

Paul Tickner

ASSISTANT CLINICAL LIBRARIAN

My job title is one that many readers will be less familiar with but, first and foremost, I am a trained librarian so I specialise in managing, sourcing and retrieving published documents, both physical and digital. An important part of that training is identifying and supporting the information needs of library users, so in addition to collection development I'm always looking at new ways to reach out and connect to staff groups and departments to help them find answers to their questions, and more importantly attempt to stimulate and support a culture where all decision making is grounded in the best available evidence.

The primary focus of my post is to support clinical decision making, so I deal with a significant number of queries either directly related to patient care such as treatment options, patient pathways or the development of local policies and guidance. In line with part of the library's mission to support education and research within the organisation, I carry out individual and group training sessions on information literacy including search, retrieval and the critical appraisal of research.

I'm currently working on a project with Alison McCracken, a clinical research therapist at the Trust, to deliver health library and knowledge services including an evidence-based practice training programme to allied health professionals (AHPs) across the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), Bay Health and Care Partners.

MBMJ EDITORIAL TEAM (ONLINE PUBLISHING)

I am responsible for publishing the journal online. Our main goal is to increase the journal's exposure, making the

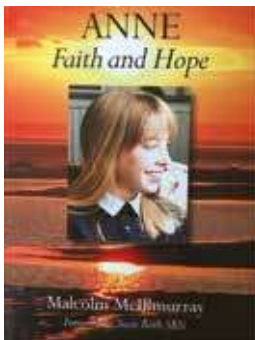
articles and content more accessible to a wider readership. It now has its own dedicated site at www.mbmj.co.uk, has been assigned an online ISSN number, and all back issues have now been digitised and uploaded. You can browse old articles and issues dating back to the first issue published in 1990. Google Scholar has already picked up and indexed these articles including any citations. The journal is registered with CrossRef, a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) issuer and has been provided with a DOI prefix. Soon each article will have its own persistent identifier, so if we were ever to move to a new platform the articles would still be discoverable via the DOI links. The next steps are to move the journal editorial processes to the online journal management system and then apply for indexing in one of the main bibliographic databases such as Medline.

GOOD READS

As a librarian I'm always keen to promote what we offer so here are some book recommendations from our library holdings:

Girl, Woman, Other. Bernadine Evaristo. This Booker Prize winning novel, following the lives of twelve very different characters, touches on themes of identity, race, gender, diversity, family and politics and is written in a very unique prose – I couldn't put it down.

The trouble with medical journals. Richard Smith. Interesting insights by the former editor of the BMJ covering the many deficiencies of medical journal publishing from poor science to peer review.



Anne, Faith and Hope

Malcolm McIlmurray
Marius Press £21.95
9781871622447

A chance encounter in Lancaster by the author at a service of rededication of a restored stained glass window, with the sister of a patient who had died 30 years previously from breast cancer, was the inspiration to write this spiritually uplifting book. It was also coincidentally the 60th anniversary since Elisabeth Kubler-Ross had written *On Death and Dying*, in which the five stages of grief had been set out so clearly – denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Anne died at the tragically young age of 30 and this book describes through her poetry and paintings her journey through life as she faced death, progressing through the stages of grief to acceptance, after an intense moment of spiritual revelation. The book is also the story of Sister Aine, who as Matron of the St John's Hospice in Lancaster helped establish the philosophy of total care, in which "patients may come to die and in the process learn how to truly live".

In a recent podcast for the Lancaster Health Festival, entitled "Can these bones live?" Dame Susan Black, forensic anthropologist and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, made the point that our modern society has "fallen out of love with death". We have forgotten how to, or perhaps would rather not, talk about death in case we are tempting fate. Susan however would rather view death as a friend walking with us throughout life and rightly suggests that most people

are scared not about death but about dying – how and when and all the other questions accompanying that transition.

This book gives the reader an opportunity to get a sense of how dying might feel through the experience of a young adult, who saw two friends from her support group die. In despair, after discovering that her own cancer had recurred, she called out to a God who she thought had forgotten her – only to receive an instant and overwhelming sense of calm. From that moment on, Anne faced death free from anger and at peace.

Shortly after Anne died the author, an experienced consultant medical oncologist, was shown a series of self-portraits that she had painted and which vividly illustrated how she felt about herself and her illness after surgery to remove a breast, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. In the portrait of the moment of revelation, she painted her face bathed in light. In a premonition that she would fracture a leg, she painted herself lying in bed in the position in which she would be nursed. Anne did fracture her leg a few weeks before she died and was nursed in the position she had predicted in her painting.

On a holiday before the recurrence was found, Anne had expressed a wish to ride naked on an Arab steed and her final picture showed her riding to eternity on a horse – naked and restored.

This moving story offers hope to those facing an uncertain future now and inspiration to those carers, friends and family who are sharing that journey with them.

Peter V. Dyer

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated in full to the two charities: St John's Hospice and Cancercare in Lancaster.