The Library & Information Support for Clinical Effectiveness (LISCE) Project – an Account of Outcomes Achieved to Date

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The Library & Information Support for Clinical Effectiveness (LISCE) project has been running within UCLH since July 2000. Against the backdrop of recent Government initiatives, in particular the NHS Plan and Information for Health, the original remit was to investigate ways in which Librarians can support the roll-out of Clinical Governance, within the Trust, and thus establish a unique collaborative partnership within the mult-discipinary setting.

Success or failure of the project was pre-determined by establishing, a close working partnership with a clinician providing the link between the librarian and the multidisciplinary team, and that the team themselves would define the outcomes of what they intended to achieve from the project. These factors were considered essential for the success of the project, as the `link' would enable access to the clinical team through team meetings, ward rounds etc, and that by the clinical team defining their own remit, momentum of the project would not be lost.

By working within the clinical environment, as a member of the multi-disciplinary team, it was anticipated that the Clinical Effectiveness Librarian would be seen as an effective resource in providing support necessary to achieve the original outcomes defined by each department. However, the cultural change necessary for the success of working outside the traditional library environment, has been challenging for both the Librarian and departments working within the project.

The paper gives an account of how the project has developed within the original remit, and describes the outcomes achieved thus far. However, It will also examine the barriers, which have prevented the project continuing within the original remit and looks at how the original specifications have developed within this context. It is expected that the project will be extended to provide a Trust wide service, any additional findings will be added to the final paper.