

European Association for Health Information and Libraries
Association Européenne pour l' Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé



EAHIL
SYMPOSIUM ON COOPERATION
OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES

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PROCEEDINGS

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INTRODUCTION

The editors are pleased to present the following collection of papers of 29 authors from 12 countries submitted for the EAHIL Prague Symposium on Cooperation of Medical Libraries. In view of the outstanding quality of many of them we are convinced that they will provide a valuable source of up-to-date information to the readers.

We express our sincere thanks to all authors for their commitment to the advancement of European medical librarianship. Ms. M. Cleland and Mr. T. McSeán have been helpful in bringing key speakers to Prague. We appreciate very much also the willingness of our American colleagues to attend the Symposium and to share their rich experience with us.

We apologise for any errors that might have occurred in the Proceedings. In order to prepare them in advance of the Symposium we had to overcome countless problems connected with converting contributors' files and retyping those texts submitted to us only in the form of a paper copy.

Besides trying to spot and correct orthographical errors we have limited our editorial activity to minor textual changes in a few of the submitted texts.

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As president of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries it is a great pleasure for me to greet all the delegates at this EAHIL Symposium on Cooperation of Medical Libraries - with its promising title "Library cooperation in the era of electronic technology".

It is so exciting to be here in Prague!

I am delighted with this unique chance to see and learn more about this beautiful city, and the rich culture and history of the country.

This is another great opportunity for all of us to meet colleagues from all over Europe, to enlarge our professional and social network and to make new friends.

And it is a special pleasure for me to meet so many colleagues from Central and Eastern Europe.

And last, but not least, this is another chance to expand our professional knowledge, and to share our experiences with colleagues on a very important theme. We are all aware of the rapid changes in the development of Internet and of the electronic information resources.

In my opinion, as I have said many times before, one of our most important challenges today is to ensure easy access to professional documentation and information for all medical and health-related libraries. We need to communicate and cooperate across all frontiers. As president of a European association, I want to stress once again the importance of a close and strong cooperation between East and West, North and South, in order to create a united Europe.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Otakar Pinkas and his Organizing Committee for having made this Symposium possible. They have put together an excellent programme with very good, experienced speakers.

I am looking forward to these days with anticipation and pleasure, and I wish all of us a successful EAHIL Symposium here in Prague.