



# Discussion regarding the creation of a sexual health library

Dr David Jardin one of our honorary life members has proposed an agenda item for the AGM. This is, should the Sexual Health Society of Queensland create a sexual health archive / library? All clinics in Queensland would have some library or bookshelves and some members have substantial collections. Do you think this is a role for the Society to draw these resources together before some sexual books get lost? Initially it maybe it would be more an inventory of assets i.e. books that are available to access.

The Society would like to know your thoughts on a sexual health library?

- Would you like to find a home for your collection?
- Should the Australasian chapter of sexual health medicine be involved?
- Should the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) be involved?
- Should the RAGP History of Medicine Library be involved?

Please express your interest in a sexual health library. The society would like to know your thoughts.

100 SHSQ members where asked express interest and we received the 8 responses below.

**1. Sharon Stokell, Business Manager - Clinical Services and Operations TRUE**

I think this is a wonderful idea! I would be very supportive of working towards this library and would be happy to discuss including some of the resources that True has.

**2. Ian Anderson, Sexual Health Registrar - Sydney Sexual Health**

I think there would be scope for the Herston Medical Library to be involved - Plus, its curated by a medical librarian who understands health topics. I think it's worth getting in touch with them to see the feasibility of this before the AGM so an idea could be presented with some options.

**3. Helen Dunkley, School Nurse**

Great idea, Where would it be located? Who would curate it? Would it be a lending library? How does the society pay for the postage of the lent books- what happens if book gets lost.

**4. Gianna Parmesan, TRUE**

I think that's a great idea. I believe True has a whole bunch in storage that would be more useful in a library. I think the more the merrier of who is involved.

**5. Lynn Kennedy**

I am keen to find a home for my collection of HPV related slides. It seems a shame to destroy these records of pathology that, with the advent of the vaccine, younger SHW's may never see. The slides could easily be digitised and become a library resource.

**6. Joseph Debattista, Sexual Health, HIV & Hepatitis Coordinator Metro North Public Health Unit**

I would be very interested and indeed would have some archival materials to donate or catalogue. I think in the first instance, it would be sensible to check if the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine might be interested. Following that, we could check if the RACP is interested. Another possibility might be whether this library could come under the Professorial Chair for Sexual Health based at UQ. Perhaps the library could be kept at UQ? Another idea might be for the library to be housed at a Sexual Health Clinic though that would depend on space available. I remember when Biala had a huge ATODS library for the state, but those resources eventually were merged with the general QLD Health Library. That is another option- QLD Health may wish to house the collection as part of their library.



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## 7. Emma Knowland

Are we meaning for these resources to only be available to SHSQ members? And if they are 'given' to AcSHM or RACP, would there be equitable access for non-members of those organisations?

If it is about preservation, then is it worth a conversation with the State Library of Queensland? Then anyone can access freely regardless of discipline or membership.

## 8. Steve Lambert

I do have a fair few books from David Bradford that could start off a library. Getting a catalogue of books together wouldn't be too hard - and I could set something like that up - and this could go on the SHSQ website.