

Facilitating research amongst radiographers through information literacy workshops

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Introduction

Despite a strong research presence in our Trust, Allied Health Professionals are under-represented in developing and publicising “home grown” research.

Library and Knowledge Services (LKS) and Research and Innovation (R&I) wanted to work together to enable staff to develop the knowledge and skills they needed to access information and create new evidence.

This project involved working with the radiography department to develop research and information literacy skills. It ties in to Health Education England’s research and innovation strategy by helping to: ‘...build the capacity and capability of our current and future workforce to embrace and actively engage with research and innovation’.



Aims and Objectives

- To develop a set of Information Literacy workshop plans and support resources that would facilitate an increase in research output, as well as an increase in knowledge and skills in information literacy in a profession-specific group in an NHS Trust.
- To explore how the workshops impacted on the participants’ information literacy self-efficacy.
- To strengthen the links between LKS and R&I.
- Contribute to the development of a research culture within the Trust.

Methods

Identification of department: The radiography department was selected as there was management support and a desire to develop the skill sets within the workforce, as well as increase the visibility and recognition of the department. This supports the aims and objectives of the research strategy of the Society and College of Radiographers, particularly to ‘...Expand UK radiography research capacity through development of skilled and motivated research-active members of the profession’.

Participants: We invited all Radiographers, Radiography Assistant Practitioners and Radiography Students to take part. We ran two awareness raising sessions introducing the project.

Tailoring of workshops: Utilising survey monkey the participants chose the following workshops:

- **Overcoming barriers to starting research**
- **What to do with your research idea**
- **Planning your research project**
- **Introduction to critical appraisal**
- **An overview of e-journals and databases**
- **Creating a poster**

We tailored the programme and the delivery to the radiographers and their requirements within information literacy and research.

Workshops: Delivered over a 7 month period. Each workshop was an hour long session and was delivered twice, as well as activities for participants to complete in between sessions.

Data Collection:

Before and after workshop delivery:

- Measured library usage and research outputs throughout the project and will continue for 12 months after final workshop delivery.
- Utilised the Information Literacy Self Efficacy Scale (Serap Kurbanoglu et al.) to measure participants’ self-efficacy in relation to information literacy.

Literature cited

Health Education England, *Developing a flexible workforce that embraces research and innovation: research and innovation strategy*, 2015. Available at: https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/HEE_Research_and_Innovation_Strategy.pdf

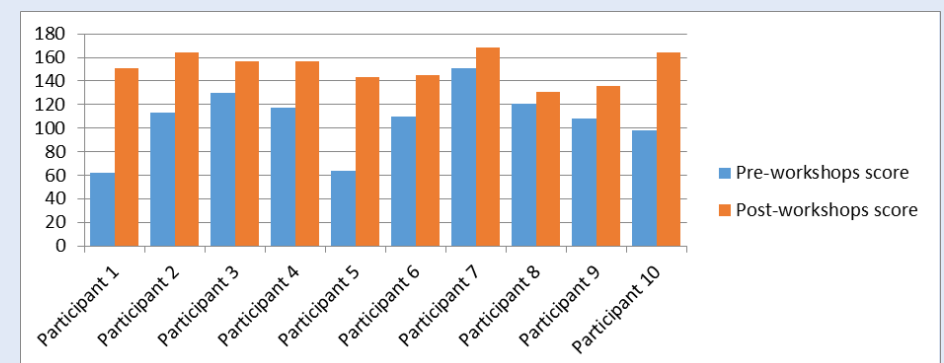
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Serap Kurbanoglu, S., et al. “Developing the Information Literacy Self-efficacy Scale.” *Journal of Documentation*, vol. 62, no. 6, Nov. 2006, pp. 730–743.

Results

23 members of staff completed the initial ILSES. 14 of those then went on to attend at least one of the six workshops delivered. Ten then completed the final ILSES after all of the workshops had been delivered.

- All participants had an increased ILSES score.
- The increases ranged from 10 to 89.
- The top three biggest increases in scores were for: Use library catalogue, locate useful information sources in the library, and evaluate www sources.



Impacts and Outputs

This collaboration has been mutually beneficial to all departments and has had direct implications for patient care, professional development of staff and embedding of a research culture.

- One participant successfully submitted a poster to UKRCO.
- Another has been accepted on the Trusts’ new Clinical Academic Trainees programme, and will be released from her role one day a week to carry out a service improvement project.
- Two participants created a poster to share the results of a patient satisfaction survey.

The project is innovative, in that it tackles some of the barriers to delivering information literacy training within a pressurised work environment.

“A chance to get away from the workplace and think about a different subject. Relaxed and informative atmosphere.” (participant quote)

The project has resulted in a set of workshop plans and support resources that can be used by other information professionals in a health setting, and these were launched at LILAC 2017 (Librarian’s Information Literacy Annual Conference).

Next Steps

- Authors are rolling out the programme throughout the Trust, starting with Pathology in Autumn 2017.
- Further dissemination activity will take place – publication in a peer-reviewed journal, final project report, and articles in profession-specific magazines.

What could you do?

- Get in touch with your R&I and LKS links to see if they would like to deliver something similar.
- Look at how your department currently records research activity and make sure it’s captured adequately.

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Further information

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