

**Evidence  
does not  
speak for  
itself**



David Stewart

Regional Director of Health Library  
and Knowledge Services North

# Evidence-based Everything

- "Evidence-based medicine is the conscientious explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients."
- *"Evidence based health (EBH) is the integration of individual knowledge with the best available external evidence from systematic research in making decisions about health care."*

# Even Jeremy Hunt has to be evidence-based



a duty on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health to ensure **“the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research”**. From the Health and Social Care Act 2012

# There's a lot of evidence about

- 2,500,000 STM articles published
- A year.....

According to research from the University of Ottawa, in 2009 we passed the 50 million mark in terms of the total number of science papers published since 1665, and approximately 2.5 million new scientific papers are published each year.

[21st Century Science Overload - cdsciencepub.com](http://www.cdsciencepub.com)

[www.cdsciencepub.com/blog/21st-century-science-overload.aspx](http://www.cdsciencepub.com/blog/21st-century-science-overload.aspx)

# Really – a lot of it about

**24,000**

- New STM books published
- Each year
- Huge increase in e-book publishing

**28,000**

- STM journals
- Mostly published electronically
- And just a note about e-publishing – it's not “all on the net” – and it's not “all free”

# So much evidence – so little time

- Good job there is Google



- 8% - that's how much of the Internet Google searches
- 220,000,000 – that's how many pages Google finds on “cancer”

# Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse

- Do you know how to wash your hands?



- I thought you probably did.
- Good job there are over 100 e-learning packages on hand washing in the NHS

# We want

- Evidence based healthcare
- Excellent health care
- Safe health care
- To make the best use of knowledge and research
- To eliminate
  - Duplication
  - Waste
  - Inefficiency
- To make the best use of the tax-payers £££
- **To manage the information overload**



# What you going to do?

- OVERLOAD



Who you going to call?

# 1,200 NHS Knowledge Specialists

- That's 1,200 NHS library and knowledge specialists across England
  - Around 300 in the North.
  - Our day job is to help you manage information overload.
  - Don't get hung up on the physical space!
- ## Our Services
- Keeping you up to date: what's new in my field?
  - Saving you time – we search faster and better, getting you the right results
  - Tools and techniques to mobilise knowledge – sharing and learning across teams
  - Helping you to manage your information

*"Who Needs a  
Librarian*

**WHEN YOU HAVE GOOGLE?**

*Well, Who Needs a  
Doctor*

**WHEN YOU HAVE WEBMD?**

[thedaringlibrarian.com](http://thedaringlibrarian.com)



# **“Evidence does not speak for itself..”**

- ...but needs to be mobilised at the right time, and through the right people, to make a difference in decision making.”
- My call to action:
  - Find your local library and knowledge service.
  - Say hello.
  - Explain what you do.
  - Ask them how they can help.



# Want to know more?

[David.stewart@nhs.net](mailto:David.stewart@nhs.net)

Health Education England's strategic approach is called "*Knowledge for Healthcare*"

Here is our policy on library and knowledge services:

<http://kfh.libraryservices.nhs.uk/nhs-lks-policy/>