

Bridging the gap: The impact of library services on Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs) and their professional development



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Who we are

UHCW Library & Knowledge Services (UHCW LKS) are a multi-professional team based in the Clinical Sciences Building at UHCW. We champion evidence-based patient care and research activity as well as the lifelong learning and professional development of UHCW staff.



What we do

As well as providing both physical and online resources, we offer a range of evidence-based services that support the information requirements of the trust. Training, evidence-searching, research support and health information for patients are just some of the ways we support UHCW staff.

Working with ACPs

UHCW has a dedicated Knowledge Skills Librarian, who provides information skills training to all UHCW staff and placement students. Over the years we have built strong relationships with each new cohort of trainee ACPs who value the training we offer and regularly recommend to their peers. We have captured below some of their feedback to demonstrate the importance of high-quality information skills support and library services for those returning to study.



“Beth was easy to contact and approachable and was very keen to support me as a trainee ACP undertaking a daunting research methods University module. She answered any questions and her help certainly got me through the module. I have continued to use the information learnt from Beth in future practice when reading and critiquing research.”

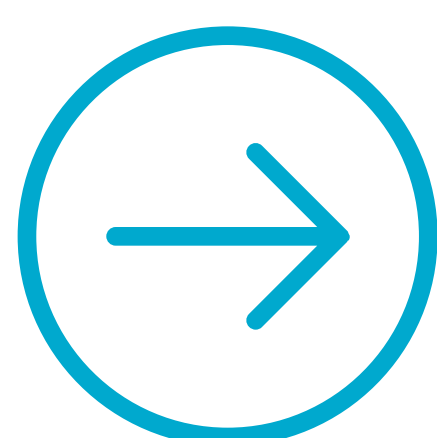
“You have given me confidence in my searching abilities, research questions and critical appraisal. It didn’t matter how many times I asked you! I have recently succeeded in completing my MSc! All the staff are kind, approachable, and an easily accessible team.”

“The library’s support and particularly my one-to-one session with Beth has been instrumental in my development ... it is more than just a repository of information; it is a trusted partner in my journey towards becoming a competent and confident Advanced Clinical Practitioner.”

“The library services at UHCW are outstanding. Beth has been amazing during my research module. It wouldn’t have been possible to complete my masters and enjoy the journey without the support of Beth and the Library team. You guys are hardworking, inspiring, reliable and compassionate to all of us, so thank you all.”

“I’m thankful for your expertise and patience. Without your help, I couldn’t have written and passed my essay on Advancing Research. I particularly admire your ability to explain complex concepts in a way that makes them easy for me to understand. I have completed and passed my masters, and you are a part of my success.”

“Your training sessions have been extremely helpful for my trainee ACP Journey. I have come to you many times as I was nervous about literature searching, however, each time you have reassured me and guided me through the process with patience and a smile on your face. The service is an inevitable part of my ACP journey.”



What’s next?

The testimonials above show that our knowledge, skills, compassion and time are highly valued by our trainee ACPs. However, we have found - anecdotally - that they are also often overwhelmed at the prospect of returning to higher education. Particularly, the perceived lack of support from universities in bridging the gap between their information skills and course expectations. These concerns have been expressed to us in our training sessions and it is likely that the dedicated, 1:1 time they access through our services is a key reason as to why our support has been so valued. Our next aim is to carry out a small-scale research project to capture these experiences through interviews; to show both librarians and academics how we can better support experienced professionals in their return to academic endeavours.

Are you a trainee or recently qualified ACP who would be interested in taking part? Register your interest by emailing: Beth.Jackson@uhcw.nhs.uk



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