

## **The NLH Skin Disorders Specialist Library and communication with its community**

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The NLH Skin Disorders Specialist Library is a “One-stop” shop for quality, evidence-based information on skin conditions and treatment. It is based at Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, University of Nottingham, which also hosts the Cochrane Skin Group and UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network—this gives excellent opportunities to work together and co-ordinate activities.

Like other NLH Specialist Libraries, the Skin Disorders Specialist Library has a large Stakeholders Group, including secondary care clinicians, GPs, nurses, health information specialists and patient support groups. Its wider community of users includes health professionals in the UK and abroad, as well as patients and the wider public. The monthly e-mail updates have nearly 500 subscribers, including a large proportion of UK dermatologists.

Means of communication with our users include:

- The Stakeholders Group (formal meetings and individual correspondence)
- The Library itself, especially home pages
- National Knowledge Weeks
- Monthly e-mail updates
- The feedback form on Library home page
- Talks and stands at conferences
- Articles in journals and newsletters

The implication for DUETs and the JLA is that NLH Specialist Libraries are well placed to communicate with their communities of practice, and can act as the centre of a network for collection of uncertainties and for research prioritisation. The libraries also have great potential for dissemination.