might find of interest. These range from the WHO to the Cochrane Library.

Help sheets for searching and some previously featured articles are also available in the resources section of the library homepage. Links to newsletters that include the *National Medicines Information Centre Bulletins* since 2006 and to *Epi-insight* as far back as 2000 are also available.

The library 'noticeboard' will continue, where we can highlight various types of information that may be useful in clinical, day-to-day or educational practice. The topics displayed can range from new Irish research articles to updates on existing guidelines, eg. *Fitness to drive* from the Road Safety Authority, which are due out in the autumn.

Your feedback

We hope these developments will be of interest and benefit to ICGP members in their practice and that they will further enhance the supports that are available via the ICGP library and information service.

We are always eager to get your input and feedback in relation to these supports/services and particularly with regard to future developments. If you wish to suggest resources that you feel are of benefit to general practice in Ireland, please contact us at Email: library@icgp.ie with any suggestions or comments about information resources that you would like to share with colleagues. 

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