



Knowledge & Library Service

Evidence Education Research

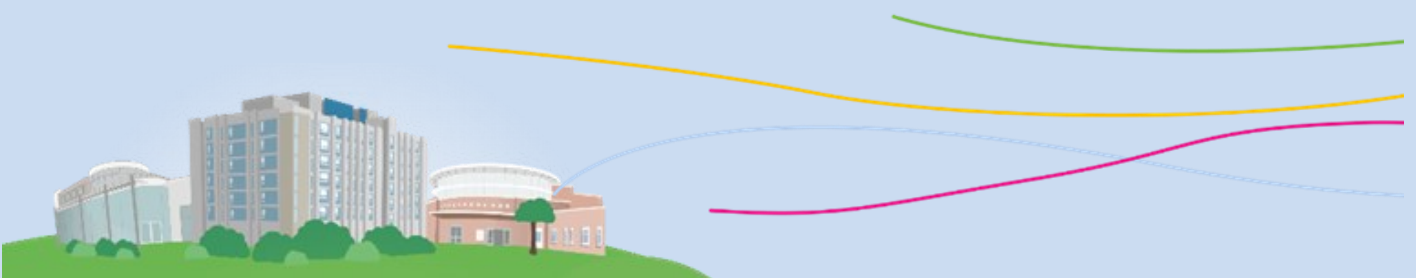
Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Knowledge & Library Service

Annual Report

2024-2025



Our vision is to deliver outstanding Knowledge & Library Services for the delivery of safe patient care. The work of the past year is guided by the Knowledge & Library Service Strategic Framework, which sets out a comprehensive roadmap to support the Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) strategic priorities.



The service focuses on ensuring that our people and learners have access to the right knowledge and evidence they need, at the right time and in the right place, enabling them to make informed decisions, provide high-quality care and ultimately improve patient outcomes. We are committed to mobilising evidence and knowledge, embracing technology, fostering partnerships and responding to the needs of the healthcare workforce.

Key Achievements for 2024-25

- 97 evidence searches to support patient care, service development, research or managerial decision-making
- 185 colleagues trained on how to search or appraise the evidence
- Launched a new Learning from Incidents bulletin for the Trust Leadership Team
- Involved in establishing a new Clinical Scientist Journal Club and Paediatric Occupational Therapy Journal Club
- A Trust-wide KLS survey to engage with existing and potential users received 227 responses to inform the service delivery and service improvement
- Participated in an NHS England proof of concept pilot for a new discovery interface for YorCat called Aspen which aims for users to easily search for resources both physical and digital resources, "scan and go" loans and an electronic Library Card

Mobilising evidence, knowledge and know-how

The Knowledge & Library Service (KLS) team mobilise evidence, knowledge and know-how for high quality, safe and effective care and clinical and managerial decision making.

The KLS team have delivered high quality evidence searches to support decision making. In the 2024 DBTH KLS survey:

81% rated the evidence search service as very important or important.

We asked evidence search recipients about their experience and impact of the evidence searches:

100% of respondents would recommend the service to a colleague
92% gained new knowledge from the evidence search results

97 Evidence Searches

Examples include:

- Management of patients with acute kidney injury
- Psychological trauma and the deaf community
- Topical NSAIDS and knee osteoarthritis
- Best practice in perineal repair after birth
- Caesarean section scar endometriosis

“As a result of the literature review we have discontinued the use of heparin line locks in CVADS. This has both a **time and financial cost saving** impact. Importantly it also removes the potential risk of inadvertent administration of heparin to patients, particularly those already at risk of thrombocytopenia or otherwise altered clotting. The update means that both inpatient and outpatient services are following the same practices which supports safe practice and removes potential confusion for patients who require care across both services.” Haematology Sister

“We used the search results to provide the relevant articles to **support a new business case**. I used the search results and after reviewing the studies for their relevance to our project, acquired the full articles to scrutinise the data. We then could select and reference them as evidence to support our business/quality improvement pilot case.”

“The literature has been useful in establishing the knowledge base for ways to reduce blood stream infections that have a urinary source. The information has been used to **plan a research study** that we will be conducting in the coming months” IPC Nurse Consultant & Deputy DIPC

How was the information/knowledge used?

- **50%** used the evidence to develop guidelines, pathways, policies
- **50%** shared the evidence with colleagues
- **50%** used the evidence for teaching or presentations
- **25%** used the evidence to support research

What impact did the information/knowledge have?

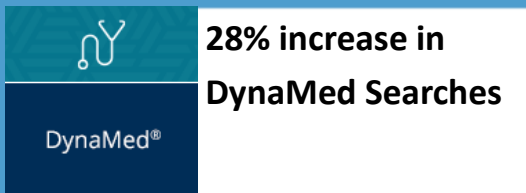
- **83%** it contributed to service development or delivery
- **58%** it contributed to professional or personal development
- **50%** improved the quality of patient care
- **50%** more informed decision making

The Clinical Evidence Specialist provides ongoing support to the maternity guidelines group and the KLS team have carried out a project to map local maternity and gynaecology guidelines to NICE guidance and other national guidance to facilitate the updating of local guidelines when national guidance changes.

Clinical Decision Support Tools

The use of clinical decision support tools, BMJ Best Practice and DynaMed have regularly been promoted.

The KLS team have attended the FY1 and FY2+ inductions and also delivered a session “Digital Evidence – tools and apps to help you on the ward and beyond” as part of the FY1, FY2 and Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioners (TACP) teaching programmes.



In the 2024 DBTH KLS survey

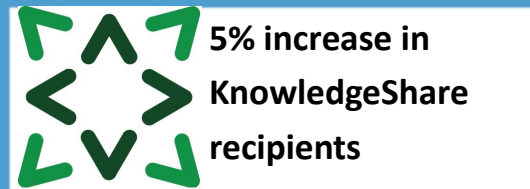
41% rated **DynaMed** as Very Important/Important

23% want to find out more about **DynaMed**

65% rated **BMJ Best Practice** as Very Important/Important

Sharing evidence and learning

Updates of new evidence are shared through the KnowledgeShare evidence updates and subject specific bulletins.



The team have also launched a new Sustainability bulletin during Green Libraries Week and have developed in collaboration with Zara Jones, Deputy Chief Executive, a new Learning from Incidents bulletin for the Trust Leadership Team.

In the 2024 DBTH KLS survey

59% rated **KnowledgeShare** as Very Important/Important

52% rated **bulletins** as Very Important/Important

Developing the skills of our people and learners

KLS specialists have continued to deliver 1-2-1 and group training sessions to embed evidence based practice into the culture of DBTH equipping our people and learners with the skills to find and appraise evidence.

The team have delivered a regular session on the Healthcare Assistant study days promoting the service and resources available to them, in particular our subscription to the British Journal of Healthcare Assistants.

The service has worked with Education Leads to promote and embed the Safe Learning Environment Charter (SLEC) encouraging learners to submit feedback via QR codes in the library and raising awareness of our services.

185 colleagues

Trained in:

- Evidence Searching
- Discovering eResources
- Critical Appraisal
- Referencing

We asked learners about their experience and impact of the information skills training:

100% of respondents would recommend the service to a colleague

100% gained new knowledge from the training session

83% gained new skills

67% improved their confidence

“ I am now more efficient at finding appropriate research papers to support my CPD and eventually impact on my clinical skills. I know how to use associated words in my database searches to find the most appropriate research papers that is relevant topics for my CPD. These skills have saved me time and have given me the most appropriate research results for my topics of interest. “ Specialist Physiotherapist

“ Having recently undertaken a one-to-one session on how to perform a literature search at the library I can only say that the staff there are amazing, full of knowledge and really helpful. I would not have been able to properly evidence my QI project without their assistance.”

“ the course was delivered via Teams and I shared my screen so we went through each aspect together instead of just sat listening trying to take everything in. Because I actually went through the process of searching databases I will remember and be able to use these skills.”

Journal Clubs

This year has seen an increase in our support for journal clubs. The service has been involved in a number of journal clubs including Paediatric Occupational Therapists, Emergency Department doctors, Internal Medicine resident doctors and Clinical Scientists.

Clinical Scientists Journal Clubs

Our Clinical Evidence Specialist was invited to help establish and take part in a clinical scientist journal club to support attendees as they prepare for Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists exams.

“ The purpose was to develop critical appraisal techniques and learn and practise using various tools. The outcome has been a much higher appreciation of how the tools are used than would have been achieved without the input of the Clinical Evidence Specialist. Specifically, we are very good at delving into the minutiae of a particular scientific detail, but Sarah provides wider perspective that we would not easily gain from carrying out the assessment without her, and is able to demonstrate repeatedly how the tool reveals things about the process or claims that we would not have picked up otherwise. Having Sarah with us has taken our understanding to the next level and her contribution to the discussion is invaluable.” **Principal Clinical Biochemist**

“ Improving these skills has decreased the amount of time I spend reading articles as I now know what information I am looking for (and where to look for it, in the article itself and searching through databases). It's allowed me to question publications and quickly understand what the literature is stating and if they have enough reliable, thorough studies to prove this. This allows me to select better pieces of literature for my studies and is helping me to progress towards my next set of FRCPath examinations.” **Senior Clinical Scientist**

A “research for all” culture

The team have continued to engage with researchers in a number of ways including evidence searching, training, journal clubs and curiosity cafes.

Researchers have provided feedback that evidence searches have:

“ I was going to use it to undertake research but then used it to apply for NIHR pre-doctoral funding. I will also use it to present at a conference in August 2025”

“ Helped make a strong application for external funding” **Research Fellow**

“ The review results were used to develop a research proposal submitted to NIHR”
Professor of Nursing

The KLS team continued to work with multidisciplinary research colleagues to deliver Curiosity Cafes across a number of clinical teams including DCC, CCU, Maternity, Nutrition and Dietetics, and have presented the work at the International Nurses Day conference and national Health Libraries Group conference.



A publications register of Trust research activity continues to be maintained and regularly reported on via the Research and Innovation Governance Group.

The Chief Nurse Intern Programme continues to be supported with evidence search skills, referencing, and critical appraisal sessions.

Critical appraisal skills training is delivered on a regular basis to students on research placements

Delivering high performing knowledge & library services

The infrastructure, resource and skills need to develop the service have been reviewed.

The KLS Team

This year we said goodbye to Karen Hayes, Knowledge & Library assistant.

Following the retirement of two library assistants in 2024 and supporting flexible working, a review of the service identified the need for an additional Clinical Evidence Specialist.

Following successful recruitment a new Clinical Evidence Specialist will be joining us in spring 2025.

Library Infrastructure

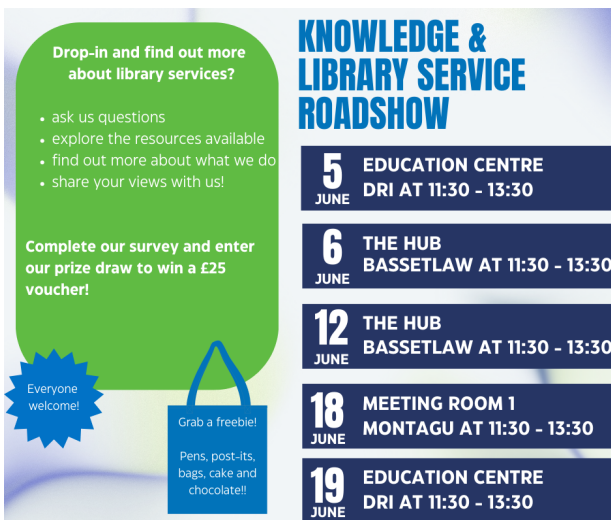
“I tend to find the temperature in the library to be cold especially in the winter”

Regular users of our DRI library frequently provided feedback that the library was cold.

In November the DRI library was closed for 4 weeks and with the support of capital investment new radiators were installed in the library and leisure library

This has improved the user experience for colleagues, learners and patients using the space.

In order to increase the visibility of the knowledge & library team we organised a Knowledge & Library Service roadshow to launch the strategic framework, showcase our services and engage colleagues in the 2024 user survey.



Drop-in and find out more about library services?

- ask us questions
- explore the resources available
- find out more about what we do
- share your views with us!

Complete our survey and enter our prize draw to win a £25 voucher!

Everyone welcome!

Grab a freebie!
Pens, post-its, bags, cake and chocolate!!

KNOWLEDGE & LIBRARY SERVICE ROADSHOW

5 JUNE	EDUCATION CENTRE DRI AT 11:30 - 13:30
6 JUNE	THE HUB BASSETLAW AT 11:30 - 13:30
12 JUNE	THE HUB BASSETLAW AT 11:30 - 13:30
18 JUNE	MEETING ROOM 1 MONTAGU AT 11:30 - 13:30
19 JUNE	EDUCATION CENTRE DRI AT 11:30 - 13:30

A workshop was delivered on the Education & Research (E&R) time out day to raise awareness of the service across the directorate.



A Trust-wide survey was carried out to engage with existing and potential users which received 227 responses with feedback from colleagues and learners at all sites. The results are being used to inform the service delivery plan and marketing plan as well as service improvement.



87% rated the availability of the library team as excellent/good

78% rated the specialist knowledge of the library team as excellent/good

86% rated the helpfulness of the library team as excellent/good

Delivering the right resources in the right place!

Our aim is to deliver the right resources in the right place, harnessing digital technology, exploiting opportunity for collaboration and partnership working.

Digital First

Demand Driven Acquisition of eBooks allows our users to select which eBooks we purchase within defined limits which is efficient and cost effective. This is helping to grow our eBook collection, increase access across sites and works alongside existing eBook collection development.

Our move towards Digital First is in line with user needs as:

77% rated E-books as important to their work

80% rated full text online journals as important to their work

- **356** new library members
- **531** articles supplied
- **1835** full text articles downloaded from BrowZine
- **3372** book loans

Collaborative and Partnership Working



YorCat, a new regional library management system in 2024, was successfully implemented enabling online registration, text message reminders, auto renewals, and easy access to request books from 20 health libraries across Yorkshire & the Humber. Following the successful implementation of YorCat, at DBTH the KLS team are using the system to process all our inter-library loans and document supply requests. DBTH were the only service in Yorkshire & the Humber to use this functionality on the system in 2024 which streamlines process and saves time.

“Excellent resource, recommend it to all my colleagues. I managed to pass my anaesthetic exams without buying a single core text, the library accessed books for me that weren't in stock from other libraries and the online resources on YorCat were excellent.”

79% rated supply of an article, book or document as important to their work

In order to further streamline our document supply processes we are now part of a single union list for print holding across the NHS in England called PrintDocs. Our Knowledge Resources Specialist also delivered training on the system to other librarians across England. Utilising digital systems and collaborating with regional and national health libraries colleagues enable us to streamline our processes and deliver a fast, efficient and cost effective book/article request service.

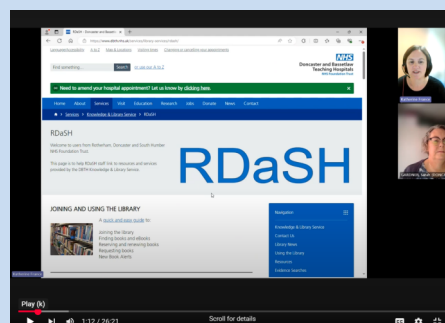
NHS England invited us to take part in a proof of concept pilot for a new discovery interface for YorCat called Aspen. The aim of the new interface is for users to easily search for both physical and digital resources, “scan and go” loans and an electronic Library Card.

Our Clinical Evidence Specialist participated in an NHS England synthesising and summarising evidence panel alongside five other NHS librarians to share experience of delivering evidence summaries to healthcare staff.

RDaSH

We have continued to provide Knowledge & Library Services to RDaSH. This year we developed a video to showcase our services for RDaSH's LEARN half day sessions.

100% would recommend the service to a colleague
(KLS survey respondents from RDaSH)



NHS England

Our Clinical Evidence Specialist continues to work in collaboration with NHS England to provide knowledge and library specialist support for the development and delivery of the Expert Searcher and Research Skills elements of the NHS Knowledge for Healthcare Learning Academy offers.

Health & Wellbeing and Patient Experience

Colleague and learner wellbeing is supported through the provision of a monthly reading group, health & wellbeing resources and continued provision of space for relaxation and reflection away from the ward or office environment. The KLS team have worked collaboratively with the Health & Wellbeing Team to support the Menopause Awareness days at the Trust.



77% rated Health & Wellbeing resources as important

“ the library staff are always very helpful, and informative and welcoming , Particularly enjoy the recreational book club, good for sense of community, wellbeing, networking with other staff you would never have met, very positive and well run.”

The Leisure Library continues to be supported by Doncaster Libraries. Trust volunteers have continued to deliver ward library services to patients to improve patients' experience.

- **3** ward trolley services each week
- **5** volunteers
- **1359** book loans to patients

Service Standards

We continually monitor, review and evaluate our service provision using the service standards outlined below:

- all searches will be completed within 10 working days, or by a date mutually agreed with the requestor

96% evidence searches completed within agreed timescales

- requests will be despatched within 2 working days of receipt
- 85% of requests will be supplied within 5 working days

100% requests were actioned in 2 working days of receipt

99% requests were supplied within 5 working days

- all general procedural and information-resource enquiries will be answered promptly
- enquiries that require more in-depth research and response will be answered initially, with a follow up response by a mutually agreed date between both parties

100% responses meet our enquiry standard

What next? 2025-26

- Continue to be proactive and responsive in our delivery of clinical and outreach services to support the mobilisation of evidence and knowledge across the organisation.
- Explore opportunities to mobilise evidence to support the development and updating of clinical guidelines.
- Continue to strengthen our relationship with the research team to explore opportunities to align and coordinate our services with research priorities in line with the Research & Innovation Strategy.
- Increase awareness of Knowledge & Library Services across the organisation and visibility of the library team as experts.
- Work with clinical teams to help establish, develop and support journal clubs.
- Continue to develop our digital library and utilise digital systems to widen access to resources to all colleagues and learners regardless of location.
- Review eResource provision following NHS England reductions to the national NHS Core Content provision and the challenging financial position across the NHS.
- Prepare and submit a service improvement plan as part of the NHS Quality Improvement Outcomes Framework quality assurance process.