

Canterbury Medical Library Profile 2006

Canterbury Medical Library was established in 1934 to serve hospital services in Christchurch. Administration of the library was taken over by the university in 1971. Currently the library provides services to the School of Medicine, the Canterbury District Health Board, and the South Canterbury District Health Board.

Hospital personnel constitute approximately two thirds of the membership of the library.

Canterbury Medical Library is the Library of the Christchurch School of Medicine, which forms part of the Faculty of Medicine within the Division of Health Sciences of the University of Otago. The school has around 200 medical students and 500 postgraduate students. The University also has medical libraries attached to its medical schools in Dunedin, and in Wellington.

Relationship to Central University Library

There is a close working relationship between the libraries within the University of Otago system, with an emphasis on developing a consortia approach to

electronic resource sharing. The book and journal collections of the School of Medicine Libraries are considered to be part of a single distributed University of Otago collection.

Relationship with Teaching Hospital

The School has a close relationship with the teaching hospitals and this is reflected in the library service. Staff sited outside the central school/hospital complex can phone the library to requests books and journals and these will be sent out to them when available. Library orientations and training sessions are offered to all student groups and new hospital staff through course convenors and hospital department administrators.

Library Mission

To be the key provider of an effective and efficient library and information service for the current and anticipated teaching, clinical and research activities of the Christchurch School of Medicine & Health Sciences and the Canterbury District Health Board.

Library Branches

There are now four libraries within the Canterbury Medical Library system:

- Canterbury Medical Library
- Burwood Hospital Library
- Hillmorton Hospital Library
- Princess Margaret Hospital Library

Canterbury Medical Library administers the Burwood Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital branch libraries on behalf the Canterbury District Health Board. The Burwood Hospital library collection is housed within the library of the Alan Bean Centre, a specialist rehabilitation unit at Burwood Hospital. Hillmorton (Sunnyside) Hospital Library, is owned and administered by the Canterbury District Health Board.

Staff structure

Staff work in one or more of the following teams: Circulation, Loans Desk, Reference, Technical Services.

Areas of strength

- Acquisitions and cataloguing for hospital and School of Medicine departments.
- Reference services and medical information retrieval
- Extended services such as mediated searches provided to academic and clinical staff in Christchurch and South Canterbury
- Reference staff teach literature searching during a general practice section of the medical curriculum. Learning outcomes are assessed.
- Canterbury Medical Library staff have been part of the Clinical Decision Support Unit, an informaticist service, since its inception in 2003. The role of the Unit is to assist the hospital to find answers to key clinical problems.

Issues confronting us

- Requirement to operate on a full cost recovery basis for services to hospital staff.
- Demand for increasing the number of resources available online
- Licencing difficulties in delivery of electronic services to two organisations (University of Otago and Canterbury Area Health Board) whose departments are spread throughout the city
- Liaison with a broad user base comprising user base students, hospital staff, academics and researchers.



Key strategies for 2004 to 2006

CML staff have defined the following six key strategies to help guide the library to meet the needs of its members and stakeholders throughout the period 2004 to 2006. These strategies will be reviewed as part of the library's 2005 Planning Day.

1. Improve signage in the library to help users find the material that they are seeking quickly and easily.
2. Effectively promote library services to users so that users remain aware of the services that are available and obtain feedback through liaison with users so as to keep the services relevant to the needs of users.
3. Ensure that all staff are appropriately trained and knowledgeable in the activities that they are expected to perform on a regular basis.
4. Review opportunities to save time and costs associated with library administrative tasks.

Vital Statistics 2005

Issues	42,873
Interloans	3882 (Loaned by CM) 3729 (Borrowed by CM).
Document delivery (other than interloans)	1214
Collections - Monographs	Loan items 30841; Reference 5124; Reserve 749.
Current paper journal subscriptions	625
Electronic journal collections	Substantial number of electronic journals available through the library's electronic journals portal (Serials Solutions). Collections include EPIC, Proquest, Science Direct, Wiley.
Electronic book collections	Minimal, probably about 25 texts, including Clinical Evidence, Harrison's Textbook of Internal Medicine.
Databases	Medline, AMED, Cinahl, DH-Data, EBM Reviews (Cochrane), Embase, IPA, PsycInfo, TRIP, Web of Knowledge.
User population	2809

Web Site <http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/departments/LIBRARY/library.htm>



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