

THE FIRE WITHIN: PASSION AND PURPOSE IN HEALTH LIBRARIES



Igniting Knowledge & Fuel for Evidence
Sparks of Innovation & Fanning the Flames
Community Fire & Lighting the Path



**15-16 October,
2026**



**William Angliss
Institute, Melbourne**



THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

9:00 am

**Acknowledgement of Country
Conference Opening**

9:30 am

Keynote Speaker – Doctor Ranjana Srivastava OAM
Monash Health



Dr Ranjana Srivastava is an oncologist, Fulbright scholar, and award-winning writer. She is a long-time columnist for The Guardian newspaper where she writes on the intersection of medicine and humanity. Ranjana practices in the Victorian public hospital system and specialises in geriatric oncology, the care of older patients with cancer. She also has a deep interest in the welfare of multicultural and disadvantaged communities.

10:30 am

Morning tea

11:00 am

**Fuelling Partnerships: Libraries Supporting Allied Health
Research Capability**

Keren Moskal – Monash Health; Ruth Lawrence – Eastern
Health & Eunice Ang – Northern Health



Keren Moskal is a Clinical Librarian at Monash Health specialising in education and training. She enjoys working across teams to design tailored group sessions that support lifelong learning and evidence-based practice. Committed to collaboration, she co-founded the Hospital Librarians' Community of Practice to foster shared learning across the profession.



Ruth Lawrence has been an information professional for more years than she cares to remember. Initially working as a Library Technician she has picked up degrees in library studies, IT and psychology along the way. With previous roles in the private sector and state government, since 2019 she has held the position of Director of Library & Online Services at Eastern Health.



Eunice Ang is a Medical Librarian at the Northern Health Library. She loves working in the research and education space, is passionate about delivering training to support staff and finds creating complex search strategies fun.



11:20 am

Embedded expertise: A health librarian's collaborative experience with clinical projects

Frances Guinness – Western NSW Local Health District



English by birth, Frances arrived in Australia as a toddler with her family, 10 pound poms. Moderately successful at school, especially English, a career in science was hijacked before starting university by a friend of a friend who was studying librarianship. A light bulb flickered on, followed by a scramble to get into college, and she was off! Now a Librarian for 45 years, Frances has worked for a variety of employers, including Rheem Australia, Price Waterhouse, NRMA, CSIRO, and Western Sydney University, with Frances learning skills from every one, as she continues to do so today. Moving from the western edge of metropolitan Sydney to Central West NSW some 16 years ago, Frances was delighted to return to special libraries at Orange Hospital, and now manages the library service for Western NSW LHD.

11:30 am

Libraries Without Walls: Connecting Hospital Patients to Public Library Resources

Alice Anderson – Monash Health & Heidi Babatsikos – Monash Public Library



Alice Anderson, BIMS, DipPWE, GradCertEdStud (DigitalLrn)– Alice is the Head of Library Services at Monash Health. This includes managing five library sites across south-east Melbourne in one of Australia's largest health services. Alice is also responsible for leading the delivery of a comprehensive research skills education program, a suite of research support services and a curated library collection for patient care and health sciences research.



Heidi Babatsikos, BA, GradDipEd, MLIS – Heidi is the Team Leader Community Engagement at Monash Public Library Service. She is responsible for leading the development and delivery of a suite of innovative and contemporary library and outreach programs in digital literacy, sustainability, diversity, and inclusion to the Monash community. She has worked across multiple public library services in Victoria.



11:40 pm

Bibliotherapy for wellbeing: Creating space for reflection

Mina Nichols-Boyd – Austin Health



Mina Nichols-Boyd is a practising librarian living and working in Naarm/Melbourne. As the Clinical Librarian at Austin Health she provides guidance on how to construct reproducible searches for systematic, scoping, and similar type reviews to support evidence-based practice. Mina is also a tutor with the Australasian Evidence-Based Practice Librarians' Institute.

11:50 pm

Platinum Sponsor Presentation

McGraw Hill

12:05 pm

Spark, Fan, Flame: Growing a Repository That Delivers

A'Mhara McKey – Northern Territory Dept of Health



A'Mhara McKey is Collections & Discovery Manager at NT Health Library Services.

12:25 pm

Advancing Equity in Clinical Research Publishing

Gemma Siemensma – Grampians Health, Cass Gorton – Monash Health & John Prentice – ANZCA



Gemma Siemensma is the Library Manager at Grampians Health. Her work interests relate to research, knowledge sharing and the integration of library resources for seamless access. In this role she ensures that health information is accessible across the health service so that evidence based information is used to help deliver the best clinical outcomes. Gemma is also the Convenor of ALIA Health Libraries Australia (HLA).



Cass leads Monash Health Library's collections, digital platforms and discovery services to support clinicians, researchers, and students to find information seamlessly. She has experience across the health, government and higher education in librarianship, archives and records management. She is also Chair of the Victorian Health Libraries Consortium, supporting open access publishing opportunities for hospital-based researchers.



John Prentice has been the library manager at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists for 10 years and has been a VHLC committee member for much of that time working on deals with Springer, McGraw-Hill, Taylor and Francis and Elsevier. He has spent a lot of the past few years crunching numbers around the VHLC deals. He has just returned from long service leave and may – or may not – be regretting his decision to swap Spain for Melbourne.

12:35 pm

Fuel for advocacy: Mapping the value of health libraries

Tania Barry – Northern Health



Tania Barry is an experienced information and knowledge professional with over 20 years' experience across academic, local government and health sectors. Her work focuses on strategic leadership, workforce development and building high-performing teams that deliver inclusive, community-focused services. In her current role at Northern Health, she leads library and information literacy services, ensuring staff, students and community members can access and apply evidence-based information to support health outcomes

12:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 pm

Award presentations

HLA & HLI

2:00 pm

Gold Sponsor Presentation

EBSCO

2:05 pm

Reframing the profession: the 2026 edition of the Competencies for Health Librarians and Health Library Technicians

Ann Ritchie – Project Lead (HLA)



Project Lead for the review of the HLA Competencies



2:15 pm

Lighting the path to reliable health information: A collaborative, consumer focused guide

Teija Ruuska – Monash Health



Teija is a Training Librarian dedicated to supporting evidence-based practice and information literacy across Monash Health through the delivery of high-quality, responsive, and engaging education and training program. Drawing on extensive experience in the private health sector, she is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Information Studies to further develop her expertise in librarianship while maintaining a strong commitment to the healthcare environment and the advancement of evidence-informed practice

2:25 pm

Search Filters: a 'Net Gain' for literature searching

Cecily Gilbert – Honorary University of Melbourne



I've recently 'retired' but am still enthusiastic about health information, evidence synthesis and the value of information specialists in the clinical sector. My career has been in academic and in health libraries since 1974, most recently at the University of Melbourne navigating information retrieval for the concept of digital health. In earlier research with HLA partners I contributed to studies on the census of the Australian digital health workforce, the competencies and professional development options for specialist health librarians, and researching the contribution made by Australian health librarians to their hospitals' attainment of quality and safety certification.

2:35 pm

Burning questions: Preliminary results of the health librarians' search filters survey

Eunice Ang – Northern Health



Eunice Ang is a Medical Librarian at the Northern Health Library. She loves working in the research and education space, is passionate about delivering training to support staff and finds creating complex search strategies fun.



2:45 pm

Systematic and scoping review challenges in the midst of change

Patrick Splawa-Neyman – Monash University



Patrick Splawa-Neyman is an Academic Services Librarian at Monash University Library, Caulfield campus. His particular interest is in helping researchers and students navigate the labyrinthine landscape of databases and other library resources to find high quality resources. He supports the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Law.

2:55 pm

Health literacy in context: Understanding health literacy among individuals with mild cognitive impairment and their family members

Elahe Zare-Farashbandi – Deakin University



I am currently a PhD student at Deakin University, with a background in Health Information Sciences. Adopting a multi-phase qualitative approach, my PhD research focuses on understanding health literacy among older adults with mild cognitive impairment and their families to improve their knowledge of dementia, enhance their health-related decision making, and ultimately promote their quality of life.

3:05 pm

Gold Sponsor Presentation

Australian Medicines Handbook

3:10 pm

Poster Presentations

Afternoon tea

3:40 pm

Gold Sponsor Presentation

OVID

3:45 pm

Fuelling better services: Using patron mapping and lean thinking to redesign library evidence services

Nikki May – SA Health Library Service



Nikki is a Library Manager with the SA Health Library Service (SAHLS); currently working on managing projects relating to service and portfolio planning and improvements. Nikki leads the SAHLS Outreach and Engagement portfolio; as well as being the co-lead for the Research, Reference and Training (RRT) portfolios. Nikki is current co-convenor for the Australasian Evidence-Based Practice Librarians' Institute (AEBPLI). She also is a co-convenor of the Australian Health Library Managers' CoP



4:05 pm

I didn't know we had a library! Building awareness through a promotions strategy

Madeleine Beer – Monash Health



Madeleine Beer is the Information Services Librarian at Monash Health, specialising in digital health literacy and library promotion. She has extensive experience supporting clinicians and researchers with high-quality information resources promoting library services, resources and events. Her work includes developing promotions strategies as well as designing promotional material. She is particularly interested in improving access to reliable information and increasing awareness.

4:15 pm

Fan the flames: ensure your library burns bright

Megan Giles – Sunshine Coast Health Institute, Queensland Australia.

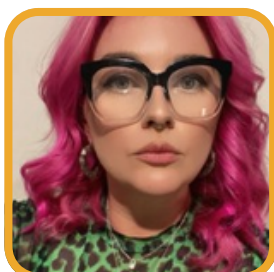


Megan is a librarian with a special interest in hospital librarianship, committed to partnering with clinicians, students and partner organisations to enable improved health outcomes through evidence-based practice, research and collaboration. Coupled with extensive experience as a psychologist (organisational) and health professional, she is passionate about creating a welcoming learning environment, enabling access to contemporary evidence, and leveraging 'teachable moments' to build capacity and confidence amongst library clients.

4:25 pm

Saving Our Past, Informing Our Future: Health Libraries and Organisational History

Cherish McDonald– HNE Health Libraries – HNELHD



Cherish a wearer of multiple hats, she can wax an eyebrow (was a beauty therapist in a past life) while doing a literature review (poorly, area of PD) and whip up a smart-looking CANVA graphic to market library services. Cherish is passionate about equity of access to health information and library services, a good espresso, the collection and maintenance of organisational history, and library marketing. She recently completed a Master of Library & Information Science at CSU, and is on the organising committee for the Hospital Librarians COP. Most importantly, she has an honorary PhD in snack collection for her two chaotic children and French bulldogs, in the words of Em Rusciano, a "maximalist power queen" and very tired.

4:35 pm

Day 1 Closing

Reception Drinks



FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

9:00 am	HLInc AGM
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9:20 am **Day 2 Opening**

9:30 am	Why libraries matter Daniel McDonald – Darling Downs Health
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Daniel has been librarian for Darling Downs Health since 2006, and is also currently shair of the Darling Downs Health Human Research Ethics Committee. He has twice received the HLA digital innovation prize. He edits the Journal of Health Information and Libraries Australasia, and hosts the podcast Shoosh. In 2022 he was named Queensland Library Achiever of the Year. Even so, he is way behind on his lit searches, and doc del, and replying to your email.

9:45 am

Igniting AI Literacy: The evolving role of health librarians in building workforce capability

Elizabeth Harris & Mozhdeh Dehghani – Austin Health



Dr Elizabeth Harris is Chief Librarian at Austin Health Sciences Library, where she provides strategic and operational leadership for specialised health library services supporting Austin Health and Mercy Hospital for Women. She leads a team of expert medical librarians and has extensive experience in clinical information services, literature searching, systematic reviews, research support, and library education. Elizabeth also brings a strong research background, with a PhD in science and and a Master of Information Management. Her publication record spans neuroscience, health, and LIS.



Dr Mozhdeh Dehghani is the Digital Resources Librarian and AI Lead at Austin Health Sciences Library, Melbourne. She holds a PhD in Information Management from Monash University, along with an MLIS and a BSc in Health Librarianship. Her work focuses on digital resource management, evidence-based practice support, and advanced literature searching. Mozhdeh is actively involved in integrating AI into library services, leading training programs on tools such as Microsoft Copilot and promoting responsible, effective AI use in clinical and research environments.



10:05 am

Follow the money: why funding models matter for ethical AI adoption in health libraries

Amy McKenzie – Austin Health



Amy McKenzie is Collections Librarian at Austin Health. She's been a medical librarian for seven years, and prior to this worked with historical collections in the state library sector. Collection development has been the throughline in her library career, and she's passionate about connecting people with ideas, resources and each other.

She loves arts and crafts but has trouble sticking to just one hobby. At the moment (when she can convince her small child to model for her) she's experimenting with face paint.

10:15 am

GenAI assisted screening compared to manual screening: the MechaScreener trial

Sarah Bateup – Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare, Bond University



Sarah Bateup is a Senior Research Assistant at Bond University's Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare (IEBH) and an experienced health sciences librarian with nearly 20 years in academic libraries. Her expertise includes systematic searching, information literacy for evidence-based practice, and research data management. In 2020 Sarah led Phase 4 of the Systematic Review Accelerator (now TERA) Polyglot upgrade and continues to support its ongoing development through user-informed improvements in collaboration with IEBH's software developers. She is the lead author on a recent study comparing automation tools for deduplication and is currently involved in research on developing an AI tool designed to summarise systematic reviews and other evidence syntheses.



10:35 am

Igniting Knowledge for Evidence-Based Practice: Bridging the Gap Between Health Library Workforce Expectations and Early Career Capabilities

Anita Dewi – Charles Sturt University



Dr Anita Dewi is a Lecturer and Work-integrated Learning Academic Lead in Information Studies at Charles Sturt University (CSU). Prior to joining CSU, Anita spent her career as librarian and library manager in the academic library sector. Her research areas include work-integrated learning (WIL), professional identity, and information services.

10:50 am

Global Sparks: Innovations from Health Libraries Worldwide

Cass Gorton – Monash Health



Cass leads Monash Health Library's collections, digital platforms and discovery services to support clinicians, researchers, and students to find information seamlessly. She has experience across the health, government and higher education in librarianship, archives and records management. She is also Chair of the Victorian Health Libraries Consortium and treasurer for Health Libraries Inc.

11:00 am

Morning tea

11:30 am

Workshop 1 (Auditorium): Towards two-week reviews using acceleration focused, systematic reviews with automation tools

Sarah Bateup –Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare, Bond University



This workshop will show participants how to use TERA and how it fits into review workflows to improve the speed and quality of conducting systematic reviews.
Description: The workshop will comprise live demonstrations of TERA, conducted by the TERA developers and expert users of the tools. The live demonstration will be interspersed with hands on tutorials in using the tools. Interactive feedback with the presenters will be encouraged, and sufficient time for this is incorporated in the design of the workshop. The expert skills of the presenters in both conducting reviews and using the tools is a key component of the workshop. All the tools in the workshop are free and available to be used via the Evidence Review Accelerator website: <https://tera-tools.com/>



11:30 am	Workshop 2 (Breakout Room): From Invisible to Indispensable: Marketing Health Libraries in Busy Clinical Environments Cherish McDonald – HNE Health Libraries, NHELHD
	This session explores practical strategies to improve visibility through a combination of embedded practice, targeted outreach, and the strategic use of novelty to capture attention. Moving beyond passive promotion, it reframes visibility as more than simply “being seen,” instead focusing on being noticeable, memorable, and worth engaging with. In contemporary clinical environments, people don’t engage with what is merely available—they engage with what is relevant, accessible, and interesting. Attendees will gain practical ideas and a framework to position their services more effectively, strengthen engagement across diverse staff groups, and demonstrate the ongoing value of health libraries within modern healthcare organisations.
1:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Meeting (Auditorium): Hospital Librarians Community of Practice Keren Moskal
1:30 pm	Meeting (Breakout Room): Australian Health Library Managers Kimberley Hargrave & Nikki May
2:30 pm	Meeting (Auditorium): Gratis Alice Anderson
2:30 pm	Meeting (Breakout Room): Australian Evidence-Based Practice Librarians Institute (AEBPLI) Kathryn Rough
3:00 pm	Conference Closing



POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The REDCap webinar series: Librarians as educators in research

Mercer Kim – Monash Health



Mercer is a Librarian with a background in information management and science. They are committed in supporting strong research practices and providing quality and up-to-date healthcare resources to researchers, students, and practitioners.

Local Knowledge informing better health: Progress update on building a digital collection of Aboriginal health resources for the Northern Territory

Saara Kahkonen and A'Mhara McKey – NT Health Library Services



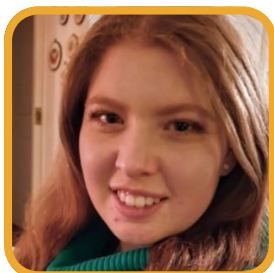
Saara is the Health Collections Librarian at NT Health Library Services and works within the Collections and Discovery team. She is a committee member for both the GratisNet National Steering Committee, and the ALIA GLAM Top End Group. She is passionate about equity of access and lifelong learning, and delights in a good book read in the shade.



A'Mhara McKey is Collections & Discovery Manager at NT Health Library Services.

Igniting sustainability and connection through textile recycling

Madeleine Beer – Monash Health



Madeleine Beer is the Information Services Librarian at Monash Health, specialising in digital health literacy and library promotion. She has extensive experience supporting clinicians and researchers with high-quality information resources promoting library services, resources and events. Her work includes developing promotions strategies as well as designing promotional material. She is particularly interested in improving access to reliable information and increasing awareness of the library.



THANKS

The organising committee would like to thank the following:

- **Dianne Carr**
- **Manny Kaiafas**

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