

Parallel Sessions B  
B1 – Managing the Virtual Library

Friday, September 20, Room B, 12.00

## **The Norwegian Medical and Health Sciences Gateway**

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The Norwegian medical and health sciences gateway project is a part of the "BIBSYS subject based gateway project" which aims to construct a comprehensive gateway covering all subject areas, taught at universities and academic colleges in Norway. The organisation of the work is divided between all participating libraries, with librarians at the various libraries working in the different editorial boards. The main aim is to organise high quality resources, this includes other gateways, databases, educational material as well as subscription-based resources. BIBSYS maintains the technical part of the gateway, while librarians from all over Norway take part in the registration process, cataloguing and describing the selected resources. The medical and health sciences editorial board includes seven librarians from seven different locations, and as well as selecting resources ourselves, we invite colleagues and members of faculty to suggest new links. We collaborate by e-mail, phone and meetings in between. The selecting and cataloguing process is done by registration of the link, and describing it in a simplified version of Dublin Core. We use Dewey decimal classification (DDC 21) and NLM numbers are added. One of the main goals is giving our users easy access to high quality links in Norwegian and other Scandinavian languages, but we also include important international resources.

In organising our work in such a way, we can make the most of electronic communication, as well as learning from each other. Moreover, we hope that in joining forces the various local collections of links may be seen as superfluous. Our experiences as reference and teaching librarians has taught us that users need knowledge about where to find good information, and that browsing is still preferred by many users of our libraries. We aim to make the gateway part of the teaching aids that the libraries make available to the user communities, and in co-operating with the new Scandinavian patient information gateway (which is also cross-linked to BIBSYS) the gateway may even be of value to new groups of users. The medical and health part of the gateway is launched in a pilot version in autumn 2001, and evaluation of the impact and usefulness needs further investigation.