

Teaching you how to fish: Using problem gambling information successfully.

The Problem Gambling (PG) Library has been operating now for over 5 years and has evolved from its original function of a print based library to the provision of virtual information for many of its clients. The recently launched web based online library catalogue means that clients can quickly locate and order material they require 24/7. There is a 12 hour response time for information requests.

One of my key tasks this year is to try to convince those of you who feel you are capable of finding all the information you need yourself from on the web just how important the library is as a free resource, and how important it is to be able to effectively evaluate the information accessible on the web. In other words I need to teach you how to fish.

Information on the Internet is produced by many facets of society. There are the zealots and the uninformed as well as those who know what they are talking about. So, how do you hook the real fish? The library provides brochures for the uninitiated on how to search the web, on what should you check for when using a web site and how to ensure that what you quote is an unbiased truth. There is nothing worse than being questioned by the Gambling Industry over something you wrote and finding out that you had it all wrong.

By marketing the library more widely, I hope to hook in those prospective users and occasional customers and get them using the library on a regular basis to find the information they need to produce evidence based arguments against harmful gambling. Those who use the library webpage regularly have discovered the ease of finding the information they need to advocate for their organisations and their clients.

The library is currently running a competition and the winner will get a copy of Lynette Whale's book about her life while playing the 'Pokies'. To enter go to the News section of the library webpage at <http://www.pgfnz.org.nz/Latest-News/0,2733,13332,00.html> answer the questions, fill out the questionnaire with your details, and email it to me. The competition closes on May 12th 2010.

The PG library is available at www.pgfnz.org.nz/library/

Please make use of the library and its services to support your next submission or in your work to eliminate harm from gambling.