

Health Information and Libraries for Evaluation and Research (HEALER)

Terms of Reference

Aim:

The aim of the Health Information and Libraries for Evaluation and Research network is to increase the production of good quality health information management research and to ensure that a co-ordinated approach to research into health information management is established so that it is clear what research is taking place and where the outputs are stored.

Membership:

Membership of the group includes representatives from:

- NHS Strategic Health Authority Library Leads Group (SHALL) / NHS Library staff
- University Departments of Library & Information Sciences
- University Departments of Health Sciences with researchers interested in health information
- Publishers (in particular the Editor of Health Information and Libraries Journal)
- NICE: NHS Evidence Service
- National Institute for Health Research

However, membership and length of service to the HEALER network is flexible according to the representational relevance for the needs of the health information management research community and the availability of the representative.

Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity for individuals to meet colleagues interested in developing the evidence base through research
- To identify areas and questions that need research and to agree priorities for shared approaches
- To explore options for shared funding and commissioning of research
- To share information about research calls in this field.
- To find ways of getting research into practice.
- To link NHS and HE individuals and organisations publishing in this field.
- To be an advocate for improving and developing research in this field.
- To find ways of increasing research capacity and capability
- To develop the research skills of health sciences librarians and to develop tools to support them.

Meetings:

The Group will meet twice a year, at a venue, which reflects the wide-spread locations of the members of the group. There will be a teleconference between each meeting with additional email communications as required.

Notes of the meeting will be recorded and circulated to all members as soon after the meeting as possible. Notes will be taken by a volunteer at each meeting.

Chair:

The Chair will be elected by the membership and serve a two-year term.

Review:

These terms of reference will be reviewed every two years.
The next review will be due in September 2010.

HEALER Network
October 2009