

Editorial

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Welcome to the second issue of *Health Sciences Libraries Journal* (HSLJ) and thank you to all who read the first issue and gave such wonderful feedback. We are delighted to have received so many submissions for winter 2025 and of such a varied nature.

In this issue we have contributions from two librarians from the United States. In one, we learn about a day in the life of an embedded librarian in a faculty of medicine in a university in Missouri. In the other, we find out about a pioneer of librarianship, Marcia Crocker Noyes, who was the Librarian of the oldest US medical society located in Baltimore, Maryland. Marcia was also a co-founder of the Medical Library Association, a Suffragist and, as you will read, she was so dedicated to her work that she lived on site and never left!

HSLJ came into existence through the Health Sciences Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland but it is not intended solely for healthcare librarians, whether readers or authors. We welcome contributions from people working in every setting who have something to say that will be of interest to the whole librarian community, which is a very broad constituency. While we very much welcome research articles, which will be peer reviewed, and practice-based learning submissions, we also want to hear about courses you have attended, books or podcasts you enjoyed, areas of special expertise, interesting librarians past and present, librarians working in non-traditional settings and ideas for new features. We would also gladly receive reflective pieces from those who have many years of experience and who are retiring and moving on to new adventures. Our first such piece is from the wonderful Helen Fallon, retired Deputy University Librarian of Maynooth University, and a published author and poet.

The summer 2026 issue will be published in Pride month and, in addition to our regular content, will have special features celebrating diversity in all its glorious variety. We would love to hear from LGBTQi+ colleagues about programmes or initiatives that celebrate this community, or challenges faced. We would also appeal to colleagues to share their experiences of living with neurodiversity, a strength and superpower of many who are drawn to work in libraries. In the current issue we have a very enlightening contribution from a colleague with a visible difference, who tells us about working in a library in a customer-facing role and how her difference informs her work and her connection with library users. We would welcome contributions from other colleagues for whom a visible or physical difference is part of who they are so we can share learnings, acknowledge and challenge our conscious and unconscious biases, and learn how to be more inclusive and foster a greater sense of belonging.

Librarians come from all sorts of backgrounds and many have already had careers in other areas.

Our difference is one of our main strengths. We can only grow stronger as a community and as a profession by celebrating our diversity and by fostering allyship, especially in an era when many diversity programmes and indeed many libraries, are under threat. In a 2020 article in the *Journal of the National Medical Association*, Cody Stanford highlighted the importance of diversity and inclusion in the healthcare workforce, however, the same rings true for libraries, whose staff should reflect the ‘...tapestry of our communities as it relates to race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, physical disability status, and socioeconomic level to render the best possible care to our diverse patient [library user] populations’. We look forward to receiving your submissions for summer 2026.

REFERENCES

Cody Stanford, F. (2020) ‘The Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in the Healthcare Workforce’. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 112(3), pp.247-249.

