

Parallel Sessions B
B4 - From Consumer Health Information to Evidence Based Health Care

Friday, September 20, Room E, 11.30

HealthInfo4U, an Interim Report on the British Library Concord Project No.6 June 2001- December 2002

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This paper will briefly present the background issues that underpin the evolution of UK patient information services within the context of evidence based health care. The emphasis by the UK Government on the provision of information for patients has fuelled the development of cross-sectoral library partnerships. One such partnership that has emerged to provide quality assured patient information services is discussed. The paper details the rationale and status of the British Library funded collaborative project involving Bournemouth University, the British Library, BNI, Amed, the NHS and four public library services to deliver quality assured information that will be accessible to the lay person. The demonstrator study began in July 2001 and is set to end in December 2002. It will evidence how the use of existing web technology in public libraries can deliver high-quality information based on the journal literature already available to health care professionals.

The paper will suggest that patients want to participate in the decision making process of their treatment and that to do this requires sufficient and appropriate information.

Research has suggested that there are likely to be a number of barriers to involving patients in decision making including uncertainty about the patients desire for participation, the types of information needed, problems of accessibility and the availability of suitable materials. This paper will document how the project is progressing the hypothesis that all these factors can be overcome by repackaging access to both conventional and complementary existing quality assured literature either in full text access or as personal document delivery. This is expected to facilitate new clinician/patient partnerships. Potential international applications will be discussed. The paper will also suggest possible models for accessing specialist electronic information through public libraries beyond the life of the project.

NOTE: The project web site is <http://www.healthinfo4u.org.uk>