

NEWS LETTER

TO EUROPEAN
HEALTH LIBRARIANS

DES BIBLIOTHECAIRES EUROPEENS
DE LA SANTE



European Association for Health Information and Libraries

Association Européenne pour l'information et les Bibliothèques de santé

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Dix livres de chirurgie. Paris, J. Le Royer, 1564.

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EDITORIAL

New Technologies: Patience, Goodwill and Optimism

This is a decisive time in the world of information science and documentation. The nineties will certainly bring important technological advances applicable to libraries, which all of us who work in these services, will have to assimilate.

It was in the sixties that the first computers were introduced in North American Libraries, but in Spain this occurred somewhat later. Until the arrival of these "invaders", there had been only gradual changes in the traditional library services. The introduction of these new machines, however, brought about decisive changes which were not to the liking of many librarians, some of whom openly rejected this new technology. When it was shown that these machines were magnificent tools for improving library services, a more positive attitude replaced the initial unfounded scepticism towards new technology. This is a process which most of us have experienced to a greater or lesser extent. By overcoming initial reservations, it has been possible to computerize catalogues, lending systems, acquisitions and library management in general. But above all, computer technology applied to libraries, has facilitated the main function of our centres: to provide the users the information they need for medical care, teaching or research work in just a few minutes. If this was achieved with the introduction of the on-line information retrieval, CD-ROM has even further improved retrieval from databases by allowing users themselves to obtain the information they require.

The incorporation of new technologies into library services involves changes in the duties and extra work for the staff is something that we all know and accept, but what of our role in the future? With respect to my Spanish colleagues, I would say that in general and with few exceptions, the librarians work involves: management, planning, reference work and all the other activities generally carried out in libraries. Now more than ever, librarians need to recycle their knowledge and skills, no easy task, requiring great dedication and personal effort. People with sufficient interest and strength are needed to carry out the integration of new technologies into library services.

This alone, however, would not be enough: planning at both institutional and national levels is needed to overcome the present deficiencies. Those of us in charge of Spanish medical libraries are working to establish a set of standards - regulations which will unify the functioning of our libraries and introduce new technologies to optimize services. The job is not easy and requires large doses of patience, goodwill and optimism.

Maria Francisca Ribes Cot
Librarian in charge of the Library
of the Hospital Universitario "Marquès de Valdecilla"
39008 Santander, Spain



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES

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Le logo de l'AEIBS se compose du caducée, le symbole des professions de la santé depuis deux millénaires; du livre, le symbole des différentes formes de média de l'information depuis cinq siècles; les 12 étoiles du drapeau de l'Europe adopté depuis 1949 par le Conseil de l'Europe et d'autres institutions européennes.

The EAHIL logo consists of the caduceum, the symbol of the health professions for two millenia; the book, the symbol for all forms of media for information for five centuries; the 12 stars of the flag of Europe adopted since 1949 by the Council of Europe and other European institutions.

EDITORIAL

Nouvelles Technologies : Patience, Bonne Volonté et Optimisme

Dans le monde des sciences de l'information et de la documentation, nous vivons une époque décisive. Il est certain que les années quatre-vingt dix apporteront d'importants progrès technologiques applicables aux bibliothèques et nous tous qui travaillons dans ces services devront les assimiler. C'est dans les années soixante que furent introduits les premiers ordinateurs dans les bibliothèques nord-américaines, mais en Espagne, ce progrès n'arrivera qu'un peu plus tard. Jusqu'à la venue de ces "envahisseurs", il n'y avait eu que des changements progressifs dans les services traditionnels d'une bibliothèque. Cependant, l'introduction de ces nouvelles machines a apporté des changements décisifs qui n'ont pas toujours fait l'unanimité parmi bien des bibliothécaires, quelques-uns d'entre eux rejetant ouvertement cette nouvelle technologie. Lorsqu'il fut démontré que ces machines étaient des outils magnifiques pour l'amélioration des services de la bibliothèque, une attitude plus positive remplaça le scepticisme initial non fondé vis-à-vis de cette nouvelle technologie. C'est un processus dont nous avons tous eu plus ou moins l'expérience. En surmontant des réserves initiales, il a été possible d'informatiser des catalogues, des systèmes de prêt, les acquisitions ainsi que la gestion de la bibliothèque en général. Mais surtout cette technologie appliquée aux bibliothèques a facilité les fonctions principales de nos établissements: on peut en quelques minutes procurer à nos utilisateurs l'information nécessaire concernant la thérapeutique, l'enseignement médical et la recherche. Si ceci a pu être atteint avec l'introduction de la recherche bibliographique automatisée en ligne, les CD-ROM ont constitué une amélioration complémentaire pour la recherche dans les bases de données, permettant aux utilisateurs d'obtenir eux-mêmes l'information recherchée.

L'incorporation de nouvelles technologies dans les services d'une bibliothèque implique des changements dans son fonctionnement et le surcroît de travail pour le personnel est une chose connue et acceptée mais qu'en sera-t-il de notre rôle à l'avenir? Tout en respectant mes collègues espagnols, je voudrais dire qu'en général et avec peu d'exceptions, les tâches des bibliothécaires incluent la gestion, la planification, le service de renseignements et toutes les autres activités généralement supportées par les bibliothèques. Maintenant plus que jamais, les bibliothécaires ont besoin de recycler leurs connaissances et leurs capacités, ce n'est pas une tâche facile et elle requiert beaucoup de détermination et d'efforts personnels. On a besoin de gens qui aient suffisamment d'intérêt et de force pour effectuer l'intégration de nouvelles technologies dans les services d'une bibliothèque. Toutefois, ceci n'est pas suffisant en soi: il est nécessaire que sur le plan institutionnel et national, on puisse faire des prévisions qui arriveraient à combler les manques actuels. Ceux et celles parmi nous qui sont responsables de bibliothèques médicales en Espagne travaillent à l'élaboration de règlements normatifs qui unifieront le fonctionnement de nos bibliothèques et introduiront de nouvelles technologies pour optimiser les services. Ce travail n'est pas facile, il demande de larges doses de patience, de bonne volonté et d'optimisme.

Maria Francisca Ribes Cot
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de la Bibliothèque du CHU
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E-39008 Santander, Espagne



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

EAHIL Council and Board Meetings in Amsterdam, 7-8 September, 1991

The annual EAHIL Council Meeting took place in Amsterdam, on Saturday September 7, 1991. 21 national delegates representing 13 countries were present.

The newly elected Council members and Executive Board Members (see EAHIL Newsletter of October 1990) had taken office in January 1991. However, Alice Norhede

(DK), Josef Serrano (Spain) and Maria Manuela Caetano (Portugal) had resigned due to a change in their professional activities. Lisa Christensen of Denmark and Antonia Pereira da Silva from Portugal have now been nominated as Council Members for their respective country. The nomination of a national delegate for Spain is pending.

A review of EAHIL activities from last January included:
- the ongoing publication of the Newsletter. Thanks to the enduring efforts of Jean Shaw, the Newsletter format and content have been improved. A greater participation

of EAHIL members is also an important aspect of our publication;

- the publication of the **Directory**, a successful venture, thanks to the support of the EBSCO Subscriptions Services;
- a continuing education course in Helsinki, on MeSH indexing, presented by Sara von Flittner, in the context of the Third Nordic Conference of Medical Librarians;
- the representation of EAHIL at several national and international events.

Among issues debated by Council Members at the Amsterdam Meeting, the following were included:

- Guidelines and procedures for the reimbursement of travel expenses of Board and Council Members;
- guidelines and procedures as well as the setting of a timetable for the 1992 EAHIL elections for Council Members and Executive Board Members. Lisa Christensen has accepted to set up a Nomination Committee. The change of the name of the Nomination Committee into Election Committee will have to be approved at the next General Assembly, in Montpellier, in September 1992.
- preliminary considerations for the second edition of the **Directory**.

Not discussed but not less important were the guidelines for the presentation of abstracts and papers, by Vilma Alberani, Istituto Superiore di Sanita Roma, EAHIL Council Member. This important paper was distributed to all members present and will be reviewed at a later date.

The Board Meeting took place on Sunday September 8. It was agreed that for future Council Meetings, not only the agenda but also the full text of prepared papers and reports to be discussed at the Meeting would be forwarded to Council members ahead of time. It is hoped that this effort will result in less time taken for discussion of procedural matters and allow more time for committee work and planification of the future.

Last but not least, Montpellier was also a most important topic for both Council and Board Members. You will find a progress report on the Conference preparations some elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As President of EAHIL, I am grateful to all Members from the Council and the Board who had prepared reports for the Meeting.

The Meeting was graciously hosted by Suzanne Bakker of the Centrale Medische Bibliotheek of the University of Amsterdam. All Members present very much appreciated her hospitality and are grateful for the very convenient arrangements made for coffee breaks and lunch.

Our sincere thanks also go to Arjan Hogenaar, Dutch Council Member, for managing hotel reservations at a

time of high affluence in Amsterdam owing to the many congresses taking place. Arjan Hogenaar's directions to reach hotels and the Library were most helpful.



EAHIL Continuing Education Courses

Continuing education courses are placed high among EAHIL goals. For 1991 4 courses had been planned. Unfortunately, due to a lack of timely registrations, the courses planned at Gröningen had to be cancelled. It is the more to be deplored that some members have acknowledged not giving attention to the announcement in due time. The Newsletter remains EAHIL's most efficient way of communicating with its members. However, though the courses were announced last April, they seemed to have escaped some members' attention.

Continuing education course in Helsinki. Eeva Kihlberg, University of Helsinki, and Sara von Flittner, Abo Akademi, Finland, made sure that the EAHIL course be given in the context of the Third Nordic Conference of Medical Librarians in August 29 in Helsinki, would remain as planned. Nine Conference participants attended the course. Contrary to the announcement, Maria Monik from Stockholm was not able to present the course. But thanks to Sara von Flittner's commitment, the course took place as scheduled. MeSH Indexing was the theme of the course which was accompanied by exercises conducted by Pirkko Fagervik, Turku.

EAHIL hopes that more members will benefit from such planning for the future. If you are interested in continuing education courses, watch for the announcement of future courses, to be given at the time of the Montpellier Conference.



NEW EAHIL MEMBERSHIP

We warmly welcome two new **AFFILIATED MEMBERS** and appreciate very much their support and cooperation :

- **BRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**, Achilles House, Western Avenue, London W3 0UA, tel. +44 81 992 3456, Fax: +44 81 993 7335. Contact: Mrs Claire Cree, Marketing Manager.

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The World Health Network is the world's first medical satellite television service. It provides subscribers daily with useful information on Medicine. Thanks to the very big video library, the WHN can provide medical libraries with training material for medical professionals as well as for the medical librarians.

We also extend a warm welcome to two new full members:

- DETNORSKERADIUMHOSPITAL, Medical Library, Oslo, Norway
- Malene KNUDSEN, Herlev Hospital, Medical Library, Herlev, Denmark



Change of addresses

- Mrs Monique Cleland, EAHIL President:
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- Mr Pierre Marie Belbenoit-Avich, French Council Member:
Tel.: +33 78 74 19 54 - Fax: +33 78 01 24 90

- Mr Stefan ADAMIC, Yugoslavian Council Member:
Tel.: +38 61 311 769 - Fax: +38 61 311 540



MONTPELLIER 1992

Have you Reserved the Dates of September 23 to 26, 1992?

Preparations for the Third European Conference of Medical Libraries in Montpellier are moving ahead. Our colleagues in Montpellier are hard at work to make this Conference a major event. Continuing Education Courses will take place on September 22 and 23, prior to the opening of the Conference. The afternoon of September 23, 1992 will be reserved for the biennial General Assembly, as registrations will take place all day.

The Conference itself will follow with a programme of challenging topics. Issues which will affect libraries, librarians and library users even before the end of this millenium will be the core of presentations and discussions by outstanding speakers.

You would not want to miss it. **BE THERE!** You will not be sorry!

NOUVELLES DE NOTRE ASSOCIATION

Réunions du Conseil et du Bureau Exécutif de l'AEIBS/EAHIL à Amsterdam, les 7-8 septembre 1991

Les membres du Conseil et du Bureau Exécutif de l'Association ont tenu leur réunion annuelle à Amsterdam le samedi 7 septembre 1991. 21 délégués nationaux représentant 13 pays européens étaient présents.

Les membres nouvellement élus au Conseil et au Bureau Exécutif (voir le Bulletin d'octobre 1990) sont entrés en fonction au 1^{er} janvier 1991. Toutefois, Alice Norhede (DK), Josef Serrano (Spain) et Maria Manuela Caetano (Portugal) ont démissionné de leur fonction au sein du Conseil à la suite d'un changement survenu dans leurs activités professionnelles. Lisa Christensen, Danemark, et Antonia Pereira da Silva, Portugal, ont été nommées nouveaux membres du Conseil dans leurs pays respectifs, tandis que la succession du nouveau délégué national pour l'Espagne est toujours ouverte.

La revue des activités de l'AEIBS/EAHIL depuis janvier reprenait:

- la publication du **Bulletin d'Information** en cours qui grâce aux efforts permanents de Jean Shaw, Rédactrice en Chef, a vu sa présentation et son contenu s'améliorer. Une plus grande participation des membres de l'Association constitue un facteur important pour cette publication;
- la publication du **Répertoire des bibliothèques médicales** de l'Association, entreprise couronnée de succès, grâce également au soutien financier d'EBSCO Subscription Services;
- un **cours de formation continue**, sur l'indexation MeSH, qui a été présenté par Sara von Flittner, dans le cadre de la Troisième Conférence Nordique des Bibliothécaires Médicaux;
- la représentation de l'AEIBS/EAHIL à plusieurs événements nationaux et internationaux.

Les points suivants ont été discutés par les membres du Conseil lors de la réunion à Amsterdam:

- Directives et procédé concernant le remboursement des frais de voyages des membres du Bureau Exécutif et du Conseil;
- Directives et procédé pour les élections en 1992 des nouveaux membres du Bureau et du Conseil de l'Association. Lisa Christensen, Danemark, a accepté de constituer le "Nomination Committee". La nouvelle appellation de ce comité "Election Committee" devra être approuvée lors de l'Assemblée Générale qui se tiendra à Montpellier, en septembre 1992.
- Etude préliminaire de la seconde édition du Répertoire des Bibliothèques médicales de l'AEIBS/EAHIL.

Ce qui n'a pas été discuté à Amsterdam mais n'en est pas moins important sont les règles à suivre pour la présentation d'abstracts et de communications. Ce document important rédigé par Vilma Alberani de l'Istituto Superiore di Sanita Roma, a été distribué aux membres du Conseil présents et sera reexaminé à une date ultérieure.

La réunion du Bureau Exécutif s'est tenue le dimanche 8 septembre. Il a été convenu que pour les prochaines réunions du Conseil, non seulement l'ordre du jour mais aussi le texte intégral des documents à étudier lors de ces réunions seront envoyés au préalable aux membres du Conseil. Espérons que l'examen préliminaire de ces documents pourra écourter les discussions sur des questions de procédure et permettra de consacrer plus de temps au travail des comités de l'Association et à la planification du futur.

Enfin, Montpellier était également un point important de l'ordre du jour à la fois pour les membres du Conseil et du Bureau Exécutif. Vous trouverez dans le présent Bulletin un rapport sur la progression des préparatifs de cette Conférence.

En tant que Présidente de l'AEIBS/EAHIL, je tiens à adresser mes remerciements à tous les membres du Conseil et du Bureau qui ont préparé des rapports pour ces réunions.

Nous remercions vivement Suzanne Bakker de la Centrale Medische Bibliotheek de l'Université d'Amsterdam qui nous a très cordialement offert l'hospitalité durant la réunion du Conseil. Tous les membres présents à cette réunion ont apprécié l'excellente organisation du lunch et des pauses-café.

Nous adressons également nos remerciements à Arjan Hogenaar, membre du Conseil pour les Pays-Bas, qui a su gérer les réservations d'hôtel à un moment de grande affluence à Amsterdam. Les instructions de ce dernier pour atteindre les hôtels et la Bibliothèque ont été très précieuses.



Cours de formation Continue de l'Association

Les cours de formation continue sont un des buts principaux de l'AEIBS/EAHIL. En 1991, 4 cours ont été planifiés. Malheureusement, les cours qui devaient avoir lieu à Gröningen ont dû être annulés faute d'inscriptions suffisantes dans les délais requis. Nous ne pouvons que regretter que certains de nos membres n'aient pas accordé à temps toute l'attention voulue à l'annonce de ce cours dans notre Bulletin d'avril 1991. Notre Bulletin, en effet, demeure le moyen le plus efficace de communication et d'information pour les membres de l'Association.

Eeva Kilhberg de l'Université d'Helsinki et Sara von Flittner de l'Abo Akademi Finlande, ont assuré le cours planifié dans le cadre de la Troisième Conférence Nordique des Bibliothécaires Médicaux à Helsinki. Neuf participants y étaient présents. Le thème était "MeSH - Indexing Orientation", complété d'exercices pratiques dirigés par Pirkko Fagervik de Turku. Contrairement à ce qui avait été annoncé, Maria Monik de Stockholm n'a pu présenter ce cours et c'est Sara von Flittner qui l'a dirigé.

Notre Association espère qu'un plus grand nombre de ses membres bénéficieront de ce type de cours à l'avenir. Si vous êtes intéressés par les cours de formation continue, soyez attentifs aux prochaines annonces des cours qui se donneront dans le cadre de notre 3ème Conférence Européenne à Montpellier en septembre 1992.



Nouveaux Membres de l'Association

Nous avons le plaisir d'accueillir deux nouveaux MEMBRES AFFILIES:

- BRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, Achilles House, Western Avenue, London W3 OUA, Tel. +44 81 992 3456, Fax: +44 81 993 7335 - Contact: Mme Claire Cree, Marketing Manager.

Le service de recherche BRS, département de "Maxwell Online", est un distributeur important de bases de données documentaires en ligne. BRS propose l'accès à plus de 150 bases de données dans les domaines suivants: biomédecine, sciences de la vie, sciences physiques et appliquées, sciences sociales, affaires, sciences de l'éducation et recherche documentaire.

- The WORLD HEALTH NETWORK, 34 Woking Business Park, Albert Drive, Woking, Surrey GU21 5JY, UK - Tel. +44 483 72 76 76. Contact. Mr Simon Currey, Directeur.

Le World Health Network est le premier service médical mondial de télévision par satellite. Ce réseau fournit journallement à ses abonnés des informations utiles sur

la médecine. Grâce à sa grande bibliothèque-video, WHN peut fournir aux bibliothèques médicales du matériel didactique destiné aux professionnels de la santé ainsi qu'aux biomédicaux.

Nous accueillons également les membres de plein droit suivants:

- DETNORSKERADIUMHOSPITAL, Medical Library, Oslo, Norway
- Malene KNUDSEN, Herlev Hospital, Medical Library, Herlev, Denmark

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For information:

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Tel. 33-67 40 01 33 Fax: 33-67 75 23 21

MONTPELLIER 1992

Avez-vous réservé les dates du 23 au 26 septembre 1992 ?

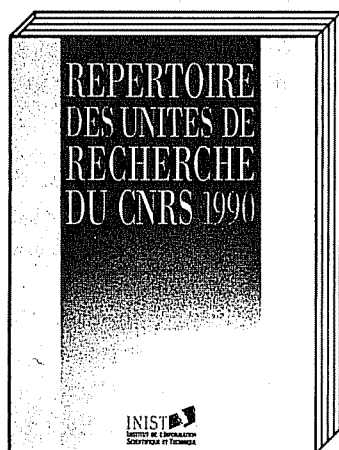
Les préparatifs de la Troisième Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales à Montpellier avancent à grands pas. Nos collègues à Montpellier travaillent d'arrache-pied pour faire de cette Conférence un événement important. Les cours de formation continue prendront place les 22 et 23 septembre 1992, avant l'ouverture de la Conférence.

L'après-midi du 23 septembre sera réservée à l'Assemblée Générale de l'AEIBS/EAHIL qui a lieu tous les deux ans. Les inscriptions à la Conférence se feront durant toute la journée.

La Conférence elle-même sera suivie d'un programme d'échanges de vues sur des sujets concernant les bibliothèques, les bibliothécaires et les usagers de bibliothèque d'ici la fin de ce siècle. Ces sujets constitueront le noyau des présentations et discussions menées par des orateurs éminents.

Ne manquez pas cette Conférence, **SOYEZ PRESENTS**, vous ne le regretterez pas!

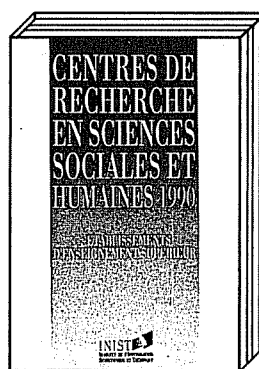
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INVITED ARTICLE

A Sketch of Health and Medical Libraries in Italy

Esquisse des Bibliothèques de Santé et Médicales en Italie

L'éparpillement des bibliothèques de santé et médicales en Italie plaide en faveur de la décentralisation : en effet, elles se trouvent surtout au Nord et au Centre. Il existe dans ce pays 673 "unités de santé" réparties en vingt régions. Une unité représente plusieurs hôpitaux, cliniques et services de prévention. L'ensemble des services de santé et hôpitaux est censé être équipé de documentation médicale et conséquemment de bibliothèques : mais ce n'est pas toujours le cas. On trouve aussi des bibliothèques médicales au sein des 41 universités italiennes, hébergeant trente facultés de médecine. Rome possède le plus grand nombre de bibliothèques médicales. Le Ministère de la Santé ne reconnaît pas le statut de bibliothécaires, pourtant, celles-ci formées soit sur le plan local, soit de manière privée, travaillent au sein de structures de santé. Il existe une base de données nationale permettant la localisation de périodiques en ligne et 1782 bibliothèques y participent (c'est le Archivio Collettivo Nazionale delle Pubblicazioni Periodiche). Toujours pour le biomédical, un catalogue collectif de périodiques existe pour la région romaine, le GIDIF-RBM, et un autre sur Padoue. Trois associations professionnelles sont actives : l'Association des Bibliothécaires Italiennes, qui se scinde en deux : "Information et Documentation", et "Université et Recherches" (c'est à cette branche que se rattache le groupe national médical), le GIDIF-RBM et AIDA.

Health and libraries

In the late seventies the national reform of the Health Service in Italy created 673 Local Health Units spread over twenty regions. Each unit presides over hospitals, clinics and preventive services in its area.

There are 271,221 registered doctors and 56,573,423 eligible patients (1989 data). However, in Italy not all registered doctors practise within the National Health Service and the number does not include 10,837 dentists, otherwise registered (1988 data).

All National Health Service staff, 623,510 including doctors, assistants, technicians and others are granted, by law, qualification and updating courses, textbooks and biomedical journals. Books and periodicals are bought with funds allotted by the National Health Service.

Although all hospitals - the most important act as University clinics as well - should have at least a library and a meeting room for the staff, some of the 1,774 hospitals (1,158 public and 616 private) do not⁽¹⁾. The majority were established in the Middle Ages and a wealth of incunabula and rare books on medical history can be found in their libraries.

Biomedical libraries can also be found within Universities and Medical Faculties: in Italy there are 41 Universities housing 30 Medical Faculties and about 800 Institutes. Chemical, biological, and psychological faculties must also be considered: their libraries sometimes are small, but often highly specialized. There are also libraries belonging to 22 institutions of scientific and clinical research, research institutes, drug companies, private associations and support groups. The Health Ministry runs two main libraries in Rome (the National Health Institute Library and the National Medical Library). A rich biomedical

section can be found at the Scientific Library of the National Research Council in Rome.

Biomedical libraries are generally in the North and Centre of Italy. The largest are based in Rome. There is no national directory of biomedical libraries although the Italian Library Association is now documenting them.

The tasks of the National Health Institute Library and the National Medical Library cannot be compared with those of the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda; however, the National Health Institute Library has been so far a focal point for medical libraries all over the country.

The National Health Institute was created in 1934 as a technical authority of the Ministry of Health and since 1978 it also serves the National Health Service. The budget of this Library for 1991 has been of \$962,441; \$704,225 are spent on periodicals. Current periodicals are approximately 4,000; all WHO publications are available. The Documentation Service of the National Health Institute is the Italian MEDLARS reference centre. Public bodies and national research institutions wishing to connect with MEDLARS for online research can do so via the Documentation Service special conditions. In 1990, the population of users was divided into: Universities 39%, local health units 21.5%, institutions of scientific and clinical research 27%, others 12.5%.

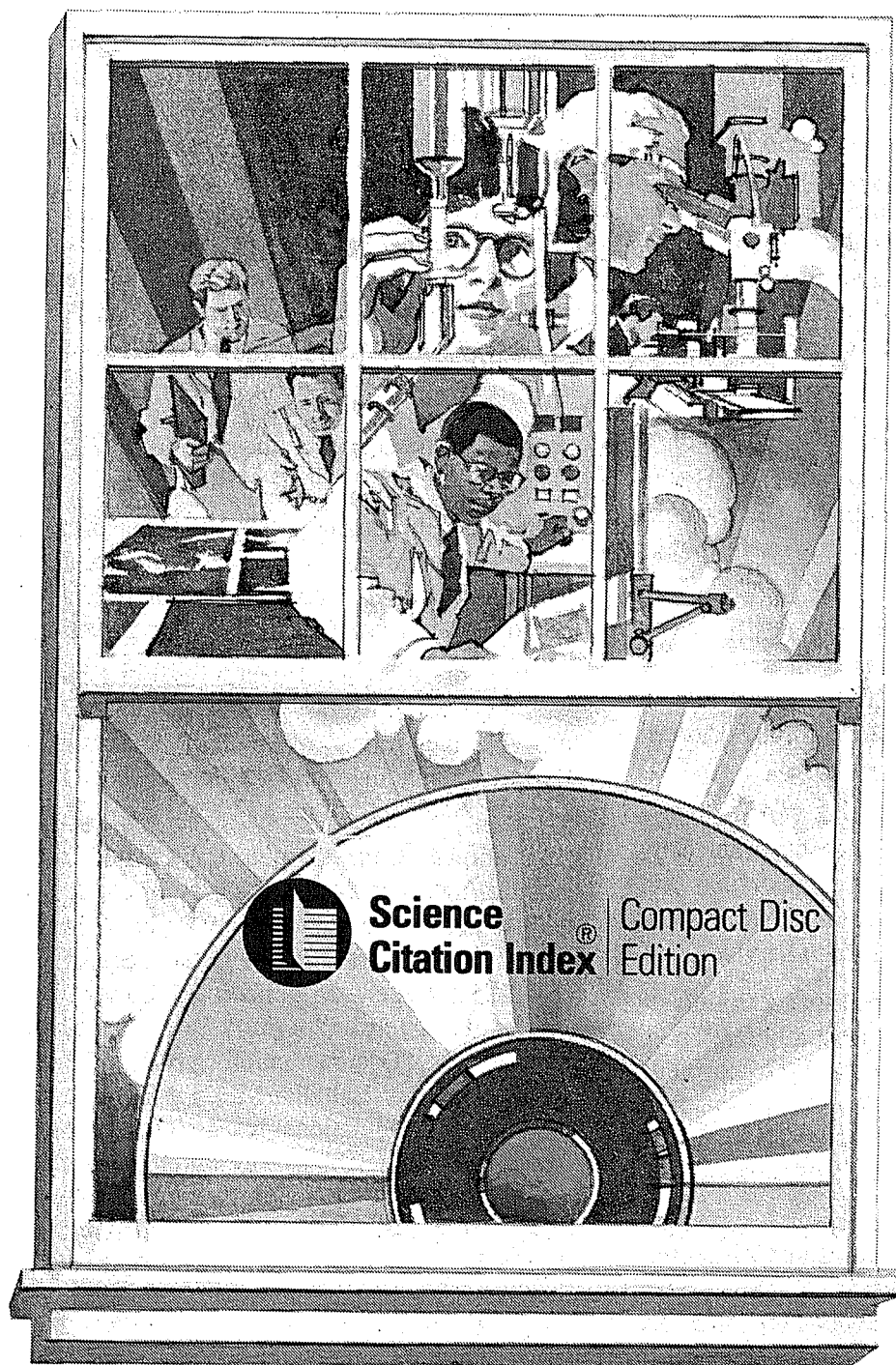
Staff

The number of libraries and their scatter all over the country plays against centralization; most biomedical libraries operating outside the main hospitals or large local health units and important universities tend to be small.

Staffing is limited and often opening hours are short; however, in many cases even these libraries are open to medical staff belonging to different institutions.

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Though the National Health Service does not recognize the position of "Librarians", librarians do operate within universities, institutions of scientific and clinical research, national medical libraries and drug companies.

There is no university training available and librarians are trained by local authorities, private vocational courses or, quite straightforwardly, on the spot. The course organized by the National Health Institute Documentation Service on MEDLARS databases are particularly successful.

National Library Service

The National Library Service was devised in the early eighties as a national library network aiming to connect all libraries for online access to all documents. It is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and promoted by local authorities.

In 1989 it was decided that biomedical libraries were to be grouped into a sub-network within the framework of National Library Service. The National Health Institute will be the centre of the biomedical sub-network. Work proceeds at a very slow pace. However, biomedical libraries are trying to speed up the process; they choose PC software and take an active part in local National Library Service databases where available. Some University libraries and the National Health Institute Library still operate on DOBIS-LIBIS system.

Union Catalogues of Periodicals

Exchanging photocopies of scientific articles has represented over the years a kind of informal "network" operating among biomedical libraries.

In 1971 the National Research Council has completed an online database of the titles of the serial publications held in Italian libraries (Archivio Collettivo Nazionale delle Pubblicazioni Periodiche). 1,782 libraries countrywide (993 from the North, 329 from the Centre and 408 from the South and islands) share the catalogue which includes 15,000 scientific and biomedical titles and 72,308 periodicals. The most serious difficulties lie in updating the catalogue and filling in the gaps.

Biomedical information also relies on some relevant local experiences, such as the Union Catalogue of Biomedical Periodicals in the Rome area, the GIDIF, RBM Union Catalogue and the Union Catalogue of biomedical periodicals of Padua University.

The Union Catalogue of Biomedical Periodicals in the Rome area stemmed from a project of cooperation between the libraries and National Research Council. It is based on the records of the periodicals listed by the National Research Council for its own online database (see above). It covers about 2,000 titles housed in 72 libraries.

The GIDIF, RBM (Italian Group of Drug Company and Biomedical Research Institute Librarians) has developed a union catalogue of 38 libraries with 4,382 titles. It has

been updated every year so far, and is available on floppy disk and in a printed form. It is a private enterprise and can cater only for members.

The Union Catalogue of Biomedical Periodicals of Padua University includes about 3,000 titles of the current biomedical periodicals in 40 libraries of the University of Padua. Some data were drawn from the National Library Service database and some are completely new, such as those titles of serial publications owned by very small but highly specialized libraries of various University institutes.

Library Associations

The Italian Library Association includes two Committees named "Information and Documentation" and "University and Research". The National Medical Group belongs to the latter. It has 145 members and meets twice a year. Bologna is the venue of the second Medical Library Conference in September 1991. The National Group is working towards a national directory, a union catalogue of serial publications and fights for the assignment of librarians in the National Health Service. GIDIF, RBM (Italian Group of Drug Company and Biomedical Research Institute Librarians) and AIDA (Italian Association for Advanced Documentation), are two professional associations. GIDIF, RBM 143 members meet twice a year in a national convention. They publish a Newsletter and produce the aforementioned union catalogue.

REFERENCES

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NOTES

We wish to thank all our colleagues who made available vital information for this paper.

Leslie Locche

Biblioteca Centralizzata USL 28

(Local Health Unit n.28 Central Library) Bologna, Italy

Laura Cavazza

Soprintendenza per i beni Librari
e documentari della Regione Emilia-Romagna
(Superintendence to Libraries) Bologna, Italy

TALKING POINT

Le devenir des CD-ROM

Trends in CD-ROM

CD-ROM are well-known data-media offering many advantages: gaining space, all-day direct use by users, friendly software, etc... The first biomedical CD's have been the copy of general bibliographies like Medline, Excerpta Medica. Now, 85% of CDS's are specialized in specific fields (toxicology, oncology, pharmacology), which indeed meets the needs of the users. Now full-text CD's are appearing on the market, offering full-text versions of textbooks or periodical titles covering a number of years. In the short term such innovations may affect document supply. The increase and evolution of full-text databases, is indeed one of the major problems that we will have to face within the coming years.

Les CD-ROM font partie des nouvelles technologies qui ont bouleversé notre paysage et il existe sans doute une différence aussi grande entre eux et la recherche en ligne qu'entre celle-ci et l'utilisation de la seule forme papier. Bien plus, et il s'agit là d'un point fondamental, les CD-ROM eux-mêmes sont en train de subir une très profonde évolution.

Après avoir rappelé très brièvement les avantages bien connus des CD-ROM, nous nous attacherons à brosser un tableau de l'évolution actuelle et future de ce support.

Il est certain que les CD-ROM offrent beaucoup d'attraits non négligeables : gain de place tout d'abord puisqu'un seul disque est l'équivalent à lui seul de 1.600 disquettes ou si l'on préfère de plusieurs dizaines de milliers de pages.

Mais l'atout majeur du CD est de permettre une utilisation directe par l'utilisateur, en évitant le recours à un intermédiaire. Psychologiquement cette notion est importante mais ce n'est pas forcément sans inconvénient : de nombreux articles américains ont montré qu'en cherchant lui-même, l'utilisateur final manquait 30 % des références à cause de sa mauvaise connaissance du logiciel, du thésaurus, etc... Toutefois il est évident que ce service rencontre un grand succès. De plus, et en particulier dans l'industrie ou le monde hospitalier, le CD devient un mode d'information accessible 24 heures sur 24, en fonction des urgences. Nous ne devons pas y être insensibles même si nous voyons l'information nous échapper un peu. Et je ne parlerai ni de la simplicité du logiciel ni de l'absence du stress, qui sont pourtant des avantages non négligeables.

Tout cela explique donc le succès des CD-ROM. La première génération de ce support dans le domaine bibliographique biomédical a concerné MEDLINE proposé successivement par différents producteurs puis

Excerpta Medica sous sa version Library Service, plus récemment BIOSIS suivi par PASCAL.

Mais à l'évidence, nous assistons maintenant à une modification du paysage. Tout d'abord le nombre des CD augmente de façon tout à fait importante, à peine une dizaine en 1985/1986, plus de 110 au début de 1991 avec de nouveaux tous les mois. Cela s'explique par la baisse très forte des coûts de fabrication et de duplication.

Parallèlement, une nouvelle sorte de CD a commencé à voir le jour : les CD spécialisés. Plus de 85 % des Compact Disks existant en mars 1991 étaient thématiques. Citons parmi beaucoup d'autres : Aidsline, Bibliomed cardiology, Dangerous goods, Food sciences and technology, Oncodisk, Pestbank, Radline sur la radiologie, etc... sans parler de tous les CD spécialisés produits par Excerpta Medica.

Cela correspond bien à un désir général des laboratoires privés qui ne veulent plus avoir à chercher dans un ensemble trop vaste mais dans une base adaptée à leurs besoins propres, témoin l'exemple du CD de Excerpta Medical intitulé Pharmacology. Il contient toutes les références publiées dans Embase sur ce sujet depuis 1980, avec mises à jour trimestrielles soit au total plus d'un million de références.

Face à ce redéploiement du marché, les grandes bibliographies sur CD réagissent de différentes façons, d'abord en baissant les prix (Dialog a diminué de près de 24 % celui de Medline), mais aussi en offrant des périodes chronologiques beaucoup plus grandes voire quelquefois supérieures à celles existantes en ligne, Medline maintenant depuis 1961 sur CD-ROM. Enfin les mises à jour se font de plus en plus fréquentes.

Par ailleurs, le problème des lecteurs semble résolu. Pendant longtemps il y avait une équation : un CD/un utilisateur, un utilisateur/un CD. Maintenant grâce aux

progrès de la technique un même utilisateur va pouvoir accéder à plusieurs CDs et qui plus est, plusieurs utilisateurs pourront travailler ensemble. La lenteur des temps de réponse ira en s'améliorant. Et on ne peut pas ne pas citer le lecteur actuellement expérimenté par Silverplatter qui permettrait de décharger sur un gygadisque dur de 2 gigabytes (soit cent disques durs) plusieurs CD accessibles simultanément par 25 personnes dans un délai de réponse relativement court.

Mais il ne faudrait pas non plus s'imaginer que l'âge de la recherche en-ligne est résolu. Beaucoup ont cru hâtivement - trop sans doute - que les CD seraient la panacée. Il faut savoir que les mises à jour espacées font, en particulier, qu'il ne peut servir à obtenir les références les plus récentes et que de ce fait il devra toujours être complété par la recherche en ligne, du moins pour les chercheurs.

Une nouvelle génération de CD-ROM est en train de naître qui va révolutionner le tableau : celle des CD plein texte. Les premiers sont apparus vers 1990 et il s'en crée maintenant sans arrêt de nouveau. Il peut s'agir de livres tel le Textbook of Medicine. Il peut aussi plus généralement s'agir de revues spécialisées : American Journal of Diseases of Children, Archives of Dermatol-

ogy, Archives of Neurology, Chest, entre autres ... sans parler du JAMA, premier hebdomadaire à être mis sur CD.

La politique des éditeurs est très claire : la mise à jour se fait tous les ans ou tous les deux ans (cas du JAMA) aussi les centres de documentation doivent-ils acheter la forme imprimée pour ne conserver ultérieurement que le CD.

Cette apparition et cette multiplication des CD plein texte est un fait majeur des derniers mois. Elle a un rapport étroit avec la croissance des bases en-ligne plein texte. Cette disponibilité directe de l'article, à un prix relativement accessible, risque de modifier tout ce qui concerne la mise à disposition et la fourniture des documents que ce soit à l'intérieur même de nos bibliothèques ou à l'extérieur. C'est très probablement un des problèmes les plus importants qui va se poser à nous dans les années qui viennent.

Pierre Marie Belbenoit-Avich
Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire
de Lyon - Section Santé
8 avenue Rockefeller
F-69373 Lyon Cedex 08



NEWS FROM ZAGREB

STOP PRESS - From Zagreb

We have just received news from one of our members about the terrible situation in Croatia. The civilian population is very badly affected with many homeless, 600 already dead and several thousand wounded. Some hospitals have been destroyed and others damaged. The remaining hospitals must have their services severely strained.

Jelka Petrak, from the Central Medical Library, University of Zagreb, is our correspondent. The medical libraries there are in need of any relevant monographs, manuals or textbooks concerning wartime medicine, especially trauma and critical care surgery, critical care nursing, etc. Any EAHIL librarians who can assist in war and trauma literature, please respond direct to Jelka Petrak:

Jelka Petrak
Central Medical Library,
University of Zagreb, School of Medicine,
41000 Zagreb, Salata 3 - CROATIA
Fax: +38 41 424001

Kit Norris from the British Library, Medical Information section, is endeavouring to send the bibliographies on war medicine, which were prepared by the British Library staff at the time of the Gulf War.

I am sure I speak for all EAHIL Members in hoping for peace and honourable settlement to the differences and difficulties facing our friends and colleagues in Croatia and the other republics of what we knew as Yugoslavia.

Jean Shaw
Editor

NEWS FROM EUROPE

Announcements

European Community - CALL FOR PROPOSALS
For the specific programme of research and technology development in the field of telematic systems of general interest

This call has been made in a supplement to the official Journal of the European Communities dated 16.7.91. It is available in all EC languages.

Consortia of organizations are invited to submit proposals by 2nd December 1991.

In general, proposals for projects should be based on shared cost research and technology in the subject area - Area 5: Libraries. Further information on the objectives and topics covered by this Area is available from the address below. The main objective is to facilitate access by users and reduce the handicaps of the present disparate infrastructures in the Community. Work will be supported in the complementary four sub-areas outlined below.

- Computerized bibliographies - international and national bibliographies
 - . retrospective conversion of important collections
- International interconnection of systems
 - . acquisition and ordering of materials
 - . fast document delivery
- New library services - using information and communication technologies
- Telematic products and services for libraries

Commission of the European Communities
Ref. Telematic Systems R&D AREA 5
DGXIII Direction B - JMO B4/11
L-2920 Luxembourg
tel. +352/43 01 21 26 or 43 01 30 06 fax +352/43 01 35 30

Libcontact

This is a database to help you find partners for EC collaboration projects. Forms and further information may be obtained from:

CEC, DGXIII/ B/3
JMO B4/41a
Plateau du Kirchberg
L-2920 Luxembourg
tel. + 352/43 01 30 06
fax as above



Communautés Européennes - APPEL AUX PROPOSITIONS pour le programme spécifique de recherche et de développement technologique dans le domaine des systèmes télématiques d'intérêt général.

Cet appel a été lancé dans un supplément au Journal Officiel des Communautés Européennes, du 16.07.1991. Il est disponible dans toutes les langues officielles de la Communauté Européenne. Les consortiums d'organisation sont invités à soumettre des propositions avant le 2 décembre 1991.

Les propositions feront l'objet, en général, de projets de recherche et de développement technologique à frais partagés dans le domaine 5: Bibliothèques. Des informations complémentaires sur les objectifs et thèmes couverts par ce domaine sont disponibles à l'adresse ci-dessous. Les principaux objectifs sont de faciliter l'accès aux utilisateurs en diminuant les handicaps résultant des disparités existant en matière d'infrastructure dans la Communauté. Les travaux se feront au travers de quatre sous-domaines complémentaires (ligne d'action) identifiés ci-dessous:

- les bibliographies informatisées: services internationaux fournis par les services nationaux bibliographiques
 - . conversion rétrospective de collections importantes
- L'interconnexion et commande de matériel
 - . acquisition et commande de matériel
 - . fourniture rapide de documents
- Services nouveaux de bibliothèques à l'aide des technologies de l'information et des communications
- Produits et services télématiques pour les bibliothèques

Commission des Communautés Européennes
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Libcontact

Ceci est une base de données qui vous aide à trouver des partenaires pour des projets de collaboration européens. Les formulaires ainsi que de plus amples détails peuvent être obtenus à:

CEM, DG XIII B/3 - JMO B4/41a - Plateau de Kirchberg
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Breast Cancer - New Abstracts Journal

Cancer du sein - nouvelle revue d'abstracts

"Mammograph Abstracts" - a new quarterly journal produced from the Breast Cancer Screening Reference Database compiled by the Health Care Evaluation Unit at the University of Bristol - aims to provide a comprehensive reference facility for a wide range of health professionals involved in the field of breast cancer screening. Entries cover international English language literature from a variety of disciplines, including "grey" items not accessed readily from sources such as Index Medicus. In addition to standard bibliographic details and a short abstract each entry includes keywords from the Breast Cancer Screening Thesaurus which has been developed to allow specific searching of the literature. The full thesaurus will be included in the first issue each year. The current issue incorporates two important changes in response to user recommendations. Entries are organised in nine broad subject areas: Trials, epidemiology and evaluation; Management and administration; Radiology; Pathology; Diagnosis and treatment; Psychological aspect; Health education and acceptability; Breast self-examination; and Unclassified and general interest. Furthermore, each entry is number coded to denote its classification by quality of evidence. It is hoped that these two innovations will make it easier to scan the abstracts and decide which ones to read.

Additions to the database concentrate on the most recent developments, but older material is added regularly to produce a comprehensive core of important breast cancer screening literature back to 1965. Each issue will contain between 250 and 300 references. The journal's launch has been supported by the NHS Breast Cancer Screening Programme, and initial interest from Europe, the USA as well as within the UK has been very encouraging.

Subscriptions are welcomed from health libraries, and details can be obtained from Judy Watt, at the Health Care Evaluation Unit, University of Bristol, Canynge Hall, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS9 4HJ, UK - Tel: 44 272 738 223; Fax: 44 272 238 568.



Continuing Education

France - Study Tour of British Academic Libraries for a Group of French Librarians

France - Voyage d'études dans les bibliothèques universitaires britanniques pour un groupe de bibliothécaires français

Eleven French University librarians were invited jointly by the British Council and the French National Education

Ministry to tour six famous academic libraries of Great Britain. Very well organised by the Head of the British Council in Paris, Mrs Frances Salinie, this trip allowed us to discover the richness and variety of British collections and the efficiency of services to readers in the following libraries : Hartley Library (Southampton), British Library and the new one in construction at St Pancras (London), the old and beautiful Bodleian Library (Oxford), the Manchester Business School Library, the Joule Library - UMIST - in Manchester, and, last but not least, the B L D S C, the Document Supply Centre, Northern branch of the British Library, located in Boston Spa, not far from the lovely city of York, which we got a change to see as well. It has been, as a whole, a real pleasure to be so warmly received by our British colleagues. The aim of this tour was to create and reinforce bonds between academic librarians of the two countries, in order to promote working attachments and future exchanges. It was a very enriching experience - but, alas, too short (a week)! And the two medical librarians of the group regretted the fact that no medical library - nor hospital library - were included in that tour! Mais on ne peut tout avoir ...

Françoise Alptuna

Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Médecine
12 rue de l'Ecole de Médecine
F-75270 Paris Cedex 06



Continuing Education for Hospital Librarians in Germany

Formation continue pour des bibliothécaires d'hôpitaux en Allemagne

Grand succès pour la formation continue de 43 bibliothécaires d'hôpitaux allemands (originaires de l'Est) à Wolfsburg (Basse-Saxe)

On June 10 and 11, 1991 the Wolfsburg Municipal Hospital and its Library witnessed a great crowd of hospital librarians attending a continuing education seminar.

Inge Pawel, hospital librarian and an EAHIL member, had prepared a full programme for some 43 hospital librarians, the majority coming from general hospitals in Eastern Germany. There had been more applications to participate than could be handled, an indication that other such programmes must be planned in other areas of the country. The initiative had strong support from the medical director of the library and the Wolfsburg hospital director, as well as the State Ministry of Social Affairs. Wolfsburg is the city of VW. It is situated close to the former border and is once now again a centrally located German town of 150 000.

In her introductory paper Inge Pawel stressed the importance and advantages of work in an integrated hospital library. While there is no question that library holdings and services are intended for professionals of all kinds working in the hospital, there is a definite need in Germany to provide information services for the patient and the citizen in general. Materials and referral services in the field of health promotion must be provided much more systematically than is the case at present.

An important and valuable introduction to the Federal German health system, the specifics of hospital financing and its impact on running hospital libraries were given by a representative of the Hospital Association of Lower Saxony. This is a totally new field for their colleagues from the new German Länder. Another EAHIL member, Christiane Kay-Apel, hospital librarian from Bremerhaven, reported on budget management in regard to collection development in her library.

New information technologies for library application were other major subjects of the event. A wealth of technical information and experience was presented by university librarians from Hannover and Braunschweig, by the librarian of the GSF Research Centre on Environment and Health, Neuherberg, and the State Library Computer Centre in Göttingen. Thanks to the excellent technical situation of the Wolfsburg hospital library online searching of regional union catalogues, document requests and databases at DIMDI could be demonstrated live via the German Telekom BTX Bildschirm text (which is comparable to Minitel in France).

Also via the overhead screen the ALLEGRO library software could be viewed. In the context of a morning session on reference work in the hospital MEDLINE on CD-ROM and Current Contents on Diskette (CCOD) were discussed and demonstrated. The Seminar had its own European connection with the presence of Ingegerd Rabow, Librarian of the Vardbibliothek, University Hospital at Umea, Sweden. Presentations at the reference work session were shared by I. Rabow with A. Möhlhenrich and U. Hausen, both from the Hannover Medical School Library. A more intimate knowledge of MeSH for cataloguing and searching will be required by most librarians from hospital libraries in the Eastern part of Germany, where the Russian "Rubrikator" had been used for subject cataloguing.

The technical and social programme and all details of accomodation and meals had been prepared by Inge Pawel almost single-handedly. The Seminar was a great success in the eyes of all participants who enjoyed the new contacts and appreciated the sources of information

demonstrated to them. An incentive for the German Arbeitsgemeinschaft of medical libraries to carry on in this direction.

Ursula Hausen,
Bibliothek Medizinische Hochschule Hannover
Postfach 61 01 80
D-0 Hannover 61



Meeting Reports

IFLA 57th Annual Conference, Moscow, August 17-24, 1991

Sunday evening, August 18th 1991! The sky above Moscow is illuminated by firecrackers coming from the direction of the Red Square. Moscovites love firecrackers and they are rejoicing at one of the many Moscow celebrations.

Little do they seem to realize what an omen it is, before one among the most eventful weeks in the history of Moscow.

Monday August 19th 1991! Several delegates to the 57th IFLA Annual Conference have already arrived in Moscow. The morning is devoted to registrations and some sightseeing. A rumor, confirmed soon by the BBC shortwave radio broadcasting reaches some delegates. Chamber maids in hotels also spread the momentous news: Gobartchev has been demoted.

From then on, events precipitate at a rhythm hard to keep up with. But the IFLA Conference will take place. In an opening address, laced with many quotations from Russian literature, Hans-Peter Geh, the outgoing President of IFLA has taken a firm stand. Delegates are invited to carry on with the planned schedule.

The opening ceremony over, delegates head back for their respective hotels. Tracts are posted in the Moscow subway. Crowds assemble tightly around the columns to decipher the tracts. We know that our colleagues outside the Soviet Union are probably as well informed as we are about these stupendous events. We go from wonder and anxiety to rejoicing with our Russian friends about the turn of events. But people from Moscow know that the winter will be hard and the rejoicing is subdued. There is also the burial of three young courageous men. A huge crowd, carrying flowers and flags convenes behind the Kremlin. The atmosphere is solennel. The determination can be read on faces. Streams and streams of people keep arriving on the huge plazea. The ceremony will last for several hours. IFLA, Moscow 1991! History in the making.

For medical librarians, the section of biology and medical librarians met twice under the chairmanship of

Derek Law and the presence as secretary of the section of Lois Ann Colaiani. EAHIL is invited to collaborate with the IFLA section of biological and medical libraries in the 59th IFLA Conference which will take place in Barcelona. The programme of the section and continuing education courses are briefly discussed as a joint venture of this IFLA section and EAHIL.

Medical librarians are invited to spend a day at the State Central Scientific Medical Library. Boris Loguinov, a EAHIL member, made the programme possible. A videotape on low orbit satellite and its use for communications and dissemination of medical information to far away places around the world, opens new vistas on cooperation.

Two more visits were planned for medical librarians, one at a Cardiology clinic and another one at the Moscow Eye Microsurgery Complex about which an article has appeared in the Newsletter of April 1990. The Centre strives to achieve the utmost efficiency in all respects. A short visit to the theater, looking at surgery in progress is convincing enough for onlooking medical librarians that this is no common place.

Among the outstanding presentations (from participant's point of view, at least) is the session on INIST (Christian Lupovici) and the complete automation of the document delivery chain, from searching the literature for references to the delivery of the document, a marvel of computer technology and telecommunications at work.

IFLA 57th Conference will remain in every participant's mind, no doubt.

Monique Cleland
EAHIL President
CHUV-BDFM
CH-1011 Lausanne



SatellLife - Healthnet

This meeting/ workshop was arranged to find out what interest there might be in the UK for supporting a project to enhance communication with health workers and information providers in developing countries. A reliable, inexpensive communication system, which is capable of reaching remote places rapidly would be of great benefit to physicians and health personnel working in such areas. Telephones, telexes and fax machines are expensive means of communication and hence inhibit the flow of vital health information, not only between the developing nations and the so-called developed world, but also between the developing nations themselves. The meeting, which took place at the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford, UK, was held under the auspices of the SW Thames Regional

Library Service. Julia Royall, outlined the type of information services HealthNet might provide and Jeff Ward gave us some further information on the type of technology involved. As its name suggests a small satellite (successfully launched on 16th July), no bigger than a football will carry messages rather like a tireless electronic pigeon. Messages will be beamed up to it as it passes over the donor station and beamed down when it passes the receiving station. Though satellite technology is hi-tech, the stations themselves are cheap (comparatively) and portable - a personal computer, a radio set and an aerial. The computer synchronises with the satellite and it seems as though the operator just has to switch it on, power the computer up from time to time and keep the various parts secure.

The content of this electronic mail, which can reach all parts of the world, was the subject of some discussion. At the moment the project has concentrated on Africa and demonstration sites have been set up, or are about to be set up, in collaboration with the Universities in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda. As the turnaround time may be only a matter of hours or days, it is hoped that this medium will allow colleagues to consult one another, receive relevant medical literature or request a database search. The meeting, which was attended by a number of librarians, was invited to seek imaginative ways in which this communication link might be made effective in providing health information of different kinds. In our discussions after the presentations, it was evident that the idea of the setting up of a clearing station in the U.K. and the organization of twinning arrangements with African and other medical libraries had some attraction, though it was clear that we would need to know considerably more about what medical libraries or health practitioners in Africa wanted in the way of information.

One afternoon was certainly not enough time to resolve such matters and it was thus agreed that Michael Carmel, Regional Librarian for the South West Thames Regional Health Authority, would form a working group to examine the ideas that had been expressed, more closely. If anyone has any experience or ideas on how this technology can be put to good use perhaps they would get in touch with him at :

The South West Thames Regional Library Service
Royal Surrey County Hospital
Egerton Road, Guildford GU2 5XX, UK

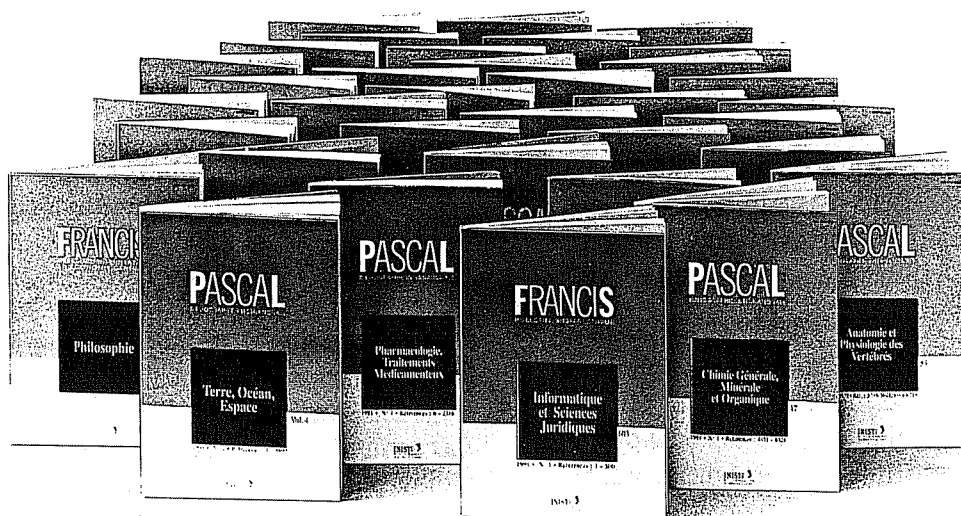
or with:

SatellLife-U.S.A. [a not-for-profit organization]
126 Rogers Street, Cambridge, MA 02142 U.S.A.

Jean G. Shaw
Clinical Sciences Library - Leicester Royal Infirmary
P.O. Box 65 - Leicester LE2 7LX, U.K.



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L'accès des professionnels à l'information spécialisée

Une Association Européenne pour la Documentation va de l'avant

Abstract de l'article "European Information Association to go ahead" paru dans le Newsletter précédente (juillet 1991, p. 17).

Les 18 et 19 mai 1991, se sont réunis à Londres, sous les auspices de la "Library Association", une cinquantaine de représentants des principales associations de bibliothécaires, de documentalistes et de spécialistes de l'information en Europe, afin d'établir des liens d'organisation entre ces différents organismes. Cette nouvelle association verra le jour en automne 1992.

Cette rencontre a permis aux délégués de s'affirmer vis-à-vis de la C E, comme groupe d'intérêt représentant les professions des sciences de l'information, des bibliothèques et de la documentation. Les tâches essentielles de ce groupe seront de consolider la communication entre ses membres pour des questions de politique européenne les concernant, de représenter leur point-de-vue devant la C E lorsque l'unanimité de ses membres le permettra, enfin, de les tenir au courant des initiatives émanant de la C E, pouvant les affecter.

Un sous-groupe de travail a été désigné qui devra, entre autres, d'ici octobre, fixer la cotisation aux différents organismes professionnels européens (entre 700 et 4500 ecus), constituer bureau et statuts, indiquer le siège, etc... Pour le moment, le secrétariat et ses frais sont assurés par la N B L C (Centre Néerlandais pour les Bibliothèques Publiques et la Lecture) à La Haye.

Au cours de cette rencontre, M. van der Velde, Directeur de la N B L C s'est félicité devant l'assemblée du consensus ainsi obtenu qui permettra de parler d'une seule et même voix face à la C E.

La "Library Association" fera circuler le rapport complet sur cette rencontre.

Secrétariat du groupe de travail:
N B L C, Postbus 93054, NL-2509 La Haye, Pays-Bas
Tel. +31 70 314 1500 - Fax: +31 70 314 1600

Contact au Royaume-Uni:
Mr George Cunningham, Chief Executive
The Library Association
7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE
Tel.: +44 71 636 7543 - Fax: +44 71 436 7218



IFLA annouements

The Robert Vosper IFLA Fellows Programme

If you are a librarian with exceptional professional knowledge, can contribute to international efforts and have the potential to be an influential and effective leader in inter-

national settings, IFLA invites you to apply for the Robert Vosper IFLA Fellows Programme 1992. Four Fellows will be accepted and each will receive USD 10,000 for their work. The Fellows selected will be required to execute projects in one of IFLA's Core Programmes (PAC, UAP, UBCIM and UDT). The work is part time, on secondment from the parent institution, for a period of one year. Candidates sponsored by national institutions with international involvement will have an additional advantage. Deadline for applications for the 1992 class is 1 February 1992. *Full details on the Programme are available from IFLA Headquarters, POB 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands.*



V A C A N C Y - Secretary General of IFLA

The present Secretary General, Paul Nauta, will retire on 1 October 1992. The Executive Board of IFLA therefore invites applications for the post.

Essential requirements:

- a sound professional and academic background
- managerial skills which have been demonstrated at a senior level within librarianship or a related area
- ease in internal and external communication and sensitivity to different cultures
- ability to withstand stress
- experience in international work
- fluency in English and a reasonable knowledge of French, German and Spanish.

Responsibilities:

- direct and coordinate the various IFLA activities, including the IFLA bureaux
- assume responsibility for the management and further development of IFLA programmes
- act as financial manager and obtain funding for IFLA activities
- anticipate decision-making by the IFLA Executive Board
- taking decisive action on the basis of Executive Board authorization and guidelines
- represent IFLA as required
- reporting to the Executive Board on action taken.

It is the intention to fill the post as of 1 October 1992. The level of the position will be comparable to that of a University Librarian in the Netherlands. Salary range (before tax): NLG 8,000-10,000 per month, depending on qualifications and experience. The post is full-time and the appointment will in principle be on a permanent basis. The post is located at IFLA HQ in The Hague, Netherlands. Further information may be obtained from the present Secretary General, Paul Nauta, IFLA HQ, POB 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands, Tel. +31 70 3140884. Fax + 31 70 3834827. Applications in writing including details of previous positions held, and names, addresses, tel. and fax numbers of at least two references, should be forwarded to the IFLA Secretary General at the above address not later than 1 January 1992. Applications will be treated in confidence. Short-listed applicants will be called for interview in Spring 1992.

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE EUROPE

Third Biennial Congress of AHILA

Have you ever thought of being cold in Zimbabwe? Located at the 18th parallel and at an altitude of about 1500 meters, Harare, its capital, offers chilly mornings and nights to the July winter visitor. It is in Harare that African medical librarians representing more than 15 countries of Western, Eastern and Central Africa gathered between July 7th and 12th, for the Third Biennial Congress of AHILA, the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa.

New technologies were very much in the forefront of topics discussed. Yet their importance in today's world of libraries and health information never overshadowed the more critical issues of delivery of health information and availability of primary health care in the rural communities of Africa, where it is most needed. Sponsored by WHO, World Health Organisation, the Meeting was also attended by delegates from Switzerland, France, Canada and the United States.

The opening address by the Honorable Dr T. Stamps, Minister of Health in Zimbabwe underlined the fact that nothing is ever solved in the pursuit of health. If progress has been achieved in some areas, the current situation with HIV or AIDS allows no slackening of efforts. Through a few anecdotes, Dr Stamps illustrated the importance and the need for enhanced communications. Dr Deborah Avriel of WHO, Geneva, in her keynote address, reminded all participants of the steps taken to this date to overcome constraints imposed by lack of facilities to diffuse the information available. She stressed the fact that the road ahead is a difficult one to travel and that we shall have to update constantly our skills and upgrade our tools in an effort to adapt to an everchanging technology.

Computers were very much in focus in all papers presented. A detailed review of the state of the art in computerized information access and delivery in Nigeria by Ms Olisa pointed out the wide difference one encounters from one library to another. The need and the potential of a well designed national information system and national documentation centre was outlined by Mark Lippmann, a peace corps volunteer at the Ministry of Health in Malawi. Lippman's paper found an echo in Ms Shakakata's from Zambia, who pointed out the difficulties and the struggle to implement a national information policy. A far cry may exist between a national policy on paper and the actual results at the local level. Zambia is a case in point with medical

libraries struggling to have a voice and to play a meaningful role in the Zambia national policy of health care.

Some progress however is being realised even if in piecemeal fashion, for example in the Healthnet project (see "News from Europe - Meeting reports" *Satellite/Healthnet* in this issue). Zambia is one of the experimental stations of Healthnet. With its location and current situation Zambia is a prime partner for such an experiment, not the least because of the dynamism of some of its medical librarians.

Computers and CD-ROM represent a real breakthrough for developing countries. Mindful of the enormous potential of this new technology, participants of the AHILA Congress either as a captive audience or active participants applied time and learning skills to the new media. Some CD-ROM like MAXX and the Oxford Textbook of Medicine were described to the participants. MAXX is an integrated programme on CD-ROM representing 15 manuals on diagnostic and therapy, written by specialists in the field. Its full name, Maximum Access to Diagnostic and Therapy speaks for itself. It addresses itself to an audience of young physicians in training.

The Oxford Textbook of Medicine is nothing else than the counterpart of the printed work. Presented as CD-ROM however, it offers integration of information in a way no printed book could emulate.

Other CD-ROM were mounted and everyone had hands-on experience with the software and interrogation of the database. BIRD produced by the Centre de l'Enfance in Paris is a database of more than 100,000 references, which covers worldwide information on pediatrics. Reports, articles not otherwise readily available are included and give access to a variety of sources.

Renal Tumors of Children is another product from CMC Research (USA). You need a super VGA card on your computer if you want to take full advantage of the colour slides included. A plain VGA card will also work but with a lesser resolution of the photographs. The Carnegie Corporation is active in making such media available in the medical libraries of developing countries.

Workshops were also an important part of this meeting. Participants could choose between a CDS-ISIS hands-on experience or a training session on

CARDBOX organised by WHO of Geneva with Irene Bertrand as instructor. CARDBOX is a software used in several WHO libraries. It allows management of library records but also lends itself to various applications. A coherent programme between WHO supported medical libraries in Africa is being developed. Through exchanges of records and documentation on diskette, several medical libraries can now easily manage information and documents. The training of African librarians aims at enlarging a burgeoning network of CARDBOX users.

Congress participants were also trained in the use of CDS-ISIS developed by UNESCO and available freely to requesting libraries. Designed first for a main frame, CDS-ISIS, like CARDBOX, is also available in a microcomputer version. It allows management of library records in standard formats. Fairly easy to use, its availability among medical libraries of developing countries would strengthen information control in a uniform way.

Exchange of data and availability of support through the development of a large network of users represent a real breakthrough for medical libraries. J. Thomas of Geneva was the Workshop leader.

Some interfaces have already been developed between CARDBOX and CD-ISIS. Such programmes are very promising to enable medical libraries of Africa to develop control and efficiency in the management of their collection and services.

Elections for a new Board took place with Lucinda Hunter of WHO, Brazzaville elected president.

A joyous braaivleis (or cook-out) where we burn both our hands and our meat brought a final note to a successful meeting organized by the team of medical librarians of the University of Harare, under the chairmanship of Helga Patrikios.



PUBLICATIONS

New Products

Schmidt Dorrit 1991 Danskernes brug af rusmidler (Use of intoxicants in Denmark). National Board of Health: Copenhagen. 78p. 55DKK. In Danish with detailed summary in English. *To order from: Statens Information, Postboks 1103, DK-1009 Copenhagen K, Denmark.* Report highlights the self-reported use of narcotic drugs, sedatives, tranquillizers and alcohol among the average population of Denmark. Questionnaire included.

ISI announces the release of new discipline-specific Citation Indexes on CD-ROM with abstracts: Neurosciences Citation Index, Chemistry Citation Index and Biotechnology Index. *For more information contact: Jacqueline Trolley, Institute for Scientific Information, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.*

From the BMA (British Medical Association): EURObrief, a monthly bulletin about European health issues and legislation, including the following subjects: health and safety, Europe against Cancer, tobacco, AIDS, medical research, pharmaceuticals, social charter issues, human rights, national and European meetings. £40.00. *Available from: H. Wallace, BMA, Professional, Scientific and International Affairs Division, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.*

Mammography Abstracts is a new quarterly journal produced from the Breast Cancer Screening Reference Database compiled by the Health Care Evaluation Unit at the University of Bristol. It aims to provide a comprehen-

sive reference facility for a wide range of health professionals involved in the field of breast cancer screening. Covers international English language literature including grey items not easily found elsewhere. £50.00 (UK), £54.00 (Europe). *Available from: J. Watt, Health Care Evaluation Unit, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine, University of Bristol, Canynge Hall, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2PR, UK. FAX: +44272 238568.*

Paietta Anne C 1991 Access services: a handbook. LA/McFarland: London. 224p. ISBN 1-85604-034-8. £19.50. Details the complex nature of access services and reveals their pivotal role in marketing the library to its users.

Ford Nigel 1991 Expert systems and artificial intelligence: an information manager's guide. *Library Association: London.* 287p. ISBN 0-85365-909-5. £32.50. Makes developments in artificial intelligence accessible to the reader without previous scientific, mathematical or computing knowledge.

Patrias Karen 1991 National Library of Medicine Recommended Formats for Bibliographic Citation. *National Technical Information Service: Springfield VA 22161. PB91-182030.* Cost \$24 plus \$3 handling charge. This publication provides instructions for formatting citations to 14 different types of both published and unpublished material including newer electronic formats such as CD-ROM and E-mail. Shows bibliographic elements and punctuation. Publication aims to apply existing standards to biomedical material. (From National Library of Medicine NEWS 46 (5-6) May-June)

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ADBS 1991 Annuaire. List of 5,000 documentalists. Available from: ADBS 25, rue Claude-Tillier, 75012 Paris. Tel: 1-43722525 FAX: 1-43723041. F 450.

Mandelstam M 1991 Equipment for disability. The Disabled Living Foundation: London. ISBN 0-901908-541 40p. Available from: Haigh & Hochland, The Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9QH. FAX: 61-273-4340. Practical guide providing the key to the complex and confusing system of equipment provision for people with disabilities in the UK.

Line MB 1991 Bibliothèque et services d'information: Besoins nationaux, solutions, rôles des bibliothèques nationales. Paris: UNESCO, 1989. 55p (PGI-89/WS/9). This is the French version of: National Libraries and information needs: alternative means of fulfilment, with special reference to the role of national libraries, announced in UNISIST Newsletter 17(4), 1989.

From the May 1991 UAP Newsletter: One of the recent contracts for UNESCO included a study of the needs for training staff working in interlending and document supply and a series of training modules devised which can be used in any environment including library schools, large library networks and small libraries with limited staff and resources. The modules could be used for distance learning. To be published by UNESCO Summer 1991.

Bowker-Saur is to produce a Directory of Special Collections in Western Europe to appear in 1992.

IFLA and the British Library published the Guide to Centres of International Lending and Copying 4th edition 1990 (ISBN 0-7123-2076-8) compiled by MM Barwick of the IFLA Office of International Lending. Available from the British Library, Boston Spa.

The Allied and Alternative Medicine bibliographic database with coverage ranging from acupuncture, homeopathy, osteopathy and herbalism to occupational therapy, rehabilitation and terminal care is available from Data-Star (AMED) since June. Compiled by the British Library Medical Information Service. File includes data from 1985 onward (350 biomedical journals, appr. 40,000 citations).

CD-ROM Vidal 1991 (2nd ed) Contact: F. Issaurat, 11 rue Quentin-Bauchart, 75008 Paris, tel: 1-47239091 (pour une démonstration), ou EURO-CD Diffusion 13, cité Voltaire, 750011 Paris (pour une démonstration chez un distributeur spécialisé).



Europe

1991 Writing European in rich Latin and Greek. *Information Market* 66:9. The arrival of a Single Market brings with it the need to communicate in several languages. The addition of accents, special letters or whole alphabets for Greek or Cyrillic may present a whole new set of problems and barriers. In an office it will increasingly become necessary to move from one language to another. Various solutions are discussed: built-in keyboards, printers text-processing, integrated writing packages. Wishlist for appropriate software included.

Martin JF 1991 The role of the Royal College of Physicians in Europe. *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians*. 25:45-47

U.K. Office of Arts and Libraries 1991 The European library plan - what next? *Library Association Record* 93(3):95.

[Editor] **1991 Euro-LA to be formed by autumn 1992.** *Library Association Record* 93:422. Brief report on the international meeting which made substantial progress towards establishing a new organisation linking all library, information and documentation associations in the member states of Europe.

Berman P 1991 Eurohealth for all. *Health Service Journal* 101(4th July): 12. The author is the Director of the European Healthcare Management Association.

Ham C 1991 Health care reform in Europe. *Lancet* 338:46-47. A brief conference report on reforms taking place in various European countries.

Dale P (ed) 1991 Guide to government libraries in Western Europe. *British Library: London*.

Bowden P 1991 Europe and libraries: the Community and the wider Europe. *British Book News* June:376-377. On libraries in general and the European Action Plan for Libraries.

Anonson J 1991 EIRENE Directory. *UK Online User Group Newsletter* 2(3):7. The European Information Researchers Network (EIRENE) produces an annual directory of members (#95). A contact address is given.

1991 STM Newsletter 81 July Copyright in the European Community p14-15; Copyright in Switzerland p15-16; Copyright in transmitted electronic documents CITED p16.

Anon 1991 Europeans press for copyright reform. *Rights* 5(1):5-8. (ISSN 1011-0240)



New Publications from the WHO

WHO. Regional Office for Europe. 1990 List of documents. Supplement. Copenhagen. Designed to provide up-to-date information on documents issued by the Regional Office in 1990 and to assist with bibliographical searches. Index terms based on MeSH.

WHO. Regional Office for Europe. 1990 Psychosocial aspects of HIV and AIDS and the evaluation of preventive strategies. Report on a WHO meeting, Lisbon 28 May - 1 June 1990. *WHO Regional Publications, European Series*, No. 36. ISBN 92-890-1127-0 Sw.fr. 10.- 76 participants discussed the psychosocial aspects of HIV infection and AIDS, emphasized the importance of program monitoring and evaluation and chose school and college students as target groups for AIDS education. Point at the importance of the media to carry out effective programs.

World Health Organization 1991 Healthy Cities Project: A project becomes a movement. *Review of progress 1987 to 1990*. ISBN 88-85393012. Available from: SOGESS S.r.l., Via De Amicis 53, 20123 Milan, Italy. The report recounts the development and growth of the project, some of the actions for health underway in the 30 project cities, difficulties, challenges and future plans.



Professional Literature

Godbolt S 1991 Electronic publishing, the end user, and medical education. *Annals of Rheumatic Diseases* 50: 411-414.

Harte N 1991 The bookless library - an optical solution to information overload. *Radiography Today* June:43. Short item on the problems of storage and retrieval of information. These are now being tackled using optical disc technology, CD-ROM, WORM, and erasable optical disks.

Warling B and Gilman LB 1991 Manual versus MEDLINE searches. *American Journal of Psychiatry* 148:686. The findings of JC Bareta et al. (A comparison of manual and MEDLARS reviews of the literature on consultation-liaison psychiatry. *Am J Psychiatry* 1990; 147:1040-1042) are likely to be largely due to their inexperience as on-line searchers.

Hunter K 1991 Electronic copyright to journal full text: tension and crony. *STM Newsletter* 81 July. Insert (11p). Sections included: Copyright as a balancing tool; Tension in the incentive - access balance; Full text examples; Industrial companies; University networks; Redistribution and for resale; Other problems; ADONIS; Increase legal protection, Conclusion.

Williams B 1991 Trends in document image storage: Storage media. *Information World Review* no.60: 16-17. Discussion of the optical discs and its three alternatives used for document imaging systems.

ACRL Bibliographic Instruction Section. Emerging Technologies in Instruction Committee. 1991 Teaching methods for end-user searching: a checklist for planning. *College & Research Libraries News* 52(7):431-436. Detailed. Includes classroom, one-on-one and computer-assisted instruction as well as printed materials.

Béatrice Wilhelm
responsible of the section
"Publications"
of our Newsletter.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 3-5, 1991 - Grenoble, France

INDEX 91 - 2ème Bourse Internationale des Banques de Données. L'ADBS et le GRD participeront activement à son organisation. *Contact: Elisabeth Fontannaz, CGIG, 1 place André Malraux, BP 297, F-38016 - Grenoble Cedex - Tel. +33/76 47 20 36*

October 14-17, 1991 - Seville, Spain

1991 EUSIDIC Annual Conference, Seville, Spain. *Contact: Eusidic Secretariat, 9a High Street, Calne, Wilts. SN111 OBS, UK - Fax: +44 0 249 813 656*

October 16-19, 1991 - Göttingen, Germany

Symposium AV-Medien in der Medizin, Göttingen. *Contact: Institut für den Wissenschaftlichen Film (IWF), Nonnenstieg 72, 3400 Göttingen. Fax: +49 551 202 200.*

December 4, 1991, Paris

AGORA - Europe et santé, un avenir commun ? Europe and Health, a common future? sous le patronage de la CEC. *Contact et inscriptions: Comité français pour le développement du programme HOPE, BP 1005, 5 allée de l'Ile Gloriette, F-44035 Nantes Cedex 01, France - Tel. 40 08 42 42 - Fax: 40 08 46 57*

Fin 1991 - Le Kremlin Bicêtre, France

Stages de formation organisés par l'IMA, Centre de Documentation de l'INSERM : utilisation et interrogation de bases de données bibliographiques biomédicales. *Contact : IMA, Service formation, Attn : Mrs H. Vallée, Centre de Documentation INSERM, 78 rue du Général Leclerc, F - 94270 Le Kremlin Bicêtre, France - Fax : (1) 46 58 40 57*



March 26-31, 1992, London, UK

Library and Information Studies in Europe. Spring seminar for key academic staff in Library and information

professional studies in all countries of the European community. LA/British-Council/BLRDD. *Contact: Gileon Holrotyd, Director of Studies, c/o Education and International Div., The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE, UK*

July 16-19, 1992, Reading, England

First International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists, to be held at the University of Reading, UK. Theme: "Animal Health Information: Planning for the 21st Century". *Contact: Vicki F. Croft, Veterinary Medical Pharmacy Library, 170 Wegner Hall, Washington State University, Pullman, Wa. 99164-6512, USA, Tel.: 509/335 5544 and Fax: 509/335 5158*

August 30-September 5, 1992 - New Delhi, India

IFLA General Conference. *Contact: Prof. Krishan Kumar, President, Indian Library Association, IFLA 1992, A/40-41, Ansal Building, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi, India*

September 24-26, 1992 - Montpellier, France

Third European Conference of Medical Libraries - 3ème Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales, preceded by continuing education courses - AEIBS/EAHIL - Theme: "Information Transfer: New Age, New Ways - Le transfert de l'information: temps nouveaux, méthodes nouvelles". *For information, contact: Mrs Jeanet Ginestet, SANOFI Recherche, rue du Prof. J. Blayac, 34082 Montpellier, France - Tel. 33/67400133 - Fax: 33/67756321*

October 22-30, 1992, Madrid, Spain

FID 46th Conference and Congress. International Federation for Information and Documentation. "New Worlds in Information and Documentation". *Contact: FID'92 Organizing Committee, ICYT, Joaquin Costa 22, 28002 Madrid, Spain. Tel. 34/1/563 54 82.*



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INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

Invited articles: These will be commissioned by the Editorial Board, though suggestions regarding suitable subjects would be welcome. **Important:** *Whilst the Editorial Board endeavours to obtain items of interest, the facts and opinions expressed in those items are the responsibility of the authors concerned. They do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of the Association.* **News from Europe:** these should be short - not more than about 400 words long. **Regular sections:** contributions to the **Publications and Forthcoming Events** sections are invited. They should be sent to the Editor of the section concerned (**Publications:** Beatrice Wilhelm; **Forthcoming Events:** R. Hoet). The Editor would be pleased to hear of any ideas for invited articles - editorials and for general comment on the Newsletter of the Association's activities. These will be followed up where possible and may be published if, as with other items, the constraints of space and balance permit. At the moment the final copy has to reach the Editor at least two months before the publication date, though we hope to reduce production time. *The official languages of the Association are English and French.* News from the Association and the editorials will generally be translated; summaries in the second language will normally be published with invited articles, but otherwise items will be given only in one language. Contributions, other than those for the **Publications and Forthcoming Events** sections should be sent to the Editor.



FAST® ist ein zusätzlicher Service, der von Swets bereits seit etwa 20 Jahren entwickelt wird und der dazu dient, Bibliotheken weltweit so zuverlässig und zweckmäßig wie möglich mit ihren nord-amerikanischen und europäischen Zeitschriften zu beliefern.

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