

Standards for Irish Healthcare Library and Information Services



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Standards for
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Second Edition

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Preface

The publication of the 2nd edition of the *Standards for Irish healthcare library and information services* is very timely. Work practices and users' expectations of healthcare libraries have changed radically over the past ten years. Several changes have evolved through the increasing availability and accessibility of electronic resources, the emergence of evidence-based practice as an essential tool for every day clinical decisions and the ever-increasing demand for high value current information in a quicker response time.

In education, there have been changes in teaching and learning methodologies in undergraduate curricula, a multiplication of continuing education programmes for clinical and non-clinical staff, and an escalating demand to meet accreditation standards. A glance at the Table of Contents illustrates the complexity of the current issues facing all library staff in their endeavours to provide an excellent service to a diversity of user groups.

This set of Standards will benefit librarians, administrators, managers and accrediting bodies. Compliance to them will ensure that healthcare libraries and information services will have the appropriate resources and services to meet existing and anticipated educational and research needs and, most importantly, to contribute to high standards of patient care.

Congratulations to the Standards Steering Group of the Health Sciences Libraries Group. They have produced an excellent and comprehensive document that will guide us in the early years of 21st Century. At this stage, one can only speculate on the issues which will be studied in the third edition!

Gabrielle Doyle, BSocSc, DLT, MLIS

Chairperson of the Working Party for the first edition (1993) of Standards for Irish health care libraries

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