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# CILIP/SCONUL Health Strategy Group

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## **NATIONAL REVIEW OF NHS HEALTH LIBRARY SERVICES IN ENGLAND**

The National Review of NHS Health Library Services in England carried out by Professor Peter Hill, was published in March 2008. The report provides an excellent summary of the current state of play in NHS libraries, and its 50 recommendations provide a road map for future development. Our most recent activity in this area has been an open letter written to Professor Hill outlining areas where we might work together to review some of the issues raised in the report.

The health information environment continues apace, and the last few months have seen some significant publications from the Department of Health. The much anticipated Darzi report was published in June, confirming the strategic importance of evidence in health care.

On 10 July 2008 the Department of Health issued the Health Informatics Review Report. This report provides a very accessible insight into NHS plans to introduce sophisticated IT support. But it's not just IT – there's access to knowledge for staff and to trusted answers on health and wellness for the public. Of particular interest is the creation of the post of 'Chief Information Officer for Health, reporting to the NHS Chief Executive and sitting on the NHS Management Board'

On the subject of working with the public, in April 2008, The Department of Health issued. Choice Matters - working with libraries. This examines the potential role for public libraries with groups who require help, either with information or with IT, to make health care choices.

#### COMING UP

Over the next few months we will be inviting some additional significant stakeholders to join the Health Strategy Group, so that we can truly represent the wide range of activity in the health field. We are also reviewing our terms of reference to ensure that they meet the needs of our sponsors into the future. In addition, our website is at last up to date.

And finally...My term as Chair comes to an end in December 2008. The new Chair, nominated by Cilip, is Bruce Madge, who is well known to many SCONUL members. Bruce is currently enjoying a busy year as Cilip President and he will bring a wealth of experience and contacts to his work as Chair of the Group

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# RLUK/SCONUL digest of scholarly communication news

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*This is taken from the 'Research Libraries UK/ SCONUL Digest of Scholarly Communication News' of October and December 2008. This online newsletter (supplied to SCONUL representatives in member libraries) is a service provided by the RLUK/SCONUL group on scholarly communication for internal distribution to staff of library and information services in SCONUL institutions.*

*The group also encourages the use of the digest to inform academic staff within universities in the UK and Republic of Ireland of developments in scholarly publishing.*

#### **No 'BLACK HOLE' FOR PHYSICS PUBLISHING – BUT AN OPPORTUNITY UNDER THREAT!**

Unfounded fear of the end of the world caused by the new large hadron collider (LHC) accelerator at CERN is matched by unfounded fear of the demise of physics publishing caused by the new CERN-led SCOAP3 (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics) model for physics publishing. Physics publishing will not disappear into a 'black hole'! The signs of a willingness by physics publishers to experiment with new publishing models are in the announcement by Elsevier, Springer and SISSA/IOP (International School of Advanced Studies and Institute of Physics) that they will publish the first results from the LHC on open access without requiring publication fees to be paid, and – although this was not related to the LHC – in the decision by the American Physical Society to launch a new open access journal, *Physics*. Before making a longer-term commitment to open access, publishers are looking for a willing-