

GLOBAL SPARKS

Innovations from Health Libraries Worldwide

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

I acknowledge the enduring connection of First Nations peoples to Country, culture, knowledge and community, and recognise their continuing contributions to health, education and the sharing of knowledge.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

Flourish: Growing Our Communities

ICML 2026

International Congress on Medical Librarianship **Glasgow, Scotland 14 - 16th of July**



SUPPORTING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

Library	What they did
NICE (UK)	• Developed staff capabilities in AI, coding and data. • Created a coding club for peer learning. • Used apprenticeships and secondments for data skills. • Emphasised protected learning time and "people before technology."
NHS England	• Internship program supporting library assistants and technicians to gain librarianship qualifications. • Response to staffing shortages and new workforce needs.
Queens University	• Working with the media and unions to publicise hospital library closures



Innovation is investing in people

LEADING BETTER RESEARCH

Library	What they did
Keck Medicine of USC	• Collaborative abstract-writing workshops for nurses. • Combined education with hands-on mentoring. • Improved confidence in research dissemination.
University of Kentucky	• Narrative review fellowship for medical students. • Lower-barrier entry point into research. • Produced conference-ready outputs.
NHS Leicester	• Systematic review education that helps clinicians understand when an SR is appropriate and what is involved



Health libraries lead research, not just support it

USING AI CRITICALLY

Library	What they did
Queens University	• Researchers evaluated whether ChatGPT could generate search strategies for evidence syntheses. • AI was useful for generating initial concepts and keywords. • Librarian-developed search strategies remained more comprehensive and accurate.
University of Manitoba	• Tested against multiple AI tools (ChatGPT paid/unpaid, Claude paid/unpaid, CoPilot paid/unpaid). • Tested again regularly to see if there was any improvement. • Paid ChatGPT did the worst with precision and recall



Health libraries are critical users of AI, not passive users

CREATING COMMUNITY

Library	What they did
Miami University	• Makerspaces, shared crafting, zine materials cart
Bodleian Health Care Libraries	• Library tea trollies in wards
NHS England	• Public library partnership • Show public how to use NHS app



The Library isn't a place, it's a service

HUMAN EXPERIENCE MATTERS

- Increasingly fragmented information landscape
- Information overload
- Humans needed to help people understand and use information



“interpersonal information intermediaries”