

European Association  
for Health Information and Libraries

*Association Européenne  
pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé*



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**NEWSLETTER**  
to European Health Librarians • des Bibliothécaires Européens de la Santé



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For instructions for authors and names and addresses of Executive Board, Editorial Board and EAHIL secretariat see colophon on the last page.

**BENEFITS TO EAHIL**

MEMBERS are.....

- EAHIL conferences and workshops including continuing education courses
- contact and collaboration with colleagues all over Europe
- discount on subscription fee to the Health Information and Libraries Journal
- discount on MLA publications
- reduction in registration fees to MLA meetings
- 10% discount on full 3 day registration for the Online Information 2001 in London, UK
- and many more to come....



## Hello Everyone



I hope you all enjoyed the Alghero workshop as much as I did? The only complaint I have is the fact that throughout the conference the sun shone from early morning to late evening and immediately after the conference when I had 3 days to tour around, it started to rain! But joking apart it was wonderful meeting old friends again and having the opportunity to make new friends, listening to the interesting presentations, viewing the excellent posters and having stimulating discussions round the swimming pool. However for me the memory of Sardinia will be the morning stroll to the Conference centre and the meeting of colleagues at each corner of one of the most beautiful promontories I have ever seen. Thank you Eve-Marie, Lise, Manuela and Suzanne for your company! Thank you also to the International Organising Committee for a superb Conference.

The Editorial Board had a very constructive meeting in Alghero, namely myself, Suzanne Bakker, Giovanna Miranda, Maurella Della Seta, Liisa Salmi, Marta Viragos and we invited Eve-Marie Lacroix, our new MLA representative, Shane Godbolt ( representing *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* **JHL**) and Bruce Madge (representing *Health Information and Libraries Journal*, **HILJ**) to join us also.

The agenda was *How we could improve the EAHIL Newsletter*. We decided the following:

- a) starting with issue 56 there would be a separate section entitled *News from the MLA and America* comprising news from the NLM,
- b) there would be a much closer relationship with the JHL, Bull Med Libr Assoc, HILJ and HLG Newsletter (the latter two already established in London) and we asked if Shane, Bruce and Eve-Marie could offer a *Suggested Reading* column with highlights from each journal including Med Ref Serv Q screened by Suzanne Bakker and this would complement Giovanna's section *Publications and New Products*
- c) there would be a page dedicated to *News from the Pharmaceutical and Veterinary Associations*
- d) we would also accept readily reports on European conferences and European Medical Library Associations as EAHIL Newsletter is one of the only European outlets of this information
- e) Marta Viragos would write the Association News column

f) we would ask Arne Jakobsson to write about IFLA matters as he is our IFLA representative. We also discussed the layout of the Newsletter and there were some very good suggestions that we already have utilised in this issue.

Four EAHIL members received a travel grant from the Oslo Fund, under the direction of Elisabeth Husem. One of the conditions was that each recipient should write a report on the Alghero workshop and I am delighted to have the opportunity to publish their accounts which show very well their varied interests and the success of the Sardinia conference. It also proves that we must establish more opportunities for travel grants in order to make sure that quality EAHIL members do not lose the opportunity to attend these annual conferences.

This issue also presents a report on an interesting conference in Milan submitted by one of our newly elected members to the Executive Board, Gabriela Poppa and an article by Jelka Petrak on a opportunity to apply for a Visiting Fellowship or Visiting Scholarship to Stony Brook University, Long

Island USA. We have commenced now with an additional section in Giovanna Miranda's column entitled *Suggested Reading* and I would like to encourage all EAHIL members to submit references to articles they have found very interesting. With the budget restriction in all libraries this may be an ideal way to exchange articles of interest.

The Alghero workshop provided the opportunity to meet a lot of people and I am pleased to say that I received many offers of further articles so much so that I am in the happy position of having to delay the *Highlight on... Iceland* until the October issue. The February 2002 issue will feature *Highlight on... Poland*.

I would like to finish by stating that the success of the Newsletter does not depend only on the Editorial Board but on the willingness of each and every EAHIL member to submit reports and information from their respective country. In this way we can disseminate medical library information in a truly European style.

**Sally Wood-Lamont**



## Bonjour !

*J'espère que vous avez tous apprécié la réunion d'Alghero autant que moi! Mon seul regret est que le soleil a brillé du matin au soir pendant toute la conférence et immédiatement après la conférence, alors que je n'avais que trois jours pour visiter la région, il a commencé à pleuvoir! Mais toute plaisanterie mise à part, il était agréable de revoir d'anciens amis et d'en rencontrer de nouveaux, d'entendre les*

*présentations, de regarder les posters excellents et d'échanger des propos stimulants autour de la piscine. Toutefois, pour moi, ce sont les promenades matinales en me rendant au centre de Conférences et de rencontrer des amis à chaque coin des promontoires les plus merveilleux que j'aie jamais vus, qui marqueront la Sardaigne dans ma mémoire. Merci Eve-Marie, Lise, Manuella*

*et Suzanne pour votre compagnie. Merci aussi au comité d'organisation international pour une conférence superbe.*

*Le Bureau éditorial composé de Suzanne Bakker, Giovanna Miranda, Maurella Della Seta, Liisa Salmi, Marta Viragos et moi-même, a tenu une séance très constructive à Alghero. Nous avons invité Eve-Marie Lacroix, notre représentante à*



la MLA, ainsi que Shane Godbolt (*Journal of Hospital Librarianship JHL*) et Bruce Madge (*Health Information and Libraries Journal HILJ*). A l'agenda : Comment améliorer le *Bulletin d'Information de l'EAHIL*. Les décisions suivantes ont été prises:

- a) Dès le numéro 56, il y aura une section séparée pour les *Nouvelles de la MLA* et du continent américain, qui comprendra aussi des nouvelles de la *NLM*.
- b) Un lien plus étroit sera établi entre le *JHL*, *Bull Med Libr Assoc*, *HILJ* et *HLG* (lien qui existe déjà à Londres) et nous avons demandé à Shane, Bruce et Eve-Marie de présenter une colonne de « *Suggestions de Lecture* », avec mise en exergue de quelques passages des journaux cités ci-dessus, comprenant aussi le *Med Ref Serv Q* déjà parcouru par Suzanne Bakker. Cette section comprendrait également *Giovanna's « Publications et Produits nouveaux »*.
- c) Il y aurait une page pour les *Nouvelles des Associations des groupes pharmaceutique et vétérinaire*.
- d) Nous pourrions aussi accepter des

*comptes-rendus de conférences européennes* puisque le *Bulletin d'Information de l'EAHIL* est un des seuls canaux de diffusion pour ce genre d'information.

e) Marta Viragos rédigerait la colonne des *Nouvelles de l'Association*.

f) Nous demanderons à Arne Jakobsson de présenter des informations sur *IFLA* puisqu'il est notre représentant à l'*IFLA*.

Nous avons aussi considéré la présentation du *Bulletin* et plusieurs bonnes suggestions sont déjà utilisées dans ce numéro,.

Quatre membres de l'*EAHIL* ont reçu une bourse du *Fonds d'Oslo* géré par Elisabeth Husem. Une des conditions pour l'obtention de la bourse était de présenter un rapport sur la réunion d'Alghero et je suis heureuse de pouvoir publier ces contributions qui montrent les intérêts variés et le succès de la rencontre de Sardaigne. Cela prouve aussi qu'il nous faut trouver d'autres sources de financement pour offrir de telles bourses afin qu'aucun membre de l'*EAHIL* ne se

voit jamais obligé de renoncer à ces conférences annuelles faute de fonds.

Ce numéro comprend aussi un rapport présenté par Gabriella Poppi sur une conférence intéressante qui a eu lieu à Milan.

La conférence d'Alghero a permis à de nombreuses personnes de se réunir et je suis heureuse de dire que j'ai reçu beaucoup d'offres pour des articles prochains ce qui m'oblige à attendre le numéro d'Octobre pour publier l'article sur l'Islande. Le numéro de Février 2002 sera sur la Pologne.

J'aimerais conclure en disant que le succès du *Bulletin d'Information de l'EAHIL* dépend non seulement du Bureau Editorial mais aussi de la bonne volonté de chaque membre de l'*EAHIL* pour contribuer des articles sur les divers pays des membres. Ce n'est qu'ainsi que nous pouvons disséminer l'information médicale dans un esprit vraiment européen.

Sally Wood-Lamont

## Letter from the President

### Rays of Light

It is easy to know where to start the issue's presidential letter - by congratulating Valentina Comba and all those involved in organising and running the 2001 EAHIL workshop in Alghero, Sardinia. Previous workshops have set very high standards in both their scientific content and in striking a good balance of good accommodation and value for money, and the Alghero team have more than maintained this. The setting was perfect, and the programme was strong enough to hold the attention even of northerners like me who had not seen real sunshine for eight or nine months! It is a great tribute to the professionalism of EAHIL members that the sessions were all full despite the competing attractions of Sardinia and swimming pool - according to the hotel not all groups are as hard-working.

As usual, the workshop also hosted meetings of the Board and the Council and a great deal of interesting and useful discussion took place. The Council meeting in particular was the liveliest I have attended in ten years and there were interesting presentations and contributions from the floor by many national councillors. As president Manuela Colombi was very keen to draw the Council more closely into active participation in the life of our association and it looks like she has succeeded in this aim.

### WHO Journals Initiative

However, I will return to these discussions in my next letter because since our workshop news has broken of a successful initiative by the World Health

Organisation which will make a huge and lasting difference to the lives of our professional colleagues working in the poorest parts of the globe.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, WHO director general Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland convened a meeting at BMA House in London to announce that the world's six largest medical publishers (Reed Elsevier, Springer, Wolters Kluwer, Wiley, Blackwell and Harcourt) have agreed to give the world's 60 poorest countries free access to their electronic journal archive. They have also agreed to give access at a huge discount to institutions in the 60 next-poorest countries. The publishers also announced that they would be working with their authors to extend this arrangement as quickly as possible to electronic textbooks,

and to extend the principle of free access for least-developed countries to their other information resources. In addition, the Soros Foundation used the meeting to announce that they would be working closely with WHO and others to set up the sort of telecoms infrastructure that will allow this arrangement to be exploited to the full.

After the grim struggle over the draft European Copyright Directive (referred to in the last presidential letter) this announcement has to be seen as a victory for the good guys. Already our medical library colleagues in Africa, Latin America and other developing areas are thinking hard about how to make the best of this extraordinary and growing range of resources - even more momentous in an



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environment where library materials have been so scarce for so long. The details of the initiative were brokered for WHO by the BMJ Publishing Group, which recently announced a similar arrangement for its own journals.

The two individuals who put the deal together and made sure it held together are Barbara Aronson, WHO librarian and Maurice Long from BMJ Publishing: many members will know Barbara's reputation within our profession, and many will also know Maurice as a long-time regular exhibitor at EAHIL

conferences. In the end, this sort of deal is the product of individual dedication, determination and negotiating skills and on behalf of all European medical librarians I would like to place on record our thanks for the many hours of difficult and confidential negotiations Barbara and Maurice have put in during 2001.

For those of us in more fortunate circumstances, it is a moment to do more than express thanks. The publishers' initiative and the Soros investment are crucial elements in the bridging of the medical information gap but as

professionals we know that it is not a complete answer. We need to think how we can help provide services which will support the online facilities - particularly traditional photocopies, books and journals and the transfer of professional skills. For once the publishers are showing us the way, and let us hope that those who are already working to bridge the information gap will be inspired to do more, and that many more will be inspired to join us.

**Tony McSeán**



## Lettre du Président

### Rayons de Lumière !

*Il est facile de savoir comment commencer la lettre présidentielle – en félicitant Valentina Comba et tous ceux et celles qui ont participé à l'organisation de la rencontre de 2001 à Alghero, en Sardaigne. Les rencontres précédentes avaient placé la barre très haut soit par leur contenu scientifique, soit par les facilités de logement offertes, et l'équipe d'Alghero a plus que maintenu ces hauts niveaux. L'endroit choisi était parfait, et le programme suffisamment solide pour retenir l'attention d'un Nordique tel que moi-même qui n'avais pas vu le soleil pendant huit à neuf mois ! C'est tout au crédit du caractère professionnel des membres de l'EAHIL que chaque séance s'est déroulée avec une audience au complet, malgré l'attraction combinée de la Sardaigne et de la piscine – et selon l'hôtel tous les groupes ne sont pas aussi assidus au travail !*

*Comme d'habitude le Bureau et le Conseil des Délégués se sont réunis et des discussions intéressantes et fructueuses ont pris place. La réunion du Conseil en particulier a été plus animée que jamais ces dix dernières années. Les délégués nationaux ont contribué plusieurs interventions intéressantes. Pendant sa présidence, Manuela Colombi a essayé de faire participer plus activement les membres du Conseil dans les affaires de l'Association et il semble qu'elle y est parvenue !*

### Initiative concernant les journaux de l'OMS

*Le 9 juillet, le directeur général de l'OMS, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland a convoqué les parties intéressées pour annoncer que les maisons d'édition les plus importantes au niveau mondial (Reed Elsevier, Springer, Wolters Kluwer, Wiley, Blackwell et Harcourt) avaient accepté d'offrir en libre accès aux 60 pays les plus pauvres de la planète, les numéros archivés de leurs journaux électroniques. Ces maisons d'édition se sont aussi mises d'accord pour offrir cet accès à un prix modique aux 60 pays suivants. Ces maisons d'édition ont également annoncé qu'elles étaient en pourparlers avec les auteurs de leurs textes électroniques pour un accès équivalent à ces textes et aux autres sources d'information,*

*pour tous les pays les moins développés. De plus, la Fondation Soros a annoncé à cette même réunion qu'elle travaillerait avec l'OMS et autres partenaires pour développer les infrastructures nécessaires pour pouvoir exploiter pleinement ces nouvelles possibilités.*

*Après les difficultés rencontrées concernant la rédaction des règles de droit de reproduction (mentionné dans la dernière lettre présidentielle), ces nouvelles peuvent être considérées comme une victoire. Déjà nos collègues d'Afrique, d'Amérique Latine et autres contrées réfléchissent comment faire le meilleur usage de ces ressources extraordinaires – et d'autant plus extraordinaires [qu'elles arrivent] dans un environnement où les ressources des bibliothèques ont été si rares pendant si longtemps. Les détails de cette initiative ont été négociés pour l'OMS par le groupe de la maison d'édition du BMJ, qui récemment a annoncé des dispositions semblables pour ses propres journaux.*

*Barbara Aronson, de l'OMS et Maurice Long du groupe du BMJ sont les artisans de ces accords. Les membres de l'EAHIL connaissent la réputation de Barbara dans notre profession et beaucoup reconnaîtront Maurice Long comme l'exposant présent*

*aux conférences de l'EAHIL. Ce genre d'accord est le résultat d'un engagement et d'une volonté personnelle ainsi que d'une négociation habile. Au nom de tous les bibliothécaires de la santé en Europe je désire remercier ici Barbara et Maurice pour les nombreuses heures de négociations difficiles et confidentielles tout au long de 2001.*

*Pour ceux d'entre nous qui se trouvent dans des situations plus privilégiées, remercier seulement n'est pas suffisant ! L'initiative des maisons d'édition et l'engagement de Soros sont des éléments cruciaux pour combler les fossés au sein de la dissémination de l'information médicale. Nous devons réfléchir comment fournir des services qui seconderont les facilités électroniques, en particulier concernant les photocopies traditionnelles de livres et de journaux, ainsi que le transfert des connaissances professionnelles. Pour une fois, les maisons d'édition nous ont montré la voie à suivre. Espérons que ceux qui travaillent déjà à combler le fossé de l'information trouveront l'inspiration pour faire plus, et que notre exemple inspirera aussi beaucoup d'autres institutions.*

**Tony McSeán**



## EAHIL Executive Board Meeting, Alghero

The new EAHIL Executive Board's second meeting took place in Alghero, Sardinia, June 6 2001. Apart from Arne Jakobsson, who was not able to attend, all board members were present. The meeting was organised on the day preceding the EAHIL workshop at the charming Hotel Calabona.

Tony McSeán greeted those present and work started by reviewing the Utrecht board meeting minutes which were approved and signed. Some matters arising from the minutes were discussed. Suzanne Bakker noted that ELISAD had taken out collective membership of EAHIL and it was expected that the next meeting in Cologne would lead to further contact and co-operation.

Suzanne Bakker reported that an official copy of the new EAHIL Statutes in Dutch had been handed to Tony McSeán and that a copy would be posted on the EAHIL website.

Tony McSeán thanked Suzanne Bakker for all her efforts in accomplishing this task. Potential advertisers and sponsors for the Newsletter were discussed. Manuela Colombi suggested that some of the exhibitors at the Alghero workshop could be approached to encourage them to advertise in the Newsletter. It was recognised that the general trend with mergers and company take-overs meant that the number of traditional advertisers was likely to decrease. Linda Lisgarten agreed to draft a letter to approach companies selling Library Management Systems.

Suzanne Bakker drew the attention of the Board to the fact that several countries were entitled to extra Council members due to the size of their membership: Italy now has more than 50 members; Poland now has more than 5 members, and Spain was also entitled to an extra membership. Also, whilst welcoming Mr Peter Morgan as a replacement for Linda Lisgarten as a UK Council member, it was noted that a replacement was also needed for Gaynor Davies, who had retired. Tony and Linda agreed to canvass the UK membership to find a suitable replacement.

### President's Report

In this report Tony McSeán focused primarily on three themes:

- (1) the European Union Directive on Copyright;
- (2) EAHIL's financial future; and
- (3) WHO.

With regard to EU Copyright, at the end of 2000 it seemed that there was a workable compromise between libraries' and publishers' interests, and libraries across the EU would be able to continue to provide the services our users expect from us. At the beginning of 2001, however, there came a serious setback which threatened that normal library activity would be swept away by a series of proposed amendments primarily from multinational media corporations. At its worst, the resulting situation would have left libraries in the EU unable to make photocopies of copyright material for any purpose other than archiving. Library organizations across Europe mobilized to oppose the threat, and using the BMA's press office and branch office in Brussels the President was able to ensure that EAHIL's voice was prominent in this campaign. All elected members of the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament received both a letter highlighting EAHIL's position and providing arguments for opposing any substantive change to last year's compromise. Moreover, on the day before the draft Directive was discussed by the committee a fax was also sent to key members reinforcing the arguments. The President was pleased to report that the concerted lobbying by librarians had been entirely successful. The Board agreed that the EU Copyright Directive issue had been, and would continue to be, a matter of great importance to all EAHIL members, and it was suggested that it would be a good idea if a paper on the topic could be presented at the EAHIL meeting in Cologne next year.

As regards EAHIL's financial future, Tony McSeán emphasized the importance of finding new ways to attract and retain members of EAHIL, the possibility of offering professional certification to members, and the need to explore cross-cultural ramifications. The Board agreed that it was essential to find new ways to attract and retain members of EAHIL. Tony McSeán in his role of President will take action towards all EAHIL members to encourage renewal payment and to ask the Council members to be alert and proactive towards the EAHIL members in their countries.

Concerning EAHIL's links with WHO, the President gave an account of his visit to the recent CRICS V conference of Latin American and Caribbean health librarians,

and cited the exemplary role and commitment of PAHO to the development, promotion and maintenance of region-wide information and library services for health professionals. The advantages are convincing and are enjoyed equally by PAHO countries of widely different levels of development. "It seems to me," the President observed, "that what works for PAHO could also be equally attractive to EURO, and that this is an area where EAHIL may be able to make a useful contribution." The Board discussed possible ways in which EAHIL could elicit more positive support and funding from EURO, in the same way that CRICS receives active support from PAHO. The possibility of obtaining support for co-operative projects such as document delivery was discussed. It was agreed that the matter should be further explored at the EAHIL Council meeting the following day, and ideas sought.

The Treasurer, Arne Jakobsson was unable to attend the meeting, but had indicated that there was little to add from his previous report. The main issue was the fragility of EAHIL's financial position. The payment of subscriptions and the attraction and retention of members were central to this. Yet the Board agreed that raising membership fees should be avoided as long as possible.

### EAHIL Secretariat

Suzanne Bakker gave a verbal report on the activity of the EAHIL Secretariat. The budget was more or less on track, but the problem of losing members and trying to attract new ones remained, together with anxieties about the cashflow situation with late renewals of subscriptions. The facility to pay by *MasterCard* had led to an improvement, and negotiations were still going on with *Visa*. Gabriella Poppi drew attention to the fact that she had renewed the membership of several members of staff from her institution who had recently received renewal reminders, which was disconcerting. Such lapses in the future should be avoided. Suzanne urged everyone to check the membership list and let her know of possible inconsistencies. She could confirm that EBSCO would distribute the Newsletter for EAHIL and, as previously discussed, all ideas for other possible sponsors would be welcomed. The Board agreed that the members of the Council should also be encouraged to seek



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further potential sponsors. Tony McSeán thanked Suzanne for her efficiency, expertise and sustained commitment in supervising Secretariat matters.

Unfortunately, no representatives of the subgroups were able to attend the Board meeting. In spite of lengthy discussions of roles and relationship with EAHIL at the previous Board and Council meetings, the position of the PhInfG in particular was still causing concern. It was felt that the group perhaps lacked focus and direction at present. It was agreed that Tony McSeán would write to them, asking them how they see the situation and to outline future plans. With regard to the EVLG, it was known that Tom Roper would be attending the Alghero workshop and so there would be opportunities to discuss their future plans in person in the next few days.

### The EAHIL Newsletter

The Board members were unanimous in their appreciation of Sally Wood-Lamont's superb performance as Editor of the Newsletter, and they also thanked Suzanne for her invaluable assistance. Susanne announced that the Newsletter would be published in different colours each year.

### Professional Certification

A further item of the Board's agenda was the matter of EAHIL's possible undertaking concerning professional certification. The President submitted a discussion document outlining some possible positive outcomes and some potential drawbacks should EAHIL take

on this task. On the upside, EAHIL's professional certification of its members could improve the professional standards within Europe's medical libraries, would encourage a more professional approach, would consolidate EAHIL membership, would attract new members, etc. On the downside, it would entail a great deal of extra work, could lead to administrative difficulties, etc. The case for and against had been presented on the EAHIL discussion lists and an article had appeared pertaining to this matter in the Newsletter. Tony reported that feedback had been generally positive, although no one should underestimate the amount of hard work that would be needed to get a good scheme off the ground. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that the proposal had exciting possibilities and that they wished to emphasize the positive points when the item was discussed at next day's Council meeting.

### Future EAHIL events

**2001 Alghero.** Manuela Colombi reported that in spite of the usual last minute small technical hitches, everything was going well for the Workshop which was about to get under way. Registration numbers were very satisfactory, there being nearly 250 delegates and accompanying persons. The Proceedings of the conference would be made available on the Web.

**2002 Cologne.** Ulrich Korwitz reported on the progress made so far in the preparations for the Cologne Conference.

It is expected that the draft of the Call for Papers will be ready by July and that the International Programme Committee will also be in place by then.

**2003 Oslo.** A preliminary flyer for this workshop had just been printed and copies were distributed. The meeting would take place in a hotel just outside Oslo and was being designed to have some novel features - e.g. "Walk and Talk" sessions. A fuller report would be made at the Council meeting.

**2004 Santander.** A brief report is forthcoming

**2005 EAHIL workshop at 9ICML, Brazil.** Tony reported that planning for 9ICML had not yet really got underway, but we proposed to run a workshop for those EAHIL members able to attend. Meanwhile possible venues for another meeting that year were still being explored. One possibility was a workshop in Poland. It was decided to finalise these dates in conjunction with the dates of future Council meetings, which would be discussed the next day. Following the official part of the Board meeting, members continued discussing the issues raised over an informal lunch on the scenic terrace of the hotel. Both for the lunch and the beautiful view thanks are due to the local organisers.

Marta Viragos



## Réunion du Bureau de l'EAHIL, Alghero

*Le Bureau de l'EAHIL dans sa nouvelle composition s'est réuni pour la deuxième fois, lors de la conférence d'Alghero. Tous les membres étaient présents, à l'exception de Arne Jakobsson. La réunion eut lieu le jour précédant l'ouverture de la conférence, à l'Hotel Calabona.*

*Après les salutations d'usage par Tony McSeán, les minutes de la réunion d'Utrecht furent approuvées et signées. Quelques points firent l'objet d'une discussion. Suzanne Bakker releva que ELISAD était devenu membre collectif et on espère que la réunion de Cologne permettra d'étendre cette coopération. Suzanne Bakker annonça qu'une nouvelle*

*version des statuts de l'EAHIL en Hollandais avait été remise à Tony McSeán et qu'elle serait publiée sur le site de l'EAHIL.*

*Tony McSeán remercia Suzanne pour l'effort accompli dans cette tâche.*

*L'attention a ensuite été dirigée sur les annonces publicitaires et les soutiens financiers pour le Bulletin d'Information de l'EAHIL. Manuela Colombi suggéra de prendre contact avec les exposants présents à Alghero pour les encourager à mettre des annonces publicitaires dans le Bulletin. On est conscient que la tendance aux fusions et les changements de direction exécutive des compagnies*

*signifient un déclin dans le nombre d'annonces publicitaires. Linda Lisgarten accepta de rédiger une lettre de sollicitation pour atteindre les vendeurs de systèmes de gestion de bibliothèques. Suzanne Bakker releva que plusieurs pays avaient droit à un plus grand nombre de délégués vu le nombre de leurs membres: L'Italie a maintenant plus de 50 membres; la Pologne, ainsi que l'Espagne ont également plus de membres.*

*De plus, Mr. Peter Morgan va remplacer Linda Lisgarten. Gaynor Davies doit aussi être remplacé puisqu'il prend sa retraite. Tony et Linda vont essayer de recruter un membre du Royaume Uni.*



### **Rapport du Président**

Dans son rapport, Tony McSeán souligna essentiellement trois points:

- 1) La question du droit de reproduction;
- 2) L'avenir financier de l'EAHIL;
- 3) L'OMS

En ce qui concerne les droits de reproduction en Europe, il semble qu'un accord obtenu à la fin de l'an 2000 permettrait de continuer à offrir des services de reproduction pour les usagers de bibliothèques dans toute l'Europe. Toutefois, au début de 2001, un obstacle sérieux survint qui remit en question les activités normales des bibliothèques à cause d'une série de propositions venues des firmes multinationales. Au pire, la situation ainsi créée empêcherait toutes les bibliothèques de l'Union Européenne de faire des photocopies pour d'autres buts que l'archivage. Les associations de bibliothèques à travers toute l'Europe sont intervenues pour s'opposer à cette menace, et par l'intermédiaire du bureau de la BMA et de sa succursale à Bruxelles, le Président a pu s'assurer que la voix de l'EAHIL était au premier rang dans cette campagne. Tous les membres élus au comité des affaires légales du Parlement Européen ont reçu une lettre soulignant la position de l'EAHIL et contenant des arguments pour opposer tout changement au compromis atteint l'année passée. De plus le jour précédant la réunion du comité de rédaction des directives, un fax fut envoyé aux membres importants pour renforcer ces arguments. Le Président a le plaisir de communiquer ici que l'effort des bibliothécaires a été victorieux. Le Bureau s'accorde pour reconnaître que la question des règles de reproduction est des plus importantes pour tous les membres de l'EAHIL et la suggestion a été faite de présenter une communication sur ce sujet à la prochaine conférence de l'EAHIL à Cologne, l'année prochaine.

En ce qui concerne les finances de l'EAHIL, Tony McSeán a souligné qu'il était important de trouver de nouvelles méthodes pour augmenter le nombre des nouveaux membres et retenir les anciens. [Par exemple] on pourrait considérer la possibilité d'offrir une certification professionnelle aux membres et explorer des relations [possibles] à travers diverses formations culturelles, ce que le Bureau a pleinement approuvé. Tony McSeán, en tant que Président, interviendra personnellement pour encourager le paiement des cotisations de membres et pour demander aux délégués du Conseil d'être pro-actifs et d'intervenir auprès des

membres de leur propre pays.

Concernant les relations de l'EAHIL avec l'OMS, le Président présenta un rapport sur sa visite à la conférence récente de CRICS V pour les bibliothécaires de la santé d'Amérique Latine et des Caraïbes. Le Président mentionna le rôle exemplaire et l'engagement de PAHO pour le développement, la promotion et le maintien pour toute la région des services d'information et des bibliothèques pour les professionnels du domaine de la santé. Les avantages sont probants et représentent un bénéfice pour des pays de PAHO de niveaux de développement très différents. Le Président observa que le travail de PAHO pourrait être également attrayant pour EURO et représentait un domaine où l'EAHIL pourrait faire une contribution importante. Le Bureau a considéré de quelle manière l'EAHIL pourrait obtenir un support plus positif et actif de la part d'EURO, à l'instar de CRICS par rapport à PAHO.

La fourniture de documents semble représenter un projet coopératif pour lequel un tel support pourrait être obtenu. On décida d'aborder cette question le lendemain à la réunion du Conseil de l'EAHIL.

Arne Jakobsson, le trésorier, n'a pas pu assister à cette réunion mais a indiqué qu'il n'y avait pas grand chose à ajouter à son rapport précédent. Le point central est la fragilité de la position financière de l'EAHIL. Le paiement des cotisations, l'inscription de nouveaux membres et la permanence des anciens membres est vitale pour cette question. Toutefois, le Bureau s'est mis d'accord pour éviter aussi longtemps que possible une augmentation des cotisations.

### **Le secrétariat de l'EAHIL**

Suzanne Bakker a fait un rapport oral sur l'activité du secrétariat de l'EAHIL. Le budget est plus ou moins balancé mais le problème représenté par la perte de membres inscrits et l'effort pour en attirer de nouveaux subsiste, avec celui de disposer de fonds suffisants à cause des paiements tardifs des cotisations. L'utilisation des cartes de crédit (MasterCard) a permis une amélioration et des négociations sont en cours pour la carte VISA. Gabriela Poppi souligna le fait qu'elle avait renouvelé les inscriptions de plusieurs membres de son personnel qui ont toutefois reçu récemment des rappels de paiement. De telles erreurs devraient être évitées à l'avenir. Suzanne insistera

pour que la liste des membres soit vérifiée et corrigée si nécessaire. Suzanne a confirmé que EBSCO continuerait à distribuer le Bulletin d'Information pour l'EAHIL et rappela que toute suggestion pour trouver de nouveaux supports [financiers] serait bienvenue. Tony McSeán remercia Suzanne pour son efficacité, sa compétence et son dévouement dans la supervision des affaires du Secrétariat.

Malheureusement aucun représentant des sous-groupes ne pouvait assister à la réunion. En dépit de longues discussions sur le rôle et les relations avec l'EAHIL aux réunions du Bureau et du Conseil, la position du sous-groupe pharmaceutique PHInfG en particulier cause soucis. Il semblerait que le groupe manque dans son état actuel, d'un but clair et de sens de direction. On décida que Tony McSeán leur demanderait leur opinion sur la situation actuelle et quels sont leurs plans futurs. En ce qui concerne EVLG, avec la présence de Tom Roper à Alghero, il devrait être possible de considérer les plans [de ce sous-groupe] et de discuter directement de l'avenir du groupe.

### **Le Bulletin d'Information de l'EAHIL**

Les membres du Bureau furent unanimes dans leur appréciation de la magnifique performance de Sally Wood-Lamont comme Editeur du Bulletin et le Bureau remercia aussi Suzanne pour son assistance sans pareil. Suzanne annonça que dorénavant chaque année le Bulletin serait d'une couleur différente.

### **Certification**

La question d'une certification professionnelle par l'EAHIL était ensuite inscrite à l'ordre du jour. Le Président distribua un document à ce sujet pour la discussion des avantages et désavantages pour l'EAHIL d'entreprendre cette responsabilité. D'un côté une certification professionnelle de ses membres pourrait améliorer les standards professionnels dans les bibliothèques médicales d'Europe, encouragerait une approche plus professionnelle, consoliderait l'appartenance comme membre à l'EAHIL, attirerait de nouveaux membres, etc. D'un autre côté, cela représenterait une grande somme de travail, et pourrait présenter des difficultés administratives, etc. La question pour ou contre a été débattue dans les listes de discussion et un article a été rédigé à ce sujet dans le Bulletin de l'EAHIL. Selon Tony, la réponse a été en général positive





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bien que personne ne sous-estime la quantité de travail nécessaire pour mettre sur pied un tel projet. Après une longue discussion, le Bureau s'accorda pour reconnaître les possibilités de la proposition et pour souligner ses points positifs le lendemain à la réunion du Conseil.

### **Programme des Manifestations futures de l'EAHIL**

**2001 Alghero** Manuela Colombi rapporta qu'en dépit de quelques problèmes techniques de dernière minute, tout était en place pour cette rencontre qui allait commencer. Le nombre des inscriptions était satisfaisant avec environ 250 membres et autres personnes inscrites. Les comptes-rendus de la conférence seront accessibles sur la Toile.

**2002 Cologne** : Ulrich Korwitz pr présenta les décisions faites sur le projet de la conférence de Cologne. Une version de l'appel aux communications devrait être prête pour Juillet et la formation d'un comité international devrait également être en place à cette date.

**2003 Oslo** Une feuille d'information pour cette rencontre vient d'être imprimée et des copies distribuées. La rencontre devrait prendre place dans un hôtel juste en dehors d'Oslo et serait conçue selon quelques caractéristiques nouvelles – par exemple des séances « randonnées et discussions ». Un rapport complet sera présenté à la réunion du Conseil.

**2004 Santander** Un rapport succinct devrait être présenté à la réunion du Conseil.

**2005 Rencontre de l'EAHIL au 9ème ICML, au Brésil.** Tony indiqua que les préparations pour le 9ème ICML n'avaient pas vraiment déjà commencé mais proposa d'organiser un atelier de travail pour les membres de l'EAHIL pouvant s'y rendre. Entre temps, d'autres venues pour une rencontre en 2005 seront explorées, comme par exemple, celle d'un atelier en Pologne. On décida de fixer ces dates en relation avec les réunions futures des délégués du Conseil qui seront discutées le lendemain à la réunion du Conseil. Faisant suite à la réunion du Bureau, les membres continuèrent leurs discussions autour d'un repas servi sur la terrasse de l'hôtel. Les organisateurs doivent être remerciés et pour le repas et pour la vue magnifique.

**Marta Viragos**

## EAHIL Council Meeting / Report of the council

The EAHIL Council meeting took place on Thursday morning 7<sup>th</sup> June held in Alghero at the picturesque Hotel Calabona. Topics introduced at the EAHIL Council meeting in Amsterdam and elaborated by Tamara Morcillo (To be or not to be an EAHIL member), Pirjo Rajakiili, Turid Tharaldsen (EAHIL Code of Ethics), Jarmila Potomkova and Laura Cavazza (EAHIL Web page development) were discussed. After opening the session and welcoming the participants, the President introduced the new Council members. In the absence of Arne Jakobsson, the Treasurer, the President reported that the situation was much as previously reported - i.e. we were living a day-to-day existence and we urgently needed to attract and retain members and ensure prompt renewal of subscriptions. The President urged the Council members to do their best to recruit new members to EAHIL.

Concerning the Secretariat report, Suzanne Bakker voiced her opinion that it was a good decision for the Secretariat to be moved to Utrecht and reported that the Secretariat had been doing a good job, despite one or two small problems. She was also happy to report that the Newsletter was doing well. She urged Council members to give thought to possible new advertisers in the Newsletter.

Tony McSeán distributed printed copies of his report. The matter of ways of attracting increased WHO involvement

and support of EAHIL activities was discussed. The level of support for various initiatives varied in different countries. It was agreed that EAHIL members should be encouraged to submit ideas for projects and WHO support via the Newsletter. Several council members believed that relationships with the European Centers of WHO should be strengthened.

As far as EAHIL committees and groups are concerned, following on from discussions in the previous day's Board meeting, it was agreed that perhaps the PhInfG subgroup needed to refocus their activities and that the President should write to them to ask them about their future plans. The Veterinary Librarians group (EVLG) was continuing to do well. There was some discussion about the relationship with ELISAD. They had joined EAHIL on a collective membership, and they planned a meeting in Cologne at the EAHIL meeting there, although they were unwilling to register for the full meeting. It was agreed that this situation needed close monitoring for future mutual benefit.

Tony McSeán introduced the item of EAHIL qualifications/professional certification, saying that it had already been discussed twice at Board meetings and that opinions had been exchanged via the Newsletter. The Board was of the opinion that, despite considerable possible practical difficulties, the idea was an

exciting one and should be pursued. The Council members agreed that potentially it could be a very good direction for EAHIL to take, but that we still needed to know the situation in the individual countries making up EAHIL membership, as practices of accreditation and continuing education varied considerably. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that Tony McSeán should get together a small working group to further explore the possibilities, and that meanwhile discussion on the issue should be encouraged on the EAHIL lists.

As regards to the EAHIL Newsletter, all members agreed on the efficient and effective work, commitment and expertise of the Editor, Sally Wood-Lamont and also expressed their thanks to Suzanne Bakker, and to the French language translators.

Tamara Morcillo was congratulated on her excellent paper "To be or not to be an EAHIL member", which highlighted many of the issues to be addressed. The President, Tony McSeán, emphasized the important role of EAHIL Council members, who should be pro-active in exploring ways of increasing membership and thinking about how we can work alongside other bodies - particularly in Eastern and Central Europe. There was discussion about the need to create a "benefit" differential for EAHIL membership - this may be where



accreditation could play a part - and the merits of free access to the Web site as a publicity tool versus restricted access to encourage membership. Tony McSeán reiterated the need for every Council member to get involved and to think about these issues and to make suggestions.

Patricia Flor gave a presentation on the Transfer of Knowledge initiative, which had been set up by LITNOR (Lithuania - Norway) with the backing of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. It was an excellent example of co-operation with real practical use. They had started with addressing major public health problems concerning transmissible diseases. Patricia emphasized how it would be possible to build upon this successful, mutually beneficial medical library co-operation, and all present agreed it was an excellent example of how EAHIL members might pursue co-operative projects with WHO or regional health association backing.

Today's fast changing information environment means that initial professional library and information qualifications have a limited shelf-life. Librarians are thus facing pressure from their own organisations, workplaces and even national governments to keep pace with change by maintaining and extending their skills and knowledge through participation in continuing professional education activities.

To make improvements and to facilitate the exchange of ideas in the field of continuing professional education of medical librarians, it was agreed that Françoise Pasleau would try to set up a database of what members were already doing in their various countries, and we would use this to plan developments. It was also decided that a small working group should be set up to prepare a survey on the European situation.

Pirjo Rajakiili presented the results of the work on the development of the EAHIL code of ethics. She had largely followed the MLA code, but thought that there were possible differences regarding dealing with vendors, national boundaries, confidentiality issues and freedom of access. After discussion it was agreed that a draft Appendix of definitions and outline Code should be posted on EAHIL-C for members' comments, and that the President should write to the MLA as a matter of courtesy to ask if they had any objections to our adopting and adapting their code.

Suzanne Bakker reminded members that the New Statutes had been approved but that it was necessary to add certain definitions - e.g. we needed to have a definition of the term "medical librarian" or "Health Information Worker". Also it would be necessary to set up an election committee for replacing Board members whose term of office would be coming to an end. She also asked for suggestions for members to serve on two IFLA committees, and as there were no immediate volunteers, it was agreed that the matter be referred back to Arne Jakobsson for suggestions.

A proposal for modification of the structure of EAHIL webpage was elaborated by Laura Cavazza and Jarmila Potomkova and presented by Jarmila. It was agreed that the present section should be maintained with slight modifications and it was also proposed that new sections containing links to health and medical resources be added. The Council resolved that before the ultimate form of the development of the webpage takes shape, the work underway should be receptive to suggestions.

Compiled on the basis of Linda Lisgarten's Minutes



#### Réunion des délégués au Conseil de l'EAHIL

La réunion du Conseil a eu lieu le jeudi matin 7 Juin à Alghero dans l'hôtel pittoresque Calabona. Les sujets annoncés à la réunion du Conseil d'Amsterdam et présentés par Tamara Morcillo (*Etre ou ne pas être membre de l'EAHIL*), Pirjo Rajakili, Turid Tharaldsen (*Le code d'éthique de l'EAHIL*), Jasmila Potomkova et Laura Cavazza (*la page de la Toile de l'EAHIL*) ont fait l'objet des discussions. Après l'ouverture de la séance et les souhaits de bienvenue aux participants, le Président introduisit les membres nouveaux du Conseil. En l'absence de Arne Jakobsson, le Trésorier, le Président indiqua que la situation restait semblable à celle présentée précédemment - nous vivons au jour le jour et nous avons un besoin urgent d'attirer et de retenir des membres ainsi que d'assurer le renouvellement rapide des inscriptions. Le Président insista pour que les délégués au

*Conseil fassent de leur mieux pour recruter de nouveaux membres pour l'EAHIL.*

*Concernant le rapport du secrétariat, Suzanne Bakker émit l'opinion que le transfert du secrétariat à Utrecht était une bonne décision, et que le Secrétariat faisait du bon travail en dépit de un ou deux problèmes mineurs. Le Bulletin d'Information de l'EAHIL se porte bien. Elle demanda aux délégués de rechercher de nouvelles annonces publicitaires pour le Bulletin.*

*Tony McSeán distribua des copies de son rapport. La question de renforcer la coopération avec l'OMS et le soutien des activités de l'EAHIL fut considérée. On décida que les membres de l'EAHIL devraient être encouragés à soumettre des idées dans le Bulletin d'Information de l'EAHIL concernant des projets avec l'OMS. Plusieurs délégués pensent que les relations avec les centres Européens de l'OMS devraient être encouragées.*

*En ce qui concerne les comités de l'EAHIL et ses sous-groupes, à la suite des discussions au sein du Bureau le jour précédent, on se mit d'accord pour dire qu'il était nécessaire que le sous-groupe pharmaceutique reconsidère ses activités et que le Président devrait leur écrire pour leur demander de faire connaître leur plans d'avenir. Le sous-groupe des vétérinaires EVLG continue à se porter bien. On considéra aussi la question des relations avec ELISAD. Le groupe a pris une carte de membre collective et prévoit une rencontre à Cologne lors de la conférence de l'EAHIL bien qu'une inscription pour toute la conférence ne soit pas considérée. On conclut que cette situation demandait à être étudiée pour le bénéfice de chacun.*

*Tony McSeán introduisit alors la question des qualifications / certification professionnelle de l'EAHIL, soulignant que le sujet avait déjà été débattu deux fois aux réunions du Bureau et que des opinions avaient été émises par le biais du Bulletin de l'EAHIL. Le Bureau était de l'opinion que malgré des difficultés d'ordre pratique considérables l'idée était attrayante et devait être poursuivie. Les délégués au Conseil indiquèrent qu'en effet c'était une bonne direction à prendre pour l'EAHIL mais qu'il était nécessaire de connaître la situation respective des pays représentés par les membres de l'EAHIL vu que les principes de certification et de formation continue différaient considérablement*



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[d'un pays à l'autre]. Après une longue discussion on décida que Tony McSeán devait mettre sur pied un petit groupe de travail pour continuer d'explorer les possibilités et qu'entre temps la discussion sur le sujet devrait être poursuivie par le biais des listes de discussion.

En ce qui concerne le Bulletin de l'EAHIL, tous les membres reconnurent le travail efficace, le dévouement et la compétence de l'Éditeur Sally Wood-Lamont, et exprimèrent aussi leurs remerciements à Suzanne Bakker et aux traducteurs de langue française.

Des félicitations furent offertes à Tamara Morcillo pour son excellente contribution « Etre ou ne pas être membre de l'EAHIL » qui soulève de nombreuses questions qui devraient être étudiées. Le Président Tony McSeán souligna le rôle important des délégués nationaux au Conseil de l'EAHIL. [Ces délégués] doivent être pro-actifs dans l'exploration d'une augmentation des membres et la collaboration avec d'autres institutions – en particulier celles de l'Europe de l'Est et du Centre. Une discussion s'ensuivit sur le besoin de créer des statuts de membres divers qui

représenterait un « bénéfice » - ceci pourrait [par exemple] entrer en jeu dans un système de certification – ainsi que l'avantage d'un accès gratuit au site de l'EAHIL sur la Toile comme outil publicitaire plutôt qu'un accès strictement contrôlé, afin d'encourager de nouveaux membres. Tony McSeán souligna à nouveau le besoin de réfléchir à ces questions et de présenter des suggestions.

Patricia Flor parla de l'initiative dans le transfert des connaissances, mise sur pied par LITNOR (Lituanie – Norvège) avec le support du Conseil des Etats Baltes. C'est un exemple d'une coopération avec un aspect pratique réel. Le projet avait débuté avec la question des maladies contagieuses en tant que problème de santé publique majeur. Patricia souligna qu'il devait être possible de construire sur cette base mutuellement avantageuse dans le but de développer une coopération entre bibliothèques médicales et chacun s'accorda pour dire que c'était un exemple excellent pour les membres de l'EAHIL, [pouvant servir à] poursuivre un projet de coopération avec l'OMS ou avec des associations régionales dans le domaine de la santé.

Afin d'améliorer et de faciliter l'échange d'idées dans le domaine de la formation professionnelle des bibliothécaires de la santé, Françoise Pasleau essayera de développer une base de données sur les activités des membres [de l'EAHIL] dans les pays divers afin d'utiliser cette information pour une planification.

On décida également qu'un groupe de travail serait formé pour préparer une étude sur la situation à cet égard en Europe.

Pirjo Rajakili présenta les résultats de son travail sur le développement d'un Code d'Éthique pour l'EAHIL. Elle avait suivi d'assez près le code de la MLA mais souligna qu'il y avait probablement des différences concernant les rapports avec les vendeurs, les contraintes nationales sur les questions confidentielles et la liberté d'accès. Après discussion, on décida de rédiger un appendice pour inclure des définitions et qu'un résumé du Code devrait être publié sur la liste EAHIL-C pour permettre des commentaires de la part des membres de l'EAHIL et aussi que le Président écrirait à la MLA en geste de courtoisie pour demander si l'adoption et les modifications à apporter à leur Code d'éthique pour la version de l'EAHIL soulevaient des objections.

Suzanne Bakker rappela aux membres que les nouveaux statuts avaient été approuvés et qu'il était nécessaire d'y ajouter certaines définitions – comme par exemple celle du terme de Bibliothécaire médical ou professionnel d'information médicale. De même, il sera nécessaire de mettre sur pied un comité d'élection pour remplacer les membres du Bureau dont le terme d'office se termine. Elle sollicita également des suggestions de membres pour servir sur deux comités de l'IFLA et comme il n'y avait pas de volontaires, on décida de s'adresser à Arne Jakobsson.

Laura Cavazza et Jarmila Potomkova présentèrent leur proposition pour modifier la page de la Toile. On décida de maintenir la section actuelle avec quelques légères modifications et aussi d'ajouter de nouvelles sections contenant des liens avec des ressources d'information médicale et la santé. Le Conseil décida que la forme finale de la page de la Toile devrait tenir compte de suggestions [éventuelles].



Girl in traditional Sardinian costume (with Sardinian cookies)  
Photo: E.M. Lacroix

Aujourd'hui les changements rapides dans le domaine de l'information signifient que la formation professionnelle initiale et les qualifications ne sont valables que pour un temps très court. Les bibliothécaires sont donc sous pression au sein de leurs organisations et même au niveau de leur gouvernement pour faire face au changement et pour consolider et aussi développer leurs connaissances par une participation dans des activités professionnelles.

**Marta Viragos**



## 2001 CYBERSPACE ODYSSEY

The EAHIL Cyberspace Odyssey was launched with a bang, with Sylvio Henin's brilliant overview of man's 35,000 year journey, from his first signs of recording repeated occurrences by scratching marks on bones and stones, all the way through to mobile phones, DVDs and Internet-based information technology.

The first "academic" session placed the librarian right at the centre of the information universe - the gateway - and took off with a practical application of information gathering from the physician's point of view. There were two main points of emphasis in this session: 1) the increasing awareness of the necessity for developing critical appraisal skills amongst both health care professionals and information specialists; and 2) the developing awareness of interdependence between the two types of professionals. It was stressed that critical appraisal should be applied to the preliminary information retrieved from the Internet as well as to the end product: the specific item of information, article or research report.

The commercialization of health information as e-health has meant an upheaval of the accepted familiar and comfortable concepts of the role of librarians, and has necessitated learning new management skills and familiarization with the world of commerce. At the same time, the impact on library budgets and manpower has required aggregation of resources, both human and material.

This brings us to the second main thrust

of the Workshop, which emerged in the second half of the "Gatekeeper" session, and was further developed in later sessions, and this was the increasing development of collaborative projects between information centres in any one country or even situated in different countries. Some of these are designed to provide better information services to the community, while others focus on the training of information specialists, or on pooling resources to enable us to confront our shrinking budgets. They include round-the-clock information, "virtual libraries" and "virtual outreach services", but the end product - information - remains a very real commodity, to be promoted and developed.

Similarly, there is nothing virtual about the information-seekers, whether they be "remote users" who are health-care providers or the increasingly knowledgeable and health-aware public. These points were admirably discussed by participants from various countries, not all of which have the advantage of the English-speaking public's wealth of printed and electronic information, and it was most interesting to hear of their attempts to find solutions for disseminating the information they can provide to the rest of the world. We were happy to hear that the seemingly boundless universe of the Internet is gradually being cut down to size, with the elaboration of "hitch-hikers' guides", data-mining approaches, data banks, and knowledge-

organization systems, such as were described in the session on "Resources on the Internet".

Finally, in the closing ceremony we were brought back down to earth to face the challenge of electronic publication of research on the Internet, and the problems confronted by authors, reviewers and publishers alike.

If one can be allowed to voice one small regret, it might be that there was not enough time for questions and interactive discussion in the race against the clock. On the other hand, let it be said in praise of "the organization" that this race was run magnificently and there was very little disrespect for the ubiquitous timer, with few delays.

I cannot finish this report without mentioning the beautiful venue in Alghero, and the splendid banquets we were treated to, both at the welcome reception offered by EBSCO, and at the Gala Dinner offered by Dialog. The latter presented Sardinian hospitality at its most generous, and one can only be thankful they did not have any more local specialities to offer us in that one meal, or we might not have been able to get up from the table at all!

Jenni Tsafirir\*

\* My attendance at the Workshop was made possible by a travel grant from the Oslo Fund, for which I would like to express my grateful thanks.

## A Souvenir of Sardinia: The EAHIL Workshop, Italy, Sardinia, Alghero, June 7-9, 2001

Alghero enchanted us at the first sight. We admired the fortified walls surrounding the city and tried to imagine what life could have been like at the time of constant attack. Today it is a safe and calm place attracting visitors who long for a peaceful holiday where the sea is unbelievably clear and clean, the beaches are not overcrowded and an inland tour reveals that the island is not overpopulated. You can see a shepherd's house here and there on the hills or in the valleys but most of the scenery is undisturbed. Then you pass by plantations of olive and cork trees and vineyards, the latter producing delicious wine and grappa to accompany the tasty

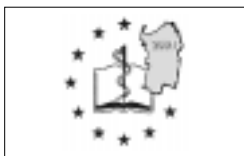
food they serve: all kinds of cheese, lamb, pork, seafood, aubergine, sweet melon or apricot. We learnt names of breathtakingly beautiful sights, such as Capo Caccia or Neptune's grotto.

Alghero proved to be an ideal meeting point for the participants of the workshop. Most of the lectures concentrated on the electronic library but we also heard interesting viewpoints on the librarian's role in providing information to promote partnership with doctors or evidence based practice. Fiona Godlee, editorial director of Biomed Central gave a brave speech urging everybody to support free access to biomedical research on the internet.

Some of the posters had an unusual and interesting approach to librarianship. One offered solutions to improve librarians' image by analyzing photographs taken from professional library journals, another examined why medical librarians go to conferences and why they don't.

The workshop, of course, was a good opportunity to meet old and new friends during the breaks and at dinners. Our stay in Sardinia was not only useful but also very enjoyable and we must thank our hosts for their hospitality and expertise in organizing this workshop.

Marta Viragos



### Access to consumer health information: a summary of the Alghero Workshop

A growing field in medical and health information is consumer health information services. The trend towards patient-centred care has been facilitated by the easy access to information via the Internet. Many patients are no longer content to place their trust entirely in the hands of professional health care workers, but seek information in order to make their own qualified decisions in regard to choices of treatment. The growing interest in fitness and health has created an enormous demand for health information and it is estimated that a third of all searches on the Internet are on health topics.

Three papers presented at the Alghero workshop dealt directly or indirectly with consumer health information: Bruce Madge: *The cyberspace odyssey - a hitchhiker's guide to the net?*<sup>1</sup>; Bob Gann: *We never close: 24 hour knowledge for a 21st health service*<sup>2</sup>; Toth, Gray & Fraser, *Establishing the National electronic Library for Health*<sup>3</sup>. Two poster presentations demonstrated the development of a subject area on the NHS Direct Online website and an evaluation of its impact.<sup>4,5</sup>

The growth of the Internet and access to WAP mobile telephones has led to a revolution in consumer health information. It is estimated that nearly half of the population in the UK has access to the Internet and 63 % have mobile telephones. The informed patient is the order of the day and self care is a big issue. Both health care professionals and the general public search for information themselves rather than use an information professional as an intermediary. What is then the role of the health information professional?, asks Bruce Madge.

Madge sees several roles:

- Education in searching techniques both for professionals and patients
- Structure: Classification and cataloguing of websites, improvement to the design of search engines, knowledge management
- Quality: Critical appraisal of health information on the Internet, assessment of authenticity
- Availability: Access to librarians on a 24-hour basis via videoconferencing.

E.g. a user in Britain who needs help from a librarian at 3 a.m. can contact a librarian in Australia.

Madge asks: In the age of the informed patient, should medical and health libraries be open to the public? Should health librarians and public librarians be discussing the provision of health information? He thinks so. He also sees the need for librarians to exploit the new technologies and form alliances with health informatics professionals. Librarians must keep up with developments in informatics if they are to become "cyberlibrarians".

The development of the digital library is becoming increasingly popular. In the UK, the National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) (<http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/>) is being developed. Its main aim is to offer fast and easy access to best current knowledge to clinicians, managers and the public. Veronica Fraser presented the project and its development at the workshop. The NeLH is part of a government strategy for modernising and improving its services through the use of information and communication strategies. NeLH has achieved a great deal since its launch in November, 2000, according to Fraser. It has developed "virtual branch libraries" for specialities, and fast links to other relevant health information services.

At present its main users are health care professionals but it will increasingly be made available to the public in the UK.

The NeLH uses the concept of different library "floors" for clinicians and the public. Bob Gann presented NHS Direct and NHS Direct Online (<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>) which can be regarded as part of the library floor for the public. The service is a direct development of the UK National Health Service Plan which identifies ten key principles of a good 21st century health care service, including open access to information about treatments and health services. NHS Direct has existed since 1998 and is a telephone-based 24-hour help line providing health care advice. NHS Direct Online is an Internet-based service which was introduced in December 1999. It acts as a portal to evaluated sources of health information on the web. It is available via the Internet, public touch

screen kiosks and digital interactive television. The site received 50 million hits from 2 million visitors in 2000.

These examples of consumer health information services in the UK show that librarians have an important role to play in the development of such services. But as Bruce Madge says, it is essential that health librarians develop their skills in informatics and adapt their services to the latest technologies.

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Senior Librarian  
Telemark University College



## Impressions from the EAHIL Workshop in Alghero

This was my second participation in an annual EAHIL meeting (conference or workshop), and I am extremely grateful for the Oslo Fund travel grant which made it possible. I suppose I must contradict Oliver Obst's conclusion of his most appropriate poster *Why are medical librarians coming to conferences - and why not?\**, which states: "Wealth without wishing is not sufficient for one to come" by turning it around to adapt it to my case: "Wishing without wealth..."! The reasons for the "wishing" to attend such an event are shared, I am sure, by most of the members of our profession: to keep abreast with the latest developments, to identify the razor-sharp edges of health sciences librarianship in a compact yet pleasant and interactive way, to strengthen the feeling of professional belonging and dedication, which helps us move forward. The "2001 Cyberspace Odyssey" generously fulfilled these expectations.

The keynote was masterly marked by Silvio Henin's opening lecture, a perfect illustration of the Workshop theme, a splendidly documented and illustrated account of the evolution of information technology. Its impact on the audience was obvious even before it finished, through the whispered then, during the first coffee break, clearly voiced question "will the full text of the proceedings be published on the web?"

Both the oral and the poster presentations included in the scientific programme mirrored the multiple aspects of the same major question: "how to harness the Internet and the unprecedented health information explosion", or as Bruce Madge put it in his brilliant presentation, a realistic glimpse into the future of health information, how to extract "order from chaos". A wide range of problems, in-depth analyses of the current trends, as well as solutions regarding the critical appraisal of electronic resources were presented, from eloquent case studies to projects at a national level. The wide range of issues regarding the



Sardinian dancers

Photo: E.M. Lacroix

library service were thoroughly investigated, from the new concepts of the "virtual outreach service", the "24/7/365" service, to performance measurement and user training. The challenges and difficulties of the new roles of health information specialists appeared as almost overwhelming, but somehow the dazzling sun, the blue sea and the carefree atmosphere of Alghero and Sardinia made them easier to assume. The closing session was highlighted by the excellent presentation by Fiona Godlee of the recent initiatives and future projects of *BioMed Central* regarding the hotly debated problems of scientific research publishing, persuading us to remain optimistic and assured that "free" does and will not exclude high quality.

I could also feel the advantages of participating in a workshop, namely those that differentiate it from very large events such as the ICML or the annual Conference - one could profit from everything going on, there was no question about having to make the impossible choice between parallel sessions, and I was comfortably sure I couldn't possibly miss anybody or anything. The papers presented by our Italian colleagues also gave me a better knowledge of the Italian health sciences librarianship, and I think that the organization of the EAHIL annual conferences and/or workshops in different countries should be encouraged as it would lead to a better understanding of the unity of our professional goals existing in a diversity of national settings. A special bonus for me personally was the Italian language in which several of the papers were presented because I have always liked its sound and I was pleased to find out that the quick introductory course I took before going to Sardinia was not in vain. Needless to say, and I think I will be in agreement with all of those participating in the Workshop, we felt spoilt by the hospitality of our Italian colleagues, and overwhelmed by the beauty of the setting, exquisite ingredients which made this an unforgettable event.

Ioana Robu



Conference dinner; Suzanne Bakker and Rudolf Nieuwenhuys (on the left) and Lise N. Christensen and Sally Wood (on the right).

Photo: E.M. Lacroix

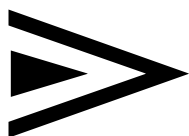
\* Editor's note: This paper will be published in EAHIL Newsletter 57

# ADVERTENTIE



## EAHIL Conference

Cologne, Germany, September 16 - 21, 2002



### CALL FOR PAPERS



Participants are invited to submit abstracts of papers and posters on the topics listed below for presentation at the Conference.

Authors are requested to **submit before OCTOBER, 31, 2001** abstracts (200-400 words) via the Conference website (<http://www.zbmed.de/eahil2002>) or by e-mail to the chair of the International Programme Committee (Obsto@uni-muenster.de) or by IBM-compatible diskette with two printed copies to: EAHIL 2002 IPC, c/o Dr. Oliver Obst, Zweigbibliothek Medizin, ULB Muenster, Domagkstr. 9, 48149 Muenster, Germany.



For further information about the call for papers or the Conference, please see the Conference website (<http://www.zbmed.de/eahil2002>). The preliminary programme and announcement for the Conference including registration forms will be sent to all EAHIL members by mail at the beginning of 2002.

## theme of the conference: **Thinking globally - Acting locally:** Medical libraries at the turn of an era

Topics for which papers can be submitted:

**a. Scientific and scholarly communication:**

- Future of medical publishing
- Role of authors, publishers, libraries
- Copyright and legal issues
- Preprint archives in medicine
- Peer reviewing
- E-publishing, E-content
- Management of electronic journals within libraries and consortia

**b. Consumer health information and libraries:**

- Patient rights
- Patient-physician relationship
- Role of the library and the information professional
- Patient literature and info collections
- Consumer health portals

**c. Evidence-based medicine and health care:**

- Role of Cochrane centres
- EBM networking
- Usage of EBM in the daily practice of medicine
- Decision support systems
- Librarians as partners in the development of EBM

**d. Medical and health information portals:**

- Marketplace in Europe and worldwide
- Digital and virtual medical libraries
- Evaluation of Internet resources
- Evaluation of medical portals
- Future of portals

**e. Access versus holdings:**

- Future of collections in medical libraries
- Agreements about shared or joint collections
- E-document supply: substitution for collections?

**f. Co-operation and competition between libraries:**

- Concentration processes within library communities
- Downsizing and outsourcing: survival strategies
- Value of co-operations on different levels

**g. Quality evaluation in health care information services:**

- Cost analysis
- Cost-benefit-calculation
- Quality assurance
- Standards for library service
- Performance indicators

**h. New management for information professionals:**

- Vision statements and general strategies
- Aims and objectives for everybody
- Change management
- Professional staff development
- Career planning
- Modern forms of education and training
- Home- and teleworking

**i. User education:**

- New models: how much for whom and when?
- User education at the user's workplace
- Problem-based teaching/learning and the new role of medical libraries

**k. Learning from the past:**

- History of medicine
- History and trends in medical and health librarianship





## MLA's Credential Program

As EAHIL begins to discuss the possibility of a certification program for its members<sup>1</sup>, it might prove helpful to look at Medical Library Association's (MLA) program, the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP). What is its history? What are its goals? How are librarians credentialed?

### Background

MLA has had a certification or credentialing program for more than 50 years. Credentialing differs from certification in that certification focuses on the attainment of minimum standards and measurable competencies whereas credentialing recognizes the time and effort that is required for professional development. The first Code for the Training and Certification of Medical Librarians was adopted in 1949, and has seen both major revisions and continuous adjustment and refinement through the years. In her article "History of the Medical Library Association's credentialing program"<sup>2</sup> Bell describes the basic requirements of the credentialing program throughout the years, and the issues that have resulted in changes through the years. These issues include:

- the correlation between certification or credentialing and increased status, prestige, and economic benefit;
- the existence of certification or credentialing standards that seem to favor those in one type of practice setting over those in another;
- the cost of the program to MLA;
- the definition of full-time work in calculating experience to satisfy credentialing or certification requirements;
- the appropriate number of credentialing levels;
- the requirements for each level; and
- the minimum educational requirements for certification or credentialing.

Until 1978, the MLA's certification of medical librarians required the candidate to pass an examination, and certification was permanent, i.e., no re-certification was required.

Bell's article gives insight into the development of the program during its half century, and is recommended reading for those who are considering developing a program.

### Academy of Health Information Professionals

The Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP)<sup>3</sup> is the current professional development and career recognition program of the MLA. It was established in 1989 and revised in 1993 and 1995. Members of the Academy are credentialed as health information professionals by demonstrating their academic preparation, professional experience and professional accomplishments. The minimum requirement for entry into the Academy is a degree from ALA (American Libraries Association) accredited program or a master's degree from a program accredited by a member of the Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation (COPA). There are four levels of membership: Provisional, Member, Senior, and Distinguished. A provisional member must have an accredited degree plus less than 5 years experience in the health information field. All other levels must have the accredited degree, 5 years experience in the health information field, and professional activities, both sponsored instruction and professional association activity and accomplishments, at increasing levels for the high levels of membership. An applicant submits a portfolio to the MLA Headquarters documenting their education and experience, and providing personal information. For Member level or higher, the portfolio will include a list, by category, of professional activities that are approved for Academy credits. After an initial review, the portfolio is sent to reviewers, who are members of the Credentialing Committee. As of 1995, review cycles are monthly. Membership in the Academy must be renewed every five years, and may be done either at the same level or a higher level.

There are over 1,300 health information professionals in the Academy. Anyone may apply for membership in the Academy who meets the required professional education and/or experience requirements. The application cost is \$150 for MLA members, and \$300 for non-members for a five-year membership.

### Benefits

The stated purposes of AHIP are:

- 1) to serve as a professional development

and career recognition program to certify librarians on the basis of professional achievement; and

- 2) to reward the personal investment of time and effort required for exemplary professional performance and contributions to the profession.

In 1995, MLA conducted a review of the current program after its first five years. Survey results and recommendations from the review were published by Forsman and Nelson in 1997.<sup>4</sup>

In summary, AHIP was seen to provide important benefits and strengths such as being responsive to the need for a credentialing program, achieving the original purposes for which it was devised, and lending prestige to the association within the larger profession. Perceived shortcomings included having little impact with employers, especially in terms of economic benefits, and having an application process in need of simplification. Since 1997 the Credentialing Committee along with MLA Headquarters staff has worked to streamline the process, simplifying the forms and decreasing the time it takes to review portfolios. Also, all information about the Academy and the application are now available over MLANET at <http://www.mlanet.org/academy/index.html>.

Continuing professional development in our fast-changing field is essential. MLA's AHIP credentialing program provides members with a clear path to continued growth in the profession. Side benefits may be better career planning and advancement, and prestige of recognition.

Eve-Marie Lacroix

<sup>1</sup> McSeán T. Should EAHIL set a standard [letter]? EAHIL News! Eur Health Libr 2001 May; (55):5-6

<sup>2</sup> Bell, J H. History of the Medical Library Association's credentialing program, Bull Med Libr Assoc 1996 Jul; 84(3) 320-333

<sup>3</sup> Extensive information on the Academy may be viewed at <http://www.mlanet.org>.

<sup>4</sup> Forsman R B, Nelson, P P. The Academy of Health Information Professionals: a review of the first five years. Bull Med Libr Assoc 1997 Oct; 85(4).



## Programme de certification de MLA

Alors que EAHIL considère la possibilité d'un programme de certification pour ses membres, il est peut-être utile de regarder le programme de l'Association de Bibliothèque Médicale (MLA), l'Académie des Professionnels de l'Information sur la Santé AHIP). Quelle est son histoire ? ses objectifs ? Comment les bibliothécaires sont-ils / elles certifié/es ?

### Historique

MLA a eu un programme de diplôme ou de certification depuis plus de 50 ans. Le diplôme diffère de la certification dans le sens que la certification se concentre sur le développement de compétences standardisées et mesurables alors que le diplôme reconnaît le temps et l'effort à fournir pour atteindre un certain niveau de développement professionnel. Le premier code de formation et de certification d'un bibliothécaire médical fut adopté en 1949 et a subi des révisions majeures et adaptations constantes et a été affiné au cours des ans. Dans son article « History of the Medical Library Association credentialing program » Bell décrit les exigences de base du programme de diplôme et les raisons des modifications apportées. Ces considérations comprennent :

- la corrélation entre la certification ou le diplôme et le statut, le prestige et les bénéfices économiques qui en résultent ;
- les critères pour l'obtention de la certification ou du diplôme qui semblent favoriser un genre plutôt que l'autre ;
- le coût du programme pour MLA ;
- la définition de travail à plein temps pour calculer l'expérience nécessaire pour satisfaire les exigences du diplôme ou de la certification ;
- le nombre approprié d'étapes pour l'obtention du diplôme ;
- les exigences à chaque étape ;
- l'éducation de base requise soit pour le diplôme soit pour la certification.

Jusqu'en 1978, la certification de la MLA pour les bibliothécaires du domaine de la

santé exigeait que le candidat se présente à un examen et la certification devenait permanente. Aucune re-certification n'était exigée. L'article de Bell présente un demi-siècle de la vie du programme et devrait être lu par ceux qui considèrent établir un tel programme.

### Académie des Professionnels de l'Information sur la Santé

L'« Academy of Health Information Professionals » (AHIP) représente le programme de reconnaissance d'un développement professionnel. Il a été établi en 1989 et révisé en 1993 et 1995. Les membres de l'Académie sont diplômés comme professionnels du domaine de l'information de la santé en ayant démontré leur préparation académique, l'expérience professionnelle et les résultats obtenus. Les exigences minimales pour entrer dans l'Académie incluent un diplôme d'une institution reconnue par ALA (American Libraries Association) ou un certificat d'études supérieures (Master's degree) d'un programme reconnu par le Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation (COPA). Il y a quatre genres de membres : provisoire, membre de plein-droit, seniorité et distinction. Un membre provisoire doit avoir obtenu un diplôme reconnu et avoir moins de 5 années d'expérience pratique dans le domaine de l'Information de la santé. Tous les autres niveaux doivent avoir un diplôme reconnu, 5 ans d'expérience dans le domaine cité et avoir poursuivi des activités professionnelles soit dans l'enseignement, soit avoir collaboré dans les activités d'une association professionnelle, à des niveaux de responsabilité croissante pour les grades de membres supérieurs. Un candidat soumet son dossier à la MLA indiquant sa formation, et son expérience et y joignant des informations personnelles. Pour le grade de membre de plein droit ou un grade plus élevé, le dossier doit comprendre une liste par catégories de des activités professionnelles qui doivent être approuvées. Après une revue préliminaire, le dossier est envoyé aux examinateurs qui

sont membres du « Professional Recognition Review Panel » (PRRP). En 1995, les dossiers étaient examinés chaque mois. Le statut de membre de l'Académie doit être renouvelé tous les 5 ans et peut être approuvé soit au même niveau soit à un niveau plus élevé.

Il y a plus de 1300 membres professionnels dans l'Académie. N'importe qui répondant aux exigences éducationnelles et professionnelles peut se présenter comme membre. Les frais d'inscription sont de 150 \$ pour les membres de la MLA et de 300 \$ pour les non-membres.

### Bénéfices

Les objectifs définis de AHIP sont :

- 1) servir de programme de développement et reconnaissance professionnelle sur la base des accomplissements professionnels et
- 2) de récompenser l'investissement en temps et effort pour une performance exceptionnelle et une contribution à la profession.

En 1995, MLA a évalué les 5 premières années du programme. Forsmann et Nelson ont publié les résultats de cette revue et ses recommandations en 1997.

En résumé, AHIP semble être perçue comme offrant des bénéfices importants et un support pour le programme de certification selon les objectifs initiaux du programme, et contribue également à augmenter le prestige de l'association dans la profession en général. AHIP ne semble pas avoir d'impact auprès des employeurs, spécialement en ce qui concerne les bénéfices financiers. Les procédures de certification demandent à être simplifiées. Un développement professionnel continu dans un domaine qui change rapidement est essentiel. Le programme de certification de AHIP ( MLA) indique clairement à ses membres le chemin à suivre pour un développement professionnel continu. Les bénéfices secondaires peuvent être une meilleure planification d'une carrière professionnelle, une promotion et le prestige de la reconnaissance.

## Suggested Reading

Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 89(3) July 2001

Freida Weise has published a very interesting article in the July 2001 issue of the BMLA entitled "Study to assess the compensation and skills of medical library professionals relative to information technology professionals." I don't know how relevant this is to Europeans, but I mention it because I noticed that MLA has the full-text of the article on its website right now.

[http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/study\\_89\\_3.pdf](http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/study_89_3.pdf)

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### NEWS FROM ITALY

CONFERENCE ON “LIBRARY COMMUNICATION: NEW MARKETING STRATEGIES AND INTERACTION MODELS” HELD IN MILAN ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2001

This conference hosted by the Palazzo delle Stelline in Milan on 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2001 offered to librarians and information scientists a very important opportunity to become familiar with the new methodology in interaction with users and public opinion. It was the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of an annual conference rapidly establishing itself as an important meeting point for information specialists and also people working in the biomedical field. Indeed, there was a strong presence of a large number of biomedical librarians who, because of the needs of their users to have specific, current and reliable information, are usually compelled to deal with communication problems.

The value of this conference is indeed based on the topicality of the subjects presented. The leitmotif of the previous conferences has been the impact of information technology on librarians-users interaction; this year's focused theme was communication strategies in the internet age. The conference was supported also by an exhibition on services, technical and otherwise, and furniture for libraries.

This time there was also an orientation towards public administrators and library services in order to try to offer them powerful tools to improve communication quality towards real and potential end users and to help them to interact with

shareholders and public opinion. The programme included communication strategies under several profiles, from user satisfaction evaluation to marketing strategies.

On the opening day, the two papers presented by the ex president of the Italian Library Association (AIB) and by the President of the ALA's Public Awareness Committee commanded a great deal of interest. The latter concerned the development of an advocacy program and an advocacy network aimed at increasing both the founding and the power of libraries and librarians. Underlining the fact that librarians are even more vital in this information age, the author described how the program in the U.S. led to a major campaign designed to deliver this message to decision-makers. Another interesting item was how the librarians must take care of the dissemination of information among potential users so that the information process can reach all possible categories. The theme of the relationship between librarians and politicians was carried on by further communications during the morning of the day 15. The afternoon was dedicated to issues on user satisfaction and performance analysis. The presentations on improvement of library's services and of user's satisfaction throughout marketing strategies such as performance measurement, quality standards and customer relationship management, were of great interest. The point of view of marketing policy was clearly defined by an Italian marketing consultant who underlined strategies to sell information to enterprises. He pointed out that libraries

can also be part of the information market if we enlarge the concept of users to big companies. All the speeches on this subject stressed the fact that librarians can offer their users the best service through the analysis of their needs; this kind of interaction can also be useful to conquer occasional library's users.

During the second day, the items discussed concerned the new librarians' role, with special attention to the changing role of the librarian as information manager. This change arises first of all from the new technological environment which is also useful, by the way of integrating operational models previously adopted, to improve the services. The advent of new technologies potentially offers new roles for librarians destabilising, at the same time, traditional roles. Further communications underlined the advent of the new technologies with all their potential in the way librarians can interact with users and the subsequent problem for reference librarians to assure reliable and update information in the internet age.

Last but not least we must not omit the unusual and intriguing interview with the architect M. Pierre Riboulet on library architecture as an information medium. This final point of view might be seen as an auspice that libraries should not be regarded only as “information storehouses” but also as pleasant places in which people can meet and work together!

**Annarita Barbaro**

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### Suggested Reading

[The Library Association Record, 103\(7\) July 2001](#)

Another interesting article has appeared in the July 2001 issue of LAR entitled “Practical Content Management” by Andrew Cox, Jane Yeadon and Mark Kerr.

*Keeping a website fresh and alive with the minimum of effort - that's content management... the authors take us through different levels of techniques for every scale of site..... Content management is really a form of information management..[it] applies familiar library processes, such as selection, accessing, describing, archiving and weeding, to web content.*

**Sally Wood-Lamont**



## The Antonija Prelec Memorial Fund for Medical Librarians



The University at Stony Brook is one of four university centres in the State University of New York (SUNY) system. Located 60 miles from the New York City on the north shore of Long Island, the University was founded in 1957, and its Health Sciences Center was established in 1972. Today, it is Long Island's only comprehensive academic health centre, which includes five professional schools (Dental Medicine, Health Technology and Management, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Welfare) and the University Hospital. The schools offer professional education to approximately 2,450 students.

The Health Sciences Center Library (HSC Library) at Stony Brook (<http://www.hsclib.sunysb.edu/>) serves the educational, clinical and research information needs of the parent institution, but it also functions as a regional resource assisting health care professionals throughout two counties. The library collection includes more than 275,000 volumes (monographs and serials), more than 2,000 current periodical titles, and a wide assortment of the networked electronic resources (647 electronic journal titles, more than 60

research databases, some 100 electronic books etc.). The Barry S. Cooler Learning Center computer labs and electronic classrooms are a superb platform for the Library's education services.

Antonija Prelec (1929-1999) was a librarian at the HSC Library and achieved there a distinguished career (collection development librarian and associate director). Her contributions were recognised by many awards (President's Award for Excellence in Librarianship twice, Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society's Award for Promotion of Research in Science etc.). The purpose of the Antonija Prelec Memorial Fund is to advance the pursuit of excellence in medical librarianship and to improve the information services provided by the HSC Library to its community of users. The Fund supports an annual visit to the Health Sciences Center by :

- a visiting scholar, an expert in medical librarianship and library information sciences, which includes a lecture known as the Antonija Prelec Memorial Lecture,
- a visiting fellow from the US medical libraries and abroad to spend two weeks in the HSC Library.

Under the auspices of the Antonija Prelec Visiting Scholar Committee I visited Stony Brook HSC Library in June as the first visiting fellow. My program also included the short visits to the neighbouring libraries at Columbia University (Augustus S. Long Health Sciences Library) and Yale University (The Harvey Cushing John Hay Whitney Medical Library).

The HSC Library represents a radical departure from the traditional concept of the medical library. New responsibilities

include: administering integrated network technologies, server farms and multiple computing platforms, as well as providing continuous local and remote access to electronic information resources, offering a wide range of information literacy classes and supporting distance learning and online clinical training programs. "No longer simply providing and mediating access to information, the library provides integrated instruction in the management and dissemination of information, the evaluation and quality filtering of information used in clinical decision-making, and in the application of evidence-based medicine practice, tools and resources." (1).

The goal of my program was to look specifically into the management of the electronic resources as well as education services. Coming from a small and information underprivileged academic community, I was first impressed by the numbers (11 servers, +200 networked PC workstations, +1000 networked electronic resources, etc.) and a crew of five devoted and efficient computer specialists. Then I attended some of the classes in the Library, a few being user oriented and one librarian oriented. Their design, instruction methods, handouts, evaluation etc, were such a high level that for me they were both, an experience and a challenge. The classes are offered on a monthly and open class basis. The classes are divided into categories according to the learning objectives and skill indicators. Non-credit classes provide practical training for a variety of standard desktop applications; they also include basic Internet courses as well as detailed instruction on locally available and web-based public and proprietary electronic information resources. The Library also offers theme-

based classes on theoretical and experiential understanding of knowledge-based resources. The 5 curriculum-based courses are taught in whole or in substantial part by the HSC Library faculty. The idea of the so-called "Lunch bytes" has been a great hit. These lunch-hour (30 minutes long) workshops are intended to showcase time saving tips for common desktop applications, email utilities and other resources.

The visit was perfectly organised and was an opportunity for discussions on many other issues, from library management to promotion and tenure problems.

Anyone who is interested in details of the Antonija Prelec Memorial Fund may contact Mr. Spencer Marsh, Director of the Health Sciences Center Library, State University of New York at Stony Brook, SUNY 8034, HSC Level 3, Stony Brook, NY 11794-8034, USA.

### Literature

1. Van Moorsel TG, White A, Marsh SS. Managing expectations: enabling the virtual library through coordinated technology and business model changes. In: Proceedings of the International Conference on Media Futures, Florence, Italy, 8-9 May 2001. Milan: Associazione Elettrotecnica ed Elettronica Italiana, 2001. pg 149-152.

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## NEWS FROM EUROPE

### NEWS FROM FINLAND....

#### **EBM Guidelines – A Unique Collection Of Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines For Daily Clinical Practise And A Useful Information Tool For Medical Libraries**

The need of evaluated medical information, evidence-based medicine is increasing significantly all the time as the health care professionals, consumers, researchers, and policy makers are overwhelmed with unmanageable amounts of information. The popularity of the Cochrane Library has proved that health care professionals do require good reviews of research results for decision-making and easy access to this information. In Finland for more than 10 years ago the idea of a new international database EBM Guidelines emerged from the obvious need for a handbook discussing the diagnosis and treatment of the wide range of diseases and conditions encountered by general practitioners and health care professionals in hospitals.

The Evidence-Based Medicine Guidelines collects, summarizes, and updates continuously the core clinical knowledge essential in general practice bringing the user the latest developments in clinical medicine. The EBM Guidelines is the most extensive collection of guidelines for primary care with more than 900 headings. The unique feature of EBM Guidelines is that each guideline contains a concise

summary of scientific evidence underlying the given treatment recommendations. The summaries, which are attached to the guidelines as hypertext links, are based on Cochrane reviews and DARE abstracts in the Cochrane Library, as well as on systematic reviews and original articles published in medical journals. Full-text versions of all cited Cochrane reviews are included on the CD-ROM. The strength of the evidence presented in the summaries is graded from A to D and a short statement on the level of evidence is added to each summary.

EBM Guidelines is available on CD and on the Internet (<http://www.ebm-guidelines.com>). The database contains more than 900 problem-oriented and disease-specific guidelines with treatment recommendations based on scientific evidence, more than 1500 evidence summaries, hundreds of high-quality photographs and updates at 6-month intervals. EBM Guidelines offers medical libraries a quick and easy way to find a vast amount of reliable updated information of diseases and conditions. There are many products that provide evidence to be used as the basis for decision making, but there is no other comprehensive collection of primary care guidelines where the evidence is described and coded explicitly, with direct links to full-text Cochrane reviews. EBM

Guidelines has a powerful retrieval software and a comprehensive thesaurus: only one search term will give you all the information you need. The search program uses a thesaurus based on MeSH and the UMLS (Unified Medical Language System) of the National Library of Medicine. Search terms can be found by entering synonyms, and searches can be exploded according to the MeSH hierarchies.

The EBM Guidelines is the result of more than 10 years systematic development and is produced by an editorial team the members of which are experienced, practicing primary care physicians who have also been trained in the critical appraisal of medical literature. The team works in close cooperation with about 20 specialist coordinators and 300 authors. EBM Guidelines are currently available in English, Finnish and Estonian. A Russian and Swedish language version are forthcoming.

1 user - 95 euros 20 users - 1200 euros  
5 users - 350 euros 30 users - 1700 euros  
10 users - 700 euros 40 users - 2200 euros

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## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

### EAHIL Statues

The revised edition of the EAHIL Statues will be published on the EAHIL Website. The Dutch version has official (i.e. legal) status, as the association is founded in Amsterdam under Dutch law. For practical reasons the English version will be referred to in ruling the association. The revised edition of the Statues were signed and registered on May 31, 2001 in Amsterdam.

### Dear members

We have to bring you the sad news that Turid Tharaldsen, Council member from Norway, died on the 3rd of August after a long period of illness. Even that Turid was seriously ill her death is still a great shock to all her friends and colleagues.

Turid was very active to the very end and participated in the EAHIL workshop in Sardinia. She died during her vacation in her beloved Lofoten. Turid will be remembered as a great Norwegian and European librarian and for her warm and lovely personality.

**EAHIL Executive Board**



## The Health Information & Libraries Journal

The Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) for *Health Information and Libraries Journal* met on 4 July.

Judy Palmer, the editor, reported that the change of title in 2001 – from *Health Libraries Review* to *Health Information and Libraries Journal* had not had any detrimental effect on subscription renewals. Indeed, judging from the feedback received from readers, both the change in title and format had been welcomed. Several speakers at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medical Librarianship (8ICML) had been asked to revise their papers for publication in the journal and these had been published between December 2000-June 2001. It is hoped that some papers from the EAHIL Workshop in Sardinia will be published in future issues. EAHIL Newsletter readers are urged to submit papers for consideration. All Editorial Board members feel that closer cooperation between HLG (through HILJ and the Newsletter) and EAHIL is important.

The publisher, Blackwell Science, reported that there had been a 98% subscription renewal for 2001. This was a good percentage, especially taking into account the change of title. EAHIL subscriptions had risen from 2 to 11 in 2001. Blackwells were proposing a standard 8% increase

with differentiation between societies, an EAHIL subscription of £37/E68. A fixed euro rate will be given to enable the offer to be included on EAHIL membership renewal forms.

Other issues of importance were:

### Gift subscriptions

At the 2000 EAB it had been suggested that members might like to give a gift subscription to a third world country. Blackwells reported that they were happy with this suggestion and agreed that extra subscriptions could be taken out at members' concessionary rates i.e. £37/E68 for EAHIL members.

### Electronic archives

Although Blackwells do not have a policy, at present, for retrospective conversion of their journals they reported that, as a one off, they would be able to carry out retrospective conversion for HLR. Discussion on cost and terms and conditions will continue between the editor, HLG and Blackwells.

### Author Copyright

The question of author copyright, whereby authors retain some copyright rather than assigning it all to the publisher, is currently under discussion throughout academic publishing. It was felt that librarians

should be at the forefront of this debate. Blackwells reported that they were aware of the current debate and that they are reviewing their copyright policy with a view to producing a new *Copyright Assignment Form* which would allow the author greater freedom to use their article whilst the publisher will still maintain the copyright. The Board was happy to await this new form before taking this matter further.

### Theme issues

September 2002 *Libraries without walls*. Guest editor: Arne Jakobsson. This issue will look at –new roles for health librarians, new resources in health information and new ways to find health information.

September 2003 *Evidence based health librarianship* Guest editors: Andrew Booth and Jon Eldredge. This issue will be based on a conference to be held in September 2001 in Liverpool.

Following on from the change of title for the journal it was felt that including the word 'libraries' or 'librarianship' in these titles might be a disincentive for informatics professionals. Alternative titles are being discussed.

**Penny Bonnett**

HILJ Assistant Editor

## HOW TO



## How to .... learn from your colleagues,

This column has been written in the past by Luisa Verellesi and she gave us many helpful hints for all those "other" things we as librarians have to do once in a while ...

- (44) prepare for a lecture
- (45) lay out a poster
- (46) write a biomedical summary
- (47) assess the quality of a medical website
- (48) organize a meeting
- (49) lead a training course
- (50) promote your library
- (51) write a press release
- (52) restrict access to websites

With these short guidelines Luisa has helped many of us to do a better job, to reach for higher standards and better quality in our profession. These criteria are also helpful for evaluating and supervising the work of trainees and students.

The editors of this Newsletter would very much like to continue

this column, but we need your input. Which of you did one of the following projects recently and can give us some good advice about what to do, and what not, what to avoid and what to include, when:

- ... starting a consumer health library
- ... promoting your website
- ... managing your E-journal collection
- ... designing a slide or powerpoint presentation
- ... managing and organizing teamwork

Please send us your personal checklists or the critical points in your projects. Even if you do not have all the answers, but have seen or are about to be confronted by these dilemmas and require comments from colleagues: the EAHIL Newsletter can be a suitable forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences.

Looking forward to your contributions...

**EAHIL Newsletter editors**



## Dear Colleagues,



An additional favourable opinion on free access to scientific publications. The Editor-in-Chief of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences writes that the free availability of PNAS in Pubmed Central four weeks after the release of the print edition, has not caused any perceptible economic arm. The number of people accessing the PNAS online sites at PubMed Central and HighWire Press has continued to grow exponentially. The increase in accesses to a free journal naturally leads to increase readership, authorship, and even subscription (Science, 2001, 292, 51).

An article on Clinical Librarianship argues about the inclusion of clinically trained librarians in health care teams. Medical librarians may become more valuable than ever with the increasing importance of the Internet. Health information Web sites whose information is screened or contributed by medical librarians is more accurate, and the content is of a higher quality (Ann. Intern. Med., 2001, 134, 720)

**Giovanna F. Miranda**

### JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of February 2001, the following journal issue of *Health Information and Libraries Journal* (formerly *Health Libraries Review*) has been received: **vol. 18, 2001, no. 2**

**L. Falzon and A. Booth. REALISE-ing their potential?: implementing local library projects to support evidence-based health care.** p.65-74.

The paper reports the strengths and the weaknesses of the project and provides a checklist for use in similar projects.

**N. Booth-Clibborn, R. Milne, S. Oliver. Searching for high quality evidence to prepare patient information.** p.75-82.

The article describes the development of a search protocol for finding high quality health information for patients.

**G. Oliver and P. Bidwell. Hospitals and consumer health information in New Zealand: the role of the library.** p.83-90.

The primary objective of this study was to find out what New Zealand hospitals are doing about providing consumer health information to patients and the role played by hospital libraries.

**I. Robu, D. Marineanu, I. Aciu, S. Wood-Lamont. Improving standards in the scientific biomedical community in Romania by using journal ranking to improve journal quality.** p. 91-98.

The study attempts to produce a set of valid and objective criteria of assessment of Romanian medical journals and the evaluation of scientific output of Romanian medical community.

**J. Tsafrir and A. Ohry. Medical illustration: from caves to cyberspace.**

p. 99-109.

This article traces the developments and changes taking place in medical illustration, illustrating them with representative examples.

**D. L. Brand-de Heer. A comparison of the coverage of clinical medicine provided by PASCAL, Biomed and Medline.** p. 110-116.

A comparison of the bibliographic databases PASCAL, Biomed and Medline for their coverage of clinical medicine.

**D. Flake, A. Verhoeven, I. Robu. The Cunningham Fellowship: three international points of view.** p. 117-124.

The article presents an overview of the Cunningham Fellowship from three different points of view: that of the Medical Library Association and two former Cunningham Fellows.

Innovations online. (B. Anagnostelis). p.125.

Research. (A.Booth). p. 130.

Health Libraries Group Newsletter. p. 1-25.

### BOOKS REVIEW

**Biomedical research ethics: updating international guidelines. A consultation.**

By R.J. Levine, S. Gorovitz, J. Gallagher, 2000, CIOMS, Geneva. ISBN 92-9036-073-9.

Sw. fr. 30 (US \$ 27).

The International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects set out a code of research ethic that is widely used by ethical committees and other bodies responsible for reviewing and overseeing the ethical design of studies and conduct of research.

The consultation centred on seven

specialty commissioned papers, authored by international experts, that explore some of the more difficult issues in depth: research conducted in developing countries, ethical challenges of the randomised trials, genetic research, reproductive biology, moral status of the foetus and the use of embryos in research, role of communities in international biomedical research.

**The Encyclopaedia of Stress.** By G.Fink, 2000, Academic Press, San Diego, ISBN 0-12 226735-4, £370, three volumes, pp 1900.

The encyclopaedia contains nearly 400 articles by over 300 leading experts around the worlds. Chapters dealing with biochemistry, pharmacology, psychological and sociological subjects.

### PAPERS REVIEW

For free access, follow the brick red buttons.

N.R. Cozzarelli. Science, 2001, 292, 51.

Clinical Librarianship: its value in Medical Care

L.F. Schacher. Ann. Intern. Med., 2001, 134, 717.

Health information on the Internet. Accessibility, quality and readability in English and Spanish.

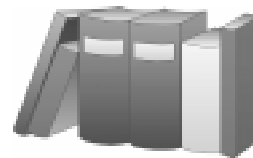
G.K. Berland et al.. JAMA, 2001, 285, 2612.

Physician opinion about electronic publications.

S.M. Wright et al. Am. J. Med., 2001, 110, 373.

Impact of electronic journals: The Cedars-Sinai Experience.

M. F. Snape et al. J. Hospital Librarianship,



2001, 1, 61.

**A digital library resource Web site: Project DL.**

T.R. Kochtanek et al. Online Information review, 2001, 25, 29.

### INFORMATION SOURCES

**..... Web-based**

**Malaria On-line Project.** The site contains sections on diagnosis, prophylaxis, treatment and history, as well as an innovative interactive "Test & Teach" self-assessment module. This web site is presented by the Division of Laboratory Medicine at Royal Perth Hospital and it is available in French, English and Spanish.

For Institutions without or with limited Internet access, the Malaria Educational Project is available free of charge on CD-Rom (trilingual version)  
<http://www.rph.wa.gov.au/labs/haem/malaria/index.html>

**Medication errors.** This site is maintained by the Institute for safe Medication Practices, a non-profit organization located in USA. The site displays recent

examples of medical errors and provide facilities for reporting of medical error experiences. It also provides contact details to institutions in Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and USA where reports of medical errors are welcome.

<http://www.ismp.org/>

**Protein Information Resource.** PIR is a storehouse of data on more than 200,000 proteins run by the national Biomedical Research Foundation at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. PIR offers sequence data, annotations detailing the properties and activities of each protein, complete with PubMed links.

<http://pir.georgetown.edu>

### NEWS FROM EDITORS

**Ebsco Online.** The Canadian Medical Association has signed an agreement with Ebsco Subscription Services to provide electronic access to journals through Ebsco Online. The Canadian Medical Association is the national voice of Canadian physicians and produces medical journals, newsletters, books, association research and reports.

[www.ebsco.com](http://www.ebsco.com)

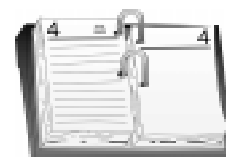
ISI has announced a free access to **ISIHighlyCited.com**. This web-based resource give access to over 2000 of the world's most cited scientific authors. ISIHighlyCited.com will bring together the publications and achievement records of pre-eminent researchers in each of the 21 broad categories in life sciences, medicine, physical science, engineering and social sciences. Researchers are selected for inclusion based on the total number of citations received by their articles as recorded in the ISI Citation database 1981-1999.

[www.isinet.com](http://www.isinet.com)

**IFLA.** IFLA's Executive and Professional Boards have approved a set of Licensing Principles for all types of electronic information. These Licensing Principles should prevail in the contractual relationship and written contracts between libraries and information providers. Aspects that have been touched upon by these principles include: the law, access, usage and users and pricing. The text of the IFLA Licensing principles is available on IFLANET at

<http://www.ifla.org/V/ebpb/copy.htm>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



**16-17 August, 2001, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA  
 Association of College and Research Libraries Service,  
 Management and Leadership: essential tools for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarians.**

A satellite meeting for Library Leaders and managers  
 For further information:

[http://www.ala.org/acrl/lead/IFLA\\_prog.html](http://www.ala.org/acrl/lead/IFLA_prog.html)

**16-25 August, 2001, Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
 IFLA General Conference**

For further information: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67>

**6-8 September, 2001, Bordeaux, France  
 UCR & ABF-SER Conference**

Droit de copie et droit d'auteur, leur application dans les bibliothèques britanniques et françaises, à la lumière des directives européennes et des régulations internationales.

Organised jointly by University College and Research Section of the Library Association and Association des Bibliothécaires Français, Section Etude et Recherche

For further information: [tom.french@bl.uk](mailto:tom.french@bl.uk)

**30 September-3 October, 2001, Baden-Baden, Germany  
 Eusidic Annual Conference**

Information value Chain. Status and future developments.

For further information: <http://eusidic.org>

**1-5 October, 2001, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
 Interlending & Document Supply**

Organised jointly by the national and University Library, Ljubljana and the IFLA Office for International Lending  
 For further information: [ifla@bl.uk](mailto:ifla@bl.uk)

**3-5 October, 2001, Rome, Italy  
 XLVIII Congresso Nazionale AIB  
 Bibliocom 2001**

For further information: <http://www.aib.it>

**10-14 October, 2001, Frankfurt, Germany  
 Frankfurt Book Fair**

For further information: [www.frankfurt-bookfair.com](http://www.frankfurt-bookfair.com)

**4-6 December 2001, London, United Kingdom  
 Online Information 2001**

The world's biggest and most important information industry conference and exhibition, bringing together the major vendors of digital information products under one roof. **10% discount on full 3 day delegate rate for EAHIL members** - simply quote your membership number when booking.

Further information: <http://www.online-information.co.uk>



## Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts either in English or French should be about 3-4 standard (1.50 space) typewritten pages and provided by e-mail or on a diskette. Informative title, short summary and keywords should be provided. References should be expressed in Vancouver style. Authors of submitted papers accept editing and re-use of published material by EAHIL.

*Les manuscrits, qu'ils soient rédigés en français ou en anglais, devront être présentés sous forme de pages dactylo-graphiées, de standard 3-4 (espace de 1.50) et fournis par e-mail ou sur disquettes. Le titre, un bref résumé ainsi que les mots-clés devront également être joints. Les références devront être formulées selon le "style de Vancouver". Les auteurs ayant soumis des articles acceptent que ces derniers soient édités et utilisés à nouveau dans les publications pour l'EAHIL.*

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