HRB National Drugs Library – Collection policy

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1   Material selection and acquisition

The HRB National Drugs Library supports those working to develop the knowledge base around drug, alcohol and tobacco use in Ireland. We aim to enable evidence-informed decision making in research, policy and practice by providing relevant and appropriate library and information resources and services.

Our online repository collection of alcohol and other drug research is at the core of service delivery. It enables us to provide quick and easy access to material, and to deliver tailored and targeted resources (such as factsheets and online key Irish data and practitioner pages). We include material including:

- publications, such as articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, factsheets, newsletters, reports and theses.
- news items, found daily from national news sources.
- debates from the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament)
- audio and visual resources (such as podcasts)
- datasets (statistics)
- upcoming events (such as conferences and workshops)

1.1   Criteria for adding Irish material to the repository.

As the main purpose of the library is to collect all Irish drug-related research in one place, these items form the foundation of our collection. We include material that includes Irish information on illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco, and the problem use of medicine or other substances. We also include research by Irish, or Irish-based, authors and publishers that is relevant to the situation in Ireland. We restrict material to human (rather than animal-based) research.

Our collection includes research on homelessness, prostitution, mental health, suicide, crime, infectious disease, affective education, social deprivation and other subjects that include a substance-related component. Even when substances are not mentioned, we add research which may provide context or other useful data.

Although behavioural disorders (such as gambling, food, internet addictions) are beyond the main scope of our collection, there is interest in these related subjects by those working in problem substance use and addiction. We therefore include items of this nature when identified.

We only add Irish material to the repository when we can provide access to the full resource. In some cases, due to copyright law we cannot provide direct access online (for example, articles that require payment). In those cases, we endeavour to obtain the publication for users on request.

For news items, we add articles from national sources containing new relevant information or data. Where a news item refers to a piece of research, where possible we add the full text of the research with a link to the news item. We do not typically add letters, opinion pieces or news items that require a paid subscription to view.

For debates in the Oireachtas (Dail, Seanad and Committees), we use the search terms 'drug', 'alcohol', 'addiction', 'cannabis', 'tobacco', 'gambling'. We add items which contain data or policy information.

1.2   Criteria for adding international material to the repository.

We recognise that those working or researching in this area require access to a broad base of research evidence. Therefore, we add international publications and resources that we believe are relevant to our stakeholders. We only add international material when we can provide direct and free access to the full resource either through a hardcopy, an electronic document (such as a PDF) or a web link.

There are two main categories of material. The first is found through academic channels. Journal articles are usually peer-reviewed and indexed in well-known bibliographic databases. Thousands of

articles related to the topic of substance use are published each year. A significant (and hopefully growing) proportion are published with open access. We therefore cannot include every article in our repository collection. Our priority is to identify reviews (articles that synthesize or analyse research already conducted in primary sources) and primary studies that have particular relevance, or are applicable, to an Irish population.

The second main category of material is grey literature (materials and research produced by organisations outside of traditional academic publishing and distribution channels). This may include reports, books, guidelines, press releases, policy documents, conference proceedings, blog posts, podcasts etc. This material provides context, guidance, opinion, strategy, and analysis not always available through academic sources. Because they do not (always) go through a peer-review process before publication, this type of material varies in quality (such as accuracy, reliability or bias). Although we hope to exclude most research that is of poor quality by identifying well known or reputable sources, even publications with questionable analysis or conclusions may contain useful data, and their availability means they may be critiqued by others. Inclusion in our repository, therefore, is not an endorsement of the methods, conclusions, recommendations or views of authors.

Material is chosen based on its perceived use to those researching and working in the area of substance use (primarily in Ireland). The decision to include items is at times, perhaps, more art than science.

The HRB aims to be an independent and trusted voice for research evidence in health and social care. Our remit is to collect and make available Irish-related research in relation to alcohol and other drugs, so we may include items that have been partly or wholly funded by substance use or related industries (for example, items that contain a source of transparently and reliably collected and presented data that would be useful to library users). Articles published in reputable scholarly journals should include a conflict-of-interest section in the article description when relevant. For reports and other items, where research funding is not obvious from (author or publisher) details in a citation, we may include funding details in the record. The library does not endorse or recommend commercial products, services or research.

1.3 Sources

We use several sources to find relevant items for the library collection.

- We use an update scanner to check for publication updates on specific Irish and international websites related to substance use.

- For items in the national news, we scan online information sources (such as the Irish Examiner, Irish Times, Independent.ie, thejournal.ie and RTE news)

- We use automated email alerts of items that meet our criteria from Google and selected journals and bibliographic databases (such as Pubmed).

- We check DS daily (a UK based news service for the alcohol and other drug sector) http://www.dsdaily.org.uk/

- Through our social media account @HRBdrugslibrary we follow more than 300 relevant accounts, which often provide notice of new publications.

- Authors and publishers may submit their publications for addition to the collection by contacting us at drugslibrary@hrb.ie

Although we are continuously looking for new material, the frequency of searches may be summarised as:

Daily – scan of news items, specified Irish websites, DS Daily and *X*

Weekly – scan of Oireachtas debates, journal and database search alerts

Quarterly – scan of specified key websites.

Table 1 Key Irish research and information sources used by the library.

Source	Rationale	Examples
Research organisations	Provide research centres dedicated to researching issues related to substance use.	• Growing up in Ireland 08 Cohort • Growing up in Ireland 98 Cohort • Health Research Board • Health behaviour in school-aged children (HBSC) Ireland • National Suicide Research Foundation • Northern Ireland, Research and Statistics Agency • TILDA
Government or State agencies	Provide national strategy and guidance documents.	• Central Statistics Office • Department of Children • Department of Health • Department of Justice • HSE drugs.ie • Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) • Health Service Executive (HSE) • HSE tobacco Control • Northern Ireland, Comptroller and Auditor General • Tusla
Non-governmental organisations and consortia	Provide an independent voice (often including the views of people who use drugs and those who are affected by substance use).	• Ana Liffey Drug Project • Alcohol Action Ireland • Alcohol Forum • Citywide • Coolmine Therapeutic Community • Merchants Quay • Northern Ireland Drug and Alcohol Alliance (NIADA)
Health and social care agencies	Provide clinical and client care guidance.	• Institute of Public Health • Irish Association of Social Workers • Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
Task Forces	Provide research and reports related to local and regional areas of Ireland.	• Ballymun LDATF • Bray LDATF • Ballyfermot LDATF • Blanchardstown LDATF • Clondalkin LDATF • Cork LDATF • D12 LDATF • Dublin North East RDATF • Dunlaoghaire Rathdown LDATF • Finglas Cabra LDATF • Mid West RDATF • Midland RDATF • North Dublin RDATF • North Eastern RDATF • North Inner City LDATF • Northwest RDATF • South Eastern RDATF • South Western RDATF • Southern RDATF • Tallaght LDATF • Western RDATF

Note. Some organisations belong to more than one source category.

Table 2 Journal and bibliographic database sources for Irish-related articles.

Source	Strategy	Search
The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the US National Library of Medicine. - Pubmed database	Pubmed is a free, open-source database. It includes about 30,000 journals. (largely health-focused). We are notified weekly of new articles that meet our search criteria	("Substance-Related Disorders"[Mesh] OR "Drug and Narcotic Control"[Mesh] OR "Substance Abuse Treatment Centers"[Mesh] OR "Psychoses, Substance-Induced"[Mesh] OR "Substance Abuse Detection"[Mesh] OR "Substance Withdrawal Syndrome"[Mesh] OR "Substance Abuse, Intravenous"[Mesh] OR "Psychoses, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Street Drugs"[Mesh] OR "Designer Drugs"[Mesh] OR "Codependency (Psychology)"[Mesh] OR "Alcoholics"[Mesh] OR "Alcoholic Neuropathy"[Mesh] OR "Hepatitis, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Liver Cirrhosis, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Liver Diseases, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Alcoholic Beverages"[Mesh] OR "Fatty Liver, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Pancreatitis, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Cardiomyopathy, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Alcoholic Intoxication"[Mesh] OR "Alcohol Amnestic Disorder"[Mesh] OR "Alcohol Withdrawal Seizures"[Mesh] OR "Alcoholism"[Mesh] OR "Narcotics"[Mesh] OR "Hepatitis, Alcoholic"[Mesh] OR "Hepatitis C"[Mesh] OR "Needle-Exchange Programs"[Mesh] OR "Needle Sharing"[Mesh] OR "Needlestick Injuries"[Mesh] OR "Methadone"[Mesh] OR "Heroin"[Mesh] OR "Cannabis"[Mesh] OR "Marijuana Abuse"[Mesh] OR "Marijuana Smoking"[Mesh] OR "Cocaine"[Mesh] OR "Cocaine-Related Disorders"[Mesh] OR "Crack Cocaine"[Mesh] OR Addict* OR Drunk*) AND ("Ireland"[Mesh] OR "Northern Ireland"[Mesh] OR Irish[ALL] OR Dublin[ALL] OR Cork[ALL] OR Ireland[AD])
Lenus – the Irish health repository	Lenus is a collection of Irish-related research.	We browse by subjects - alcohol, substance (-related, abuse, misuse, withdrawal) drugs, cannabis, heroin, opioids, cocaine, tobacco, smoking. And refined by date.
RIAN - Open Access Irish research database	RIAN is portal to the contents of the institutional repositories of university libraries, Lenus, All Ireland Public Health Repository, Royal College of Surgeons	We browse by type of publication (Doctoral thesis, Master thesis (research) Master thesis (taught): refine by year. Only full text theses are added to repository.
Journal search for Irish-related articles	Irish-related articles appear.in other sources (above). We check specific sources weekly to early articles.	We browse specific journals for early online articles: Irish Journal of Medical Science Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine Irish Medical Journal Heroin Addiction and Related Clinical Problems (Not indexed on pubmed)

Source	Strategy	Search

Table 3 Key international research and information sources used by the library.

Source	Rationale	Examples
Research organisations	Provide research centres dedicated to researching issues related to substance use.	• Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network (ATTCN) • Campbell Collaboration • Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction • Cochrane library – tobacco, drugs & alcohol topic • Cochrane library – tobacco, drugs & alcohol clinical answers • Early Intervention Foundation • European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) • IAS (Institute of Alcohol Studies) • Institute for Global Tobacco Control • National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) • National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW • National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) • National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) • Society for the Study of Addiction (SSA)
Government and international agencies	Provide national strategy and guidance documents	• European Commission • Europol • Gov.UK – Alcohol and drug prevention & treatment • Pan American Health Organization • Pompidou group • Scottish Drugs Deaths Taskforce • Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA • UNAIDS • UNODC -United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime • World Health Organisation • World Health Organisation Europe
Non-governmental organisations and consortia	Provide an independent voice (often including the views of people who use drugs and those who are affected by substance use)	• Adfam • Alcohol Change UK • Civil Society Forum on Drugs • Correlation – European Harm Reduction Network • Eurocare • INPUD -International Network of People Who Use Drugs • ISSUP -International Society of Substance Use Professionals • Harm Reduction Coalition • Harm Reduction International • Joseph Rowntree Foundation • International Drug Policy Consortium • The SALIS collection: alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs • Scottish Drugs Forum
Health and social care agencies	Provide clinical and client care guidance	• Addiction Professionals (Registration body and network) • Public Health England • Public Health Scotland • Public Health Wales • SHAAP [Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems]

Note. Some organisations belong to more than one source category.

Table 4 Journal and bibliographic database sources for international resources.

Source	Strategy	Search
NCBI Pubmed database	We are notified weekly of new articles that meet our search criteria. We limit results to free full-text and focus on reviews.	"substance use" or "substance misuse" or addiction or "addictive disorder" or "substance use disorder"
NCBI Bookshelf	We are notified weekly of new books and reports that meet our search criteria on NCBI Bookshelf. They are a source of guidelines and intensive reviews.	(("substance-related disorders"[MeSH Terms] OR ("substance-related"[All Fields] AND "disorders"[All Fields]) OR "substance-related disorders"[All Fields] OR ("substance"[All Fields] AND "addiction"[All Fields]) OR "substance addiction"[All Fields]) OR ("substance-related disorders"[KYWD] OR ("substance-related"[All Fields] AND "disorders"[All Fields]) OR "substance-related disorders"[All Fields] OR ("substance"[All Fields] AND "addiction"[All Fields]) OR "substance addiction"[All Fields]))
Plos One, Plos Medicine, Plos Global Public Health	Plos journals are open access journals	Addiction, Substance-related disorders, alcohol consumption
Journal table of content alerts: • Addiction • Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research	Journals in the substance use and addiction area. Free, open access content may be added.	Email alerts of new content – Free, open access content is reviewed and may be added to the collection.

Sources and search strategies are continuously reviewed and updated. Those listed in this document are our main sources, but we use many others as appropriate.