

## **Video transcript**

**Caroline de Brún**

**Knowledge and evidence manager**

My name's Caroline de Brún. I'm the knowledge and evidence manager at Public Health England and I'm based in London at Wellington House.

### **What are your main activities?**

A knowledge and evidence manager is basically a librarian, so my role is to help people working for Public Health England find the best evidence for writing their reports. I can do this in several ways. I can do the literature searching for them, so they can come to me with a topic and I'll search all the databases and then present them with a set of results, or they can ask me for training and I'll deliver training and we'll work through the problem together. I'm part of a team so we all work together at delivering these services; and also help with reference formatting for reports which need to be published.

### **What skills and qualifications are needed?**

To do my job somebody would need to have very good internet skills, particularly searching skills. All the databases available they have different ways of searching so you need to know the different methods and you need to be able to think creatively, particularly with public health searches because the terminology is quite different to clinical searches.

### **What are the rewards of the role?**

Throughout my career I've always focused on teaching people how to search or doing literature searching, and I love that aspect: it's so varied. And things have changed so much, the resources and everything. When I first started, the internet ... well we had card catalogues ... and the internet was just black-and-white writing, and it was just fantastic to see how much it's changed, but, you know I've ... we've all had to adapt to that, librarians have all had to adapt to all these changes. And it's really rewarding when you see ... when you help someone find the information that they need and they say, "That's exactly it. It's perfect," it just makes you feel like you're doing something worthwhile.

**How did you get in?**

There are two ways to become a librarian: one, you can do an undergraduate degree; or you can do what I did and do a postgraduate diploma and then a Master's on top of that. There's also the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, which for most professional posts you'd want to be a member of, and it's a good resource to ... a good organisation to belong to.

**What career opportunities are available?**

There are so many opportunities in medical librarianship. They're becoming more and more valued. And there's a lot of research opportunities as well. There's ... they've started a new group, a network to help encourage librarians to publish their own research because it is so useful to other people. So there are a lot of opportunities.

**What would you say to someone considering the role?**

I think a lot of people think that librarians are quite shy and retiring, but it's actually quite an outgoing job. You do need to be prepared to work with people at all different levels. I've worked at local, regional, national level; I've presented at conferences; and there's just so much to it, there's so much change. But it really is a fantastic job, and I wouldn't change anything.