

European Association
for Health Information and Libraries

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



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EAHIL President Manuela Colombi (right) and MLA representative Susan Grefsheim (left) sign renewal of agreement for cooperation between the two associations, 1st July 2000, London (UK).

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

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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 dactylographiées, 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'AEIBS.

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The full membership subscriptions including the subscription to our quarterly Newsletter remain unchanged for 2000. Les cotisations de 2000 comprenant l'abonnement à notre Bulletin d'Information trimestriel restent inchangées.

• Full information regarding the Association, membership fees and advertisements in the Newsletter, may be obtained from the EAHIL secretariat in Amsterdam.

• Toute information concernant l'Association, les cotisations de membres et les annonces publicitaires dans la Newsletter peut être obtenue au secrétariat de l'AEIBS à Amsterdam.

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Hello Everyone,



Wasn't it a good conference in London? Congratulations to the ICML Organising Committee for putting together such a splendid programme both professionally and socially. For me it was so nice to put faces to all these people I have corresponded with by e-mail over the last two years, renew old acquaintances and to meet many new international colleagues. The meeting of the Editorial Board with Suzanne Bakker, Giovanna Miranda, Liisa Salmi, Joanne Dunham and Constantin Cazan resulted in a collaboration agreement with the UK Health Libraries Group Newsletter and Margaret Forrest (we actually worked together in Edinburgh University Library - I won't say how many years ago!) and also AHILA and Jean Shaw. Each of the editors now are aware of each journal's scope and that all news, articles and other information can be interchangeable accordingly and if necessary summarised in each of the publications. Joan Dunham, jd1@leicester.ac.uk, has kindly agreed to be the representative for Great Britain gathering news items and information to be published in the EAHIL Newsletter.

The MLA agreement is also a major step and can only expand our international window globally. Donna Flake who has so ably represented MLA in the past two years and has been a regular and major contributor to the Newsletter has made a considerable input to this newsletter. I also spent some time coaxing EAHIL members to contribute in the future and did succeed with some as you will see. My biggest success I think was the wonderful evening of the Thames Cruise when I found myself sitting beside a

group of medical librarians from Iceland headed by Margret Gunnarsdottir from Reykjavik and the result was that EAHIL Newsletter 56 August 2001 will feature Focus on.... Iceland.

My biggest disappointment was that I did not manage to meet anyone from Ireland because the next issue - deadline December 15th 2000 will feature Focus on.... Ireland. So please Medical Librarians from Ireland get in touch with me soon! As Liisa Salmi has written a comprehensive report on the ICML and others have

talked about it too I decided I would do something a little different and I asked for comments or viewpoints on it from a number of participants. Four responded and I hope you like the result.

I think it only remains for me to say Happy Holidays to all EAHIL members and to enjoy your summer wherever you go.

Sally Wood-Lamont
swood@umfcluj.ro



*Tony McSeán and members of the 8ICML organising committee
(the evening before at BMA House)*

(Tony McSeán, UK)



Letter from the President / Lettre de la Présidente



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my pleasure to write this short piece for our Newsletter now that I am back from London, where many of us attended the 8th ICML conference. The conference itself was a great success with more than 1400 registered participants in the marvellous functional venue, the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center with its magnificent view over Westminster Abbey. The Organizing Committee had worked hard to accomodate all plenary sessions and the great number of parallel sessions (9 at the same time!). In this way one could choose the themes according to personal interests.

Also our Association had its own sessions: the EAHIL Board and Council met which you will read in the relevant section of the newsletter. I would like to underline however the new cooperation agreement signed with MLA and closer cooperation with the editor of Health Libraries Review, Judith Palmer.

On July 4th, we have had our General Assembly, during which the new Statutes and Rules of Procedures were approved. In the exhibition area our Association had its own booth and many persons visited us, some to obtain information about the Association and known faces just simply to say hallo. At the same place future EAHIL events were promoted: the 2001 Workshop to be held in Alghero (Sardinia), 7-9 June 2001, and the 8th EAHIL Conference to take place in Cologne, 16-21 September 2002. It will be the first time that we are

holding a meeting in Germany in the history of our Association.

For further news I leave you to study the Newsletter edited by a very active Sally Wood-Lamont.

I hope you have had or will have a restful vacation and all that remains is my personal greetings to you all.

Manuela Colombi
EAHIL President



Chers Collègues et Amis,

J'ai le plaisir d'écrire ce bref message pour notre Bulletin d'Informations maintenant que je suis de retour de Londres, où plusieurs d'entre nous ont participé au 8ème Congrès International des Bibliothèques Médicales (ICML).

La conférence fut un grand succès avec plus de 1400 participants dans le superbe Centre de Conférences Elizabeth II, avec la magnifique vue de l'abbaye de Westminster. Le comité d'organisation avait beaucoup travaillé pour assurer le programme des séances plénières et les multiples séances parallèles (9 en même temps). Ainsi on pouvait choisir les thèmes répondant aux intérêts de chacun.

Notre Association avait ses propres séances:

le Comité et le Conseil de l'AEIBS (EAHIL) se sont réunis. Vous pouvez en lire un rapport plus loin dans ce Bulletin. J'aimerais souligner toutefois le nouvel accord de coopération signé entre l'Association des Bibliothèques Médicales des Etats-Unis (MLA) et l'éditeur de Health Libraries Review, Judith Palmer.

Notre Assemblée Générale, pendant laquelle les nouveaux statuts et règles de procédures ont été approuvés, a eu lieu le 4 juillet.

Dans la halle des expositions, notre Association avait son propre stand qui a accueilli de nombreux visiteurs cherchant de l'information sur notre association ou désirant simplement nous dire bonjour. Les manifestations futures

de l'AEIBS y étaient signalées: l'Atelier de travail d'Alghero (Sardaigne), les 7-9 juin 2001, et la 8ème conférence de l'AEIBS à Cologne, les 16-21 septembre 2002. Ce sera la première conférence à avoir lieu en Allemagne, depuis notre fondation.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, je vous laisse étudier le Bulletin d'Information édité par Sally Wood-Lamont, toujours si active.

J'espère que vous aurez (ou avez déjà eu) des vacances reposantes et tout ce qui me reste à faire, ce sont mes salutations personnelles à chacun d'entre vous.

Manuela Colombi
présidente de l'AEIBS



*The entrance
of the QE-II
conference centre*

(Tony McSeán, UK)



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

EAHIL Awards / Les Prix d'Honneur de l'AEIBS

The EAHIL Board honoured Ursula Hausen with the 1999 EAHIL Award. Ursula Hausen has always been an important supporter of EAHIL from its foundation to well beyond her own retirement. In the beginning of EAHIL Ursula was also President of the Association. The Board wish to emphasise Ursula's energy and commitment to EAHIL including her achievements in Germany where she lived for a long period. We intend to underline her strength in having been the EAHIL representative to several European bodies. The Award was handed over by Arne Jakobsson.



Ursula Hausen

Le Bureau de l'AEIBS a honoré Ursula Hausen en lui attribuant le prix d'Honneur de l'AEIBS de 1999.

Ursula Hausen a toujours soutenu l'AEIBS depuis sa fondation et bien au-delà du temps où Ursula a pris sa retraite. Dans les premières années de l'AEIBS, Ursula a [aussi] présidé l'Association. Le Bureau de l'AEIBS désire souligner l'énergie et le dévouement de Ursula envers l'AEIBS, y compris son activité en Allemagne où elle vit depuis de nombreuses années. Nous désirons souligner sa participation en représenter de l'AEIBS dans plusieurs organes Européens.

Le prix lui fut remis par Arne Jakobsson.

The EAHIL Board has honoured Eeva Kihlberg with the 2000 EAHIL Award. Eeva Kihlberg achieved the degree of Master of Political Sciences from the University of Helsinki. Since 1957 she has been working in Helsinki libraries and in 1968 she was nominated Director of the Dental Library, where she planned new premises and modernized activities. Eeva was one of the founders of the Finnish Medical Librarians Association and Finnish Council Member within the Association. She was also an active EAHIL Council member for a number of years. Moreover she was a strong supporter of the Nordic Cooperation in the Baltic Countries and we all have seen and appreciated the results in the Tartu workshop of last year. The Award was handed over by Tony McSeán to Pirjo Rajakiili, as Eeva was unable to attend the meeting.



Eeva Kihlberg

Le Bureau de l'AEIBS a honoré Eeva Kihlberg avec le prix d'Honneur de l'an 2000. Eeva Kihlberg a reçu un degré en sciences politiques de l'Université de Helsinki. Depuis 1957, elle a travaillé dans les bibliothèques de Helsinki et en 1968, elle a été nommée Directrice de la Bibliothèque de Médecine dentaire, dont elle a planifié les nouveaux locaux et modernisé les activités. Eeva est une des fondatrices de l'Association Finlandaise des Bibliothécaires Médicaux et un membre du Conseil Finlandais de cette Association. De plus, elle a collaboré à la Coopération Nordique dans les pays Baltiques et nous avons tous pu apprécier les résultats [de cette collaboration] à Tartu, lors de la rencontre de l'année passée.

Tony McSeán lui remit le prix d'honneur à Pirjo Rajakiili (représentante pour Eeva).

New members:

EAHIL welcomes the following colleagues:

- Margaret GREENWOOD
North West Region
Health Care Libraries Unit
Warrington WA5 1QG Cheshire,
UNITED KINGDOM
- Rosamaria ROTOLO
Biblioteca Centralizzata
di Medicina e Chirurgia
TORINO, ITALY
- John SIMS
United States
Patent & Trademark Office
Washington D.C. 20231, USA



New Professional Challenges For Librarians

The 8ICML in London in July was a most interesting congress in many ways. EAHIL being a European association, it was truly stimulating to meet colleagues from other parts of the world as well. There were more than 1400 participants at the congress, which made mixing with colleagues a very fruitful event.

The Programme Committee had succeeded in making an excellent programme, comprising many different papers and posters, from scientific research papers to pragmatic approaches to current issues in our professional field. Research is very important for our theoretical basis of information and library activities, guiding us in the organisation of the best possible services to our clientele. The finest examples of research form a bridge between theory and praxis.

One feature I personally liked very much in the programme was that the papers also included presentations from outside our profession: we had several physicians and editors of scientific journals giving us their viewpoints in what they need and what they expect us to do. The Keynote Address of the first day was on a very current issue: the WHO study on the impact of health services on the health of the citizens in different countries, which had been just publicised all over the world before the 8ICML. It was thought-provoking to compare this paper with the headlines and journalist reports of the study in the world mass media. Another significant paper - just to mention a few - was on MED-CERTAIN, an EU funded project for metadata based certification of trustworthy information on the Internet.

EAHIL and other associations from all over the world had the opportunity to have a session of their own. EAHIL's session was chaired by Alice Nørhede from Denmark and papers came from Greece, Spain, Italy and Denmark.

The understanding from this congress was - and it became quite evident in most of the presentations - that the tasks of librarians and information specialists will be, and already are somewhere, much more expanded from the traditional work than we have expected. It has become very clear that our clients, whether they are physicians, nurses, health economists, administrators or patients, cannot cope by themselves in the chaotic information space. Just to take two examples of our new tasks: firstly, demands on evidence in all fields may partly transfer the appraisal of research to libraries.

A second example is patient or consumer information, which clearly will more and more be carried out at libraries. These are challenges to our profession, and we have to be prepared to meet the challenges. I think we have done a good job in being able to follow and change with the rapid development of IT, but we have to scrutinise seriously our methods and ways of working. Evidence has to show in our own work, too, in order to move ourselves from information specialists to knowledge managers and a new way of thinking which results in new curricula, is necessary in our education.

The Board of EAHIL arrived in London before the Congress and had a long meeting with important matters for the future of the association. The President's Report is published on the Internet, and the Treasurer's Report tells us that our finances are sound. The ICP Group in Amsterdam, who have been taking care of the office work since the Association's move to the Netherlands, turned out to be unsatisfactory and a decision was made to accept the offer made by the Dutch Association for Library, Information and Knowledge Management (NVB), which becomes operational as of the 1st of October this year. Now we have a professional organisation in our own field to take care of our matters.

EAHIL and the Medical Library Association of the United States (MLA) have signed a bilateral agreement to establish our relations on a permanent but dynamic basis. As already decided at the Board meeting in Amsterdam earlier this year, the Past President is the association's representative at MLA. It is evident that enthusiasm to organise congresses and workshops has increased within the membership countries of EAHIL. We now have decided the future venues of several meetings: the next workshop is in Sardinia in 2001, the following congress will be held in Cologne in 2002, and Oslo is the city of the 2003 workshop. In 2004 it is Spain's turn to organise the congress in Santander, and in 2005, there will be the 9ICML in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Stimulated by the idea of organising different associations' meetings at a big congress like the 8ICML, the Board decided that EAHIL participate in the 9ICML as an association.

A Council get-together was also held in London. The Council members reported on the development of the tasks they were assigned at the January meeting in



Exhibition Opening Ceremony: Leslie Morton (left) and Tony McSeán (right). Leslie Morton was one of the organizers of 1st ICML in London in 1953 (!)
(Suzanne Bakker, NL)

Amsterdam. This meeting was not an official one and took place in a very informal atmosphere. One of Manuela Colombi's aims throughout her Presidency has been to create a better and firmer contact with the Council members in order to involve more people in attending to the association's matters and the results are beginning to be seen now.

Following that was the important General Assembly (GA) issues. First of all, a new President and Board was elected by the postal ballot in spring. The results of these interesting elections are given elsewhere in this issue. The principal issue was the new statutes of EAHIL. The Board, and a special committee headed by Alice Nørhede from Denmark have been working hard and carefully to renew our statutes that had become outdated. The proposal has been on our website since February to be commented upon. Since there had been a lot of time to go through the proposal, very few comments were made at GA. One of the important points is that the association will only have one official language from now on, and the language is English, today's lingua franca of our field. However, the tradition of having had French as the other language is still respected in the Newsletter, and the news from the association will be even now on in French. The new Statutes were accepted, and in connection with them, also the new Rules of Procedure.

The proceedings of the Congress and the details of the EAHIL meetings are seen on our web page.

Liisa Salmi
First Vice President



Nouveaux défis professionnels pour les bibliothécaires

Le 8ème Congrès International des Bibliothèques Médicales (ICML) à Londres en juillet fut un congrès des plus intéressants, à beaucoup d'égards. L'AEIBS étant une association Européenne, il fut très stimulant de rencontrer des collègues venant de tous les coins du monde. Il y avait plus de 1400 participants au congrès, ce qui a rendu les rencontres avec d'autres collègues très faciles.

Le comité du programme avait réussi à établir un programme excellent, avec de nombreuses présentations et posters allant de la recherche scientifique aux aspects pratiques, touchant aux questions d'actualité de notre vie professionnelle. La recherche est très importante pour établir une base théorique de l'information et des activités de bibliothèques, nous guidant dans l'organisation des services les meilleurs pour nos lecteurs. Les exemples de recherche forment un pont entre la théorie et la pratique.

Le fait que le programme contenait également des présentations par des personnes en dehors de notre profession est un aspect du programme que j'ai beaucoup apprécié: Plusieurs médecins et éditeurs de journaux scientifiques nous ont

donné leur point de vue et ce qu'ils attendent de nous. La présentation clé du premier jour portait sur un sujet de haute actualité: L'étude de l'OMS sur l'impact des services de la santé publique pour les habitants de plusieurs pays, une étude qui venait d'être publiée juste avant le Congrès dans le monde entier. La comparaison de cette présentation avec les rubriques des journalistes sur cette étude fut des plus intéressantes. Une autre contribution importante - juste pour en mentionner quelques-unes - portait sur MED-CERTAIN, un projet européen pour garantir une information pertinente sur Internet.

L'AEIBS et les autres associations présentes venant du monde entier ont pu tenir leur propres séances. La séance de l'AEIBS était présidée par Alice Nørhede (Danemark) et comprenait des présentations de Grèce, Espagne, Italie et Danemark. Le message de ce congrès - et ce message était mis en évidence dans la plupart des communications - était que les devoirs des bibliothécaires et des spécialistes de l'information - et en fait c'est déjà le cas - ont largement débordé les confins du travail traditionnel de nos

lecteurs, qu'ils soient médecins, infirmiers, ou économistes dans le domaine de la santé. Administrateurs ou patients ne peuvent plus se débrouiller seuls dans le chaos du monde de l'information. Juste à titre d'exemples: premièrement les demandes d'évidence dans tous les domaines, reflètent en partie que l'évaluation de la recherche a été transférée dans les bibliothèques. Un 2ème exemple concerne le patient ou le demandeur d'information, qui rechercheront de plus en plus leur information dans les bibliothèques. Ce sont les défis de notre profession et nous devons être prêts à leur faire face. Je crois que nous avons fait du bon travail dans notre adaptation rapide face au développement des technologies de l'information. Nous devons toutefois critiquer très sérieusement nos méthodes de travail. L'évidence doit aussi être présente dans notre travail afin que les spécialistes de l'information deviennent des gérants de la technologie. De nouvelles manières de penser qui doivent se refléter dans un nouveau curriculum sont nécessaires à notre éducation. Le Bureau de l'AEIBS se réunit à Londres avant le Congrès et a tenu une longue session pour considérer des questions importantes pour l'avenir de notre association. Le rapport de la Présidente est publié sur Internet. Le rapport du Trésorier indique que la base financière de l'Association est saine. Le groupe de ICP à Amsterdam qui a assuré la gestion des questions administratives depuis le déménagement aux Pays-Bas s'est révélé insatisfaisant et il a été décidé d'accepter l'offre faite par l'Association Hollandaise pour les Bibliothèques, l'information et la gestion de la connaissance. Cette association entrera en fonction [pour l'AEIBS] dès le 1er Octobre de cette année. Nous avons maintenant une organisation professionnelle de bibliothécaires pour assumer la responsabilité administrative [de l'AEIBS].

L'AEIBS et l'Association des Bibliothèques Médicales des Etats-Unis (MLA) ont signé un accord bilatéral pour établir des



Lunch at the Queen Elisabeth II Conference Centre (Marianne van der Heijden, Bureau Andromeda, NL)



relations sur une base permanente et dynamique. Comme il avait déjà été décidé à une séance du Bureau au début de cette année, le Président sortant devient le représentant de l'Association auprès de la MLA. Il est évident que l'enthousiasme pour organiser des congrès et des ateliers de travail a augmenté parmi nos membres. Nous avons maintenant décidé des lieux de rencontre pour plusieurs manifestations: le prochain atelier de travail aura lieu en Sardaigne en 2001, le prochain congrès sera tenu à Cologne en 2002, et Oslo est la ville où l'atelier de 2003 prendra place. En 2004, c'est l'Espagne qui organisera le congrès à Santander et 2005 verra le 9ème ICML à Sao Paulo, au Brésil. Stimulé par l'idée d'organiser des rencontres de plusieurs associations pour un grand congrès tel que le 8ème ICML, le Bureau a décidé que l'AEIBS participerait au 9ème ICML comme association.

Une rencontre du Conseil a aussi eu lieu à Londres. Les membres du Conseil ont fait un rapport sur le développement de leurs activités décidées à Amsterdam en janvier dernier. Cette rencontre n'était pas officielle et s'est déroulée dans une ambiance informelle. Pendant sa présidence, Manuela Colombi s'est efforcée d'avoir un contact meilleur avec les membres du Conseil afin de stimuler les membres à prendre une part directe aux activités de l'Association. Des résultats commencent à être visibles.



Lunchtime during 8ICML
(Marianne van der Heijden, Bureau Andromeda, NL)

Ensuite, il y eut les questions importantes de l'Assemblée Générale. En premier lieu, un président et de nouveaux membres du Bureau furent élus par ballot postal le printemps dernier. Les résultats de ces élections intéressantes sont données dans ce Bulletin d'Information. Le Bureau et un comité spécial présidé par Alice Nørhede du Danemark, avait travaillé assidûment pour reviser les statuts qui n'étaient plus à l'ordre du jour. Les propositions étaient accessibles sur notre site depuis Février dernier pour inviter des commentaires. Peu de commentaires nouveaux furent faits pendant l'Assemblée Générale. Un des points

importants est que désormais l'Association n'aura plus qu'une langue officielle, l'anglais. Toutefois, la tradition d'avoir le Français comme deuxième langue est respectée dans le Bulletin d'Information et les nouvelles de l'Association seront encore en Français.

Les nouveaux statuts furent adoptés ainsi que les Règles de Procédure. Les comptes-rendus du Congrès et les détails des réunions de l'AEIBS peuvent être consultés sur notre site.

Liisa Salmi
Première Vice-Présidente



Converge on London viewed from 4 different “angles”

For Carmen Bonciu from Iasi in Northern Romania “Converge on London” was the very first International Conference she had ever attended.

The End? Or a New Beginning?

Dream or reality?

Several months ago I finished my application for a grant that would enable me to participate in the 8ICML with the words “for me the participation in the ICML is a dream and it depends on you to make it come true”. Now here I am back from the wonderful city of London, trying to put the impressions I accumulated into some order, and this is not easy. Now more than ever I wonder: was it a dream or reality?

The Scientific Programme....

I never imagined how difficult it was for a “fresher” participant in such a big international conference to absorb and sift through so much information. I had studied the scientific programme before I arrived in London and I had marked the presentations I wanted to attend. The plenary sessions seriously made me reconsider our role as medical librarians while the convergence between librarians, editor, researchers opened for me a new direction of questions. This disturbed my carefully planned attendance of the parallel sessions as I tried to fit in those that shed more light upon these broad aspects. Most of all I like the fact that the full text of all the papers are now published on the



The British Library at the exhibition; Bruce Madge (left), Margaret Haines (right) (Tony McSeán, UK)

web, which gives me the possibility to read those I could not attend. It also opens access for all those who were not able to attend the 8ICML. I also appreciated so much the organizers’ efforts to select the relevant papers and plan the parallel sessions so that the idea of convergence came through. As a first time participant I was amazed at the richness of themes and research topics and at the same time pleasantly surprised to see that everyday problems faced by health science librarians all over the world did not differ essentially from those I knew.

The Exhibition....

The large number of exhibitors provided a comprehensive picture of offers from the publishing industry including software, databases and Internet development.

Book launchings completed this picture. A good thing was that as I went round the booths I could engage in lively and extremely illuminating discussions with the exhibitors or with colleagues.

Conclusions:

- Find your way - define your goal and seek for means of achieving it - method: listen, ask, select, process what you have learnt and apply it to your own library
- Become rich - accumulate information, acquire new skills and knowledge all the time - “talk” to other librarians from all over the world -cooperate - make friends
- Regrets - I wasn’t able to participate in the professional visits following the conference - I didn’t have the time to go round every booth in the exhibition thoroughly - I couldn’t attend all the presentations in the parallel sessions I wished -

The 8ICML is over now, but for me, and for many librarians I think, returning home meant a new beginning.

Carmen Bonciu

Central Medical Library,
UMF, Iasi, Romania



The British Library and St Pancras Station (Suzanne Bakker, NL)



Converge on London - Impressions from Poland.....

Re: subject

The large number of lectures presented by librarians and information professionals from strategic organisations and health care institutions indicated that their role in stimulating development of libraries and medical informatics was significant in many countries. This stimulation takes place usually either by the means of grants giving policy (e.g. NLM grants for American libraries) or through co-ordination activities following the example of the National Electronic Library for Health in Britain. We had the opportunity to listen to a large number of lectures dealing with meta-information; we found out about the resources available (particularly on Internet) and learnt about the problems of information retrieval in accordance with Evidence Based Medicine & Health Care. There were though only few presentations referring to the traditional library resources and this could indicate that the process of intensive use of multimedia of Internet is a fact. It seems that electronic journals together with other various forms of electronic delivery of documents and other services based on machine-readable literature have led to a qualitative transformation in the access to the resources, which is independent from the distance between a user and the library.



Westminster Abbey, just opposite the QE-II Conference Centre
(Suzanne Bakker, NL)



Chair and Speakers at the last plenary session, from left to right: Lois Ann Colaianne (formerly NLM Director of Library Services), Christine Deschamps (IFLA President) and Joanne Marshall, discussing the future of the health sciences information professional.

(Suzanne Bakker, NL)

Re: current trends

Libraries seem to have become more and more the active creators of information by means of developing metadata and new management tools. This function is particularly important considering the fact that nowadays library users more frequently do their searches by themselves. Broader access to the library resources with the help of computer networks can equalise the level of access to knowledge and information among highly developed and developing countries. Information professionals are confronted with great challenges and demands of a new speciality - a "knowledge manager". New demands are accompanied by new education profiles - traditional library education is not sufficient any more, at present information science and medical informatics are more adequate subjects to be taught during library and information studies. Lack of such changes in library studies curricula in many developing countries can be a serious drawback. It can result in a shortage of properly trained staff who would be able to use new information technologies and develop modern library functions.

Re: the role of associations and the will of co-operation

The congress showed a prominent role of professional associations, acting both internationally and in a particular country. These organisations demonstrated the will of the individual and institutions to cooperate together

in the common goal of searching for the best solutions and services. Their purpose is to create an environment in which complete information is available to everyone in a manner permitting better and quicker decisions to be made and for broadening innovation and creativity. Partnership among people representing different occupations and various platforms and levels of co-operation indicate that working together brings more favourable results than acting alone.

Re: the organisation of ICML

It should be emphasised that the organisation of the Congress (with over 1400 participants) was perfect, with only minor inconveniences - canteen queues which are unavoidable with so large an audience. For us - Poles and other Eastern Bloc countries, it was a strange reminder of past times: the long queues in shops which is still very much a recent memory. The extensive scientific programme would have been impossible to realise without parallel sessions: unfortunately, it made it impossible to attend all the interesting lectures. Certainly it cannot be treated as an objection; it is rather a positive evidence of increasing activity in medical librarianship.

...and last but not least - London is a marvellous city!!!

Anna Uryga & Lucjan Stalmach
Poland



Converge on London - Impressions from Iceland

It is important to forget one's own little world once in a while and to think more globally. The 8ICML was exactly such an opportunity, a very important event, giving us the golden chance to see what

issues were uppermost in our colleagues' minds all over the world and not surprisingly so many issues were of mutual concern! The problems facing the different countries are however not

always the same and it was enlightening to hear from countries so far away from us such as the African countries or even countries much closer, such as the Baltic countries, that seem to have accomplished so much in the last few years. We have a great admiration for our colleagues in those countries.

Many thanks to the people of the different committees that organized the 8ICML so well (lunch queues are already forgotten...!) and to the many excellent speakers both at the plenary sessions and the smaller parallel sessions who left us so much to think about. Being able to look at their contributions on the web is very useful and gives the conference still more depth. Planned visits at the end of the conference were also an opportunity that we wouldn't have missed for anything.

Greetings from Iceland,

**Margret Gunnarsdottir &
Fanney Kristbjarnardottir**



Tony McSeán and his team of the BMA Library, at the closing of the congress (Suzanne Bakker, NL)

MOVE OF EAHIL SECRETARIAT

EAHIL secretariat will move by the October 1st, 2000 from Amsterdam to Utrecht. The secretarial services will be provided by the bureau of the Netherlands Library Association (NVB). The NVB has extensive experience in running a membership, meetings and courses administrations & registrations, and in providing secretarial assistance to a library association. The present staff members of the NVB Bureau have good language skills: all can manage well in English, one also in French and another also in German.

The actual move of materials (actual files, archives, stock) will be on Monday September 18th. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause due to a reduced level of secretarial services expected during September.

EAHIL Bank account numbers will not change.

The EAHIL Executive Board has announced this move during the General

Assembly in London. With the agreed upon changes of the EAHIL Statutes the seat of the Association to be mentioned in the new Statutes, will therefore become Utrecht.

NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR EAHIL SECRETARIAT

(valid from October 1st, 2000):

phone + 31 30 2619663
fax + 31 30 2311830
e-mail: EAHIL-secr@nic.surfnet.nl
website: <http://www.eahil.org>

Secretariat EAHIL
Plompstorengracht 11
3512 CA Utrecht
the Netherlands

Pour le 1er octobre 2000, le secrétariat de l'AEIBS aura quitté Amsterdam pour Utrecht. Le bureau de l'Association néerlandaise des Bibliothèques (NVB) prestera tous les services de secrétariat pour nous.

La NVB a une grande expérience de la gestion de membres, l'organisation de réunions et de cours et dans la fourniture d'assistance en secrétariat aux associations de bibliothécaires. Les membres de l'équipe du Bureau de la NVB ont de bonnes connaissances linguistiques : ils pratiquent tous l'anglais, l'un d'eux connaît aussi le français et un autre l'allemand. Le déménagement effectif du matériel (dossiers, archives et stock) aura lieu le lundi 18 septembre. En septembre, le secrétariat ne fournira que les services minimaux et nous nous excusons des inconvénients que cela pourrait entraîner. Le compte bancaire de l'AEIBS ne sera pas modifié.

Ce déménagement a été annoncé lors de l'Assemblée générale à Londres. Suite à l'accord sur le changement, l'adresse d'Utrecht sera mentionnée comme siège social dans les nouveaux statuts.

Suzanne Bakker
EAHIL Executive Board
Assistant Secretary



Converge on London - Differences between ICML and MLA Conferences

1. At MLA there is no accompanying persons plan of tours for spouses or children.
My husband Jerry and daughter Catherine really enjoyed these tours.
2. MLA meetings usually start earlier.
Most mornings committee meetings start at 7 or 7:30, and often vendors offer breakfast meetings to teach the participants about their products. It seemed very nice NOT to have to be at the conference center until 9 because the location of the conference was not a conference hotel. I am accustomed to staying in the convention hotel and going back and forth to my room and then to the conference. In London, I had to plan to leave my hotel with enough travel time to arrive at the convention site on time.
3. Planning the 8ICML took much longer than planning at MLA. This is understandable since it involved the entire world of medical librarians.
4. The word "Venue" beside the location of an event in the conference program was a new word for me. We would say location, but when I looked it up in the dictionary, venue means location.
5. The number of simultaneous presentations at the 8ICML was much larger than MLA.
6. The security of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center was much greater than I have ever experienced at MLA. I am sure this is because the Centre is so near Parliament.
7. Getting to meet and see so many medical librarians from all over the globe was a wonderful experience and everywhere I had interesting conversations.

Donna Flake



EAHIL Executive Board and MLA representatives having renewed the agreement for cooperation between the associations. From left to right: Manuela Colombi, Suzanne Bakker, Carla Funk, Meile Kretaviciene, Alice Nørhede, Liisa Salmi, Tony McSeán, Ros Dudden, Susan Grefsheim, Ulrich Korwitz, Arne Jakobsson, Elisabeth Husem.

(Tony McSeán, UK)



MLA Meets in Vancouver

The joint meeting of the Medical Library Association and the Canadian Health Libraries Association was held May 5-11, 2000 in Vancouver, Canada.

The theme of the meeting was "Demystifying the Dragon: Strategies for 2000 Plus."

We had Canadian hospitality and beautiful vistas of snow capped mountains across a gorgeous harbor.

2,432 people attended the conference.

Thirty-six continuing Education Courses were offered on topics as diverse as Alternative Health Care, Research Design, Benchmarking, Applied Quantitative Methods, Web Site Architecture, Ethnic Awareness, Copyright, Bioethics, and Licensing of Electronic Resources.

At the opening session of the conference,

EAHIL's own Elizabeth Husem expressed greetings from EAHIL with warmth, poise, and a great smile.

Most mornings of the conference began with sunrise breakfast seminars at 7:30 a.m. from companies such as EBSCO, OVID Technologies, SilverPlatter, Swets Blackwell, and others.

The Plenary sessions were excellent and well attended.

Tom Ferguson, MD, presented "Digital Doctoring: Health Online and the Empowered Medical Consumer."

David Suzuki, Ph.D. spoke on the Ecological Millennium: Setting the Bottom Line."

Dr. Suzuki gave a dynamic presentation encouraging his audience to care about the environment and help it to recover.

I enjoyed the Awards Luncheon and

Ceremony where thirty-eight persons received awards.

Shane Godbolt, from Britain was inducted into the prestigious Honorary Membership of MLA at the awards ceremony.

MLA has bestowed only nineteen Honorary

Memberships in its history. Qualifications for Honorary Membership are that a person must demonstrate outstanding achievement, notable leadership, have made an impact on the advancement of MLA's mission and have an outstanding professional reputation.

MLA honorary members are elected for life.

One of the most interesting presentations was the one by Elliot Siegel, Ph.D., of the US National Library of Medicine.

His topic was "Getting Health Information to the World: International Programs at the National Library of Medicine."

(See elsewhere in this newsletter for an overview of his comments.)

The new Sister Library Initiative of MLA's International Cooperation Section with Latvia and Antigua generated much enthusiasm and conversation.

(See article on The Medical Research Library of Latvia and MLA.)

The meeting concluded with the nine hour conference symposium on Electronic Journals.

Donna Flake

MLA representative to EAHIL



View over the city of Vancouver, BC.

(Donna Flake, USA)



NLM Global Health Partnerships - a Review of Dr Elliot Siegel's Presentation in Vancouver

Dr. Elliot R. Siegel, Associate Director for Health Information Programs Development at NLM, presented an excellent program at MLA in Vancouver on NLM's Global Health Partnerships. He discussed International MEDLARS Centers, which used to register their users when NLM charged for MEDLINE.

The International MEDLARS Centers helped NLM by assisting with indexing the medical literature from their countries. NLM is now taking a broader view of our global community, and in 1998 NLM created a New Global plan.

The priorities of the International plan are:

- 1.) Connectivity
- 2.) Document Delivery
- 3.) Special Needs of Developing Countries

In December 1998, NLM held a meeting of people from as many international MEDLARS Centers as could attend. Internet has greatly helped spread medical information globally, but some libraries in developing countries have problems with Internet because

telecommunications are below standards and there are frequent power cuts.

NLM has a multicultural initiative on Malaria. NLM has worked very closely with Mali and other African locations on this initiative. Other new NLM initiatives include setting up International Docline centers. With this, NLM works with institutions of a country in order to initiate its libraries to cooperate and help each other.

One problem is that some libraries are not large enough to be a Docline center. One year ago, Dr. Siegel and others from NLM had a meeting in Taiwan to encourage libraries in Taiwan to cooperate with libraries in nearby countries for document delivery and other endeavors.

Now Taiwan and Singapore and Malaysia are working together.

Also, many libraries in China are now doing interlibrary loans with libraries in Vietnam.

The British Library is working with a

German document delivery center to encourage document delivery among European libraries.

NLM is encouraging and supporting library-to-library partnerships. Dr. Siegel mentioned the sister library arrangement between Emory University Medical Library and a medical library in Georgia in the USSR. He also mentioned a sister library arrangement between a medical library in Zambia and the University of Florida. Dr. Siegel also praised the work of Lenny Rhine in promoting Sister Libraries for many years, and also congratulated and applauded the MLA International Cooperation Section Sister Library Initiatives with Latvia and Antigua.

Dr. Siegel's presentation prompted several questions and also words of thanks to NLM for the role NLM is taking in global outreach.

Donna Flake

MLA representative to EAHIL

Can You Help Locate Former Cunningham Fellows?

The MLA Cunningham Fellowship is a program which brings medical librarians from outside the US and Canada to the US for 4 months of work and study. One Cunningham Fellow is selected each year and typically the Cunningham Fellow visits 12 libraries from February to May. In February 1999 the MLA Board approved the appointment of a Cunningham Fellowship Program Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to the charge and all aspects of the Cunningham Fellowship. The task force members are Donna Flake (Chair), John Breinich, Elizabeth Connor, Elizabeth Eaton, Ruth Fenske, Jacqueline Doyle, Frieda Weise, and Anne Greenspan. The committee meets approximately every six weeks by conference call. The first face-to-face meeting was in Vancouver at the Annual MLA Meeting. We require help in locating these former Cunningham Fellows. Any information is helpful; however, optimally we need addresses, phone numbers and email.

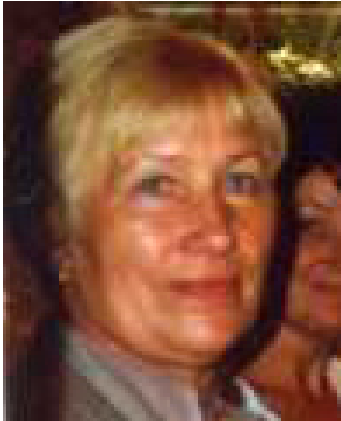
Dates of Visit	Cunningham Fellow	Cunningham Fellow's Home Institution
1974/75	Lucita B. Dones	Women's University, Manila, Philippines
1977/78	Maria Dulcinea Nunes	University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal
1978/79	Catherine Pi-Ying Yang	China Medical College, Taischung, Taiwan
1979/80	Margaret Okeke	University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
1980/81	Erna G. Klopfer	University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa
1981/82	Teresita Chavez Moran	Our Lady of Peace Hospital, Manila,
1983/84	Mahesh P.S.	JIM Medical College, Davangere, Karnataka, India
1985/86	Chandraiya	Fiji Medical School, Suva, Fiji
1987/88	Sitsofe Afua Dzansi	The University of Ghana Medical School Library, Accra, Ghana

Donna Flake

dbf1@med.unc.edu



Dreams and Reality



The State can not exist without health care: the State and health care cannot exist without information. Both the health care system and the role of the library in it depends on how thick the cloak of the State is, and what are its priorities. What can be achieved by libraries under the Ministry of Welfare (there is no Ministry of Health in Latvia) with 9 branches in the largest cities of Latvia? A lot can be done but is there a possibility to develop, to continue what has been started? Unfortunately there are more questions than answers nowadays. Let's have a look at the statistics in our library, the Medical Research Library of Latvia. This library is the main source of medical literature in the country: it holds around 583,000 printed materials. This number also includes books and periodicals from the beginning of the century, which have only historical significance. In 1999 there were 1249 new acquisitions, 2100 issues of journals (mainly donations) received by our library and its branches. In 2000 we were able to take out 11 journal subscriptions in English and 67 titles in Russian. In 1999, 56% of all materials given out was in Russian, 22% in Latvian and 22% in other languages. Our Inter-Library Loan statistics showed we received 2900 articles and books.

Our users comprise 8000 employees of health care institutions and students. In the Central Library 53% of all visitors are doctors, 28% students, 5% nurses and the remaining 16% includes scientific personnel, specialists of related fields and others. In the branches 40% of total visitors are doctors and 31% - nurses. There are 40 librarians working in total in its main library and its branches.

Historical materials and new technology exist side by side in our library. There is an electronic catalogue in the library, which is also available on Internet (the number of records at the end of year 1999 was 16550). Our most valuable source of information is the PROQUEST medical library database: it depleted most of our budget.

We are using also on-line EBSCO DB Comprehensive Medline with full text. This project is common for all Latvia's libraries and is supported by the Soros foundation. We have not got the Cochrane database yet.

A survey among health care specialists working both in Riga and regions was carried out in our library. We distributed around 600 questionnaires with questions about the use of Internet, language proficiency. We ourselves were surprised by the data gathered – only 32% of all respondents were using computers. 57% knew at least one foreign language (omitting Russian). This was the situation one year ago and it was then we anticipated the possibility of changing something.

Now we have taken on the responsibility of becoming guides in this chaotic world of information – medicine on the Internet. Our goal is to facilitate this process of dissemination, to help save time and

money by offering as wide and varied information as possible and leaving the evaluation and analysis of this information to specialists themselves. Our task is not only to attract the attention of health care specialists with new and interesting information but also to keep them interested by offering services of the highest quality. After we have learnt about medicine on the Internet we want to introduce this new knowledge to our specialists in health care. We are using our library home page <http://www.mzb.lv> to achieve this goal. Information on library services, lists of new books and journals for those who do not want to spend time looking for them in the catalogue and current news available on our home page have been accompanied by an electronic guide to medicinal resources. It includes around 700 sites organised by MeSH. In the electronic guide to our home page we have put a lot of information including full texts of publications and databases, which do not require pre-paid registration. We are improving our home page which we are creating ourselves with great enthusiasm. We are endeavouring to replace information as soon as it has become non-current.

Another very important task is to deliver information on our activities to our users. We used to disseminate this information through a medical magazine, but it was too slow and inefficient. Therefore we organised a demonstration lecture, together with the University of Latvia, Faculty of Medicine for Faculty staff. We got a surprisingly large amount of response and interest and now we are receiving more and more requests for visits and

lectures on Internet resources. We do not yet consider ourselves as experts in Internet searches but we are continually learning in the process and are happy to share our experiences.

Different institutions are interested in different things; some are interested in anatomy materials, others in Internet resources or treatment for osteoporosis. Sometimes there are no computers of full Internet connections available to them. Then we offer to come with our computer and with information from Internet saved on the hard disk. We always invite people to visit our library where all things we are demonstrating and in addition the full assistance of our staff, are available.

Through our activities we are trying to encourage people, and help them to overcome their fear of computers and understand the importance of a virtual library information gathering process. We are not only trying to assist; we realize that we are able to help them in obtaining two major things – time and information. We have realized that an abundance of unsorted information is the same as a lack of information. The result is the same; the reader leaves the library unsatisfied. Our task is not to let this happen. Therefore we keep working, and at moments when it seems almost too difficult to go on we look back at our achievements and realize that we have to keep going; we cannot stop. Only continual movement ensures progress; this is one of the main principles of life. We are grateful to everyone who has supported us in our work.

Velta Poznaka

Medical Research Library of Latvia



Impressions from a visit to the Medical Research Library in Riga

The Baltic countries are geographically and culturally close to the Nordic countries and medical libraries in Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden cooperate with libraries in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Finland has taken a special interest in its neighbour, Estonia.

Norway and Denmark cooperate with Lithuania and Sweden with Latvia.

In order to create personal contacts within medical libraries in Latvia, I made a short visit from Sweden to Riga in late 1998 and visited two medical libraries. The Library of the Medical Academy of Latvia ([http://](http://www.aml.lv)

www.aml.lv) gives service to the faculties of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health. The Academy library is modern and spacious with a new reading room, and in 1998 over 30 new Internet connected computers for the students.

The situation at the Medical Research Library of Latvia (<http://www.mzb.lv>) is different. The library is housed in a small, unsuitable building in an old hospital in central Riga.

The Research Library collects and organizes scientific and clinical information in medicine and fields related

to medicine. Physicians, medical scientists, nurses and students use the library and borrow more than 200,000 documents per year. The library has a small but very competent staff.

The medical bibliographical index "Scientific Medical Literature of Latvia" is published by the library and all documents included in the online catalogues are indexed in English, Russian and Latvian. The staff has accomplished a lot and the library has its own website and a catalogue online. Unfortunately the library has a very tight budget which allows few subscriptions to medical journals and makes the library dependent on interlibrary document deliveries. The library has more or less informal agreements with over 100 libraries that deliver free articles. Of 3570 ordered ILL's, only 109 were fulfilled within Latvia last year. The rest of the completed ILL's were borrowed from Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany. The library has had various support over the years and acknowledge this on its website. Latterly the Medical Research Library has been selected by the American Medical Library Association's International Section for help, support and cooperation for the coming 5-7 years. Hopefully this will give the library a boost. The staff are prepared. They just don't have all the tools they require to give the service they have plans for.



A view over the city of Riga, capital of Latvia

(Donna Flake, USA)

Eva Alopaeus

The Medical Research Library of Latvia and MLA

The Medical Research Library of Latvia located in Latvia's capital city, Riga, has been chosen for a special honor and a special program. The Medical Library Association's International Cooperation Section (ICS) selected The Medical Research Library of Latvia as one of two libraries worldwide for its new Sister Library Initiative. (The other library is the Medical Library of Holberton Hospital in St. Johns Antigua in the Caribbean; however, Latvia is the topic of this report.) The Medical Research Library of Latvia serves as the National Medical Library of Latvia.

It coordinates 9 branch libraries throughout Latvia. The Director of the

Latvian Library, Dr. Raisa Kazankina, has graciously accepted the invitation to join the Sister Library Initiative.

Dr. Kazankina appointed her deputy director, Velta Poznaka, to be the primary contact for the program.

The next step after selecting a library and gaining the acceptance of the library director, was to carefully determine the needs of the library. Velta has been communicating regularly with members of the Sister Library Initiative and sharing the needs of her library.

To further determine the needs of the library, Livija Carlson will visit Riga and the library in August. Livija is currently the head of the Veterinary Medical Library



Raisa Kazankina, Library Director of the Medical Research Library of Latvia



HIGHLIGHT ON LATVIA

at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minnesota; however, she is Latvian by birth and fluent in the Latvian language. She has also worked closely with the veterinary library in Jelgava, Latvia, and has many U.S.-Latvian contacts. A much more thorough needs assessment of the Medical Research Library of Latvia will be done with Livija's visit. She will work with library staff on a more thorough needs assessment and developing a plan of action to help meet these requirements.

Some of the components of the MLA International Cooperation Section Sister Library Initiative will be:

- 1.) Identifying US libraries willing to provide a limited number of free interlibrary loans to our two Sister Library Initiative partners.

Prior to the creation of the Sister Library Initiative, Eva Alopaeus from the Kliniska Centralbiblioteket in Göteborg, Sweden, partnered with Latvian medical libraries to provide free interlibrary loans from Swedish medical libraries to Latvian medical libraries. Eva is going to coordinate requests for interlibrary loans from the Medical Research

Library of Latvia with US medical libraries who will provide free interlibrary loans. (At the annual meeting of MLA in Vancouver in May 2000, Eva Alopaeus and Elizabeth Husem met with members of the Sister Library Initiative to brainstorm, plan, and coordinate.)

- 2.) Identifying US libraries willing to donate books and journals to our two Sister Library Initiative Members.

The program has received a great deal of publicity and favorable comment in the US via the MLA News and was an important topic of conversation at the MLA/CHLA joint meeting which was held in early May in Vancouver, Canada. As of June 2000, about 10 libraries have offered materials to the Sister Library Initiative. After the needs assessment has been completed, we can clearly identify which books and journals the Medical Research Library of Latvia require. We know many more libraries will come forward to offer materials.

- 3.) Fundraising to raise money for travel to professional meetings, classes, hardware, and other library needs of the two sister libraries. This

objective still needs much refining and work.

Over the next 7 years the Medical Research Library of Latvia and the Antigua Hospital Library will partner with the Sister Library Initiative Program. Following the initial project, the plan is to apply this model in order to partner with one or two other interested libraries.

Members of the Sister Library Initiative are:
Vicki Croft - Chair of Sister Library Initiative

Latvian Subcommittee:

Donna Flake - Chair
Livija Carlson
Leslie Macker

Antigua Subcommittee:

Avril Reid - Chair
Barbara Ruelle
Janet Fisher
Other Members:
Diane Ebro
Lenny Rhine

Donna Flake
MLA - International Cooperation
Section



BOOK REVIEW

Digital Libraries: Philosophies, Technical Design Considerations, and Example Scenarios / David Stern (ed) .- New York; London; Oxford: Haworth, 1999. (co-published as: Science & Technology Libraries 1999;17(3/4)) pp. 230. ISBN 0-7890-0769-X \$60.00 hb.

This book is a monograph simultaneously published as a double issue of Science & Technology Libraries, which is quite usual in Haworth's publishing policy. It comprises a compilation of articles on different subjects, unrelated to each other, collected by editorial invitation and choice. There is no indication about how the authors or the subjects were selected, nor whether these articles were presented at any meeting. In the first chapter, Philosophies, four

authors present their views and thoughts about organization, collection development in, evaluation of, and search & navigation techniques in the digital library. These authors present their considerations without drawing firm conclusions or statements. Accordingly they add an insight to the complexity of libraries in general and the digital library in particular. In the second chapter, Technical Design Considerations, four articles explain features and elements like data exchange protocols and query and markup languages and it is interesting to read how standardized can have different appearances. The two articles on interface design and object-enhanced user interfaces give an insight into these subjects. In this fast developing field the articles may be

already outdated, but the principles are well-explained.

The third chapter, Example Scenarios, consists of two articles, one about geographic information and another about patents. These show particular features of electronic resources and therefore underline some of the specialties and advantages of digital libraries, but in fact these articles are rather short.

The publication is an interesting issue of the journal, containing high quality articles. However, although published independently, it is not actually a monograph *in sensu strictu* and therefore it is hard to conclude at which audience this publication is aimed.

Suzanne Bakker



HOW TO ... Restrict access to Websites delivering pharmaceutical information



Are you providing drug information through a website to doctors and pharmacists? Be aware that European law envisages information on drugs for human use as advertising, particularly the information provided by pharmaceutical industries (EU directive 92/28). Be aware also that in certain countries also the prescribing information (leaflets for patients and datasheet for doctors) must be delivered to health professionals only to avoid undue pressure from the patient in the giving of prescriptions. According to European law, drug information should be conveyed exclusively to doctors (prescribers) and pharmacists (dispensers) of drugs. To protect your website therefore you should implement a reliable procedure of selected accesses for the areas where you are supplying advertising on drugs -a sort of headache in internet.

The couplet “username” and “password” is a good system. But who would be entitled to receive them. A way could be asking your reps to distribute preliminary usernames and passwords, with a possibility of changing them into personal ones even though this is not the way internet and the information provided for the web, works. Websites are generally found through navigation and accesses required in the net and reps could be a good way of promoting your website. In some countries a self-declaration stating the profession might be accepted; others might be more comfortable with details of membership of professional societies or even a copy of the degree. It is an object of debate whether an electronic self-declaration would be accepted with or without details of membership of professional societies or require a faxed confirmation and provide access after it and in the case of the electronic self-declaration whether you foresee a check on a certain percentage of the data supplied. If you decide for both an electronic self-certification and faxed documentation or delivery through your reps, the time involved in defining the process and its management is tremendous.

Furthermore you are expected to keep a file of your transactions or of the documents faxed and it is probably enough to decide to make you settle for a window-website, instead of a very informative website. One way round this issue is the adoption of a central

service, like DocCheck (<http://www.doccheck.com>) largely used in Germany and in 5 other European countries.

DocCheck is a free service which enables the access to restricted areas of different websites with one personal password. The advantage is not only for the supplier of information, which is free from the trouble of checking its access, but also for the user, who has one only password to remember. It complies with the European directives and local laws on drug information and privacy.

For an example see <http://www.Roteliste.de>. In case you decide to do everything yourself you should keep in mind four very important points:

1. the legal environment, i.e. the legal status in your country of a self-declaration, a faxed document, an electronic statement, etc.
 2. the law on advertising drugs for human use
 3. any directive or circular letter issued by your health authorities about the use of internet
 4. any code of practice issued by the local association of pharmaceutical industries on the use of internet
- Benchmarking, i.e. looking at what other websites are doing, is a good practice provided that you check the feasibility of the process you are willing to implement with your health authorities.

Luisa Vercellesi



Dear Colleagues,



Great expectations for the next decade. A special issue of *Health Libraries Review* discusses the metamorphoses of libraries and information services. France is to create the "Grande Ecole de l' Internet". The two-year programme will begin teaching courses in fields from computer science to electronic commerce (Nature, 2000, 405, 381). A new profession "The Informationist": the informationists must have "a clear and solid understanding of both information science and essentials clinical works....working skills of retrieving, synthesizing, and presenting medical information..." (Annals of Internal Medicines, 2000, 132, 996). For the next decade a new name but same skills!

Giovanna F. Miranda
Co-Editor & Publications

JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of 1st May 2000, the following journal issue of *Health Libraries Review* has been received: vol. 17, 2000, no. 1

This is a special issue about the way in which library and information services might metamorphose over the next decade and about the opportunities that these changes will present for our future professional development.

J. Palmer. Editorial p. 1

J. Lancaster. Planning the future by the present: a personal view. p.2-6.

J. Murphy. The role of health science librarians in preparing tomorrow's doctors to manage information. p.7-13.

J. Yeoh. Nursing information needs: what next? p.14-16.

J. G. Marshall. Building health sciences library education in the 21st century. p.17-18.

L. Coelho. A small step to the future. p.19-21.

S. Oliver. Revolutionizing how we generate new knowledge: a challenge for librarians, health professionals, service users and researchers. p.22-25.

R. Jones. Developments in consumer health informatics in the next decade. p.26-31.

V. Grier. Health information for the millennium and beyond. p.32-36.

N. Pakenham-Walsh. Access to reliable information for healthcare workers in developing countries: an international perspective. p.37-40.

S. Bakker. To mediate or not: it depends on the medium. p.41-45.

B. Toth, J. A. Muir Gray, V. Fraser, R. Ward. National electronic library for health: progress and prospects. p.46-50.

J. Rashbass. Will technology kill the healthcare library? p.51-55.

Innovations online. (D. Charnock and S. Shepperd). p. 56.

Research (J. Farmer and D. Williams) p. 59.

Health Libraries Review: vol. 17, 2000, no. 2

A. L. Weightman and M. K. Mann. Evidence in seconds? Format and design considerations in the provision of reliable information to support evidence-based practice. p.63-70.

Evidence based practice is gaining support amongst health professionals. However, the major barrier remains the lack of time to read the literature. The *Health Evidence Bulletins Wales* offer a two-column format. In the first column, brief statements summarize the best available evidence within a topic area. In the second, full details are provided of the supporting publications.

P. Bailey, L. Banwell, S. Kinghorn, H. McFarlane, G. Walton. Information needs analysis to inform the development of a library and information service at the Marie Curie Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. p.71-76. The University of Newcastle assists the Marie Curie Centre in developing a library and information service strategy.

J. Sweetland. Users' perceptions of the impact of the information provided by a Consumer Health Information service: an in-depth study of six users. p.77- 82. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with six consecutive users of the centre asking about a health problem for themselves. The themes to explore were cognitive effects, affective effects, and behavioural effects.

S. L. Bryant. The information needs and information seeking behaviour of family doctors: a selective literature review. p.83-90.

The aim of this literature review is to indicate publications that have made significant contribution to understanding of the information wants, needs, behaviour and preferences of family physicians and to identify areas in which there is scope for further research.

A. Gillies. Information support for general practice in the new NHS. p.91-96.

This paper describes a model (GPIMM: General Practice Information Maturity Model) for the assessment and managed change of information maturity within general practice, and examines the health librarians' role in the process of change. P. J. Stokes. Medical information provision in Seychelles: development, current state and future focus. p.97-102. This report describes the current situation at the library and the vision for the next 10 years.

Innovations online. B. Anagnostelis. p. 103. Brief Communications p.110



BOOKS REVIEW

L'évolution de la fonction Information-Docummentation. Résultats de l'enquête ADBS 1999. By B. Roederer, Cofremca – Sociovision. 2000, 159 pp. FF 185 (+21 francs de port). ADBS Editions, ISBN 2 84365 038 0.

A survey on information professionals activities in France (services, new technologies, Internet, etc).

Peer Review in Health Sciences. By F. Godlee and T. Jeffersons. 2000. 286 pp. £ 30. BMJ Books, ISBN 0 7279 1181 3. This book is an up to date compilation on the subject showing how the system has evolved and is still evolving.

PAPERS REVIEW

The Informationist : A new Health profession?. F. Davidoff and V. Florance. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2000, 132 (12), 996.

Ease of use versus user control: an evaluation of Web and non-Web interfaces of online databases. H. I. Xie and C. Cool. *Online Information Review*, 2000, 24 (2), 102.

Conflicted Copy Rights. Electronic articles: a battle for control and ownership of content. S. C. Ardito. *Online*, 2000, 24 (3), 84.

What every medical librarian should know about MEDLINEplus. R. B. Fitzpatrick and G. Hendler. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*, 1999, 18 (4), 11.

Distance learning on the World Wide Web: a review for academic librarians. M. K. Moody. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 1999, 4 (3), 57.

INFORMATION SOURCES

..... Web-based

NHS Economic Evaluation Database. The database currently holds 1800-structured abstract of full economic evaluation (cost effectiveness, cost utility, and cost benefit studies) and bibliographic details of 1953 cost studies, 649 reviews and 459 studies methodology. The NHS Economic

Evaluation Database project is commissioned by NHS Research and Development Programme to disseminate the principal findings to clinicians and their decision makers by means structured abstracts. The abstracts are freely accessible on the Internet. <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd>

Science and technology dictionary. The dictionary includes a short description of terms, and some illustrations. Users can perform a keyword search or browse scientific topics such as Life Sciences, Medicine, Physical Sciences, and Computer Science. The site is a free scientific resource. <http://www.harcourt.com/dictionary>

NEWS FROM EDITORS

The Stanford University's HighWire Press has announced that publishers of the journals it hosts now provide free online access to the full text of more than 137,000 articles. HighWire Press offer three entirely free journals, 51 journals offering free back issues and 32 offering free trial access. The publisher also offers "toll-free linking" of articles. <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>

EBSCO Publishing has created two new databases entirely full-text. Biomedical Fulltext Collection is a comprehensive compilation of nearly 550 titles covering such disciplines as clinical medicine, nursing, health management information, veterinary medicine, etc. Biomedical Fulltext Collection also allows users to link from citations in other databases. Health Business FullTEXT Elite contains full text from nearly 500 journals covering all aspects of health care administration and other non-clinical aspects of health care institution management. These databases are available online via search interface EBSCOMed. <http://www.epnet.com>

The EBSCO Subscription Services Vantage Point series periodically addresses important issues in the serials information arena. We offer a unique knowledgeable perspective on these issues based on our experience as a leading integrated information service provider.

We believe this perspective can clarify ways in which these issues affect your library and organization. The new issue "Preserving Digital Information" contains reprints of three speeches given by practicing librarians at EBSCO Subscription Services' Executive Seminar for directors of Association of Research Libraries at the 2000 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting. Should you be interested in reading

* Strategic Issues: Technology, Trends and Solution by Clifford Lynch

* Institutional Expectations and Commitments at the University of Michigan by William Gosling

* Applying Preservation Strategies: The Cornell Experience by Anne R. Kenney Please contact EBSCO Information Service to obtain your free copy.

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OVID announced release of its Ovid OpenLinks external full text linking solution. OpenLinks is a software add-on for Ovid Web Gateway Version 4.1.0 that enables users to link from search results in their Ovid bibliographic databases to full text journal articles located on remote publishers' Web sites. To implement OpenLinks, a customer purchases electronic subscriptions to full text journals from the publisher, and the OpenLinks software from Ovid. For more information, call Ovid at (800) 950-2035 in the U.S. or contact your nearest Ovid office or distributor.

NEWS FROM EUROPE

Renardus project - It is a collaborative project that aims to improve access to a range of existing Internet-based information services across Europe and to develop quality-controlled subjects gateways. Renardus partners are drawn from European library and other information communities. It is funded under the European Union's Programme "Promoting a user-friendly information society". <http://www.renardus.org>



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13-18 August 2000, Jerusalem, Israel

66th IFLA General Conference: "Information for co-operation: creating the global library of the future"

For further information: <http://sites.huji.ac.il/IFLA2000>

16-18 August, Göteborg, Sweden

ISIC 2000. Information Seeking in Context: The third international conference on information needs, seeking and use in different contexts

For further information: <http://www.hb.se/bhs/bibvet/isic/>

18-23 October, Frankfurt, Germany

52nd Frankfurt Book Fair

For further information: <http://www.frankfurter-buchmesse.de/bookfair/navigation-e.html>

22-25 October 2000, Annecy, France

The 2000 International Chemical Information Conference & Exhibition

For further information: <http://www.infonortics.com>

5-7 December 2000, London, UK

Online Information 2000

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

7-9 June 2001, Alghero (Sardinia), Italy

EAHIL WORKSHOP - 2001: Cyberspace Odyssey

Abstracts of presentations to be submitted before 31 October 2000, preferentially via the workshop website,

<http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm>,

or by e-mail to: Manuela Colombi mcolombi@jacit.jnj.com

or Vanna Pistotti bib@irfmm.mnagri.it

For further information:

<http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm>

16-21 September 2002, Cologne, Germany

EAHIL CONFERENCE 8th ECMHL: Thinking globally - Acting locally

As soon as more information is available, this will be linked to the EAHIL website <http://www.eahil.org>

25-29 June 2003, Oslo, Norway

Nordic - Baltic- EAHIL Workshop: Cross boundaries - Join forces!

As soon as more information is available, this will be linked to the EAHIL website <http://www.eahil.org>

Giovanna F. Miranda

OBITUARY - David W C Stewart 1941 - 2000

David Stewart, Librarian of the Royal Society of Medicine between 1977 and 1995, died recently following a fall at his home just north of London.

It is the measure of the man, that when David Stewart retired from the RSM and dropped out of professional life, he left a gap in the professional and social fabric of UK medical librarianship that many of us still find apparent more than four years later.

A man who combined scholarly grace with an extraordinary charm, David's untimely death has left friends and former colleagues all over the world mourning the death of a good man. David was born in Athlone, in the geographic centre of Ireland in 1941 and, the first of many distinctions, won a scholarship to Galway Grammar School at the age of eleven.

Following school he took his degree in English, history and economics at Trinity College Dublin. At some point during his time at university he made up his mind to make a career as a librarian and on leaving Trinity in 1963 he took up a post as a Library Assistant at the Royal Society of Medicine in London with a view to studying part-time for his professional qualifications. He completed the Library Association examinations and was admitted as an Associate of the Library Association in 1971.

The whole of David's career was spent at the RSM, whose members he served with distinction for 32 years. On becoming a professional librarian he was promoted to Assistant Librarian at the beginning of 1964 and then successively Chief Assistant Librarian (1966), Library Research Assistant

(1973) and then Deputy Librarian in 1973. He served as deputy to Philip Wade for four years — a period of intensive professional development that he would speak fondly of long after, particularly of an extended visit to North America. If this was what would now be called "succession planning" by the RSM, it succeeded admirably, and David duly succeeded to the post of Librarian in 1977.

A man of undoubted professional abilities, which led to *inter alia* his being elected a Fellow of the Medical Library Association, David also exemplified the personal qualities necessary to survive and thrive as librarian of a scholarly society with many famous and active members. For most members, the RSM's library has traditionally been its most important asset and during David's tenure it managed to embrace the emergence of the electronic world without losing touch with its important curatorial heritage and its notable historical collections. David would lean effortlessly against his public persona of the genial, cultured Irish scholar and smooth over difficulties that would have had a more explosive person tearing his hair out.

At conferences and meetings he would chair sessions with wit and efficiency, make elegant presentations and, above all, be at the heart of one of the happiest groups at each social event. There was a lot of the real David in that persona, but it was by no means the whole man.

From the strong foundation of his happy family and strong Christian belief, he worked with intelligence and commitment against

poverty in the developing world and for the Labour Party in the UK.

In the opinion of this writer, the circumstances of David's early retirement from the RSM are such as to bring shame on those who precipitated it. Under a very great deal of pressure he chose, typically, to go with quiet dignity rather than fight his corner and risk damaging the institution to which he had devoted his whole professional life.

In retirement he gave his energies both to his good causes and to the running of his local Anglican church, where he was active in parish affairs and where he found comfort and satisfaction in using his talents to ensure that the everyday management of the church went like clockwork.

David's broad range of interests and the affection and respect in which he was held was illustrated by the large congregation that attended his funeral and by the warmth with which he was remembered. At the closing ceremony of the 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, his contribution to bringing the congress to London was marked by a special presentation.

David is survived by his wife, Audrey and his daughter Catherine, of whom he often spoke with uncharacteristic pride — and by a host of friends who would give a great deal to see again his quiet grin above his awful bow ties.

Tony McSeán

BMA Library

Chair of the 8ICML Organizing Committee