“Of all the departments and dimensions of the NHS that I encounter, the library seems to me the most efficient, effective and professional. I am regularly amazed by the quality and speed of what they offer. It saves me hours and hours of time that I can put to clinical, training or organisational use and which I would be unable to do as effectively myself.”

- Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Sussex Partnership

“It is incredibly helpful to have an expert searcher and to have results formatted in such a clear, systematic way. It means we genuinely ensure that we draw on available evidence as we implement projects, rather than guesswork – or relying on a rather ad hoc Google smattering of search results.”

- Associate Director, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals

“The document delivery service is excellent and very efficient. If it is not possible to obtain a copy of an article or book the staff let you know very quickly and they pursue other routes until successful”
Our aims

To facilitate access to information and evidence for health care staff and students, when they need it, and in a form they can use.

To provide expertise, tools and techniques to allow colleagues to share and apply knowledge. To facilitate the spread of technology enhanced learning.

To consolidate on our successes, building a strong team that is well-placed to innovate and further improve the quality of our service.

By achieving these aims we will improve the health, well-being and quality of care for local patients and the public, broaden the knowledge of health care professionals and help ensure that services are fit-for-purpose.
“The clinical librarian is a member of the Product Selection Committee where we discuss the purchasing of clinical products. Quality, safety and patient experience are very important and when we change products we must ensure we follow the latest evidence. We are also tasked to look at opportunities for cost reductions.

The clinical librarian carries out live searches so that we have information available immediately. Afterwards we receive a full evidence report for circulation. Having this information available alters our opinions, confirms ideas and influences our decision-making. It also helps us to engage with staff and makes change management easier.

To date we have received information on forced-air patient warming, the accuracy of thermometry, recommended dwell time of IV admin sets and pulmonary artery pressure monitoring, among other things.

The Committee is key to our procurement projects and last year we made savings of £1.9M. The clinical librarian is an essential part of this. I would recommend that all change management committees consider including a member of staff from the Library and Knowledge Service in their meetings.”

- Clinical Procurement Manager, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals
In addition to our targeted evidence updates we produced six KnowledgeShare Alert bulletins on health management and governance. These go to 3,800 local clinicians and managers.

We increased accessibility for members with mobility difficulties at the RSCH Library with the introduction of a height-adjustable desk.

We also introduced software designed for people with dyslexia, learning difficulties or visual impairment.
“To all the wonderful library staff. Thank you for all your brilliant work in creating a fantastic place to study and for helping us to become doctors”
- Year 5 BSMS Student

“Some of my most cherished times during my undergraduate medical degree were at the Audrey Emerton Building library. It is by far my favourite library and, in my opinion, the best library I have ever studied in, and will always have a special place in my heart.”
- BSMS graduate, now a Foundation Year doctor in London

“Special thanks goes to [the Medical School Librarian] for her training on the electronic search process. I would also like to thank the staff at the library for providing me many articles without which I would have not been able to complete this project.”
- Acknowledgement in BSMS Year 4 Individual Research Project report

“Many thanks to [the Medical School Librarian] for her support on referencing and EndNote tutorials.”
- Acknowledgement in BSMS Year 4 Individual Research Project report
High quality services

Activity for each of our partner organisations

Circle size represents number of members signed up to targeted evidence updates

- Abdominal surgery & medicine
- Children's services (acute)
- Clinical policy group (acute)
- ITU and emergency medicine
- Mental health
- Primary care
- Product selection group (acute)
- Public health
- Trauma and orthopaedics
- Women's services (acute)
- Workforce transformation (acute)

95% BSMS student satisfaction with libraries on the National Student Survey.

100% compliant with the Health Education England Library Quality Assurance Framework.
“I just wanted to send a well deserved thank you [for teaching how to find quality healthcare information]. I passed my dissertation and they have also asked me to consider publication.”

- Primary Care Mental Health Practitioner, Sussex Partnership

“I needed to update the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment sections on maternal health and asked for information related to recent JSNAs from the south east of England. I had done a prior literature search but you provided up-to-date references and articles that I had missed, which were incorporated into the update.”

- Public Health Information Specialist, Brighton and Hove City Council

“The commissioners wanted to stop funding our community dietetics service. This would have affected some extremely vulnerable people who are being artificially fed in their own home or in nursing homes. Whilst I had done a literature search myself, the information from your search was much more complete and saved me significant time.

The results, which clearly demonstrated the need for the service, were presented to the commissioners and we now have a permanent, properly funded service.”

- Dietitian, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals
SABRE, the unique search engine that finds books and journals across both NHS and local university libraries, was re-launched in collaboration with our partner university libraries on a more stable platform. It makes finding library materials easier for staff and students working in Brighton and Sussex.

A new system was set up allowing staff from Sussex Community and Sussex Partnership trusts to access their local desktops via computers in the libraries at BSUH.

This restores access that had been lost in recent years.
“I was submitting an Individual Funding Request to prescribe secukinumab as a first line treatment for psoriasis, which was to cost around £5,000. The report you provided was vital and I would not have been able to make the request without your help. Thanks to your report the drug company has agreed to cover the patient’s medication for the year.”

- Consultant, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals

“A junior colleague was presenting on two of our patients who had hyperprolactinemia. We needed to look at the associations between antipsychotics and prolactinoma. This evidence helped to rule out prolactinoma and affected our management of the patients.”

- Staff Grade Psychiatrist, Sussex Partnership

“I needed to identify best practice around spirometry screening for COPD. I had already searched the internet but not come up with much. The comprehensive research you provided was used to cost and commission a local service and ensured that guidance given was up-to-date and accurate. This will impact on patient care and helped to identify a benchmark, therefore enabling us to maximise savings.

As a commissioner I found it incredibly helpful, and time-saving.”

- Clinical Commissioning Manager, Horsham and Mid Sussex CCG
A trial of the evidence-based resource DynaMed was run as a comparison with UpToDate. This aimed to determine whether DynaMed, which is less expensive, would be an adequate replacement.

The feedback from our members strongly indicated that UpToDate was a more effective tool for decision-making and should be retained.

We provided refresher training and spoke at the BSMS Open Meeting about open access publishing, why it is important and what it can do for researchers.

This work will help BSMS to meet the Research Excellence Framework requirements.
“I use UpToDate very frequently... explanations are very clear and comprehensive - advice is sound - it’s easy to navigate. I really value it as a clinical and teaching tool.”

“I use UpToDate all the time in clinic and it is invaluable. The type of obscure / rare things that I go to it for were not well covered in the DynaMed database.”

“I make daily use of UpToDate on the Emergency Department shop floor - an excellent and easy to use resource in a busy setting.”

“UpToDate is an extremely valuable evidence-based resource that is hugely important to daily clinical practice... It is an extensive resource containing critically appraised information from experts and many essential topics.”

- Consultant responses to trial of UpToDate versus DynaMed
Technology enhanced learning and knowledge

iris, the learning environment for BSUH, entered its second year. All core mandatory training was made available as interactive online learning. This, along with increased face-to-face booking and rapid reporting enabled BSUH to reach a mandatory training compliance level of 78%.

A real-time training compliance report for managers was introduced along with a homepage banner showing all staff their compliance level.

Medical Grand Rounds at PRH are now being filmed and made available via iris. Library and Knowledge Service teaching is also available, as is a wide range of nursing and midwifery education, including sepsis awareness, preceptorship training, Band 5 and Band 6 Development Programmes and more.

The BSMS Clinical and Professional Studies Online resource (previously module 503) was redeveloped and re-named CAPSULE. This was launched as an online resource and an app for undergraduate students.

A case-based formulary called SmartDrug was created to help students learn to prescribe core medications.

We significantly increased the number of filmed online resources for teaching, for example to support obstetrics & gynaecology and neurology.

An anatomy portal was built to enable the use of iPads while learning in the dissection suite.

BSMS teaching and administrative staff were surveyed about their digital capabilities in order to identify gaps and plan future training.

KnowledgeShare was launched to our members, enabling them to log in to request evidence searches, book teaching and list their interests for regular evidence updates.

KnowledgeShare was licenced by BSUH to 24 new trusts, taking the total to 46.

- Bridgewater Community
- Calderdale and Huddersfield
- East & North Hertfordshire
- East Cheshire
- Frimley Health
- Gateshead
- George Eliot Hospital
- Hinchingbrooke
- Homerton
- Kettering
- Mid Cheshire
- Newcastle upon Tyne
- North Bristol
- North Tees
- Oxford University
- Papworth
- Queen Elizabeth
- Royal Free
- Royal Wolverhampton
- South Devon Healthcare
- West Hertfordshire
- West Suffolk
- Whittington
- Yeovil Academy
“We had a patient with heavy eye syndrome that we wanted to research for the best surgical procedure. The articles you provided ensured that any future patients with this condition will benefit as the surgery we decided on was very successful and could be repeated on others.”
- Orthoptist, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals

“The public health department was asked to review the evidence underlying the policy of lifestyle promotion prior to elective surgery. The evidence you provided informed a briefing paper for our local CCGs in the context of national ethical and political debate about elective surgery.”
- Public Health Practitioner, East Sussex County Council

“My patient had a radial head fracture and a dislocated distal radioulnar joint. I believed she had an extensive ligamentous problem in the forearm and I needed additional evidence to guide her treatment. The information provided helped to inform treatment decisions for my patient who ended up doing well. We were made more confident of our approach as we knew we were using the evidence base to support our clinical decisions.”
- Consultant, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals
Our team

Vacancies allowed us to recruit three new staff to our enquiry desk team, strengthening and maintaining coverage at Mill View Hospital Library (MVH) and Royal Sussex County Hospital Library (RSCH).

Melissa Grogan
Senior Library Assistant (RSCH)

Cecelia Schwartzman
Senior Library Assistant (MVH)

Carrie Anne
Library Assistant (RSCH)

With fixed-term funding we created the role of Patient Information Specialist Librarian. This post, which began in March 2017, will enable BSUH to improve the quality of information provided to patients.

Cecilia Bethencourt-Dunning
Patient Information Specialist

Other Staff Changes
Annemarie Frank took over the role of BSMS Assistant Librarian (job share).

David Rafferty joined the team as a new Learning Technologist to work on the virtual learning environment for BSUH.

We introduced a programme of peer review of our own teaching sessions in order to share good practice and improve quality. This sits alongside our peer review of evidence search work.

Our team were acknowledged in a number of published academic papers and Tom Roper, one of our clinical librarians, co-authored a systematic review in the Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery.
“I needed to prepare a policy document about storage of medicines and could not find much research to support it. The research you provided was cited in my policy, which will ensure that staff will not use medicines stored outside a temperature range that could have made them ineffective or even harmful.”
- Clinical Pharmacist, Sussex Community

“We needed evidence for the creation of a new policy related to local anaesthetic infusions for acute pain patients. All the references were helpful in developing the policy, which is now shared trust-wide through the intranet and will reduce risk and improve the quality of pain management. I am also writing a chapter in a book and using some of the references.”
- Clinical Nurse Specialist, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals

“Thanks ... the specialist librarian support I received from u & team whilst studying over past years helped! #LibrariansRock.”
- Chief Executive, Sussex Partnership