

# Open Resources Guide: Helping all to Access and Practice Evidence-Based Healthcare

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## Introduction

RCSI's extended community of fellows, members, clinical partners and alumni regularly contact the library team for guidance and advice on how to search the biomedical literature, guidance on evidence based practice and how to approach researching a topic. To support their information needs the library felt that a site could be create to provide centralised help and information to these groups, with a focus on finding information for evidence-based practice or research, as well as being of similar use to the wider public. The guide was framed around quality open access resources that are available to all to access.

## Initiative

Prompted by queries from recent graduates, fellows and members and others associated with RCSI, RCSI Library decided to create a specific online guide of resources and guidance that would be available to all. The goal was to have a standalone guide that could help anyone with a health-related research or clinical topic to find quality resources, and search them effectively.

Using the online Libguides system, and checking the content of guides aimed at RCSI users to find existing content that would be accessible and applicable to the new group, this was then supplemented by additional content identified by specialists within the Library team. It was decided to include all island purchased resources for Ireland e.g. Cochrane Library funded by the HRB and BMJ Best Practice funded by the HSE to promote access as the majority of enquirers are based in Ireland.”

Sections were created reflecting the different types of material available, drawing partly from the Finding Information Guide, a core site used in teaching and supporting RCSI library users. As well as listings of resources and descriptions, a page on literature searching technique was created, and an existing video guide on using PubMed included.

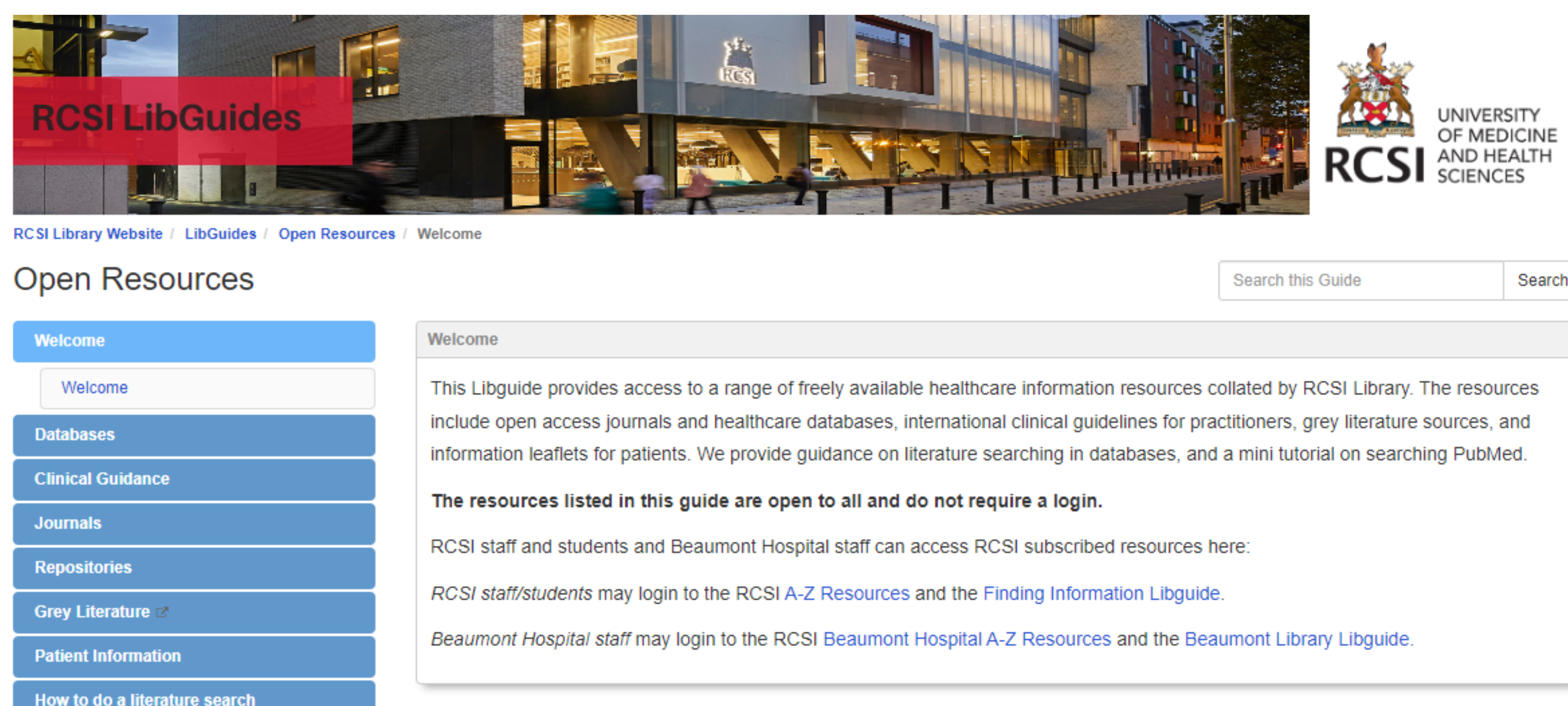


Figure 1 - Screenshot of the welcome page from the online Open Resources Guide webpage (<https://libguides.rcsi.ie/openresources>)

## Outcomes

The Guide was launched on 31 August 2023. It is early days, but has provided a useful site for recent graduates, and fellows and members to find and use free resources. It enables enquiries from those ineligible for an RCSI username to be directed to a single site that will be of use to them.

The intention is to build the guide further, in particular with training videos and features on good techniques in information retrieval. It will fit into a wider revision of the Libguides content to ensure more accessible guidance, and options for self-directed learning. Ultimately it is expected that this will provide a really valuable RCSI resource for those looking for quality health information across Ireland.