All you ever wanted to know about the Medical Library but were afraid to ask…

Peter Morgan
Head of Medical & Science Libraries
Cambridge University Library
<pbm2@cam.ac.uk>

Outline

• Context
• Communities
• Collections & Services
• Communication
Cambridge University Library

• “UL” = main building (West Road) plus four dependent libraries
  • Squire Law Library (West Rd) – law
  • Central Science Library (Bene’t St) – biology, chemistry, etc.
  • Betty & Gordon Moore Library (Clarkson Rd) – maths, physics, etc.
  • Medical Library (Addenbrooke’s) – clinical medicine & healthcare
• The UL is one of 5 UK legal deposit libraries
  • The dependent libraries share the legal deposit intake
• Report on Teaching & Learning Support Infrastructure (2008) recommended that UL should manage faculty/departmental libraries
  • watch this space...

Medical Library timeline

• 1973 – created by the merger of 4 departmental libraries
• 1976 – became a UL dependent library (along with the SPL)
• 1976 – Clinical School admitted first 80 students (now 140 p.a.)
• 1980 – moved into new Clinical School building
• 1985-2000 – annual student intake grows by stages to 140
• 2008 – refurbishment project (Phase 1 – Wolfson-funded)
• 2010-11 – refurbishment project (Phase 2 – Clinical School-funded)
Medical Library management structure

- Medical Library’s governing body reports to the Library Syndicate
- Head of Medical & Science Libraries ...
  - reports to University Librarian
  - is a member of UL Senior Management Team
- ML staff
  - 3 officers
  - 5 assistants (lots of job-shares)
  - evening/weekend invigilators
  - (dedicated IT support from Clinical School Computing Service)

Funding

- Recurrent funding is provided by three main stakeholders
  - University (via the UL) – about 60% of total
  - NHS – about 35%
    - regional Strategic Health Authority
    - Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - MRC – about 5%
ML users

- 3 main user communities
  - University – especially Clinical School students and staff
  - NHS – especially staff of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  - Medical Research Council – especially researchers in Hills Rd labs
- others include
  - local biomedical research labs
  - other HE students on placement
- total = c. 8,000 registered users (of which c. 60% are NHS)
Types of library use

- The ML supports three types of use
  - education – students and academic staff
  - research – biomedical research in Clinical School, MRC & other labs, NHS research
  - professional healthcare practice – NHS hospital and community staff
- The ML does not provide information services for patients & carers

Users - University

- primary users
  - clinical students (3yrs), graduate course students (4 yrs), MB/PhD students (6yrs)
  - Clinical School staff (teaching & research)
  - staff of Pathology divisions at Addenbrooke’s
  - students from other medical schools on placements in Cambridge
- secondary users
  - pre-clinical MVST students (3yrs)
  - other students
  - academics (teachers, researchers) in other disciplines
Users - NHS

• Cambridge-based hospital doctors, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, technicians, researchers, administrators, etc.

• community-based primary care staff – GPs, practice nurses, health visitors, dentists, etc.

• NHS staff in Cambridgeshire

• NHS libraries in the East of England region

• healthcare students from elsewhere on placement at Addenbrooke’s

Users – MRC and others

• MRC research scientists, PhD students, and support staff in Cambridge laboratories and units

• biomedical researchers in the area (Strangeways Research Lab, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus at Hinxton Hall, etc.)

• private sector healthcare practitioners

• miscellaneous individuals

• commercial sector researchers (pharmaceutical industry, etc.)
COLLECTIONS & SERVICES

ML profile 2009/10

- 2,000 sq.m.
- open M-F 0800-2200; Sat 0900-1700; Sun (exams only) 1400-1800
- 55,000 books
- 60,000 journal volumes
- 1,500 current journal titles (inc. 1,000 via legal deposit)
- 90 PCs in 2 rooms (1 for clinical students, 1 for everyone else)
- 25,000 book loans p.a.
- ILLs: obtained for users = 800; supplied to other libraries = 2,250
- 89,200 reader visits
Collection development – the strategy

- From the ML’s Strategic Plan for 2006-11:
  - “2.12 The Medical Library, while continuing to offer a ‘hybrid library’ service, will depend increasingly on electronic resources, maintaining print-based collections on a limited basis where the case for doing so can be explicitly justified.”
  - “2.13 Disposal of printed stock by relocation or other means will reduce the need for library shelving, thus releasing space for other facilities and activities.”

Collection development – journals

- journals
  - big switch to e-journals wherever possible
  - purchasing managed by Journal Co-ordination Scheme
  - University & NHS e-journal packages
  - printed legal deposit journals still being received
  - in 2007-08, 18,000 volumes of printed journals were removed (50% relocated, 50% recycled)
  - further quantities of low-use, duplicated research journals are being disposed of via the UK Research Reserve scheme
  - “retention v disposal” debate is politically sensitive
  - need to assess implications of mobile technologies
Medical Library refurbishment 2008 - before

- Phase 1 (2008) – Wolfson-funded
  - New library reception area
  - New IT room for Clinical Students
  - New library IT training room
  - New staff offices

Medical Library refurbishment 2008 - after

- Phase 1 (2008) – Wolfson-funded
- New library reception area
- New IT room for Clinical Students
- New library IT training room
- New staff offices

- Phase 2 (2010-11) – Clin School-funded
  - New group discussion area / pods
  - New closed access store
  - New current journal display
Collection development - books

- books
  - legal deposit intake important
  - additional titles purchased on recommendation
  - multiple copies of textbooks
  - additional funding from Clinical School for textbooks (tbc)
  - monitoring e-books usage (thank you, ebooks@cambridge!)
  - need to assess implications of mobile technologies

Clinical Students' VLE

- ERWeb
  - Moodle-based
  - contains online course material
  - includes reading lists compiled by ML in consultation with course directors
  - reading lists are searchable by subject
  - book details include library classmark and annotated comments
  - link to Newton to check availability, reserve a copy, etc.
Information skills training

- in-house and peripatetic
- ML 10-seater IT training room
- scheduled and non-scheduled
- groups and 1:1
- library introduction
- bibliographic databases, Google, reference management
- supporting documentation
Library staff CPD

- in-house training
- staff at all levels attend courses, workshops, etc.
- UL staff review programme
- staff exchanges
- 23Things
- Follow That ... (Book, ILL, etc.)
- involvement in professional groups
- publications, presentations ...

COMMUNICATION
Communication with users

• website (library.medschl.cam.ac.uk)
• blog, RSS, Twitter
• email
• training programme
• surveys & feedback (e.g. LibQUAL+ in 2009)
• User Advisory Panel
• printed documentation

Communication with stakeholders

• governing body members
• Clinical School Educational Resources Working Group
• Course Directors (for reading lists)
• NHS East of England Health Libraries Group & sub-groups
• corridor conversations
Contact details

Medical Library:
phone: x.36750
email: library@medschl.cam.ac.uk
website: library.medschl.cam.ac.uk

Peter Morgan:
phone: x.36757
email: pbm2@cam.ac.uk
Twitter: tweeterpeter