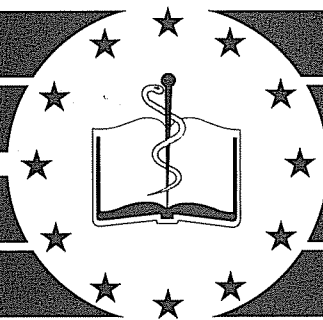




*European Association
for Health Information and Libraries*

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

January - Janvier 1998 • N° 42

Newsletter

to European Health Librarians • des Bibliothécaires Européens de la Santé



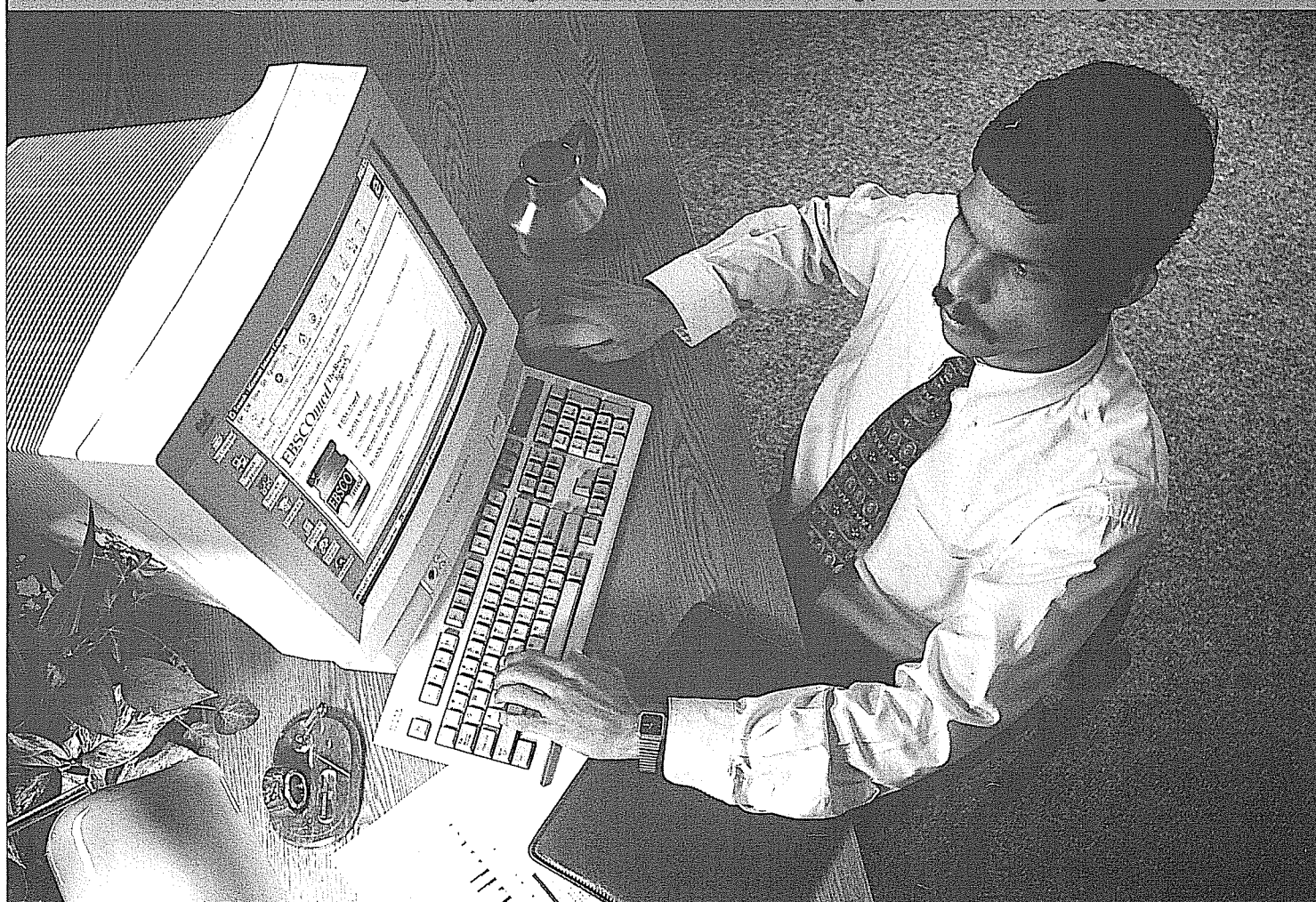
Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht - Outside View of Academy Building
Sixth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries
June 22-27, 1998 - Utrecht

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Instructions for authors • Instructions aux Auteurs

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

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) (les disquettes devront être fournies). 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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La Rédaction s'efforce d'obtenir des articles intéressants. Cependant, les faits et opinions exprimés dans ces articles sont de la responsabilité de leurs auteurs. Ils ne reflètent pas nécessairement les politiques et opinions de l'Association.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES



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• Toute information concernant l'Association et les annonces dans la Newsletter peut être obtenue au :

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Letter from the President

Our tenth year anniversary has just come to an end, and we can look back on an eventful year: two successful

workshops in connection with the anniversary, one in Copenhagen, on September 4 as a joint EAHIL/IFLA workshop, organized by Alice Norhede of the Danish Pharmaceutical Library, and the other, the main EAHIL event, the Workshop in Budapest, Hungary, September 23-25, organized by Marta Viragos of the Central Library Medical University.

Budapest is a very beautiful and interesting city, with a fascinating river, the Danube. The old palace of Buda was a marvellous backdrop for the workshop. The anniversary dinner, which was held in a small village outside Budapest, gave us a taste of the famous Hungarian cooking and their lovely folklore. It was a wonderful and cheerful evening with many happy people. Another successful event in the whole series of previously successful EAHIL events! And I am especially happy that the celebration took place in a eastern European country!

The Newsletter with its special anniversary issue in October was another success. Very well done, with many interesting

contributions from faithful members, and many nice photos. It was a real pleasure to read it, and it gave a good overview of EAHIL activities during its first ten years. On behalf of the EAHIL Board, I would like to express my best thanks to Alice Norhede, Marta Viragos, Luisa Vercellesi and Roselyne Hoet for their considerable and valuable effort in making the 10 year anniversary a success!

In connection with the Budapest workshop, EAHIL held its bi-annual Board meeting, and its annual Council meeting. (see the short summary by Liisa Salmi in this issue). The activities of EAHIL were discussed: the future EAHIL workshops and conferences seem to be in good hands and on schedule; the Newsletter is for the moment being taken good care of by Luisa Vercellesi and Roselyne Hoet; the Board approved the plans from Arne Jakobsson for a frame-based redesign of the EAHIL web site, and the creation of a closed listserv for Council members. This listserv should be a good and efficient way of communication through the whole year. I hope all Council members will use this opportunity to discuss and exchange views and opinions.

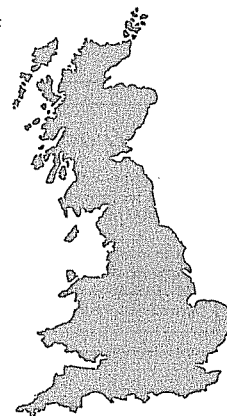
This year is an election year, and I ask each one of you to seek out and approach suitable candidates for the presidency and Council members. I am sorry to tell you that we have received a letter of resignation from Otakar Pinkas in

November. He has resigned from his post as director of the National Medical Library in Prague, and has therefore also resigned as a EAHIL Board member. We have accepted his resignation with great regret. Alice Norhede has taken his seat on the Executive Board.

The most important issue discussed by the Board, this time, was the future of the EAHIL secretariat. After a full discussion of the matter, it was decided to put the EAHIL Secretariat out for open tender. The Council approved the Board's decision. The Board is very eager to find a suitable home for the EAHIL secretariat so that the Association will be taken good care of after the resignation of Roselyne Hoet. We think that a medical library or information centre would be a perfect host for the secretariat - the future secretary would be in professional surroundings which would be to the benefit of the Association.

Finally, on behalf of the EAHIL Board, I would like to wish all of you a happy and peaceful New Year!

Elisabeth Husem
EAHIL President



From the Editor



On suggestion of the editor, our President Elisabeth Husem on behalf of the EAHIL Board has invited Giovanna Miranda to act as

Newsletter co-editor.

One of the aims of the Association in fact is to increase the accessibility of the EAHIL

Newsletter, through a printed and an electronic abridged version. The strengthening of the editorial board will hopefully help to achieve this goal.

The EAHIL Board expressed appreciation for the editorship, stating that the editorial board has succeeded in providing a nice and useful newsletter. The EAHIL Board is also confident in a good development of the newsletter.

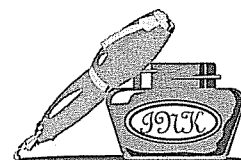
May I join Elisabeth Husem and the board in thanking the editorial members for volunteering to maintain a network among members through the Newsletter. I am pleased to stress this profitable and continuing cooperation, converging from

various European countries, and provided in an unusual setting: extrawork, distant work, no meetings.

Best wishes for a peaceful new year, full of professional interest and enhancement to the team and all the readers.

Luisa Vercellesi
Chief Editor





Lettre de la Présidente

Les célébrations de notre dixième anniversaire se terminent et nous pouvons passer en revue cette année mouvementée. Deux symposiums réussis en relation avec l'anniversaire de l'Association. L'un à Copenhague organisé le 4 septembre conjointement avec l'IFLA par Alice Norhede de la Bibliothèque de Pharmacie Danoise et l'autre, événement essentiel pour l'AEIBS, le symposium de Budapest en Hongrie, du 23 au 25 septembre, organisé par Marta Viragos de la Bibliothèque Centrale de l'Université de Médecine à Debrecen.

Budapest est une ville jolie et intéressante, traversée par les eaux fascinantes du Danube. Le vieux palais de Buda formait une merveilleuse toile de fond pour le symposium. Le dîner d'anniversaire, qui eut lieu dans un petit village à l'extérieur de Budapest, nous a donné le goût de la fameuse cuisine hongroise et du charmant folklore local. C'était une merveilleuse soirée, pleine de bonne humeur, avec beaucoup de gens heureux. Un autre événement réussi parmi tous ceux de l'AEIBS ! Et je suis particulièrement heureuse que la célébration des 10 ans de l'AEIBS ait eu lieu dans un pays d'Europe de l'est !

La Newsletter d'Octobre, avec son supplément spécial consacré à cet anniversaire, a été un autre succès. Ce numéro spécial était attrayant, avec des témoignages et photos intéressants en provenance de membres fidèles. C'était un réel plaisir de le lire, il donnait un bon aperçu des activités de l'AEIBS pendant ses dix premières années. Au nom du Bureau Exécutif de l'AEIBS, je voudrais exprimer mes meilleurs remerciements à Alice Norhede, Marta Viragos, Luisa Vercellesi et Roselyne Hoet pour les efforts considérables qu'elles y ont apportés avec la volonté de faire du dixième anniversaire un succès !

Dans le cadre de l'atelier de Budapest, l'AEIBS a organisé la réunion du Bureau semestrielle et du Conseil annuelle (cf. le court résumé de Liisa Salmi dans ce numéro). Les activités de l'AEIBS y furent discutées. Les futurs symposiums et conférences de l'AEIBS semblent être en de bonnes mains, ainsi que la Newsletter par Luisa Vercellesi et Roselyne Hoet. Le Bureau a approuvé les plans d'Arne Jakobsson de créer un nouveau design du site web de l'AEIBS en mode frame, ainsi qu'une liste de discussions pour les

membres du Conseil. Cette liste devrait être un moyen de communication efficace tout au long de l'année. J'espère que les membres du Conseil utiliseront cette opportunité de discussions et d'échanges de points de vue et d'opinions.

Cette année est l'année des élections et je demande à chacun de vous de rechercher et d'approcher des candidats pour la présidence et le Conseil. Je suis au regret de vous dire que nous avons reçu une lettre de démission d'Otakar Pinkas en novembre dernier. Il a quitté son poste de directeur de la Bibliothèque Nationale de Médecine de Prague et par conséquent a démissionné de son poste de membre du Bureau de l'AEIBS. Nous avons accepté sa démission à contre cœur. Alice Norhede a repris ses fonctions au sein du Bureau Exécutif.

Le sujet le plus important abordé par le Bureau était le futur du secrétariat de

l'AEIBS. Après une discussion approfondie sur le sujet, il a été décidé de faire un appel d'offres d'hébergement pour le secrétariat de l'AEIBS. Le Conseil a approuvé la décision du Bureau qui désire vivement trouver un hébergement adéquat pour le secrétariat de manière à ce que l'association soit entre de bonnes mains après le départ de Roselyne Hoet. Nous pensons qu'une bibliothèque ou un centre de documentation médical serait un hôte parfait pour le secrétariat car le(a) futur(e) secrétaire s'intégrerait dans un environnement professionnel qui serait bénéfique à l'association.

Enfin, au nom du Bureau de l'AEIBS, je voudrais vous souhaiter à tous une heureuse et paisible Année 1998 !

Eisabeth Husem
Présidente de l'AEIBS

Lettre de la Rédaction

Sur suggestion de la rédactrice en chef, notre Présidente, Elisabeth Husem, a invité au nom du Bureau, Giovanna Miranda à devenir co-rédactrice de la Newsletter. Un des buts de l'association est d'augmenter l'accessibilité de la Newsletter de l'AEIBS par une version imprimée et une version électronique abrégée. Le renforcement du comité de rédaction aidera à atteindre ce but.

Le Bureau a exprimé son avis sur la rédaction, déclarant que le comité de rédaction a réussi à produire une Newsletter attrayante et d'intérêt pour les membres. Le Bureau est aussi confiant dans le bon développement de la

Newsletter. Je me joins à Elisabeth Husem et au Bureau pour remercier les membres de la rédaction, pour leur engagement bénévole à maintenir un réseau entre les membres au travers de la Newsletter. Je suis heureuse de souligner cette coopération profitable et continue, convergeant de différents pays d'Europe, et fournie dans un contexte inhabituel : travail supplémentaire, à distance, sans réunion.

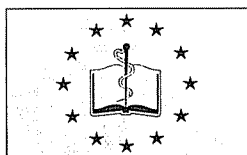
Meilleurs Voeux pour une nouvelle année prospère à l'équipe de la rédaction et aux nombreux lecteurs.

Luisa Vercellesi
Rédactrice-en-chef

EAHIL SHORT NEWS

The National Medical Library in Prague
has moved to the new premises.

The address: Sokolska 54, 121 32 Prague 2, Czech Republic
Tel.: 4202 2426 6870 - Fax: 4202 2426 6051
email : nml@nlk.dec.cz



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

A few news from EAHIL

Our Budapest Workshop held on September 23-25, 1997 was a successful meeting of colleagues in the European health sciences librarian community. The Board held its meeting before the Symposium and started by noting that *Christine Deschamps* (President), *Derek Law* (Treasurer) and *Ragnhild Lande* (Member of the Committee of the Section of Biological and Medical Libraries) from EAHIL had been elected to posts or committees in IFLA. It also welcomed *Françoise Pasleau* as the Belgian representative on the Board. *Alice Norhede* was pointed out to be our representative for the WHO and now the Board is happy to announce the admission of our colleagues from all the WHO Documentation Centres in central and eastern Europe to EAHIL. As you remember, EAHIL has a special commitment to establish agreements for cooperation with colleagues from eastern and central Europe. The Board anticipates active involvement from all EAHIL members in setting up projects of cooperation with our new fellow members.

Great changes may be affecting our Association, since Roselyne Hoet, who has been with the Association since its beginning, will retire in November 1998, and a new secretariat will be established. The Board has received two bids for the secretariat, and the decisions will be made in Utrecht in June this year, when the meetings of the General Assembly, Board and Council will be held in connection with our conference.

1998 is also the year for elections within EAHIL. Preparations are already under way.

The Editor of the Newsletter, *Luisa Vercellesi* has been appointed as a project leader, so she needs help in editing the Newsletter. *Giovanna Miranda*, from Sanofi Winthrop is going to be Luisa Vercellesi's co-editor.

The President's report once more emphasised the general worry about getting the central and eastern European health sciences libraries closely connected to the European community, and various thoughts on improving the situation were presented. One measure to ease up the situation is the decision to reduce the institutional membership fee to the level of individual membership throughout eastern and central Europe until 2000, with effect from 1998.

It was decided that the 1997 EAHIL Award be given to *Jean Shaw*, who has been an active member of the EAHIL for a long time, functioning among other things as

the Editor of the Newsletter for more than five years.

It was decided that Italy should host the 2001 EAHIL Workshop.

The Council meeting was held after the Board meeting. Two new Councillors were welcomed, *Eeva Alopaeus* (Sweden) and *François Lemoine* (France) to replace *Christiane Nicq*. The matters dealt with are usually much the same as in the Board meeting, but discussion, of course, takes place on a much wider basis. The President gave her report detailing EAHIL activities and progress during 1996-97, and the Treasurer was thanked for his readable and understandable report, which showed that the economic situation of the Association is stable.

There were not many written national reports, and some discussion was devoted to the aim of these reports - are they needed and for what purpose. The question remained rather open in Budapest, but now a discussion list on the Internet has been established between the Council and the Board. The Board hopes that this will enhance communication, which can thus take place in a more informal way.

The Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Subgroups gave their respective reports showing that they function very well in their communities. *Alice Norhede* from Denmark told the Councillors about the successful IFLA/EAHIL workshop in Copenhagen.

Suzanne Bakker and *Gertie Veldman* reported on the progress of the Utrecht Conference organisation. The team seems to work very efficiently, and we are looking forward to attending the Conference in June. Preparations for the 1999 Tartu Workshop are underway, too.

The Councillors were asked to intensify their work for an increase in EAHIL membership in their respective countries. The membership currently stands at 503, which means that we still have a long way to go to our aim of 1000 members by the year 2000.

Discussion lists for the Board, Councillors, all members and the Utrecht Organising Committee are now available on the Internet, and they seem to be rather frequently visited. Copies of the minutes of the Board and Council meetings are available at the secretariat.

EAHIL Meetings

The Executive Board Meeting and the annual Council Meeting of EAHIL will be held in the context

of the 6th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Utrecht, The Netherlands, on Wednesday, June 24, 1998.

The **EAHIL General Assembly** will take place on Thursday, June 25, 1998 in the Conference Center in Utrecht as well. We cordially invite all members to attend it.

1998 Elections

The Election Committee consists of *Angelique Mattioli* (Belgium) and *Joop Dijkman* (Netherlands) who replaces *Suzanne Bakker*. They will together with the secretariat see that all practical and technical matters run as they should. The first mailing of election papers takes place in February to each full member of EAHIL, with a cover sheet describing the procedure. Elisabeth Husem's term as President expires at the end of 1998. This time no candidates for the Executive Board are needed because they are all in the beginning of their four year period and will sit up to and including the year 2000.

The Board asks all members to think of and seek candidates for the Presidency and the Council. The Council members should suggest candidates as national delegates to represent their respective countries in the Council.

Le Comité d'Elections est composé d'Angelique Mattioli (Belgique) et de Joop Dijkman (Pays-Bas) qui remplace Suzanne Bakker. Avec le secrétariat à Bruxelles ils sont responsables de la bonne marche des élections et doivent veiller à ce qu'il y aient suffisamment de candidats. De même ils contrôleront le dépouillement des bulletins de vote. Les formulaires de candidature seront envoyés dans le courant de février à tous les membres de plein droit avec un descriptif de la procédure à suivre. Le mandat d'Elisabeth Husem comme Présidente prend fin en décembre 1998. Cette année-ci, il n'y aura pas de nouveaux membres à élire au sein du Bureau Exécutif, ceux-ci termineront leur mandat en l'an 2000.

Le Bureau Exécutif demande instamment aux membres de l'AEIBS de participer activement à ces élections.

Les membres du Conseil devront s'assurer que le nombre de délégués nationaux de leur pays répondent aux postes vacants.

Liisa Salmi

Eahil Vice-President

Internet : liisa.salmi@uku.fi



■ EAHIL SECRETARIAT ON THE MOVE ■

■ LE SECRÉTARIAT DE L'AEIBS, SON CHANGEMENT, SON AVENIR ■

Subject to the approval of the 1998 EAHIL General Assembly to be held in Utrecht in June, the EAHIL office will move this autumn from its long-time home in the rue de la Concorde in Brussels. As this issue goes to press, negotiations are still in progress, but it is certain that it will be within a medical library in Belgium or the Netherlands. The General Assembly will be asked to approve the Board's proposals and no contract will be signed until this has happened. It will also be requested to ask for a change in the statutes which will enable EAHIL's legal base to be moved from Belgium if appropriate. A letter from the President which gives full details of the proposed changes will be mailed shortly to EAHIL members, plus some background information. New information will be published immediately on the EAHIL-L discussion list and on the EAHIL web site. If you haven't subscribed to the EAHIL-L yet, please contact Arne Jakobsson (E-mail: arne.jakobsson @spri.se).

Après approbation par l'Assemblée Générale qui se tiendra à Utrecht en juin prochain, le siège de l'AEIBS et le secrétariat seront déplacés en automne après le long passage de 10 ans au 60 rue de la Concorde à Bruxelles. Alors que le temps presse, les négociations progressent et il est certain que l'AEIBS sera hébergée dans une bibliothèque médicale, soit en Belgique ou soit aux Pays-Bas. Le contrat ne sera signé qu'après approbation par l'Assemblée Générale d'Utrecht. Il sera aussi demandé d'approuver les modifications aux statuts qui seront apportées dans le but de permettre à l'AEIBS de quitter la Belgique, si cela s'indiquait.

Une lettre de la Présidente sera envoyée prochainement aux membres de l'AEIBS donnant plus de détails sur ces propositions de changement. Les prochaines informations seront diffusées sur la liste de discussion "EAHIL-L" ouverte aux membres, ainsi que sur le site web de l'AEIBS. Si vous ne vous êtes pas encore inscrit au groupe de discussion EAHIL-L, n'hésitez pas à contacter Arne Jakobsson (E-mail : arne.jakobsson @spri.se).

Tony McSean, EAHIL Executive Secretary

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**EAHIL Workshop in Tartu (Estonia),
August 1999 - Symposium de
l'AEIBS à Tartu, Estonia, Août 1999**

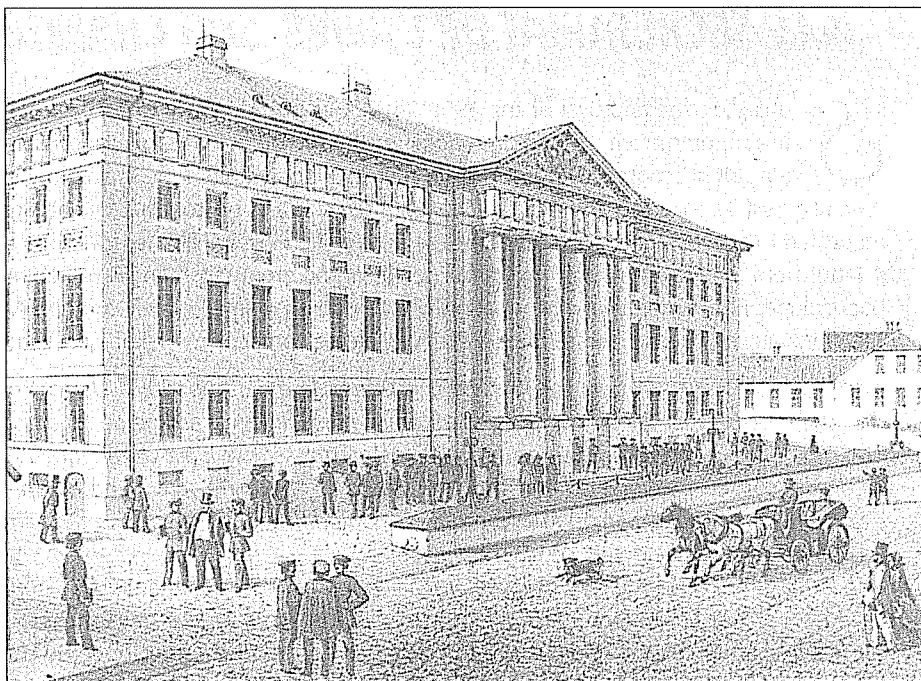
Nous serons heureux d'accueillir nos collègues européens au Symposium de l'AEIBS en août 1999 à Tartu, Estonie. Le thème suggéré par le Comité d'Organisation se baserait sur "L'Internet et la Médecine".

It is a great pleasure to host our European colleagues at the EAHIL Workshop in Estonia in August 1999. The tentative topic suggested by the Organizing Committee would be related to "Internet and Medicine".

Tartu is the second largest town of Estonia, a state on the shores of the Baltic Sea on the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland. The town lies in the middle course of the River Emajõgi. Concerning its development and place in Estonian culture, a characteristic feature of Tartu has been its relative seclusion and introversion. The world renowned professor of semiotics J.Lotman from the University of Tartu has called Tartu a town of culture. In Tartu, even the air is impregnated with culture. Culture is in the background of all events taking place in the town. Tartu is a treasury of culture; at the same time it is a place where culture is constantly being regenerated and reproduced as part of real life. Tartu is an intellectual centre of the Estonian people, and at the heart of this centre is the UNIVERSITY.

The life of the university is intertwined with the life of the whole town. Over 10% of its population are in the employment of the university. The university's properties - buildings, the well - known library and museums (e.g. the museum of classical antiquities with a display of original ancient sculptures) - are the main sights of Tartu. Tight relations between the town and the university have formed favourable conditions for rich intellectual life.

The University of Tartu was founded in 1632 by the Swedish king Gustav II Adolf. Professors F.G.W. Struwe, M.H.Jacobi, N.I. Pirogov, G.H.Hess, C.C.F. von Ledebour, J.P.G. Ewes and others made the university widely known. W.F.Ostwald was awarded the Nobel prize in 1909. The scientists K.E.von Baer (founder of embryology), K.J.Peterson, F.R.Kreutzwald and several



University of Tartu, main building. 19th century.

other great men of Estonia were educated here. The professors of today have brought and are bringing new honour and glory to the university as well as to Tartu. The university buildings were designed by J.W.Krause, an architect of classicist style. The assembly hall of the university is especially beautiful.

The view of the town reveals a number of buildings erected during the last two centuries, but one can also find here real gems of medieval architecture which stand out as invaluable monuments in the whole of Europe. The history of Tartu has lasted for ten centuries. Of all this time, one century has been spent on waging wars and the rest, on resurrection and restoration. The walls lay in ruins but the people and their will had to be stronger in order to go on along the path of truth and justice. Love for the native land knew no boundaries in standing all the trials. The rulers always came from foreign countries: from Sweden, from Germany, from Poland, from Russia.

The Estonians created their national epic "Kalevipoeg" (The Son of Kalev), written down by F.R.Kreutzwald and translated later into many languages, among these German and English. The first Estonian open-air song festival took place in Tartu in 1869. The festivals have been held up till

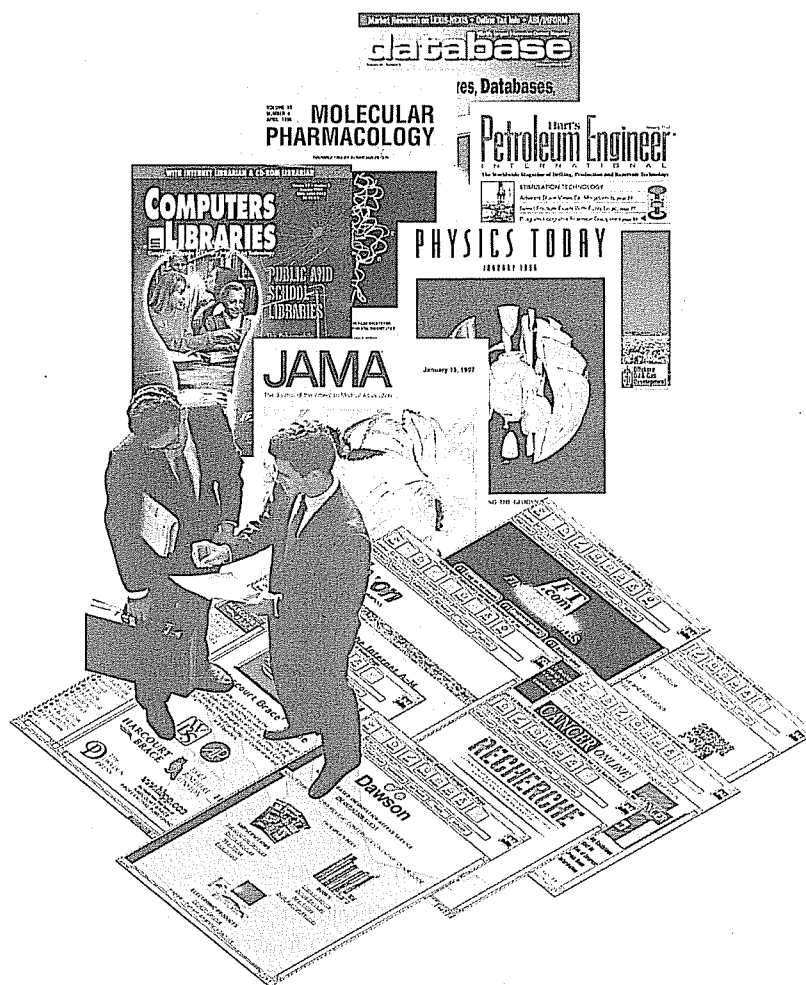
the present, and they give both the performers and the audience enormous emotional impetus. One can hardly see such a festivity where there is no end to songs and from where people will not leave. The choirs have always been eager to come together and sing. The Estonian people won their freedom in the War of Independence which ended in 1920 with the conclusion of the Peace Treaty of Tartu. Freedom and independence were regained on 20 August 1992 after the 50-year-long Soviet occupation (1940 - 1992).

The Tartu of today is characterized by many symbols of modern age but it is still a small, quiet and beautiful town. Its population is about 100 thousand.

The famous beauty spots of Estonia are also its capital Tallinn with its medieval city, as well as picturesque islands off the western coast - only a couple of hours by car from Tallinn.

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NOUVELLES DE NOTRE ASSOCIATION

Workshop à Budapest

Le Symposium de Budapest tenu les 23-25 septembre 1997 a été une rencontre fructueuse de collègues au sein de la communauté européenne des bibliothécaires en sciences de la santé. Le bureau exécutif s'est réuni avant le Symposium et a commencé par noter que *Christine Deschamps* (Présidente), *Derek Law* (Trésorier) et *Ragnhild Lande* (Membre du Comité de la Section des Bibliothèques médicales et biologiques) de l'AEIBS ont été élus à des postes ou dans des comités de l'IFLA. *Françoise Pasleau* a également été accueillie comme membre belge au sein du Bureau. *Alice Norhede* a été désignée pour représenter EAHIL auprès de l'OMS.

De grands changements pourraient affecter notre association car Roselyne Hoet prend sa retraite en novembre 1998. Le nouveau secrétariat sera restructuré. Dans le dernier numéro figurait un appel d'offre auquel toute personne intéressée a pu répondre. Le Bureau a reçu deux offres d'hébergement du secrétariat. La décision finale sera prise lors de l'Assemblée Générale à Utrecht en juin.

La rédactrice en chef de la Newsletter, *Luisa Vercellesi*, a été nommée chef de projet et elle aura donc besoin d'aide pour l'édition de la Newsletter. *Giovanna Miranda*, de Sanofi Winthrop, sera la co-rédactrice qui assistera Luisa.

Le rapport de la Présidente soulignait une fois encore le souci général de relier étroitement les bibliothèques biomédicales de l'Europe centrale et de l'est à la communauté européenne. Afin d'améliorer la situation, différentes idées ont été présentées. Une des mesures destinées à améliorer la situation concerne la réduction du montant de la cotisation institutionnelle au niveau de la cotisation individuelle en Europe centrale et de l'est de 1998 à l'an 2000.

Le Prix d'Honneur 1997 de l'AEIBS a été attribué à *Jean Shaw*, membre actif de l'association depuis de nombreuses années, qui a notamment assumé la rédaction de la Newsletter pendant plus de cinq ans.

Le Workshop de l'AEIBS en 2001 aura lieu en Italie.

La réunion du Conseil s'est tenue après celle du Bureau. Deux nouveaux membres du Conseil ont été accueillis: *Eeva Alopaeus* (Suède) et *François Lemoine* (France) en remplacement de Mme Nicq. Les sujets abordés étaient comme

d'habitude relativement similaires à ceux traités par le Bureau, mais la discussion eut évidemment lieu sur une plus large base. La Présidente a présenté son rapport sur les activités et les progrès de l'AEIBS en 1996-1997. Le trésorier a été remercié pour la clarté de son rapport qui montrait que la situation économique de l'association est stable. Il n'y avait pas beaucoup de rapports nationaux. Il a été discuté des buts et de l'utilité de ces documents. La question reste ouverte.

Les sous-groupes de "Médecine Vétérinaire" et de l'"Industrie Pharmaceutique" ont présenté leurs rapports d'activité respectifs démontrant que ces sous-groupes fonctionnent bien au sein de leurs communautés. *Alice Norhede* (Danemark) a présenté son rapport sur le symposium de l'IFLA/AEIBS tenu avec succès à Copenhague le 4 septembre.

Suzanne Bakker et *Gertie Veldman* ont présenté l'état d'avancement de l'organisation de la Conférence d'Utrecht. L'équipe semble travailler très efficacement et nous attendons juin avec impatience afin d'assister à la conférence. Les préparatifs du Workshop de Tartu en 1999 sont également en bonne voie.

Les membres du Conseil ont été invités à intensifier leur travail pour accroître les affiliations à l'AEIBS dans leurs pays respectifs. Il y a aujourd'hui 503 membres ce qui signifie qu'il reste un long chemin à parcourir pour atteindre le chiffre de 1000 en l'an 2000.

Des listes de discussion pour le Bureau, le Conseil et les membres des comités d'organisation d'Utrecht sont maintenant disponibles sur Internet et semblent être utilisées assez fréquemment.

Liisa Salmi
EAHIL Board Member

EAHIL SUB-GROUPS

European Veterinary Library group

The veterinary subgroup of EAHIL is doing very well. Recently we produced volume two of our own Newsletter with a brand new lay-out and lots of interesting news from Europe and abroad. Some of the topics were: from Russia there's a report on the famous Library of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy for Sciences, the oldest library in Russia. From Berlin there's a report on the on-line dissertation project orga-

nised by the Veterinary Medicine Library of that town. At the next EAHIL conference in Utrecht the European Veterinary Dissertation Project will be presented by some Dutch delegates. It'll be a good opportunity to discuss and try to coordinate and strengthen efforts in this field.

An overview of the Veterinary Faculties in Italy and their libraries completes the issue for the European part. But there's more, because the Group tries to be "real" global and so in the end of the issue you can find reports from North America and Africa.

The preparations for the 6th ECMHL are in full progress. At the conference in Utrecht in June the vets have an interesting programme, in short:

Theme: Libraries without limits

- A model for international cooperation in the creation of structured access to quality information in veterinary medicine, agricultural sciences and forestry, by Kristiina Hornia-Poutanen, Teodora Oker-Blom and Sinikka Suckcharoen (Helsinki, Finland).

Theme: Scientific communication: Virtual information

- Citation analysis of the veterinary literature: a tool to understand the changing scientific communication, by Tom Roper (London, United Kingdom).

Special Interest Group: Veterinary libraries

- European Veterinary Dissertation Project, by Gerdien de Jonge and Theo Elsinghorst (Utrecht, The Netherlands).
- Solving the information demands of veterinarians in Austria: a report of experiences by Doris Reinitzer (Vienna, Austria).
- Veterinary practitioners access to and use of modern information sources by Hans Kuiper and Gerdien de Jonge (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- The veterinary librarian as keeper of the veterinary documentary heritage by Guus Mathijssen (Bilthoven, The Netherlands).

Apart from these interesting lectures and discussions, a visit to the Library of the Veterinary Faculty of Utrecht University will also be organized for the Special Interest Group. So we hope to see you all in Utrecht so we can welcome you there in June next year.

Paul van Olm (chair)

Gerdien de Jonge
(international programme committee).
The Netherlands
email: p.w.vanolm@id.dlo.nl



Co-operation projects between medical and health libraries in Lithuania and Norway: Extracts of a report from a visit to Kaunas and Vilnius, June 19-23, 1996.

Projets de coopération entre bibliothèques biomédicales de la Lituanie et de la Norvège: extraits d'un rapport de visite à Kaunas et Vilnius, 19-23 juin 1996

L'Association des Bibliothèques Norvégienne - Section Médecine et Santé (SMS), travaille depuis plusieurs années avec l'AEIBS à l'intégration de collègues de bibliothèques des pays d'Europe de l'est et centrale dans le réseau professionnel européen. Grâce à leurs proximités géographique et culturelle, les pays baltes sont les partenaires naturels de la coopération avec la Scandinavie. Le Conseil de l'Association Nordique de l'Information et des Bibliothèques de Santé a décidé de répartir la coopération comme suit : la Finlande avec l'Estonie, la Suède et l'Islande avec la Lettonie, le Danemark et la Norvège avec la Lituanie. La Bibliothèque de l'Académie de Médecine de Kaunas (BAMK) est le partenaire de coopération attitré de la SMS. Il est vite apparu qu'une visite du Comité en Lituanie était nécessaire pour établir un état des lieux. Un groupe s'est donc rendu à la BAMK et à la Bibliothèque Lituanienne de Médecine de Vilnius (BLMV). La bibliothèque de Kaunas semble mieux équipée que celle de Vilnius, spécialement au niveau électronique, et se concentre plus sur l'information à jour. Ces deux bibliothèques couvrent les services d'information pour les travailleurs de santé du pays. La coopération entre les deux institutions est bien établie, notamment au niveau des périodiques, et elles sont ouvertes au partage des ressources, même s'il subsiste une part de compétition. Vilnius entretient des contacts avec l'Association Médicale Lituanienne ainsi qu'avec l'Estonie et la Lettonie. Jusqu'à présent, il n'existe pas de catalogue collectif en Lituanie, mais le développement d'un catalogue collectif des trois pays baltes est en projet. SMS souhaite développer ses contacts avec Kaunas d'abord, mais les membres sont certains que cela profitera aussi à Vilnius. Depuis la visite de juin 1996, quelques projets qui n'impliquaient pas de financement ont été réalisés dont le service de fourniture gratuite d'articles de périodiques auquel participent une vingtaine de membres de SMS ou l'envoi de livres de base neufs. Dans le futur, SMS espère travailler sur les abonnements de périodiques. Les challenges professionnels sont universels, indépendamment de l'équipement et du financement : la participation à un réseau professionnel et international apporte les échanges nécessaires d'expériences et de connaissances.

The Norwegian Library Association, Section for Medicine and Health (SMH), has worked together with EAHIL for several years in order to integrate colleagues from libraries in the Eastern European countries into the European professional network. Due to their geographic and cultural "neighbourhood", the Baltic countries are natural co-operation partners with the Nordic countries. This applies to medical and health libraries as well, and co-operation has been an issue on several board meetings of the Nordic Association of Health Information and Libraries. The board has decided that each Nordic country should have its special Baltic co-operation partner. Finland co-operates with Estonia, Sweden and Iceland with Latvia, and Denmark and Norway with Lithuania; Kaunas Medical Academy Library (KMAL) is the special co-operation partner of SMH.

To start with SMH concentrated on sponsoring EAHIL membership as well as participation in European and Nordic conferences and workshops. In 1996 SMH set up a Baltic committee of three people in order to develop co-operation projects with Lithuanian medical libraries, in particular KMAL. It soon became clear to the Committee that a visit to Lithuania was necessary in order to get to know the situation of our Lithuanian colleagues. The visit was financed by contributions from several Norwegian library associations and by SMH itself.

Co-operation partners in Norway and in Lithuania.

Our most important contacts in Lithuania were Mrs Meile Kretaviciene, Director of Kaunas Medical Academy Library, and Mrs Salvinija Kociene, Director of The Lithuanian Library of Medicine. In Norway we have had valuable contact with The Norwegian Medical Association's Baltic Committee.

Meetings and visits

In Lithuania we visited the Kaunas Medical Academy Library, the Lithuanian Library of Medicine in Vilnius and the Public Library in Kaunas. We also had a meeting with Dr. Algimantas Kazemekaitis, head of public health services in Kaunas.

At our meeting with Dr. Kazemekaitis we were told about the infrastructure of the public health system in Lithuania. The system is organized into primary and secondary services, corresponding to the system in other European countries.

There are three levels of responsibility:

- national (state institutions and medical specialties)
- regional (county hospitals and other health institutions)
- local (ambulance service, polyclinics and smaller municipal medical and health institutions)

A health information system should be structured accordingly, regarding access to and distribution of information.

Kaunas Medical Academy Library (KMAL)

(For more information about the library, see the article by D. Trapidiene, EAHIL Newsletter, 1996, n°37, and by M. Kretaviciene, EAHIL Newsletter 1997, n°38)

The library is part of The Kaunas Medical Academy, a state institution. The Academy is the largest educational institution for health personnel in Lithuania. The teaching language is now Lithuanian.

Conclusions from the visit to KMAL

The library is administered very well and has a well qualified staff. The electronic equipment, as well as the electronic competence, is good. There are good opportunities for reference searches, but the information value of these searches are reduced because of the lack of full text documents. This is one of the main problems. Financing of access to restricted databases, and CD-ROM subscriptions are other requirements, and there is a great need for training in the use of medical resources on the Internet. KMAL has created a list of books and periodicals needed according to their priorities.

The Lithuanian Library of Medicine, Vilnius

The State Health Department is the parent organisation of the library, which is a national library responsible for biomedical subjects. There are twelve branch libraries in addition to the main library. Ninety



NEWS FROM EUROPE

other medical libraries all over Lithuania are also served by the Lithuanian Library of Medicine in Vilnius.

Conclusions from the visit to Vilnius

Automation and the use of electronic equipment is coming, but there is still a long way to go. The bibliographic systems need to be converted to western standards. Vilnius gives the impression of focusing more on collections than KMAL. There is a great need for journal subscriptions, full text copies, textbooks, competence for Internet use and financing of databases, both on CD-ROM and on-line. Our impression is that this library is more dependent on donations than Kaunas.

Co-operation between Kaunas and Vilnius

The library in Kaunas seems better equipped than Vilnius, especially with electronic sources and systems, and concentrates more on up to date information. This is probably due to the organizational structure and budget conditions. The two libraries cover between them library services to health workers throughout the country. They have a well established co-operation and are open to the sharing of resources, but there is also an element of competition. For example: a national centre for medical information is being planned, and both libraries would like to get this. There is close co-operation regarding periodicals, exchanging and supplying each other. Docline and GratefulMed in Vilnius is at Kaunas' disposal. Vilnius, especially, has good contacts with the Lithuanian Medical Association and with Estonia and Latvia. So far Lithuania has no national union catalogue. A project is planned to develop a common union catalogue for the three Baltic countries. Lithuania is applying for financing from the MELAN-foundation in USA in competition with Estonia and Latvia. So far, all contact between the libraries has to be made via telephone or mail.

The libraries of Vilnius and Kaunas want to co-operate and share resources. Even if SMH concentrates its co-operation with Kaunas, we feel certain that this can also benefit the Vilnius users. Therefore, we want to develop our contact with Kaunas first, according to the co-operation plan of the Nordic Association. Later we would also like to include Vilnius in agreement with Denmark.

What is new since the visit?

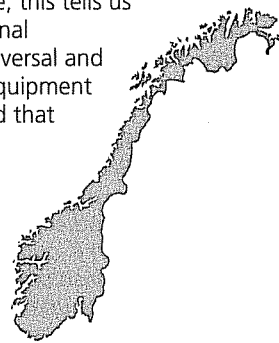
The visit in June 1996 gave us a good impression of the situation at the time. Projects of co-operation could be for

example full text documents, technologic competence and use of electronic ways and sources; medical resources on the Internet. Financing of restricted databases both on-line and on CD-ROM is also much needed. Due to financing many of these projects will have to be developed in co-operation with other organizations. But there are a few things we can do without involving financing. An organized delivery service for full text journal articles has been operative since early 1997. Twenty of the member libraries of SMH have joined this, among them the Medical Faculty Library of the University of Oslo. The Norwegian Union Catalogue for periodicals has supplied a disc containing the stocks of the twenty libraries, which has been sent to Kaunas in order to make it possible to locate and order article copies, free of charge. This service will be evaluated after a year. Some SMH libraries have also contributed new textbooks from the priority list.

The Medical Faculty Library of Oslo donated a sum of NOK 3.000 and many SMH-members have made donations to members attending meetings. As our next project we hope to work on journal subscriptions. At the moment we are looking for co-operation partners.

In Lithuania a national integrated library system is under construction. KMAL is part of this project. In connection with this project they have got a problem which probably is familiar to several among us: they have had a hard time convincing data experts that a system designed especially for libraries is necessary.

As so often before, this tells us that our professional challenges are universal and independent of equipment and finances - and that co-operation in a professional and international network brings valuable exchanges of experiences and knowledge.



SMH. The Baltic Committee:

Elisabeth Husem,
librarian, Psychiatric Institute,
University of Oslo

Elisabeth Akre,
hospital librarian, Medical Library,
Diakonhjemmet Hospital, Oslo

LIS-Medical

Une liste de discussion électronique de plus de 600 membres pour bibliothécaires médicaux et de santé est ouverte à tous en Angleterre. Pour s'y inscrire, il y a lieu de suivre les instructions ci-dessous.

This is an electronic discussion list for medical and healthcare librarians which was started in 1992 by the UK University Medical School Librarians Group. It is housed on the Mailbase server at the University of Newcastle, a service of the UK academic network, JANET.

Membership of this discussion list is open to all, and it currently has nearly 600 members in 20 countries, many are based in the UK from a wide range of academic, NHS and independent medical libraries.

This list is conducted in English, and serves as a means of announcing events, job opportunities, or news items of interest. It is also used to request

information and to initiate debate in areas of professional concern.

Another useful feature of the list is a regular selection of items from the equivalent, and very busy, US list MEDLIB-L. Other discussion lists are monitored and items of interest posted to LIS-MEDICAL.

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Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae (BMF), the Finnish Medical Librarians' Association

Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae (BMF), l'association des bibliothécaires médicaux finnoise, a tenu sa réunion automnale à Helsinki en novembre. Aucun changement au sein du Conseil d'Administration cette année. L'évolution se passe plutôt sur le plan technologique :

- création du Mesh finnois et participation à la réalisation du " CD-Rom du Médecin " en collaboration avec l'Association de Médecins Duodecim;
- lancement d'une liste de discussion électronique et création d'une page d'accueil sur internet (avec tous les problèmes d'accès que cela peut poser à ceux qui travaillent dans les hôpitaux dont les réseaux informatiques sont hyperprotégés pour des raisons de sécurité et de confidentialité);
- la session annuelle de cours abordera la construction de pages web, l'utilisation du " CD-Rom du Médecin " et la gestion de références.

La coopération internationale reste à l'ordre du jour à tous les niveaux et se réalisera notamment par une collaboration à l'organisation du Symposium de l'AEIBS à Tartu en 1999.

Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae (BMF), the Finnish Medical Librarians' Association held their autumn meeting in November in Helsinki. The most important matter at the autumn meeting is the new people on the board, but this time, no changes took place, and Ms. Ulla Neuvonen from the Helsinki University Dental Library will continue as the chairperson.

One of the most exciting projects during the past two years has been the Finnish MeSH project - without the medical librarians contributing very much! The need for a Finnish thesaurus was also badly felt by the physicians, so their association called "Duodecim" started this project for their "Physician's CD-ROM", which is a desk reference disk primarily for general practitioners working

in community health centres. It is a very sophisticated programme, and medical librarians have always been available for professional help. This autumn, however, the relationship was made "official", and BMF and the medical libraries together formed a consultancy to the physicians' publishing house. The publishers can ask any questions as regards terminology work, search profiles, hierarchies etc.

One novelty is the electronic discussion list of BMF, which is now being built up. The board has had a list for some time now, but we are extending the list to all members. A home page is also under way on the Internet, so you will all soon be able to see who we are and what our activities are. One little problem, with us at least, are the connections from hospitals with their data security and "firewalls".

The rapid development of information technology challenges health sciences librarians every day, and much training is needed. Numerous courses are available at a general level, but specialised courses for health sciences are scarce. So we decided to have our annual educational event on building up homepages, getting familiar with the "Physician's CD ROM" and reference management.

International cooperation is one of the most fascinating parts of our job at all levels. We decided to continue it as much as possible, and one task is to collaborate in organising the EAHIL Tartu Symposium in 1999.

Liisa Salmi

EAHIL Board Member

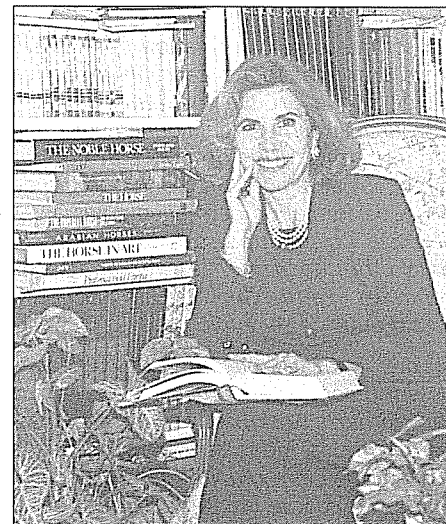
The Seventh National Congress of Information and Documentation in Health Sciences, November 6-8, 1997 in Granada, Spain

The Seventh National Congress of Information and Documentation in Health Sciences, organized by the **Andalusian Medical Library Association (ASEBIME)**, and chaired by its president Mercedes Rodriguez del Castillo Martin, was held in Granada, Spain on the 6th-8th November 1997. Two hundred people attended, with all the Spanish communities represented and a few Portuguese librarians too.

The theme of the Seventh Congress was: "The librarian on the threshold of the 21st Century" Subthemes included the librarian in the 21st Century, Evidence Based Medicine and the National System of Health Sciences information in Spain. Some aspects like electronic medical journals, effective literature searching in the clinical setting, the Cochrane

Collaboration, information technology and systems, marketing in health sciences libraries, building a web page, and searching for health sciences information by Internet were discussed too.

This Congress is one of the few opportunities for Spanish health sciences librarians to come together face to face for discussion and exchanges of ideas and viewpoints. To share resources and to establish contacts is one of the most important functions of these Congresses with opportunities to develop cooperative relationships with colleagues from other regions in Spain. As, in Spain, an official network of health sciences libraries does not exist like in other countries where grants from the government allow them to remain an effective system of information transfer.



*Mercedes Rodriguez del Castillo
Chair of the organizing committee
and president of ASABIME.*



NEWS FROM

EUROPE

Since 1986 there have been seven National Congresses of Information and Documentation in Health Sciences organized by different regional associations of the country (Santander 1986, Barcelona 1988, Sevilla 1990, Bilbao 1992, Palma de Mallorca 1994, Madrid 1995, and Granada 1997.) These Congresses have been recognized, for their scientific interest, by the Spanish Health Authorities. Each Congress was organized by themes, reflecting concerns of the times. All professionals related to the areas of Information and documentation in health sciences come to this event (Hospitals, Medical Schools, Pharmacy Faculties, Research Centers, etc.)

At the moment, Spanish health sciences librarians are conscious of the need of

providing a common platform for professionals to come together and discuss the problems of information resources. It is necessary too, to improve the capabilities of librarians so that they can play a important role with practitioners to adopt evidence-based approaches to health care and decision making. The skills required to retrieve relevant and exhaustive information in a clinical setting gives librarians an excellent opportunity because they must play a major part in helping clinicians, researchers and health professionals in general to retrieve information in the best way.

The conclusions of the Seventh Congress were the importance of national information policies and governmental

recognition to provide an effective network, with legal and administrative bases for integrating a real national system of information in health sciences. Also, on the other hand, the importance of continuing education for health sciences librarians to develop the system and services to retrieve information, as well the needs of librarians who provide relevant information on health decision making.

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Calling all nursing and allied health librarians!

Appel aux bibliothécaires du personnel infirmier et de santé connexe.

Special interest group for nursing and allied health, at the 6th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Utrecht, the Netherlands, 22-27 June 1998.

**"Libraries without limits:
changing needs - changing roles"**

**"Des bibliothèques sans limites :
changement des besoins
changement des fonctions"**

Le programme de la conférence est maintenant quasi complet. Vous trouverez un grand nombre de présentations et de posters intéressants directement liés au personnel infirmier. D'autres domaines d'intérêt sont l'information sur la santé du consommateur, la formation des utilisateurs, la formation à distance, la médecine basée sur la preuve (evidence-based), ressources internet, fonctionnement de la bibliothèque, droit de copie et coopération. Il y aura aussi un grand nombre de cours de formation permanente liés à ces sujets. Un groupe d'intérêt sur le personnel infirmier et les matières connexes? Le mercredi 24 juin permettra à ce groupe de se réunir.

Si vous souhaitez rencontrer des collègues de votre spécialité, contactez-moi le plus rapidement possible. j'aimerais aussi recevoir des idées sur la forme et le contenu de cette réunion. Êtes-vous juste intéressé(e) par le fait de rencontrer et de converser avec des bibliothécaires du même domaine ou préférez-vous choisir un thème pour cette réunion ? Si oui,

lequel ? J'attends de vos nouvelles et à bientôt à Utrecht.

There will be a chance for librarians serving nurses and other allied health workers to meet during the conference at a special group session. The aim of the session will be to meet colleagues and gain an insight into services to these groups in the European countries. This will be a chance for networking and the exchange of ideas.

There will be a number of interesting papers and posters directly related to nursing at the conference. Papers on other topics should also be relevant to nursing and allied health librarianship, such as: consumer health information,

user education, distance learning, evidence-based medicine, internet resources, library performance, copyright and cooperation. In addition, a large number of continuing education courses related to these topics will be offered. Looking forward to seeing you in Utrecht!

Patricia Flor

Member of the International
Programme Committee

and coordinator of the Special Interest
Group Session for Nursing and Allied
Health - EAHIL Conference, Utrecht 1998

Høgskolen i Telemark (Telemark College)

Biblioteket - Skien, Postboks 1039

N-3704 Skien, Norway

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MEMBERSHIP

Sponsorship

We would like to warmly thank EBSCO and SWETS for the renewal of their sponsorship for 1998. Their precious support is of great help for the Newsletter.

Affiliated Membership

The following Members have renewed their affiliated membership for 1998.

We very much appreciate it:

BMJ PUBLISHING GROUP (United Kingdom) - EUROPERIODIQUE (France) - EBSCO
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE (Netherlands) - ELSEVIER SCIENCE (Netherlands) - SWETS &
ZEITLINGER (Netherlands) - SCANDINAVIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS (Norway)

Full Members

- BOFFIN Nicole, WVVH, Antwerp, Belgium
- LECLERCQ Edith, Chiron, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- NAYDENOVO Ivo, Veterinary Research Institute, Ruse, Bulgaria
- TEISSIER Marie, OIE, Paris, France

European Association for Health Information and Libraries

*Sixth European Conference
of Medical and Health Libraries*

"Libraries without limits: changing needs - changing roles"

*"Des bibliothèques sans limite;
changement des besoins, changement des fonctions"*

INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

22-27 JUNE 1998

UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

WELCOME TO UTRECHT

Dear EAHIL Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the sixth EAHIL conference which is being held this year in the city of Utrecht, at the heart of the Netherlands.

Many people have worked hard to make this conference as enjoyable as possible. We have attempted to find a balance between all aspects which make a conference worthwhile: a good scientific programme, a varied social programme and an interesting exhibition. Thanks to our sponsors, there will be something of interest to everyone.

The scientific programme, which is directed at all current and future developments within our profession, will take place in modern, well-equipped buildings.

The social programme, on the other hand, will be in surroundings which reveal the history of the city and the country, and will provide us with plenty of opportunities to get to know one another!

Last but not least, exhibitors will be present to bring us up to date with all the latest products.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Utrecht!



BIENVENUE A UTRECHT

Chers amis de l'AEIBS,

C'est avec plaisir que j'invite chacun d'entre-vous à cette sixième conférence DE L'AEIBS, qui aura lieu cette année au coeur des Pays-Bas, dans la ville d'Utrecht. Un grand nombre de personnes ont travaillé avec acharnement afin de rendre cet événement aussi agréable que possible. Nous nous sommes efforcés de réaliser un équilibre entre tous les aspects qui font la valeur d'un congrès: un programme scientifique de haut niveau, un programme de détente varié et une exposition de grand intérêt. Et grâce à nos sponsors, nous sommes en mesure d'offrir à chacun des centres d'intérêt tout au long du programme.

Le programme scientifique, axé sur tous les développements dans notre métier et sur l'avenir, aura lieu dans des bâtiments modernes bien équipés. Les activités de détente, par contre, auront lieu dans un environnement où transparaît l'histoire de la ville et du pays. Là, vous aurez l'occasion de vous rencontrer et de mieux faire connaissance! Enfin, et non le moindre, les exposants nous présenteront leurs nouveaux produits.

Nous espérons vous voir nombreux à Utrecht.



Gertie Veldman,
Chair 6-ECMHL

Come and join us!

On behalf of the International Programme Committee, I do hope that many EAHIL members and other European librarians (medical, health, veterinary, nursing, allied health and pharmaceutical) will come to Utrecht and participate in the multitude of activities which will be taking place.

We are laying on a large number of Continuing Education Courses, several FREE OF CHARGE and the others for a moderate fee. There will be a symposium on evidence-based medicine. Various Special Interest Groups will be meeting, many for the first time, others which have already been in existence for many years. The character of these meetings may vary from informal chat, interesting workshops and semi-official presentations to serious business meetings. Trends in medical librarianship follow developments in public health, medicine and research. "Lunch-and-learn" sessions and product presentations are scheduled for many stands in the exhibition.

We hope you will enjoy the city, the conference, and meeting with colleagues. I look forward to meeting you in Utrecht

** Check the conference Web site (<http://www.med.ruu.nl/eahil.html>) for the latest information.*

Rejoignez-nous et partageons le plaisir de travailler ensemble!

En tant que représentante du Comité International chargé du Programme, j'espère de tout coeur que beaucoup de membres de l'AEIBS et d'autres bibliothécaires européens (des domaines médicaux, de santé, vétérinaire, infirmier, para-médicaux et pharmaceutiques) se rendront à Utrecht pour prendre part aux très nombreuses activités qui auront lieu.

Un grand nombre de Cours de Formation Continue est prévu, dont plusieurs sont gratuits et d'autres à prix modérés.

Un symposium sur le thème de la MEDECINE BASEE SUR L'EVIDENCE, ainsi que des réunions de Groupes à Intérêts Spéciaux auront lieu. Certains groupes se réuniront pour la première fois, tandis que d'autres existent déjà depuis plusieurs années. Le caractère de ces réunions peut varier, d'échanges informels et ateliers intéressants à des présentations semi-officielles et réunions de travail.

Les tendances dans le domaine des bibliothèques médicales suivant les développements de la santé publique, de la médecine et de la recherche seront également présentées.

Des sessions «Déjeuner & Formation» et des présentations de produits sont prévues par des exposants.

Nous sommes convaincus que vous apprécierez la ville, la conférence et les contacts avec vos collègues: rejoignez-nous! Je me réjouis d'avance de vous accueillir à Utrecht.

** Consultez le site Web de la conférence (<http://www.med.ruu.nl/eahil.html>) pour connaître les dernières informations.*

Suzanne Bakker,

Présidente du Comité de Programme

E-mail : s.bakker@amc.uva.nl

GENERAL INFORMATION

Utrecht is situated in the heart of the Netherlands, approximately 35 kilometres south of Amsterdam. It was founded in AD 48 by the Romans, who built a military settlement on the banks of the Rhine. In AD 695, the English Benedictine monk, Willibrord, came to convert the Franks and the Frisians to Christianity, and made Utrecht a religious centre, evidence of which is still apparent today. For centuries, Utrecht was the largest and only city of importance in the northern part of the Netherlands. Today, Utrecht is the fourth largest city in the Netherlands, after Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. With the largest university in the country, its atmosphere is largely determined by cycling students and their pubs. Like Amsterdam, the city centre boasts beautiful canals and ancient buildings. Utrecht now has 230,000 inhabitants, including 23,000 students.

The **Jaarbeurs Conference Centre** is located in the centre of Utrecht, next to the railway station. Hotels, shops and restaurants are available within walking distance.

Jaarbeurs, "Beatrixgebouw", Conference Centre : Jaarbeursplein, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Tel: +31.30.295.5421 / +31.30.294.5144 - Fax: +31.30.293.9459

The Continuing Education Courses will be held at Utrecht University, which is located on the edge of the town. The FBU Congress Bureau will be the "Hospitality-Registration-Information Desk" during the courses (University Campus, Heidelberglaan 2, See Map).

Host Institution : Medical Library, Faculty of Medicine, Utrecht University

Mailing Address : EAHIL '98 - FBU Congress Bureau
Utrecht University - P.O. Box 80.125
3508 TC Utrecht - The Netherlands

Tel: +31.30.253.2728 (or 5044) - Fax: +31.30.253.5851 - E-mail: LDO@FBU.RUU.NL

EAHIL'98 homepage : <http://www.med.ruu.nl/eahil.html>

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME
6th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries

UTRECHT 22-27 June 1998

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24

	CEC
12.00-13.00	EAHIL Board
13.00-14.30	EAHIL Council
12.30-16.30	Special Interest Groups
13.30-16.30	Symposium
14.00-17.00	Registration
17.00-18.00	Opening Ceremony
18.00	Start Exhibition
18.00-20.00	Welcome Reception

THURSDAY JUNE 25

8.30-17.00	Exhibition
9.00-10.00	1st Plenary Session
10.00-10.30	Coffee break
10.30-11.30	Parallel Sessions
11.30-13.00	General Assembly
13.00-13.30	Lunch & Learn Sessions
13.30	Poster Session
14.00-15.00	Product Presentations
15.00-15.15	Tea break
15.15-17.15	Educational Tours
	Special Interest Groups
20.00-24.00	Cocktail Party

FRIDAY JUNE 26

8.30-17.00	Exhibition
9.00-10.00	2nd Plenary Session
10.00-10.30	Coffee break
10.30-11.30	Parallel Sessions
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30	Poster Session
14.00-15.00	Product Presentations
15.15-17.15	Parallel Sessions
20.00-24.00	Conference Party

SATURDAY JUNE 27

8.30-14.00	Exhibition
9.00-10.30	Parallel Sessions
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.00	3rd Plenary Session
12.00-12.30	Closing Ceremony
12.30-14.00	Farewell Lunch

For more details and further information please check with the 2nd announcement and/or the conference Web-site: <http://med.ruu.nl/eahil.html>

6th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries

UTRECHT 22-27 June 1998

PLENARY SESSIONS : THEMES AND SPEAKERS

- I: INFORMATION OWNERSHIP: copyright - licenses
Charles Oppenheim, De Montford University Leicester (UK)
Madeleine de Cock Buning, University of Amsterdam (NL)
- II: QUALITY ISSUES AT BOTH SIDES: RESEARCH FRONT - USER END
Hampus Rabow (Sweden) & Bob Gann (UK)
- III: The FUTURE is NOW: linking primary and secondary information
Lois-Ann Colaizzi, NLM, Bethesda (USA)
Wubbo Tempel, Excerpta Medica/Elsevier Science, Amsterdam (NL)

OVERVIEW CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

■ Monday Whole day (9.00-17.00)

- M1 Managing successful projects and project teams. *Keith Bonson & Beryl Morris*
- M2 Quality management and performance measurement. *Carl Gustav Johannsen*
- M3 User education: developing your teaching skills. *Jean Yeoh*
- M4 ISI Web of Science and Current Contents Connect: free training course. *Mark Wheeler*
- M5 Free EMBASE workshop: When every piece of information is essential? *Justus Krabshuis*
- M6 Free course: Using BIOSIS Previews to access medical and veterinary information.
Nigel Robinson
- M7 Free course: EBSCO for information retrieval. *Nick Vos & Annemieke Meijer*

■ Tuesday Morning (9.00-12.30)

- T1 Cochrane Library and Evidence-based medicine.
Carol Lefebvre
- T2 Text retrieval and bibliography formatting software. *Eric Sieverts*
- T3 Wir mache ich mich und meine Bibliothek fit für's Jahr 2000. *Oliver Obst*

■ Tuesday Afternoon ((13.30-17.00)

- T4 Datenbanken der Cochrane & Quellen zur Evidenz-Basierten Medizin
Reinhard Wentz, Carol Lefebvre u.a.
- T5 Hybrid Internet sources and information transfer. *Paul Nieuwenhuysen*
- T6 Scientométrie: connaissance et phénomènes génomiques. *Marie Angèle de Looze*
SIG Editors Medical Library Journals Association Newsletters

■ Tuesday Whole day (9.00-17.00)

- T7 Accessing, evaluating and organizing medical information on the WWW.
Lisa Blankenship & Lynn Fox
- T8 Encouraging innovation at work. *Beryl Morris & Keith Bonson*
- T9 NLM Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). *Marie Monik & Gun Brit Knutsson*
- T10* Visit Universiteit Maastricht Medical Library and StudyLandscape for PBL.
Fons van den Eeckhout & Sieb Bohlken
- T11* Visit Tilburg University Library. *Miebet Wilhelm & Gemma Geertshuis*

■ Wednesday Morning (9.00-12.30) at the Uithof (University Campus)

- W1 International Public Health Information on the Internet. *Anke Scheiber*
- W2 Des serveurs Web pour les professionnels de l'information biomédicale. *Corinne Verry*
- W3 Genome and molecular biology information for librarians. *Frank Norman*
- W4 Information specialist/librarian: link between author and publisher. *Micheline van Migro*
- W5 Copyright and the electronic library.
Charles Oppenheim
- W6 Databases in medicine and health care.
Christine Wickman

■ Wednesday Afternoon (13.30-16.30) Jaarbeurs Conference Centre

- W7* SYMPOSIUM ON EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE: PERSPECTIVES AND ROLES OF THE HEALTH LIBRARY.
Jenni Tsafir & Barbara Aronson

- 12.00-13.00 EAHIL Board meeting
13.00-14.30 EAHIL Council meeting
12.30-13.30 / 13.30-15.00 / 15.00-16.30
Special Interest Group meetings

* restricted to registered participants of the conference!



Annual Meeting of the Association of Medical Librarianship (AGMB*) Mainz, 6th - 8th October 1997

Réunion annuelle de l'Association de bibliothéconomie médicale (AGMB), Mayence, 6-8 octobre 1997*

La réunion annuelle de l'AGMB a eu lieu du 6 au 8 octobre 1997 à l'université Johannes-Gutenberg de Mayence et était organisée par la bibliothèque de la faculté de médecine, un département de la bibliothèque universitaire. Une audience record de près de 200 personnes, dont des participants de Pologne et de Suisse, était sans aucun doute due au programme de 27 communications d'un grand intérêt mis sur pieds par le Comité exécutif.

Au cours du premier jour, les trois groupes de travail indépendants de l'AGMB se sont réunis. Cette année, les discussions tournaient généralement autour d'Internet et d'Intranet dans les bibliothèques. Les activités de DIMDI (Institut allemand de documentation et d'information médicale), des bibliothèques médicales allemandes, le medline gratuit via le net et bien d'autres sujets ont été évoqués. La prochaine réunion se tiendra à la clinique universitaire « La Charité » de Berlin du 21 au 23 septembre 1998.

This year's Annual Meeting of the Association of Medical Librarianship (AGMB) was held between 6th - 8th October 1997 at the Johannes-Gutenberg-University in Mainz and was organised by the medical faculty library, a branch of the university library. A record number of people, almost 200, attended this year, including participants from Switzerland and Poland. This was doubtlessly also due to the attractive range of lectures put together by the executive committee. A total of 27 lectures were given by 26 lecturers in the plenum, working groups and as company presentations.

On the first day of the conference the three independent Working Groups of the AGMB met. This year their discussions mainly centred around the use of Internet and Intranet by libraries.

Dr Volker Johst, (Central Library of the Charite, Berlin), Chairman of the AGMB, opened the actual conference on 7 October. From the range of subjects covered by the lectures it might also have been entitled "Gutenberg and the Internet". Dr Barbara Hoerich (University Library Mainz, Medical Section), the organiser of this year's meeting, gave a talk on "The supply of medical literature at Mainz University".

In the second lecture from Mainz, Dr Eva Hanebutt-Benz presented "The Gutenberg museum - yesterday and today" - founded by the citizens of Mainz in 1900 to mark the 500th birthday of Johannes Gutenberg. "The link between the past and the future: Springer's LINK" was successfully made by Prof. Dietrich Goetze (Springer publishing house, Berlin), in his presentation of LINK, the new Internet information service. All 400 of Springer's specialist journals will be available in electronic form by the end of the century.

In his lecture entitled "A new concept for producing medical abstracts" Dr Gerd Antes (Freiburg University) gave a most impressive presentation of the work of the Cochrane Collaboration which is to set up its first centre in Germany at Freiburg University. Ms Engel (German Library Institute, Berlin) informed the AGMB about the German libraries' new document supply service: "SUBITO: its development, current status and future"; it has been available on the Internet since 1 October.

In his informative paper on "Quality and effectiveness in a specialist library - taking Schering AG as an example", Dr Kurt Specht (Schering AG, Berlin) presented the particular demands made on a library in industry, for instance in a research-based pharmaceutical company as well as the requirements with respect to high-quality and very customer-oriented library services.

In his talk on "The DIMDI and the Internet", Prof. Harald Schweim (DIMDI, Cologne) announced that in response to the "Free MEDLINE offer" by the NLM, the DIMDI is reducing the charges for all NLM databases there and will be offering "Free MEDLINE" from the 15 October 1997.

Ms Elisabeth Niggemeyer (University Library, Hohenheim) described in her "Report on the experience gained in the setting up of Internet workstations" how information is provided to 5,500 students at the University of Hohenheim via 44 networked PCs in the university library. They have multifunctional access to CD ROM applications, OPAC, the WWW and E-Mail.

On the morning of the last day of the conference, Mr Ulrich Korwitz (German Central Medical Library, Cologne) gave a report and evaluation on "Free MEDLINE access on the Internet", taking different user groups into account. Dr Joachim

Schoch-Boesken (Schwarz Pharma AG, Monheim) presented a project "Experience with Internet access to the CARDLINE database by cardiologists in practice" set up by Schwarz Pharma to provide around 250 cardiologists with the CARDLINE database on the Internet. In his lecture entitled "A central specialist library, the TIL Hanover, presents itself", Mr Uwe Rosemann (UL and TIL, Hannover) described the central task of the TIL of obtaining and providing on a worldwide basis, conventional and non-conventional literature in all fields of technology as well as in the associated basic sciences of chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics.

In line with tradition, Dr Werner Stoeber (DIMDI, Cologne) presented the annual report of the German Institute of Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI). A wider range of information was provided last year, too, through the setting up of new databases. The report by the German Central Medical Library was given by its new director, Mr Ulrich Korwitz. ZBMED's new building and move posed a considerable extra burden on top of day-to-day business.

The Chairman of the AGMB, Dr Johst, closed this year's meeting by thanking the local organisers at the Mainz University Library.

The next annual meeting of the AGMB will take place at the Charite University Clinic in Berlin between 21st - 23th September 1998.

Ursel Lux

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* *Arbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Medizinisches Bibliothekswesen*



NEWS FROM

OUTSIDE EUROPE

The EAHIL Workshop on Managing Information in the New Electronic Age, Budapest, Hungary, September 23-25, 1997

An American overview

Donna Flake, MLA representative to EAHIL, has sent us an interesting view of the Budapest Workshop as her pages from the travel diary. From these the Editor has picked up a few fragments, some mainly devoted to tourism, others to business, or a nice merger of the two. The idea has been giving the flavour of the attendance to the workshop.

The morning conference session began on September 24. *Lois Ann Colaianne* presented "Ethical Issues on Health Sciences Librarianship." She discussed the MLA Code of Ethics, confidentiality, and various situations in which librarians might face ethical situations. *Monique Cleland*, former EAHIL President who now lives in Vermont, USA, gave a paper: "Planning for the 21st Century: Networking for Communication and Information Sharing." Monique called for librarians to form partnerships across international boundaries, and for librarians to form partnerships with other disciplines. Monique made the analogy of cyberspace being like stone soup - everyone contributes to it and creates it.

Next, a paper was presented on "Library Automation and Networking in Hungary: an Overview," by *Gyongyi Karacsony*. Another major paper was on "The First Hungarian Web Site on Medicine," by *Janos Glanz* and *L. Tornoci*, both of whom are practicing physicians. The Hungarian web site includes information for both the health professional and the general population.

Ovid provided an excellent overview of its products and services, and provided a lunch.

On Wednesday afternoon, there were two Parallel sessions. One was entitled "Serving the New Information Needs of Users" and included these papers: *L. Empringham* (NL) "Looking for Value on the Web-Free and Fee-based Information Access - *Donna Flake* (USA) "Internet Policies at Medical Libraries in North Carolina" - *Susan Gove* (Great Britain) "MIDRIB-Medical Images Digitalised Reference Information Bank" - *Fred Pond* (USA) "The Effect of an Electronic Table of Contents Service on Library Staff, Clients and Equipment" - *Anamarija Rozic-Hristovski* (Slovenia) "Organizing Sloven Medical Bibliography on the Internet".

The other parallel session on Wednesday afternoon was entitled "human

Communication through Electronics," as well as papers on consumer health information on the Internet in Italy, electronic journals, and electronic library functions in a modest environment. I took a private tour of the National Szechenyi Library which is the National Hungarian Library. It is a new library - very modern. There are two Atlas statues inside on the first floor which came from the building that once stood on this spot. The library has closed stacks and it takes 30-45 minutes to obtain a book. All books must be used in the library, so there is no circulation of the library.

As collection.

The library employs 600 people, and they do interlibrary loan. The library has a very large collection of materials in the topic of library science from all over the world. Several million items are in this library. The library has a wonderful map room with splendid old maps (some very large) and a huge hand made globe.

I arrived at the national library early to prepare for a morning session on Thursday September 25 which I was asked to chair, but the front door was locked. I followed a group of library employees through a side door and managed to enter the library. The session I chaired was entitled "Partnership Management in Library Service." We had three papers on cataloging and foreign language MeSH development. *Marie Monik* and *Gun Brit Knutsson* (Sweden) The First Step towards a Swedish MeSH *Paivi Pekkarinen* (Finland) FinMeSH for Empowering Users of Finnish Medical and Health Information *Marta Zilova* and *Bela Stalmaskova* (Slovak Republic) The Subject Cataloguing and Searching of Biomedical Documents in the Library Systems of the Slovak Republic.

Carol Lefebvre of the Cochrane Center in the United Kingdom spoke on the "European Union Contribution to an International Register of Controlled Trials." She is trying to register all the clinical trials taking place in Europe.

Jean Shaw of the United Kingdom was given the EAHIL "Prix d'Honneur": 'Medical Librarian of the Year.' For five years she was editor of the EAHIL Newsletter. Jean also gave an inspiring talk entitled "Library Partnerships - costly or rewarding" in which she encouraged libraries to set up twinning relationships and for libraries to reach out to help other less prosperous libraries.

SilverPlatter presented a "Lunch and Learn" Segment.

At the closing session, *Elisabeth Husem* and *Marta Viragos* thanked everyone for a fine meeting. Representatives from the upcoming Utrecht EAHIL Conference in June 1998 and a representative for the upcoming Estonia 1999 EAHIL meeting encouraged the membership to attend. I spoke briefly about the Cunningham Fellowship and encouraged Europeans to apply for it. *Ioana Robu* told about the Cunningham fellowship also, and further encouraged people to apply for it.

In the evening a bus took conference participants about thirty miles outside of the city for dinner and a performance by Hungarian folk dancers. We traveled to the hotel with a thatched roof. The interior contained a large room where we all gathered. First we were served Palinka in tiny ice cold glasses. This clear alcoholic drink absolutely takes your breath away! This evening was a birthday party for EAHIL tenth anniversary. We sang happy birthday to EAHIL and many toasts (with champagne and wine) were made to EAHIL. Former Presidents of EAHIL, Conference chairs, the sponsors for the Newsletter from the beginning of EAHIL, EBSCO and SWETS, were given crystal goblets with an EAHIL inscription.

Donna Flake

MLA representative to EAHIL

Coastal AHIEC Library

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News from MLA

Medical librarian named to White House Advisory Committee on Technology

S herrilynne S Fuller, Director of the Health Sciences Libraries and Information Center, University of Washington Seattle, is one of the 19 appointees to the Presidential Advisory Committee on High Performance Computing and Communications, Information Technology and the Next Generation Internet.

An active member of MLA, Dr Fuller has served on the Board of Directors and in a variety of other elected and appointed offices of the association

Internet and health information

More than one-third of internet users are seeking health and medical information online, according to a recent article in the newsletter, *Medicine on the Net*. No one knows that better than the 5,000 medical librarians who field an average of 400 enquiries a month from physicians, students and consumers at hospital, academic, health centers and libraries across the States.

A recent survey of medical librarians across the country indicated that consumers most want to know about cancer, rare diseases, women's health issues (especially menopause and hormone replacement therapy) and alternative medicines and treatments.

"Medical librarians can point people to the best Internet sites, help them narrow down their reading choices, or explain complicated information in easy-to-understand terms so they can be the best consumers of health care for themselves" according to R.K. Anderson, MLA president.

* On copyright issues from the State

MLA and special libraries association participated to the Conference on Fair Use (CONFU) which was initiated in Sept 94 to facilitate informal discussion on the parameters of fair use in the digital environment in educational, scholarly and library settings, among copyright proprietors, producers and users.

Last year the agenda was distilled in intense debate to the possible production of fair use "guidelines" covering just three areas.

Ultimately proposals concerning some aspects of distance learning and digital image collections were circulated for comments. Neither, however, garnered broad and deep support in both the proprietary and user communities participating in CONFU: In addition, multimedia-focused proposals (developed in parallel to CONFU and presented to the participants last year) provoked widely disparate responses and confusion given their aggressive promotion to Congress and the user community, despite having been rejected by many of the nation's principal educational scholarly and library organizations.

A summary of conclusions and agreements reached at the final CONFU meeting will be available from MLA.

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Chicago, IL 60602-4805
Tel: 1 312/419-9094; fax: 1 312/419-8950
mlams@mlahq.org



Philadelphia, USA: Get to Know Us!

Philadelphie, Etats-Unis: Venez nous voir !

Philadelphia (Pennsylvanie, USA) vous attend pour le plus grand évènement de l'histoire de l'Association des Bibliothèques médicales (MLA) : la célébration de son centenaire ! Cette manifestation se déroulera au cours de la réunion annuelle du 22 au 27 mai 1998. Philadelphie, ville des premières : première capitale du pays, elle ouvrit la première bibliothèque médicale et accueillit la première réunion de la MLA en 1898. Le thème de la réunion est "Visions du futur, réflexions sur le passé".

Pour connaître le programme et obtenir les informations pratiques nécessaires, consultez le site web de l'association à : <http://www.mlanet.org>. Le site est fréquemment mis à jour et l'inscription en ligne sera disponible dès début 1998. Pour plus de renseignements, contactez MLA.

The sights and sounds of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA await you at the biggest event in Medical Library Association history - the **celebration of its centennial at the MLA Annual Meeting, May 22-27, 1998**. A city of firsts, Philadelphia hosted the first meeting of the Medical Library

Association in 1898. Other firsts include the country's first capital and the first medical library. Philadelphia is also the original home of American Bandstand.

In the birthplace of America's independence, visitors can experience more history in one square mile than in any other place in the United States. Independence National Historic Park, which features Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, will be just the beginning of your journey back in time. Philadelphia offers a unique opportunity to learn about the infancy of American medicine by visiting the home of an eighteenth-century physician (The Physick House), the first U.S. hospital (Pennsylvania Hospital), and an anatomical and pathological museum (the Mutter Museum at the College of Physicians).

However, history is just a part of what the City of Brotherly Love has to offer. Philadelphia is full of theaters, museums, restaurants, and shops, many of which are in walking distance of the annual meeting hotel. Philadelphians are proud of their world-famous orchestra, ballet, and opera company. There are more than 100 museums in the Philadelphia area, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Rodin Museum, the Barnes Foundation, the Franklin Institute, and the Please Touch Museum, which is designed especially for children.

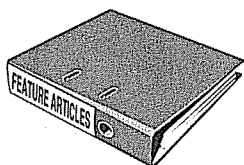
Philadelphia is a city of neighborhoods, which is reflected in the variety of ethnic restaurants. Visit Chinatown, South Street, and the Italian Market, as well as the Reading terminal, a food bazaar housed in a 100-year-old train shed. In a recent poll conducted by Condé Nast Traveler, readers voted Philadelphia the best restaurant city in America. Delectable morsels can be found to suit any size budget. And don't forget to have a Philly cheesesteak and soft pretzel!

The meeting theme is "Visions of the Future, Reflections on the Past." For program and hotel information check MLA's Web Site at www.mlanet.org. The site is updated frequently and on-line registration will be available in early 1998.

Send questions to:

Medical Library Association, 6 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60602, USA. Phone: 312/419-9094; Fax: 312/419-8950; Email: info@mlahq.org

Andrea Kenyon, Chair,
1998 Local Assistance Committee,
Medical Library Association
USA



A web-based system for submitting abstracts to the 6th EAHIL conference in Utrecht, in June 1998

La soumission électronique d'abstracts pour la 6ème Conférence de l'AEIBS à Utrecht en juin 1998

Pour la conférence d'Utrecht intitulée « Des bibliothèques sans limites : changement des besoins -changement des fonctions », le Comité International de Programme (CIP) a voulu expérimenter les "rédacteurs sans limites" pour explorer les nouvelles voies d'organisation des différents processus de la conférence. Le premier pas a été la création par Arne Jakobsson de SPRI d'une liste de discussion pour le CIP. La deuxième étape a été la réalisation d'un support basé sur le web pour l'équipe de rédaction. Il existe déjà quelques systèmes en physique et en sciences de l'information, même si ceux-ci ne sont pas ouverts aux étrangers et que chaque système utilise des logiciels, scripts, etc. spécifiques pour rendre toutes les opérations nécessaires possibles. A l'Institut Néerlandais des Services d'Information Scientifique (NIWI), nous avons déjà l'expérience de bases de données basées sur le web pour l'édition de données de sources Internet (sites web, listes de discussion, etc.) Il n'a pas fallu beaucoup de programmation supplémentaire pour adapter ces scripts.

For the Utrecht conference titled Libraries without limits: changing needs - changing roles the International Programme Committee (IPC) wanted to experiment with Editors without limits, to investigate new ways of organising the various processes of the conference.

The first step was for Arne Jakobsson of SPRI to start a discussion list for the IPC. This made communication between the editors much faster and easier.

The second step was to make web-based support for the editorial board. In physics and information science there are already some systems, but these systems are not open to outsiders, and each system uses specific software/scripts etc. to make all the necessary operations possible. Therefore we had to develop our own system. At the Netherlands Institute of Scientific Information Services (NIWI) we already had experience with a web-based database for editing data from Internet sources (Web sites, Discussion lists etc.). It did not take much extra programming to adapt these scripts.

Methods

The system consisted of a database and a web-based interface (an abstract submission form and editors forms). These forms were directly connected to the database. Submitting abstracts on diskette or by E-mail was also possible and approx. 15 % were sent either on diskette (#10) (less virus checking!) or by E-mail (#7). These were uploaded into the web database by one of the editors. Abstracts submitted on paper only were not accepted.

The web submission form was designed in a way that after pressing the submit

button, a page was shown with the received data. Authors could accept, edit or cancel this data. After the authors had approved the data, they received an automatically generated message that their abstract had successfully been submitted. We received 112 abstracts in this way.

Each abstract contained some personal data about the author(s), e.g. name, address, country and curriculum vitae (very useful for the session leaders!), and of course the data for the presentation. All this data was stored in separate fields. The E-mail addresses made it very easy to let the authors know that their abstract had been received and - after the November meeting - accepted or rejected.

After the deadline for submission had passed, the editing process could start. The submitted abstracts could be viewed on the web, protected by a username and password code. Each editor had two private fields for each abstract: one for a quality mark and one for general remarks. For the quality marks the IPC had decided on three groups:

2=good, 1=moderate and 0=bad. The editors could not see what quality marks the other editors had given, so the editing was independent.

Editors could search for a specific abstract, but they could also select those abstracts they had not yet edited. Though it was possible for the editors to do everything on the web, most editors made a print copy, because they did not like to work/read from a screen. In these cases the remarks and the quality marks were added afterwards online on the web database.

Just before the November meeting of the IPC a copy was made of the web database. This copy was imported into a stand alone database. In this way it was possible to manipulate the data during the meeting. First of all the abstracts could be ranked by the total of quality marks each abstract had received: some abstracts could be rejected without any further discussion.

Not only the quality and relevance to the theme of the conference, but also geographical and language aspects were taken into consideration. Accepted papers were grouped into Poster presentations, Oral presentations for the different sessions, Special Interest Groups and Product presentations.

A spreadsheet programme was used to make a draft of the preliminary programme and an outline of the 4 parallel sessions.

Discussion

It has already been mentioned that this was an experiment, so it was no surprise that not all went well. We encountered some unexpected problems. Some aspects will be compared to the normal situation:

Communication:

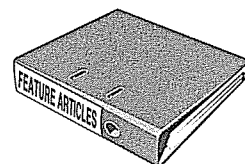
After the first meeting of the IPC (in February 1997) there was a lot of discussion on the list. We got to know each other better. This was one of the reasons why we had such an efficient business meeting in November.

Time saving:

This approach wasn't faster than the normal procedure. The set-up of the system (submission form, structure of the database, writing of the scripts etc.) took extra time. The November meeting of the

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IPC, however, went (20%) more efficiently and in more detail because of the immediate sorting and grouping on the database. Handling the abstracts (e.g. for the Abstract book) and communication with the authors also took less time because the data was already in digital format. We had only two cases of an unreadable/difficult to read diskette. What also took extra time was the assistance of inexperienced authors, e.g. some authors, who were not sure if their submission had succeeded, wanted an immediate confirmation (in spite of the automatically generated message they already had received).

Submission failures:

What happened in some cases was that after the authors had pressed the submission button and viewed their abstract, they failed to read/notice the Accept button and thus did not make the actual submission. Three of these authors checked with one of the editors if their abstract had been received or why they had not received a confirmation of submission. It is unknown if abstracts were not submitted because of failures in postal delivery in the past. The fact that we did not accept abstracts submitted on paper only, could have been a barrier to some authors.

Distribution:

An advantage of web submission and E-mail delivery is that postponing the submission deadline was no problem, because we did not have to dispatch the delayed abstracts separately to the editors. This made the system more flexible. A

disadvantage is that the Internet is sometimes plagued by communication failures.

Quality marks:

The quality marks were very useful to work with. The cumulated values could be processed before the meeting. They gave the editors a good first impression of the relative rankings of all abstracts. Because the cumulated values represented the (independent) quality marks of 19 editors, this initial ranking was very objective. Of course abstracts were still discussed, because one cannot express everything in a ranking number. For this experiment we decided on three classes, but most editors afterwards thought that five classes would have been more convenient. For the set-up of the system however, this would not have made any difference.

Printing abstracts:

With the set-up of the system we had overlooked the fact that most editors still wanted a printed version of each abstract (much easier to read!). We had therefore omitted to automatically generate a unique identifier for each submitted abstract, so editors who worked with the printed abstracts still had to do a lot of browsing in a paper file. Because these printed abstracts came from a database they all looked the same. In the past the submitted abstracts looked very different, which made it easier to find a specific abstract in a pile of paper. The unique identifiers were added when the web database was exported to a stand alone version.

Dependency on technology:

One of the things that really went wrong

was that because of an adjustment in one of NIWIAEs central scripts some other scripts (e.g. one of the EAHIL scripts) were not functioning properly. Normally this malfunctioning could have been repaired, but the programmer of the EAHIL scripts was on a holiday! (no data was lost, because we made a backup every day). This happened just before the November meeting of the IPC, when a number of editors had not yet given their quality marks, so the rest of the editing had to be done on the stand alone version of the database (the editors mailed their list to me).

Conclusion

This was an experiment, so some things must (and can) be improved. Dependency on technology has its drawbacks. Nevertheless we learned a lot from this approach and it has shown some advantages over the normal procedure. Despite geographical distances we could have extensive discussions, it enabled a more efficient way of handling the abstracts and it generated useful tools for the editors to attain their goal: making a conscious choice for a good scientific programme.

With thanks to Suzanne Bakker and Patricia Flor for useful suggestions.



Joop Dijkman

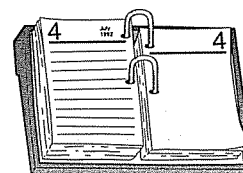
Member of the LOC and IPC for the 6th EAHIL conference

NIWI - The Netherlands

E-mail: joop.dijkman@niwi.knaw.nl

FORTHCOMING

EVENTS



June 22-27, 1998 Utrecht, The Netherlands

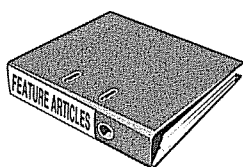
EAHIL Sixth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries "The digital Library in Biomedicine". Information: EAHIL'98, P.O./Box 80125, NL-3508 TC Utrecht, Netherlands, fax: 31 20 253 3667, email: l.donkers@fbu.ruu.nl

August 16-21, 1998 - Amsterdam,

The Netherlands 64th IFLA General Conference - "On Crossroads of Information and Culture - Au carrefour de l'information et de la culture" General Information: Amsterdam '98, Congrex Holland bv, P.O.Box 302, NL-1000 AH Amsterdam, Fax: 31 20 625 9574 - email: ifla@congrex.nl

September 16-18, 1998 Atlanta, Georgia, USA

AGSI - Digital Intelligence, Tools, Techniques and Tactics. Information: c/o Infornortics Ltd, 15 Market Place, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8DD, UK, fax: 44 1666 505 774, email: agsi@infornortics.com



The Medical Librarian of the year 2000

This article is part of a communication presented at the VII Spanish Meeting on Information and Documentation in Health Sciences, held in Granada (Spain) on November 6th 1997, and presents my own view of the role of the medical librarian in the 21st century.

Before writing the article, I carried out a bibliographic search to find out the opinions of the other authors. The most interesting I found on the subject were those of some of our North American colleagues:

According to Nina Matheson⁽¹⁾ (as you will know, one of the most distinguished medical librarians in the USA) the idea we have of medical libraries has changed radically over the last century: in 1900, a library was a place where knowledge was stored, whereas in the year 2000, knowledge will be applied in libraries to create, organize and produce knowledge. So librarians as information managers, must take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the transformation of our libraries. Medical libraries are going to change and we will be the agents of this change.

Robert Braude⁽²⁾, another outstanding figure in North American library Sciences, in an article entitled "The origin of species: evolution of health science librarianship", notes that all species must adapt to the changing circumstances of the times, and we as library professionals have the chance to live on times of continued and refreshing change.

In all the bibliography reviewed on the subject, the fundamental idea was change and our adaptation to change. And within this process of change, new technologies are of the utmost importance. The inclusion of new techniques is already well-established in most of our libraries, so the fundamental challenge now is to consolidate the computerisation of medical libraries.

So what will medical libraries be like in the next century? Traditional reading rooms will have electronic work stations, each user seated in front of a computer screen, accessing all the information generated by the hospital through the local network (intranet), and from outside the hospital through the Internet. The users themselves will be able to ask for Interlibrary loans which will arrive via fax or e-mail in their own offices where they will have access to all kinds of bibliographic and documentation sources. By electronic mail they will be able to enter discussion list, news, online conferences and so on. The

introduction to libraries of electronic mail, which as you know, is a magnificent system for communication and information exchange, is an important qualitative improvement. I ask myself whether libraries will stop buying journals and books in paper format, and if journals will be published directly in electronic form, accessible through the web. This is the million dollar question, which users ask every day. When will we start to receive electronic collections?

This is already being offered by some publishers, although there are still some technical problems involved in their reception (in our library). So the next question is, what will our role be in these libraries?

With these new techniques, services will need to be adapted to new necessities and new possibilities, taking into account the preferences, suggestions and requirements of our users.

Before setting up a new service, we need to carry out (as always) an opinion survey, a study of the market, discussions with colleagues, reading on the subject and so on...

Our primary objective will be above all to provide a good service. What can we offer our library users, when in their own homes the Internet gives them access to all the information they need? The library service will need to be cheaper, or more convenient, or more attractive... So let's think...

New technologies such as the Internet add, to the so-called Information explosion, more explosion and further dissemination. Users are beginning to feel information fatigue syndrome. The medical librarian must be able to help with this problem. Our most important role in the future will be to help users through this mass of information which is engulfing them, by making the search quicker and easier. How can this be done?

- By training the user how to choose the most relevant electronic addresses and databases.
- By providing training in how to search databases, proposing handy and practical search strategies.

- By helping to evaluate the quality of the information

The library can take advantage of the Internet and offer users new services based on the use of the world wide web. Some of our new tasks could then be:

- 1) to develop a web page
- 2) management of internal information services on an integrated web environment,
- 3) selection of Internet resources. The Internet is so huge, that selection of sources of potential interest to users, and organising their access, is of prime importance.

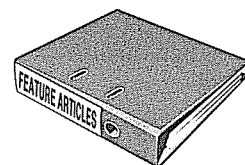
Our role as intermediaries of information access can be reinforced by carrying out, a pre-selection of useful resources offered to users, facilitating navigation through a Web full of irrelevant information. The Internet has an important role to play in libraries, and we can collaborate by solving problems, bringing to bear our experience in information retrieval in health sciences. In the library the users need to be able to find staff who know how to navigate through web pages and how to find the information wanted, in minimum time. Time is a vital point, as a tremendous amount of time can be wasted with the Internet.

According to the famous Bill Gates⁽³⁾, librarians have a vital role to play in the adequate use of the Internet. Nevertheless (and he must find us lacking here) he considers that we need to bring ourselves up-to-date if we are to face this new challenge.

Perhaps Mr. Gates is unaware that medical librarians have been absorbing new technologies like sponges for over 15 years, and that we are versatile, flexible and multipurpose. The American recommendation to change one's professional activity every 10 years, with its advantages for the mental health of the professional, is unnecessary in the case of medical librarians, as fortunately for us our work involves continual professional recycling. We have passed from the pencil and paper and manual cataloguing, to On-line, CD-ROM and Internet. And all of this has meant a continuous process of learning new skills and up-dating on the part of the librarian. And without Mr. Gates noticing.

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Mr. Gates considers that we have an exciting opportunity, to develop our profession in the field of information retrieval via the Internet. "The technology of information searching will continue to advance. The idea being developed at the moment is the use of natural languages in databases. This will make information easier to obtain" In my view, each library must organize the information offered by the Internet, according to the needs of its users. The information is so diverse, so abundant in the medical field and so dispersed, for reasons we all know, that this mass of information needs to be filtered so that our users can obtain what they are looking for, quickly and easily. Librarians should be reception centres for information, either on paper as up to now, or via digital systems. And we need to be prepared for this.

I consider⁽⁴⁾ the most important disciplines in our professional training to be the following:

- Management and administration
- Languages
- Medical terminology
- Research methodology
- Marketing

- Quality control
- Teaching Techniques
- Attention to the user
- Computer sciences

The way to keep up to date, for me, is:

- a) Reading of books and journals in our field.
- b) Professional training courses.
- c) Congresses and meetings.
- d) Periods of time spent at other centres, especially those in countries where our profession is well developed. And now with the Internet, discussion lists and news can also be important vehicles of learning.

In conclusion, the medical librarian of the year 2000 needs a good academic background, a University degree, knowledge of library science and documentation, on-the-job training and recycling. And above all, common sense, the least common of all the senses.

And one last thing I wouldn't recommend this profession to anyone who is not prepared to adapt to radical change, wherever this is required by the user, the technology or the job, because it can be hard.

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2. Braude rm. On the origin of a species: evolution of health sciences librarianship. *Bull Med Libr Assoc.* 1997; 85(1); 1-10.
3. Gates W. Vote of confidence from Gates. *Information World Review.* 1997; 127; 28.
4. Ribes Cot MF. La formacion continuada del bibliotecario medico. En: *IV Jornadas de Informacion y Documentacion en Ciencias de la Salud.* Bilbao: Aldee, 1992

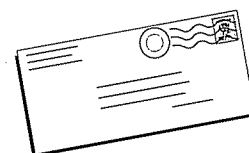


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LETTER FROM

THE EDITOR



Welcome to 1998, closer to a further step in European unification, to the turn of the millenium, and to continuing changes. This piece is a quarterly personal opportunity to rethink our profession in terms of continuity and changes, challenges and threats. I think that some of you will agree that the themes which have recently, and with strength, come to our attention and could emerge as dominant in the near future are:

- knowledge management, the process to identify and collate expertise and make it available to all in an institution, to share and improve ideas and to create a self-learning organization;
- disintermediation and the consequent change of the interrelation between information professionals and their customers, the direct involvement by information providers, the cost thread

which it is bringing with it, as well as the difficulties in operating without a common information base;

- globalization, optimistically seen as a possibility of belonging to a worldwide community or at worst the suggestion of the establishment of a powerful and worldwide leadership.

In the next issues of the newsletter the editorials will be devoted to the exploration of some aspects of these new topics, close to our profession. The skills and the organisation and resources required to cope with them; emerging new roles and the new relationships brought in by them, will be addressed.

I will start with some continuing issues, which were, are and will be typically consistent within our profession:

- health and information are the primary right of human beings

- ethical codes and shared values are more and more familiar, both in the professional associations, and in our institutions
- quality (and its subsets: efficacy, efficiency, empathy, continuity and innovation) is always a winning tool for any activity; with particular emphasis on the quality of human resources
- selection is the cornerstone of all information products and services: typically we have applied it to the establishment of our holdings, we moved to literature searching (in terms of which commercial databases, which support, which strategy) and we will be able to adjust it to the new age of the Internet and information overload.

Please send me your feedback on these or any professional issues.

Luisa Vercellesi
Editor

THE BIGGEST EVENT IN MLA HISTORY!

Launching
MLA's
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
at MLA '98,
May 22-27, 1998.

PHILADELPHIA '98

**VISIONS
OF THE FUTURE
REFLECTIONS
ON THE
PAST**

*Librarians:
Your Health
Information
Connection*

**MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MLA CENTENNIAL
1898-1998**

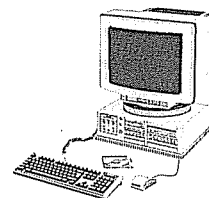
For more information, visit our Web site:

www.mlanet.org

Medical Library Association

MLA

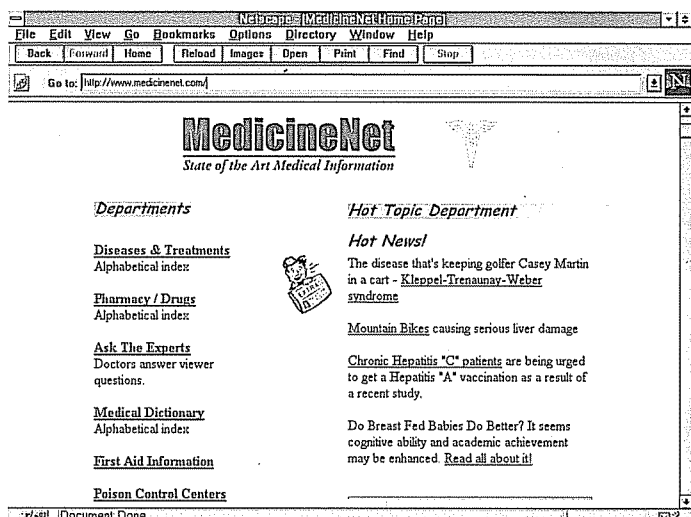
"The Association for Health Information Professionals"



Since, with the new year, we all have plenty of time; for this issue, we have selected some interesting medical information sites :

Medicine Net

<http://www.medicinenet.com/>



A Network of physician educators dedicated to providing quality medical information for the public. Includes a glossary, disease and drug reviews : for example, in its <<Diseases & Treatments>> Department, you have a kind of review explaining in simple words the disease, the symptoms, the diagnosis, the treatments, ... summarizing by <<power points>>. Selected links put you through to specialized resources. Sometimes, you have also a glossary specific to the disease.

Librarians are of great help to those who want to publish... Here's the full text of the requirements for submission for over 500 biomedical journals, as published in the Annals of Internal Medicine of 1 Jan 1997 :

Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals

<http://www.acponline.org/journals/annals/01jan97/unifreq.htm>

Talking about the Annals of Internal Medicine, you can find this very interesting tool on their site:

A Library for Internists

<http://www.acponline.org/journals/lifi/lifimenu.htm>

This list, compiled by medical information experts and expanded by practicing general internists on behalf of the American College of Physicians, is designed to help internists and community libraries acquire and apply current knowledge in internal medicine. Traditional medical textbooks and reference works are given and commented, but a listing of representative software programs, professional organizations and other resources are also provided. Divided into several parts : <<Clinical Medicine>> (Internal Medicine and other areas), <<Related fields>>, <<General Reference works>> and <<Computer-based information services>>.

Another core list, for consumer health :

Healthnet. Core Bibliography of Consumer Health Reference Books (Oct. 97)

<http://www3.uchc.edu/~uchc/lib/departm/hnet/corelist.html>

This commented list of recommended titles for a medical reference collection to answer consumer health questions is

classified by broad subject, and has two levels : essential ones for a basic collection and additional ones for libraries where consumer health is a priority.

You certainly know the availability of the homepage of the National Library of Medicine of the list of Journals indexed, and of MeSH trees on the Net :

Medical Subject Headings.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>

These also have been translated into French by INSERM :

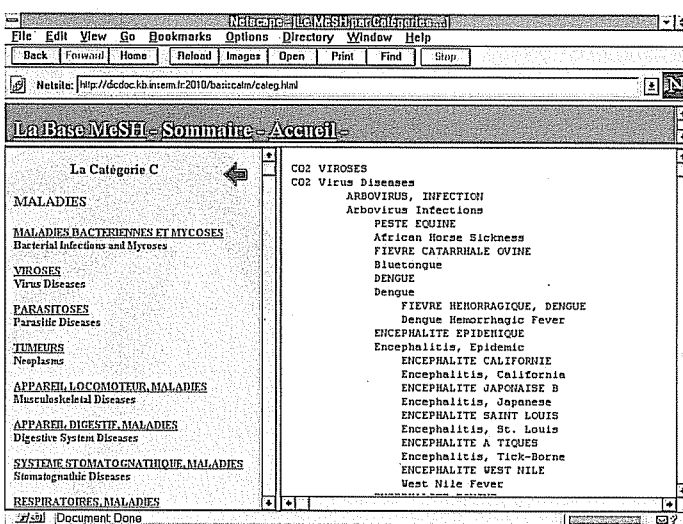
<http://dicdoc.kb.inserm.fr:2010/basisbwdocs/mesh.html>

List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html>

List of Journals Indexed for Online Users

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/ljiou.html>



At Medscape, you do not have to download the whole list : it's broken down by letter :

<http://www.medscape.com/Home/Search/IndexMedicus/IndexMedicus.html>

Basic reference works are available more and more in CD-ROM format.

First, a huge listing (sometimes difficult to read) :

- Medical CD-ROM survey pages

<http://cdroms.go4it.net/medical.htm>

And here, reviews of about 30 disks :

- Superdoc's Review of Medical CD-ROM's

<http://webhost.wa.net/superdoc/menu.html>

Another <<database>> from The Learning Center for Interactive Technology (TLC) (a sub-branch of the NLM), where you can find descriptions of 16 CD-ROMs (perhaps a little outdated) :

- Generic Videodisc/CD-ROM Database for the Health Professions

<http://wwwetb.nlm.nih.gov/generic/>

Finally, to end, here is an excellent series of 12 articles published in JAMA on how to read and evaluate the medical literature :

- User Guides to the Medical Literature

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/~scharr/ir/usergr.html>

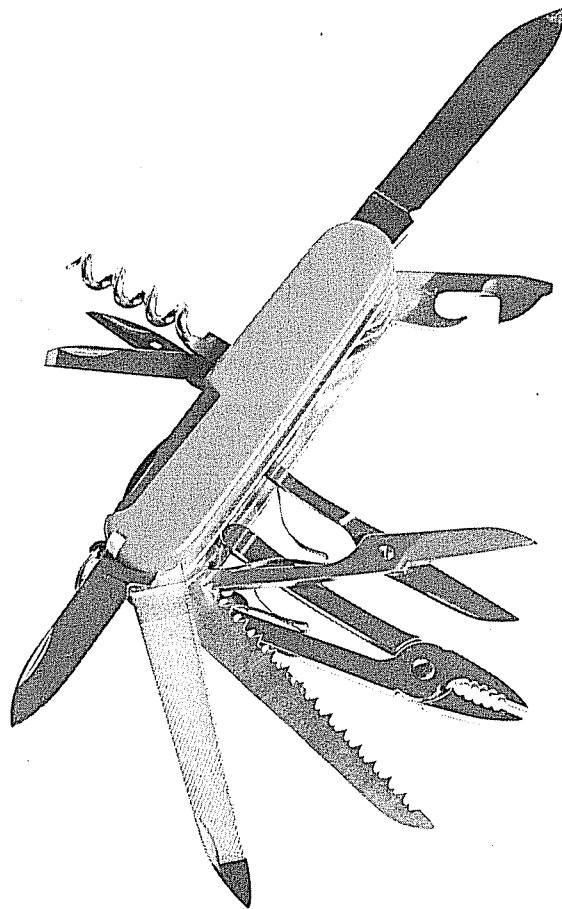
....and best wishes for 1998 !!!

Vincent Maes

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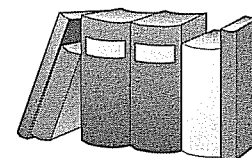
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O V I D



Dear colleagues,

A few words to comment the papers selected in this issue. In this time of uncertainty : "how will an online scientific papers look like in five years'time ?" and "what kind of peer review in electronic publishing ?", a firm action has been taken in pricing policy. Fifteen Dutch scientific research libraries has adopted a set of principles aimed at bolstering their position in negotiations with publishers over electronic journals. Is this the beginning of a new era? Wait and see !

Giovanna F. Miranda

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JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of October 97, the following journal issue of Health Libraries Review has been received : vol. 14, 1997, no. 3

L. Morton and P. Bonnett. Editorial – Holding fast to traditional skills in an environment change. p. 133-134.

E. Freeman. From gentleman's club to the marketplace : the library experience. p.135-144. The Eric Freeman experience to draw examples of changes in the library world.

J. R. Clark. The research process : a beginner's guide. p.145-155. This paper explains the research process step by step, giving examples. The major research designs, experimental, quasi-experimental, survey and action research are described. The structure of the paper could be used to structure a small-scale research project.

A. Booth and A.J. O'Rourke. The value of structured abstracts in information retrieval from Medline. p.157-166. The study was designed as a preliminary investigation on the value of structured abstracts in information retrieval. Use of structured abstracts improves precision but places greater demands on the searcher's skill.

R. Snowball. Using clinical question to teach search strategy : fostering transferable conceptual skills in user education by active learning. p. 167-172. The process of setting a clear search clinical question and breaking it into search concepts force searchers to produce or refine a complete question. The teaching of search question preparation as a foundation for search skill training.

K. Donaldson and D. Mackay. HEBS Web : creating a World Wide Web health information service. p 173-180. The Web page development of the Health Education Board for Scotland (HEBS).

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Information Skills teaching in the electronic age : the challenges for health sciences : Report of University Health Science Librarians Study Day, Thames Valley University, 28 January 1997.

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Directory of Medical and Health Care Libraries 1997-98, 10th ed. by William Forrester. 288 pp. £35.00 (paperback). Library Association Publishing. ISBN 1-85604-219-7.

The 1997/98 Directory of the Medical Library Association, by Medical Library Association. \$15.00 (nonmembers), free for MLA membership. The directory includes an alphabetic list of individual members and a geographic list of all institutional representatives in MLA, a list of elected and appointed MLA officials, section and chapter leaders, and corporate partners. The MLA "Yellow Pages" which list companies that provide products and services is also included.

Usages and usagers de l'information, by Yves F. Le Coadic., 1997, 127 pp. F 49 (plus F12 de port). ADBS, Nathan. ISBN 2-09-190366-3. Techniques and methods to adapt products and services to users needs.

The challenge of Internet literacy. The Instruction-Web Convergence. By Lyn Elizabeth M. Martin. 1997, 254 pp. The Haworth Press, Inc. \$48.00 (hard) ISBN 0-7890-0346-5 ; \$24.00 (soft) ISBN 0-7890-0347-3. An overview on how the Internet is being used in academic libraries today, with a focus on the dual role of librarians as instructors and researchers.

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Libraries join forces on journal prices. M. Enserink, Science, 1997, 278, 1558

The electronic future : What might an online scientific paper look like in five years'time ? L. Bero et al., BMJ, 1997, 315, 1692-1696.

Peer review : reform or revolution ? Time to open up the black box of peer review. R. Smith, BMJ, 1997. 315, 759-760.

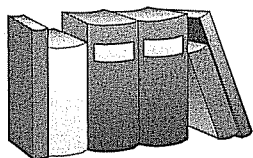
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INFORMATION SOURCES

..... CD-Rom

EMBASE CD : Pharmacy. Information is selected from the top of pharmacy journals and from over 3800 biomedical journals published in 70 countries. The database cover all aspects of drug formulation, packaging and storage, drug dosage, etc. Elsevier Science, Secondary Publishing Division. \$1,328.

Current Contents Proceedings. Covering conference proceedings information exclusively published in books. Exclusively for Current Contents subscribers : if you are a print or CD-Rom subscriber, you can use it as separate program. You can open or search CC Proceedings in combination with Current Contents on Diskette for Windows or Macintosh 4.0.



PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

MAXX : The electronic Library of Medicine. Contains more than twenty Little, Brown Spiral Manuals. The most important advantage of having all the manuals on a single CD is the ability to search through the entire data base, thus a single query may span several different manuals. It is possible to gain access to images, tables and related chapters simply clicking on each highlighted hyperlink. *Lippincott-Raven Publishers, Philadelphia, 1997. \$395.*

Hyperhealth. A Cd-Rom encyclopedia of natural healthcare. Information on aliments, organs, hormones, foods, herbs, nutrients and toxins.

Http://www.healthworks.co.uk

European Medical Devices Directives. The disk provides the full text of the European Medical Devices Directive. Also included the medical device classification for determining the risk level of a device. The CD-Rom is distributed by ECRI, a non profit health services research agency and a "collaborating centre" of the World

Health Organisation. \$300. +44(0)1707 871511.

..... Databases

LIBRARY LITERATURE, accessible through Dialog (file 438). It is a bibliographic database that indexes more than 229 key library and information science periodicals, books, etc. published in the United States and elsewhere. 73% of documents in English, 2.1% in German, 1.3% in French. Coverage extending back to 1984, updating monthly.

Book Review, by Suzanne Baker

Recension par Suzanne Baker

Treize types de services, des soins primaires aux hôpitaux, sont présentés en 23 chapitres auxquels s'ajoutent sept thèmes spéciaux pour lesquels les Pays-Bas sont célèbres (euthanasie, accouchement à domicile, etc.) Le système de santé néerlandais est compliqué, mais la majorité de la population le considère comme un dû. La plupart des chapitres comportent une dizaine de pages et ne donnent donc qu'un résumé du sujet. Très informatif et facile à lire, dans un anglais accessible et sans fioritures, le livre est basé sur l'expérience et les documents utilisés pour les sessions de cours estivales. Une information de haut niveau qui ne se perd jamais dans les détails inutiles. Pour les néerlandais, ce livre fournit suffisamment de faits et de statistiques pour une saine discussion. Il apporte aux étrangers une introduction concise ainsi que les références de publications-clefs afin d'approfondir le sujet.

Health and Health Care in the Netherlands: a critical self assessment by Dutch experts in the medical and health sciences / A.J.P. Schrijvers (ed.), L. Droyan Kodner (Eng. lang. ed.) - Utrecht: De Tijdstroom, 1997 - ISBN 90-3522-1636-9 - Hfl. 48.00

In 23 chapters thirteen types of services, from primary care to hospitals, are discussed. In addition seven special themes for which the Netherlands is famous, are presented (e.g. home deliveries, transmural care, euthanasia). Introductions are from Dr. E. Borst-Eilers, the Dutch Minister of Health and Dr. M. Veenendaal, WHO-expert.

The health care system in the Netherlands is a complicated one, which the average Dutchman takes for granted. Health care, primary care, specialized and institutional care, are all within the reach of all citizens, not the least because a high percentage of people have health insurance.

The introduction by the Minister of Health provides a summary and an inside look at health policy issues; the chapter by Dr. Veenendaal gives some statistics and comparisons between European countries. The chapter of Rengelink and Schrijvers tells about the municipal authorities, involved in prevention and mental health care.

Informal care is, as the word implies, not part of the organization or the system as such, but with 11% of grown-ups (over 16) taking care of an ill, sick or handicapped family member or relative, it is nevertheless an essential part of health care. Supporting the group of informal care givers is an important policy issue.

Family physicians play an important role as gatekeepers in the health care system: low referral rates for common illnesses and complaints, high referral rates in cases where specialized diagnosis and treatment is necessary. The number of specialists is double the number of family physicians. Future directions point towards improvement of the organization of family practice, delegation to well-trained practice assistants, introducing nurse practitioners and technological developments of computerized patient records and communication and information systems.

Obstetric care in the Netherlands shows still a remarkably high percentage of home deliveries, thanks to the ideas and advice of Dr. Kloosterman, professor in obstetrics of the University of Amsterdam. Hospital medicine will evolve more and more towards the boundaryless hospital, a development that is congruent with

quality improvement and preferences for home care.

Most chapters take about ten pages, therefore giving not more than a short summary of the subject. The chapters are very informative and easy to read, in straight forward and not too complicated English language. The book is based on the experience and materials used in summer school sessions and Master classes. This is reflected in a high level of information, nevertheless not going into too much detail and still highlighting relevant critical issues. For Dutch people the book will provide enough facts and statistics for sound discussions. For foreigners the book is a concise well documented introduction with references to key publications for further reading.

The editor is to be complimented and congratulated on the result, which shows the signs of a stimulating cooperation of friends and colleagues.

Suzanne Bakker,

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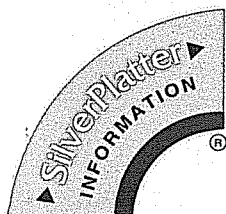
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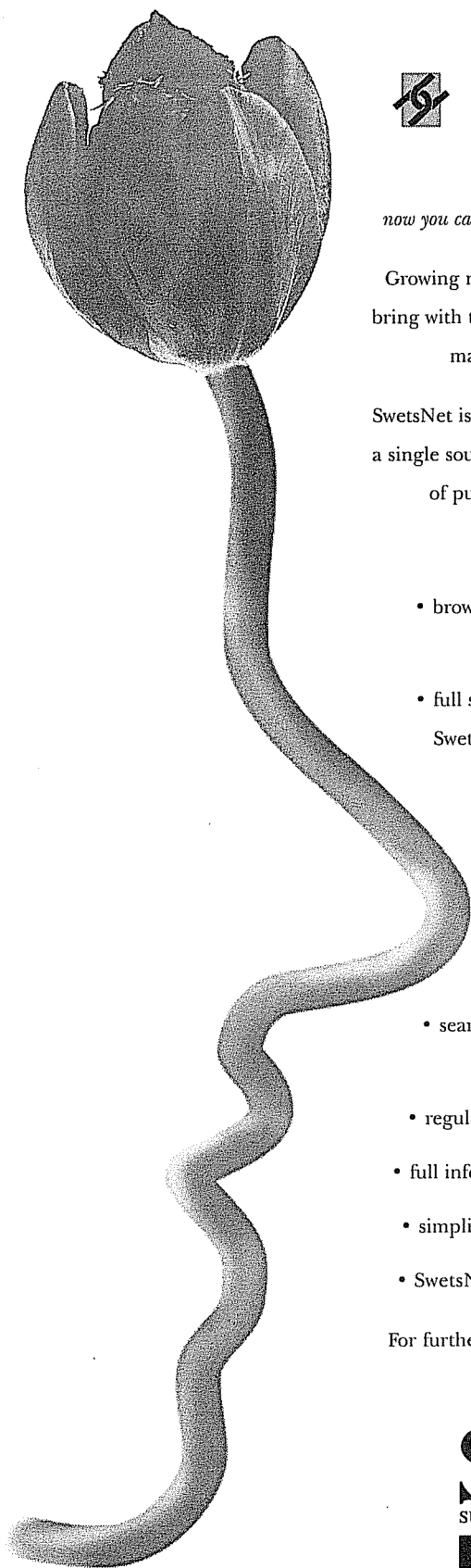
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