



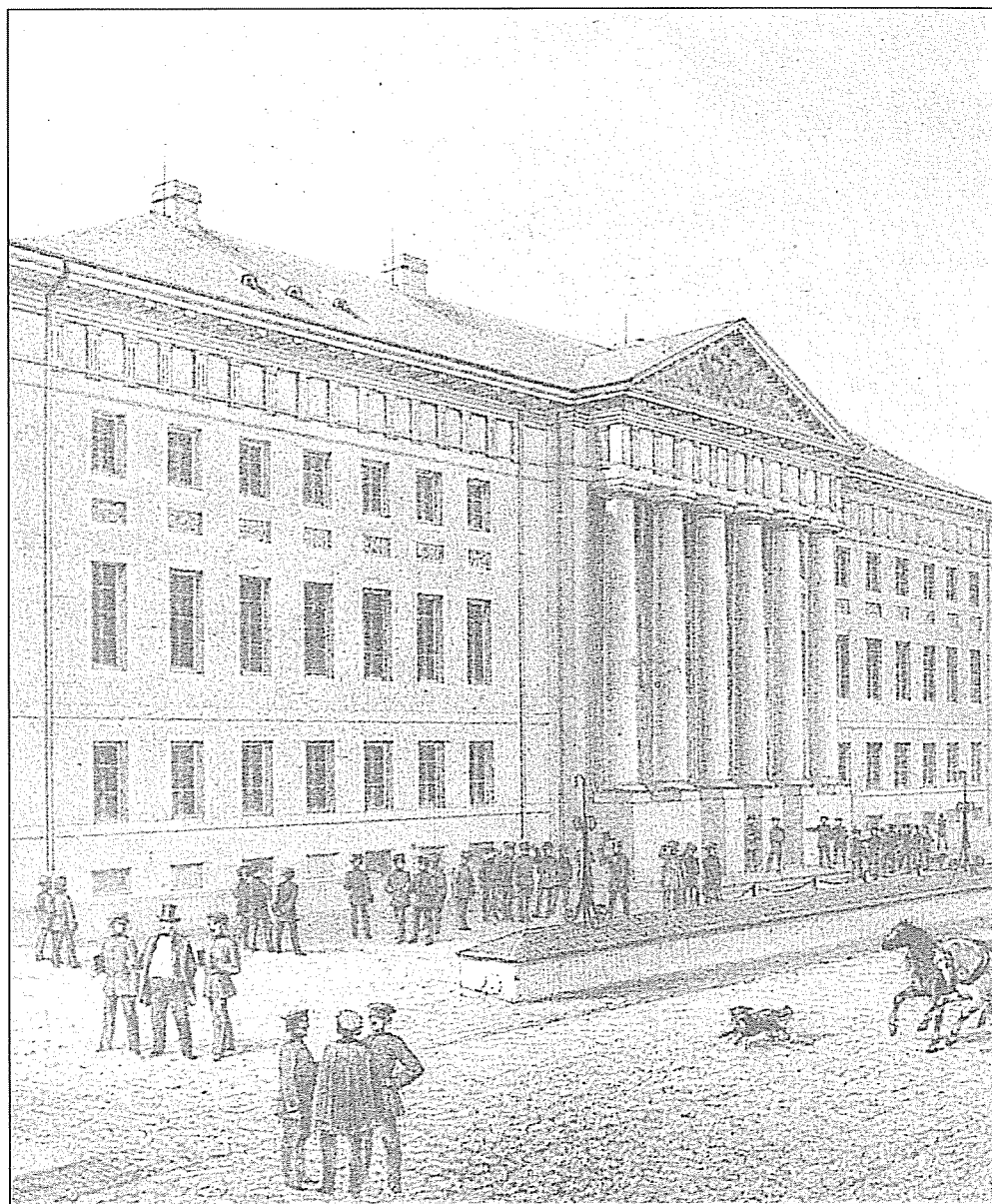
*European Association
for Health Information and Libraries*

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

July - Juillet 1998 • N° 44

Newsletter

to European Health Librarians • des Bibliothécaires Européens de la Santé



EAHIL WORKSHOP IN TARTU, ESTONIA

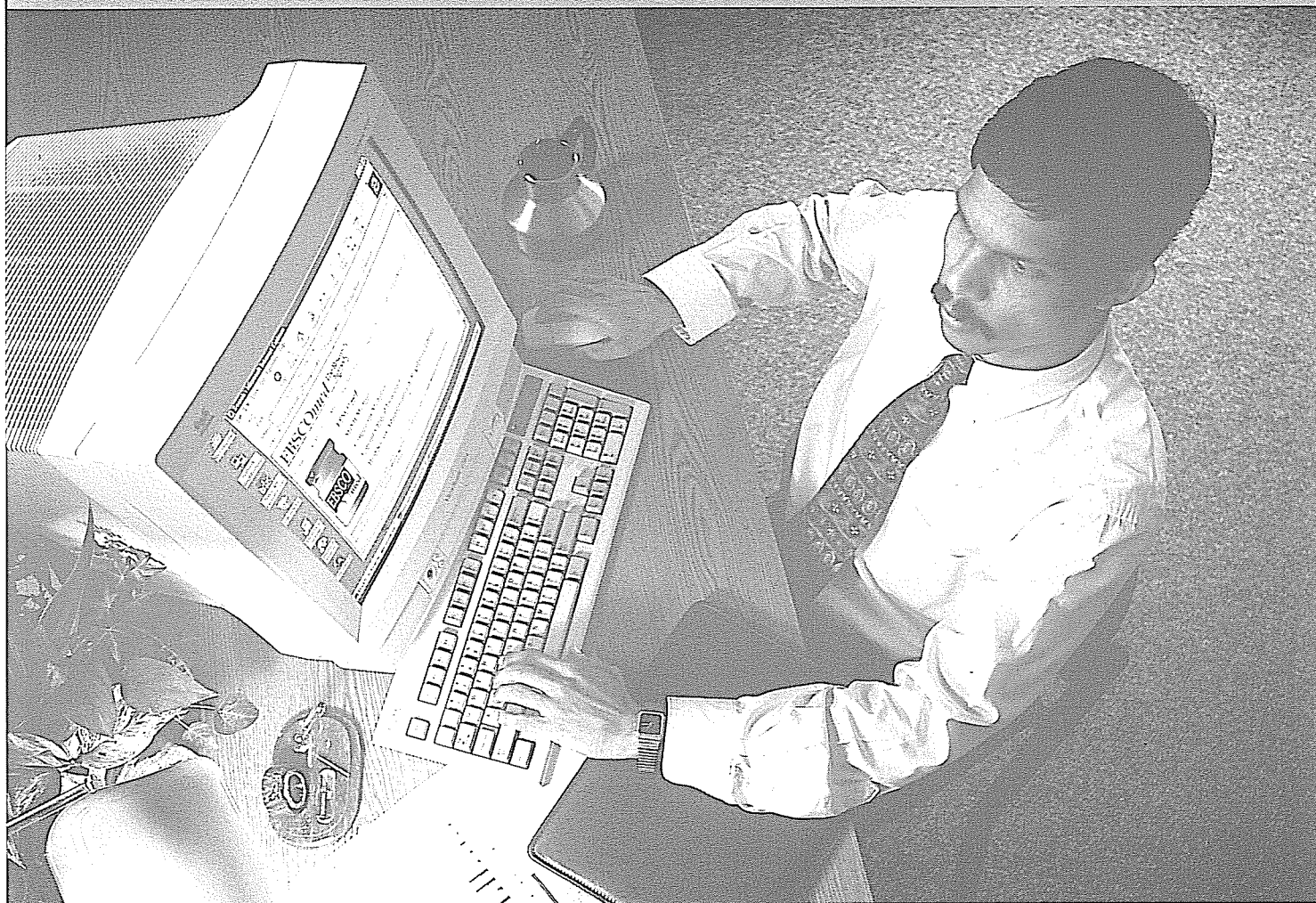
30 June - 2 July 1999

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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 EAHIL.

Les manuscrits, qu'ils soient rédigés en français ou en anglais, devront être présentés sous forme de pages dactylographiées, de standard 3-4 (espace de 1.50) (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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From the Editor



Information professionals worked for years as intermediaries between documents, the information contained in them and the needs of end-users. Sources have continuously changed over the years with a rapid acceleration in the second part of this century. But at the end of the day information professionals have always been expected to acquire the necessary sources, to make them accessible and to retrieve information from them. Basically, to do all that with traditional library holdings, electronic databases or the world wide web you need more or less similar knowledge and skills: you need to know which sources exist, how to select those useful to your customers and their

language. Then if you are curious, hardworking, specialized in the field and have a good temper, it helps.

Until a few years ago the concept of disintermediation was limited to acquiring sources simple enough for our users to make them independent, to advertise the sources acquired and to provide some training and a helpdesk. The presence in the market of a variety of products on different electronic platforms has enabled the proliferation of offers from the providers to targets different to information professionals. Disintermediation now appears to mean more than the direct contact between the supplier and the enduser or even the information itself and the possible audience. A positive aspect in this is that the costs of the individual products are decreasing, as information is an expensive commodity the cost of which finds a reason in the wide redistribution. A negative issue is the possibility that information centres are losing their role.

Some financial threads are involved,



Les professionnels de l'information travaillent depuis des années comme intermédiaires entre les documents, les informations qu'ils contiennent et les besoins de l'utilisateur final. Les sources ont toujours évolué dans le temps et le mouvement s'est accéléré rapidement au cours de la seconde partie du 20^e siècle. Mais, en fin de compte, les professionnels de l'information ont toujours eu à acquérir les sources nécessaires, les rendre accessibles et y retrouver les informations. Fondamentalement, pour faire tout cela avec les collections traditionnelles, les bases de données électroniques ou le web, vous avez besoin de plus ou moins les mêmes connaissances et aptitudes: savoir quelles sources existent, pouvoir sélectionner les sources utiles pour les clients et connaître leur langage. Ensuite, être curieux, travailleur, spécialiste du domaine et avoir un bon tempérament, ça aide.

Jusqu'à il y a quelques années, le concept de désintermédiation se limitait au fait d'acquérir des sources suffisamment simples pour rendre nos utilisateurs indépendants, promouvoir les sources

acquises, fournir de la formation et un service d'aide. La présence sur le marché d'une large variété de produits sur différents supports électroniques a permis la prolifération d'offres de fournisseurs ciblant d'autres consommateurs que les professionnels de l'information. La désintermédiation apparaît aujourd'hui plus comme le contact direct entre le fournisseur et l'utilisateur final, voire même entre l'information elle-même et son public potentiel. Un aspect positif de ce phénomène est que le coût individuel des produits est en baisse, le coût de l'information comme matière première étant justifié par une redistribution très large. Un côté négatif du problème est que les centres de documentation perdent un de leurs rôles.

Cela implique quelques risques financiers qui pourraient intéresser les institutions pour lesquelles nous travaillons: la possibilité de ne pas répartir au mieux le budget global, une duplication inutile des sources acquises, l'utilisation de critères qualitatifs d'acquisition moins rigoureux.

which potentially are more interesting for the institutions in which we are working: the possibility of not allocating, at best, global budget allowances, an unnecessary duplication of sources acquired, the use of less stringent quality criteria in the acquisitions.

But even more challenging is the cultural aspect: working on different sources you come across for different information. When working in teams this could provide an invaluable asset or become a negative factor.

How could information professionals find a role in this situation?

At least by keeping trace of the information sources acquired by individuals in the institution; by suggesting possible enhanced sources; by keeping a record of the level of satisfaction of individual users and disseminating this information; by promoting his/her expertise and becoming a point of contact before decisions are made and by providing an information helpdesk.

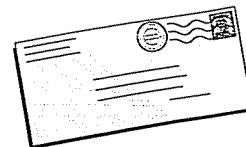
Mais l'aspect culturel comporte des aspects encore plus défiants: en travaillant sur des sources différentes, on trouve des informations différentes. Pour le travail d'équipe, cela peut aussi bien devenir un avantage inestimable qu'un facteur négatif.

Comment les professionnels de l'information vont-ils trouver un rôle dans cette situation?

Au moins, en gardant les traces des sources d'information acquises individuellement dans l'institution; en suggérant les meilleures sources possibles; en enregistrant le degré de satisfaction des utilisateurs par rapport aux sources et en disséminant cette information; par la promotion de sa compétence, qui lui permettra de devenir la référence en matière de décision d'achat; en fournissant un comptoir d'aide et d'information.

Luisa Vercellesi
Editor





PRIZE CONTEST ~ RESULTS

I hope most of you read and remind the "prize contest" launched in the April issue of the newsletter. A short article listed the major libraries of the past and today, excluding two "big" and invited to spot the missing ones. I also hoped that most of you could find the right answers, but were too busy to send an e-mail. Luckily someone spent the time to do so and sent in the correct answer. But first let's see which were the missing libraries: They are or were really well renowned.

From today : the **British Library**: 29 million of books in 470 languages , more than 4 millions of maps, 19 million of manuscripts. And a very common supplier for scientific libraries all over Europe

From the past : **Pergamon**: from the times of Attalus the First (241 - 197 b.c.). Its collection of "rolls" had been impoverished when Antonius transferred more than 200,000 to the most famous Alexandria Library, to please Cleopatra.

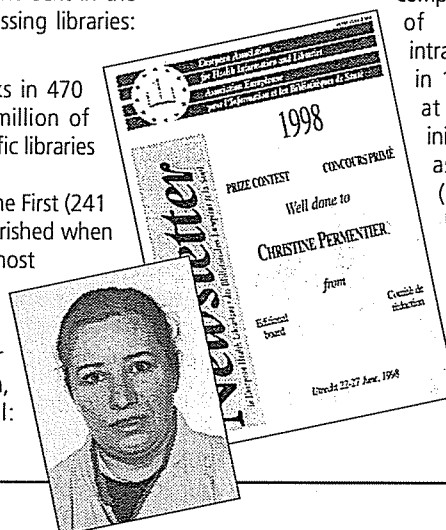
And let's see the contest: we have received only one correct answer from **Christine Permentier** of Baxter R&D Europe (Rue du progrès 7, 1400 Nivelles, Belgium, Tel: 32-67-882412 - Fax: 32-67-882432 - email: permenc@baxter.com)

CONCOURS PRIMÉ ~ RESULTATS

Christine Permentier, Baxter R&D Europe, Nivelles, Belgium, who showed to be an attentive reader, a cooperative member, a historically minded modern information professional, attentive to suppliers. She is in charge of Baxter R&D Europe library, located in Nivelles, 30 kms south of Brussels, Belgium. Baxter is a major American healthcare company manufacturing products in the field of blood, renal, cardiovascular and intravenous therapy. She joined the Company in 1980, within the Regulatory department at European Headquarters in Brussels, initially. She previously worked three years as Information Systems Officer at FAO (Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) in Rome, Italy. She joined EAHIL years ago shortly after its creation, quit in the meantime and joined again in 1996.

Well done, Christine!

Editorial Board



Welcome !... Bienvenue !

Welcome to the new issue of our newsletter and its contents.

It may have been delayed in reaching you but it is full of enthusiasm from the Sixth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries held in Utrecht. Have a careful look at the News From the Association: a new President, a new Secretariat and something new on the Editorial board; in fact we are losing the skilled assistance of Roselyne Hoet. Personal thanks to Roselyne for helping me to enter into this role and thanks to her from all the editorial team for keeping it going, smoothly and uneventfully.

To start with the new secretariat, a procedure was discussed in Utrecht to help to improve the quality of the contents and also the quality of life of the editorial staff. In addition to this, the editorial team is hoping to provide a more timely internet version. We will see how things go in the next two or three issues.

From this issue we have a new section "How to...". A very short article on best practice. May be most of you are familiar with the advice given, still I find that sometimes thinking again about how we do things is of help. A few topics have been suggested, which will be dealt with in following issues; anyone is welcome to add topics or comment on those already given.

In April the newsletter launched a prize contest and in this issue we give the solution and the name of the winner.

In parts of this issue, such as Publications, traditional themes, such as quality and selection of sources are dominant, in others (such as in Arne Jacobsson' paper) how to work from distance are faced. The link to these two aspects once again is given by the Internet and its potential.



*B*ienvenue dans ce nouveau numéro de notre Newsletter. Ce numéro vous arrive peut-être avec un peu de retard, mais plein de l'enthousiasme suscité par la 6e Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales et de Santé qui s'est tenue à Utrecht les 22-27 juin derniers. Lisez attentivement les Nouvelles de l'Association : une nouvelle Présidente, un nouveau Secrétariat, ... et quelque chose de neuf au sein de la Rédaction. En fait, nous perdons l'assistance et les compétences de Roselyne Hoet. Je voudrais remercier personnellement Roselyne pour l'aide qu'elle m'a apportée dans mon rôle et de la part de toute l'équipe de rédaction pour avoir essayé de maintenir le cap pour chaque numéro.

Pour bien débiter avec le nouveau secrétariat, une procédure a été discutée à Utrecht dans le but d'améliorer la qualité du contenu et aussi un peu la qualité de vie de l'équipe éditoriale. De plus, nous espérons aussi vous fournir une version électronique plus ponctuelle. Nous verrons comment cela évolue au fil des prochains numéros.

A partir de ce numéro, nous aurons une section "Comment faire..." constituée d'un article très court sur la meilleure manière de rédiger. La plupart d'entre-vous est peut-être déjà familière des conseils donnés, cependant je pense que parfois le fait de réfléchir à la manière de faire les choses peut aider. Certains sujets (organisation d'un article scientifique, écrire un abstract clair, préparer un bon poster, lectures essentielles) ont déjà été suggérés pour les prochains numéros, mais tout ajout de sujet est le bienvenu.

Dans le numéro d'avril, un concours était lancé. Vous en trouverez la solution et les résultats plus loin. Ce bulletin présente des articles sur les thèmes traditionnels tels la qualité et la sélection des sources mais aussi sur le travail à distance. Le lien entre ces deux aspects est une fois de plus fourni par internet et ses potentialités.

Luisa Vercellesi
Editor



HOW TO... PREPARE FOR A LECTURE

This is a new section of the Newsletter.

It is devoted to best practices and deals with medical writing and the diffusion of evidence.

The following topics will be randomly dealt with: Organizing a scientific paper • Writing a clear abstract • Preparing a good poster • Preparing for a lecture • Essential readings

It is not easy to catch the audience's attention and even more to keep it even for a few minutes' oral presentation. It is important for the lecturer to be able to transfer the key points of his/her talk to the audience and to do so careful preparation is essential.

An oral presentation should be organized keeping in mind the objectives of the talk and help to memorize essential points.

During the preparation

- Define the level of details of the introductory information, keeping in mind the audience to which the presentation is addressed.
- Present clearly the objective of the study (aims).
- Describe how you have obtained the results (materials and methods).
- Illustrate results and explain their meaning (results).
- Show critically the conclusions reached (conclusions and discussion).
- Integrate the presentation with slides to underline the main points.

During the rehearsal

- Rehearse your presentation, slides included, with some colleague to test the time required, clearness of the concepts, and any inconsistencies.
- Invite your colleagues to ask questions and make comments (and take them into account).
- Keep your presentation as simple as possible.
- Repeat your rehearsal on more than one occasion.

On the rostrum

- Maintain a positive attitude and be certain that your voice can be heard.
- Maintain visual contact with the audience, to ascertain the interest.
- Avoid reading the presentation.
- Have available a highlighted manuscript with some notes for reference.
- Invite the audience to wait until the end of the presentation for any questions.
- Prepare yourself to answer objections - if necessary, admit you have no answer.
- If you are delivering the lecture in a

foreign language, or lecturing to non-mother tongue, speak slowly and provide a high number of slides.

After the lecture

- Have available copies of the presentation as handouts.

Slides

- Avoid sparing a slide for the title.
- Explain the contents.
- It is not necessary to repeat in the oral presentation the data given in the slide.
- A good ratio is 1 slide every 3 min. Prepare two copies well in advance in case you need to make some corrections.

Graphs and tables

- Avoid complex texts.
- Show one idea at a time.
- Make the contents easy.
- Highlight only essential data.
- Insert units and draw axis.

Luisa Vercellesi
Editor

EAHIL NEW MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome new EAHIL Members.

Affiliated Member

We are happy to welcome a new Affiliated Member. We much appreciate its encouragement and cooperation:

BLACKWELL'S was founded in 1879, when B H Blackwell opened a small academic bookshop in the centre of Oxford. In the present day Blackwell's is widely acknowledged as a market leader in library book supply and information provision, as well as maintaining its worldwide reputation as a book retailer.

It has over 2000 employees and competes in a global market. Blackwell's still remains a family owned business - a company rich in tradition, it is also highly attuned to the future.

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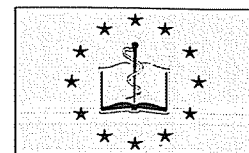
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- NORWEGIAN MEDICINE CENTRAL AUTHORITY, Oslo, Norway - Ms Barbro A. Kjenes

Associate Member

- SATOGUINA Paula, Bibliothèque Fac. Sciences de Santé, Cotonou, Bénin, Africa.



The EAHIL SECRETARIAT goes to Amsterdam

At the Sixth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Utrecht (The Netherlands) the General Assembly (GA) of EAHIL voted and approved the move of the secretariat from Brussels to Amsterdam, as suggested by the Executive Board. This vote was exciting, because the quorum of 25% of membership is needed to make the decision valid, and the minimum was exceeded by three votes! The Board's proposal was voted by 108 members attending the General Assembly, there were none against, and a few abstained. A new era is beginning for the Association, with a completely different setting and environment for our daily procedures. When an association moves from one country to another, legal procedures have to be taken into account. The Board had invited Mr Vincent C. van Wulfen, Director of the ICP-Group, the organisation host in Amsterdam, and a lawyer skilled in international affairs to attend the GA meeting in case questions arose. They had to answer to one question only, which means that Arne Jakobsson and other members of the Board thoroughly prepared the move to Amsterdam which will take place mid of October.

I think all the members join in thanking the retiring secretary, Roselyne Hoet, for her skilled and tireless work for us.

We have also got a new President from the beginning of next year. There was only one candidate, so **Manuela Colombi** has been elected with no need for a vote. She

is a Board member and has already proved through her good and solid work on the Board that we can safely transfer the President's tasks to her. She comes from Italy, which is also welcome and means that we should get more southern European emphasis on the Board.

We also all join in thanking the resigning President **Elisabeth Husem** for her excellent work for the Association, where no hours were ever counted. Manuela Colombi's move to the presidency leaves one seat vacant in the Board. All full members have got a mail ballot, and by the time this Newsletter issue appears, we should all have already given our vote to one of the four candidates.

Future meetings were well advertised at the Congress. An EAHIL Workshop will be held in Tartu, Estonia, in June 1999, and the next Congress will be a huge assembly in London in 2000, with six different organising associations jointly working for the Event of the turn of the millennium. Sardinia in Italy will host the first workshop in the new millennium. The preparations for these three occasions are already at full speed, so make a note in your calendars!

The scientific programme of the **Utrecht Conference** was of high quality. We heard excellent papers on very up-to-date questions in our field both at the theoretical and practical levels. We had visions of the future, developments in information technology, new winds in end-user training, descriptions of evidence based medicine databases. Our sponsors and exhibitors showed their latest

progress, and I think we are soon coming to the stage where the fiercest dreams of professional information specialists and librarians are coming true.

A common and ever-intensifying problem to all of us is purchasing and joint licensing of electronic journals and databases. Several speakers mentioned the conflicts between libraries and vendors, and the Congress gave a statement on a demand of well premeditated agreements with careful consideration of the interests of all parties involved.

The various associations closely linked to EAHIL and the EAHIL subgroups held their respective meetings during the Congress days, as usual. For instance the Congress offered an obvious opportunity for the WHO Documentations Centres to meet and discuss the implementation of the recommendations, agreed upon in the 3rd meeting of WHO Documentation Centres in Copenhagen, January 1998.

We really felt united in one world, with the different, sometimes even hot "spices" from different parts of European culture, giving a wonderful taste to our activities.

The Association's official as well as unofficial international relationships seem to flourish. Donna Flake's (MLA) period as the contact person has been renewed for another three years, which we appreciate very much.

Liisa Salmi
Association Editor

Le SECRETARIAT de l'AEIBS se déplace à Amsterdam.

Lors de la Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales et de Santé à Utrecht, l'Assemblée Générale (AG) de l'A.E.I.B.S. a voté et approuvé le déplacement du secrétariat de Bruxelles à Amsterdam, comme proposé par le Bureau Exécutif. Le quorum (25% des membres) était dépassé de trois unités seulement ce qui a conféré au vote un petit côté palpitant. La proposition du Bureau Exécutif a été votée par une assemblée de 108 membres, avec aucune voix contre et quelques abstentions. Une nouvelle ère commence

pour l'association avec une situation et un environnement complètement différents pour la gestion journalière. Quand une association change de pays, il faut tenir compte des procédures légales. Le Bureau avait invité Mr Vincent C. van Wulfen, Directeur de l'ICP-Group, l'institution hôte, ainsi qu'un avocat spécialisé en droit international, à assister à l'AG pour répondre aux questions éventuelles. Une seule question leur a été adressée, ce qui veut dire qu'Arne Jakobsson et les autres membres du Bureau avaient bien préparé le transfert

qui est prévu pour la mi-octobre. Je crois que tous les membres se joignent à moi pour remercier Roselyne Hoet, pour son travail compétent et assidu accompli au sein de l'AEIBS.

A partir du début de l'an prochain, nous aurons aussi une nouvelle présidente. Il n'y avait qu'une seule candidature pour ce poste. Manuela Colombi a été élue sans vote. Elle est membre du Bureau et a déjà prouvé par son travail acharné au sein de celui-ci que la passation de pouvoir se fera sans heurts. Manuela vient d'Italie, ce qui



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

marque un peu plus l'empreinte de l'Europe du Sud. Nous nous joignons aussi tous pour remercier Elisabeth Husem, la Présidente sortante, pour son excellent travail en faveur de l'association pour laquelle elle s'est dépensée sans compter.

L'accession de Manuela Colombi à la présidence laisse un siège vacant au sein du Bureau. Tous les membres de plein droit ont reçu par courrier un bulletin de vote et au moment où paraîtra cette newsletter, nous aurons déjà élu une des quatre candidates.

Les prochaines manifestations ont été annoncées lors du congrès à Utrecht. Un atelier de l'A.E.I.B.S. aura lieu à Tartu en juin 1999 tandis que le prochain congrès se tiendra au cours d'une immense assemblée à Londres en 2000, impliquant six associations différentes pour fêter dignement le changement de millénaire. La Sardaigne accueillera le 1er atelier du

nouveau millénaire. Les préparatifs de ces trois événements tournent déjà à plein régime. A vos agendas !

Le programme de la 6ème Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques médicales et de Santé à Utrecht congrès a été de grande qualité. Nous avons eu des visions du futur, du développement des nouvelles technologies, les dernières tendances en matière de formation des utilisateurs, la description de banques de données en médecine basée sur l'évidence. Nos sponsors et exposants ont présenté leurs produits les plus récents, et je crois que nous arriverons bientôt à la réalisation des rêves les plus chers des bibliothécaires et professionnels de l'information.

Un problème commun à tous et qui va en s'intensifiant est l'achat de licence pour les journaux et bases de données électroniques. Plusieurs intervenants ont mentionné les conflits entre bibliothé-

caires et fournisseurs. Le congrès a produit une motion sur la prise en considération préalable des intérêts de toutes les parties impliquées lors de la signature d'un accord. Les nombreuses associations satellites de l'A.E.I.B.S. et les sous-groupes ont tenu leurs réunions respectives pendant le congrès, comme d'habitude. Nous nous sommes réellement sentis unis en un seul monde, avec toutes les composantes de la culture européenne pour améliorer la saveur de nos activités.

Les relations internationales de l'association, officielles et officieuses, semblent s'épanouir.

Le mandat comme déléguée MLA auprès de l'AEIBS de Donna Flake a été reconduit pour trois ans, et nous l'en remercions.

Liisa Salmi
Association Editor

EAHIL AWARDS

Elisabeth Husem, EAHIL President, was happy to announce the 1997 and 1998 awards at the General Assembly.

1997 PRIX D'HONNEUR Jean Shaw

She is a model professional librarian, running an excellent library for her university and contributing to the profession in UK and abroad. She was a medical librarian at University of Leicester for many years.

In EAHIL - she edited the Newsletter with the exemplary quit efficiency which is her hallmark.



But it is in medical information services in developing world that she has made her mark. Helping to set up and then running Satelife UK, in effect a new job following her early retirement She has worked tirelessly to mobilise the resources of western medical libraries in support of medical libraries and information services in developing world, especially Africa.

E.H.

"I would like to thank you all for this great honour. EAHIL has been for me a wonderful way to meet people and to broaden my own professional horizons. But whatever I may have done for our profession, it has been through and with other people. And I would like to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Editorial Board of our Newsletter who gave me such encouragement and support. Some of them are here and others have moved out of medical librarianship.

I have also been lucky enough to work with members of the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa and my thanks are due to them also. I think we are a great profession. "

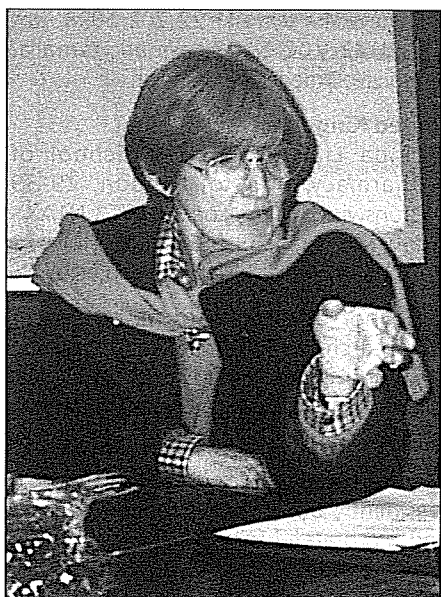
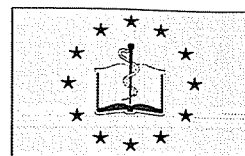
Jean Shaw
e-mail: exxjgs@bath.ac.uk

1998 PRIX D'HONNEUR Roselyne Hoet

As you all probably know, Roselyne Hoet has decided to retire as secretary of EAHIL in October this year, which means a great loss for the Association. She has been the medical librarian's best support 1987-1998!

Since the very beginning, Roselyne has been the heart of EAHIL, a warm heart beating for our association. She has been at the secretariat in Brussels since fall 1987, guiding the first steps of our association together with Marc Walckiers, first EAHIL President, and she has followed the development of the Association ever since. However, she has not only been following the EAHIL development, but she has been very active part in the life and growth of EAHIL.

Marc Walckiers says in his article about the creation of EAHIL, in the Newsletter n° 41, I quote: "None of us working in the management of the Association could have done it successfully without the indispensable assistance of Roselyne. She was always there, not only at the Brussels



secretariat, but at the conferences and the meetings of the Board and Council".

I have been working with Roselyne since 1990, for the first four years as a board-member, and the last four years as president. We have been working closely together. To me, I feel that Roselyne has become more than a very competent and helpful secretary, she has also become a friend; she has given me valuable support, and good advice, and much needed comfort.

I think Roselyne is special to all EAHIL members, and we will all miss her valuable assistance very much. But life must go on, and I wish Roselyne many good years to come where she can cultivate her own interests and desires - together with family and friends.

E.H.

"I am greatly honoured and proud to receive the EAHIL Prix d'Honneur. I have been very fortunate to work for EAHIL with so many warm and dedicated people. I would

like to take this opportunity to thank all the EAHIL Presidents and Executive Board Members I worked with since the foundation of EAHIL. Step by step, meetings after meetings, aims and objectives have been accomplished in a cordial and enthusiastic spirit. My special thanks go to the President, Elisabeth Husem, for her continuing presence and the current Executive Board Members who worked very hard to make the best change for EAHIL. EAHIL is in the right direction with a promising future.

Merci à tous pour votre collaboration et votre gentillesse rencontrées au cours de ces 11 années passées avec vous. EAHIL s'engage dans une voie nouvelle riche en promesses. Bonne chance à tous et à votre profession.

Thank you again to all of you."

Roselyne Hoet
EAHIL Secretary

e-mail: roselyne.hoet@euronet.be

EAHIL ELECTIONS

The election results were officially announced in Utrecht, on June 25, 1998 at the EAHIL General Assembly, in the context of our Sixth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries. The new Executive Board and Council will take office on January 1st, 1999.

The results of the 1998 elections regarding the presidency and the Council are as follows:

EAHIL President for 1999/2000:

Manuela COLOMBI
Schering-Plough SpA,
Centro Dir. Milano Due, Palazzo
Borromini, 20090 Segrate (MI), Italy
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Board Members:

Elisabeth Husem, Past President (N),
Liisa Salmi, 1st Vice President (Fin),
Alice Norhede, 2nd Vice-President (DK);
Tony McSean, Executive Secretary (UK);
Arne Jakobsson, Treasurer (S)

The name of the Board member to be elected in July will be announced in the October issue of the Newsletter and in the EAHIL web site.

The list of the COUNCIL Members is as follows:

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We are happy to congratulate the new
President, Board and Council Members
and are grateful for their involvement in
EAHIL.

Joop Dijkman and Angélique Mattioli
EAHIL Election Committee

EAHIL SUB-GROUP Pharmaceutical Information Group

During the successful 6th EAHIL
Conference at Utrecht, the
Pharmaceutical Information
Group held its biennial business meeting.
Due partly to schedule changes, only ten
members attended the session. From the
PhInFG Board, only Vincent Maes,
Secretary, was present. Muriel Carcano,
Treasurer was excused.

The Secretary presented the good
financial status of the Sub-Group, a result
of the sponsorship obtained for the
activities during the Coimbra Conference.

He explained that the Group had not been
very active since the last conference.
Although it was decided to concentrate
efforts in a pharmaceutical information
session, this was impossible because of
the lack of specific contributions. Actual
trends in the pharmaceutical industry
made it impossible to participate more
actively.

Before dealing with the elections, he also
regretted that the members react so little,
and asked whether a specific group was
still needed. Present members felt it was
necessary to go on with the Group, since
no other structure was available to share
interests and problems. The quite recent

launch of a discussion list could also
activate discussion.

Elections

Since no nominations were received, the
following persons were appointed after
discussion: Vincent Maes was elected as
Chair; Edith Barre as Treasurer and
Ingeborg van der Burgt as Secretary. These
changes are effective from July, 1st.

Vincent Maes

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B-1090 Brussels, Belgium, Tel. +32 2
421.17.12 Fax: +32 2 421.17.90
e-mail: maesv@pophost.eunet.be

Edith Barre

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Ingeborg van der Burgt

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6938460, e-mail: ivb39035@glaxo
wellcome.co.uk

Many thanks to Marie-Daniele Meunier,
former President and Muriel Carcano,
former Treasurer, who have devoted time
and effort to the Group.

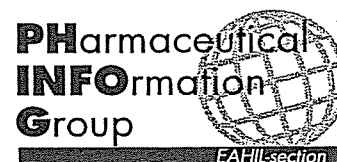
Activities

After discussion, the following pro-
gramme of actions was decided:

- browse EAHIL member list to have an
idea of potential members of the
PhInFG
- use of the discussion list to share and
discuss interests and problems.
(The subject line of relevant messages
should be introduced with a keyword)
- setting up of a specific pharmaceutical
information session at the next

EAHIL Conference in London.

Contact should be made with the relevant
bodies.



Vincent Maes
Chair of the PhInFG



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Distance is No Longer an Issue: Internationalism Goes Electronic

La distance n'est plus un problème : l'Internationalisme s'électronise

Les problèmes habituels liés à l'organisation des conférences de l'A.E.I.B.S. (courriers lents et peu fiables, fax en grève ou occupés, formats de papier différents, etc.) ont-ils été supprimés grâce à l'arrivée des nouvelles technologies ? L'utilisation des moyens de communication électroniques n'a-t-elle pas remplacé les problèmes anciens par de nouveaux, spécifiques aux canaux employés ? Voici le bilan de l'électronisation des procédures pour la préparation de la 6e conférence de l'A.E.I.B.S. à Utrecht : expérience concluante et essais fructueux ! Le système sera réutilisé (et amélioré) pour la 7e conférence de l'association.

Unreliable and slow mail, striking or busy fax machines and submitted abstracts in different size papers (European/American standard) used to be common problems while preparing European EAHIL conferences. This is now history. EAHIL has gone electronic - but have we only replaced old problems with new and even more difficult problems? Can the use of an Electronic Discussion List and electronic submission of abstracts assist in the planning of a European conference? These new electronic tools were used for the first time for the planning of the 6th European Conference on Health Information and Libraries, Utrecht, Netherlands, June 22-27, 1998.

Programme Committee

In order to ensure a high quality scientific programme at EAHIL (European Association for Health Information and Libraries) conferences a European programme committee is assigned to each conference. The members of the programme committee come from all parts of Europe.

The programme committee meets only twice. During the first meeting the theme of the conference is decided and the Call for Papers is prepared. During the second meeting papers to be presented at the conference are selected.

Much of the daily work is done by the chair of the programme committee. In the old days, i.e. two years ago, all communication between the chair and the members of the programme committee was done by mail, fax or telephone. Communication used to be very slow and involved hard work. Lack of time often made it impossible for the chair to communicate with the members of the programme committee. This meant that the chair was often alone and had to make lots of decisions without the advice of the programme committee. This reflects my own experiences as chair of the programme committee for the 4th EAHIL conference in Oslo 1994.

In the planning of the 6th EAHIL conference in Utrecht 1998 we went electronic by introducing:

- electronic discussion list

- electronic submission of abstracts

The first step was to secure a good and efficient way of communication between all the members of the programme committee and the chairs. To achieve this a closed electronic discussion list, EAHIL-U, was set up in February 1997. All European programme committee members and all members of the local organising committee were added to the list, i.e. they did not have to subscribe to the list. They were instructed to send all their e-mail to eahil-u@spriwww.spri.se. We used the software LISTSERV to establish the list, i.e. the same software as used for EAHIL-L and MEDLIB-L.

Was the use of an electronic discussion list successful? A questionnaire asking all subscribers about their opinion was sent out in March 1998. The number of e-mail messages per month and per subscriber was also monitored.

All members were asked:

1. *What was the advantage of using an electronic discussion list for communication between programme committee members?*

The answers were overwhelming.

- big advantage
- more discussion and communication
- inexpensive, informal, efficient, easy and fast communication
- it is perfect for problem solving and communicating the news
- gives you the feeling of belonging to a cohesive group
- excellent facility
- equality - everybody knows at the same time what is going on
- we couldn't have completed the task in just two meetings without it
- I can't imagine a faster and better way of communication between big groups of people with the same aim

2. *What was the main disadvantage?*

The reply was simply none

3. *Did you have any problems?*

In general there were few problems

- Some subscribers had problems with national character sets
- Some had software problems
- Some e-mail was trapped in the firewall

4. *What can be improved in the future?*

Most subscribers said don't know

- Some subscribers wanted guidelines for the electronic discussion list
- One subscriber wanted the list to be moderated

On average 21 e-mail messages were sent each month:

Months	No	Activity
February '97	20	Call for papers
March	17	
April	2	
May	8	
June	4	
July	17	Continuing Education Courses
August	6	
September	11	
October	46	Review of abstracts
November	38	Meeting in Amsterdam
December	60	Programme layout, sessions
January '98	22	Late abstracts
Total	251	

On average each person sent 11.4 e-mail messages. 1/3 of the subscribers were very active and 1/3 had low activity.

Electronic submission of abstracts

The second step was to develop a system for electronic submission of abstracts. Joop Dijkman at the Netherlands Institute of Scientific Information Services was responsible for setting up the system. The use of the web-based form has already been reported by Joop Dijkman. (Dijkman, Joop - A web-based system for submitting abstracts to the 6th EAHIL conference in Utrecht, in June 1998. Newsletter to European Health Libraries 1998;(42):18-19.)

Conclusion

The use of the electronic discussion list and the electronic submission of abstracts were very successful. The same methods will be used for the International Programme Committee for the planning of the 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, London, July 2-5, 2000.

Arne Jakobsson

Member of the IPC

for the 6th EAHIL conference

Spri Library and Research Report Bank,

Stockholm, Sweden

e-mail: arne.jakobsson@spri.se

European Association for Health Information and Libraries

Workshop

Towards Quality in Medical Information Services Virtue of Virtual Environment

**TARTU, ESTONIA
30 JUNE - 2 JULY, 1999**



Dear friends, dear colleagues,

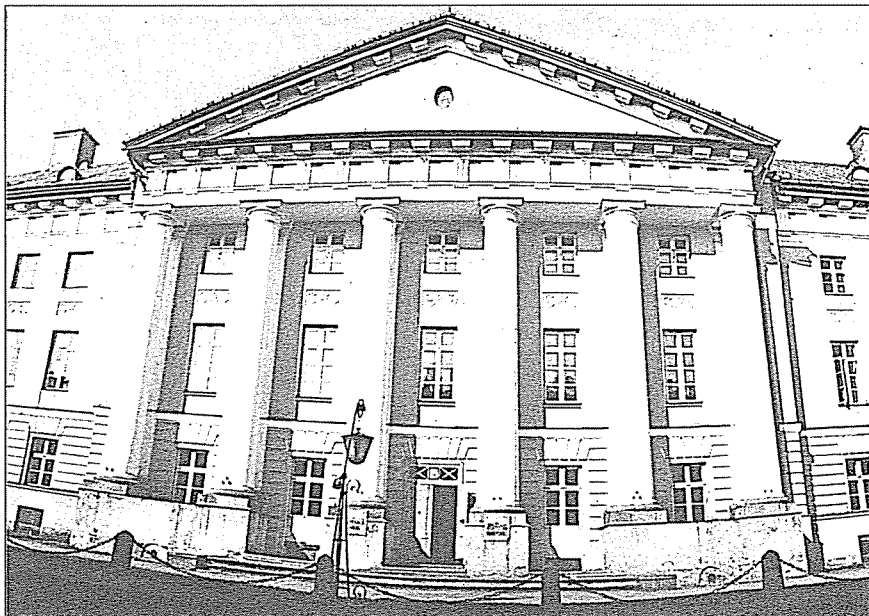
It is a great pleasure for me to invite you to attend the EAHIL workshop which is being held in the old university town of Tartu (Estonia) in June 1999.

The University of Tartu was founded in 1632 by the King of Sweden Gustav Adolf. The University worked until 1710, with some interruptions from wars, then Russia occupied the Baltic region. In 1802 the University was reopened and it became the only German-language University in Russia. In 1919 Estonian was adopted as the language of instruction at the University after the establishment of the independent Republic of Estonia. Since the end of the 1980s the University has been regaining its position as a western-style university and research institution.

Preparations for the EAHIL workshop are under way. The working language of the workshop will be English. We will do our best to ensure that your stay in Estonia is pleasant. Through the social programme you will have a splendid opportunity to experience the unique cultural heritage and beauty of our historical towns and countryside. We hope that you will enjoy your stay in Estonia as well as participating in the conference and meeting colleagues. You will find more information about the scientific programme and cultural events in the next Newsletter.

I look forward to meeting you in Tartu.

Keiu Saarniit
Chair of the local
organising committee



University of Tartu, main building

THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Liisa Salmi, adviser (Finland, Kuopio University)
Keiu Saarniit, chair (The Medical Information Centre of Tartu
University Clinicum)
Aili Norberg (The Estonian National Library)
Sigrid Prank (Tartu University Library)
Milvi Tedremaa (The Medical Library)

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Donna Flake (USA)
Eeva Kihlberg (Finland)
Suzanne Bakker (Netherlands)
Elisabeth Husem (Norway)
Oliver Obst (Germany)
Teodora Oker-Blom (Sweden)

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA is a general library, which has the function of a scientific central library, and is a part of the Estonian science and information system. Mainly the library serves physicians, nurses, scientists, students and the pupils of medical schools, but also specialists from other specialties (biologists, chemists, pedagogues, psychologists etc.) who need medical literature in their scientific and practical work or in everyday studies. The library acquires, saves and makes available for its users medical literature, prepares new literature for looking at its information systems: databases, catalogues, reading lists; enables searches from these information systems, answers to enquiries, consults the users, compiles and publishes recommendatory bibliographies, compiles and publishes the medical bibliography of Estonia, takes part in National Library science programs according to its competency, serves the users by inter-library lending and promotes healthy ways of living in the press, on TV, and by the radio.

MEDICAL INFORMATION IN TARTU UNIVERSITY CLINICUM

Estonia is a small country with a fast-developing information environment. Its national medical information resources are scattered in many places such as the Medical Library in Tallinn, the University Library in Tartu and small special libraries. Receiving information is ineffective, time-consuming and expensive for customers. In 1993 Tartu



Keiu Saarniit

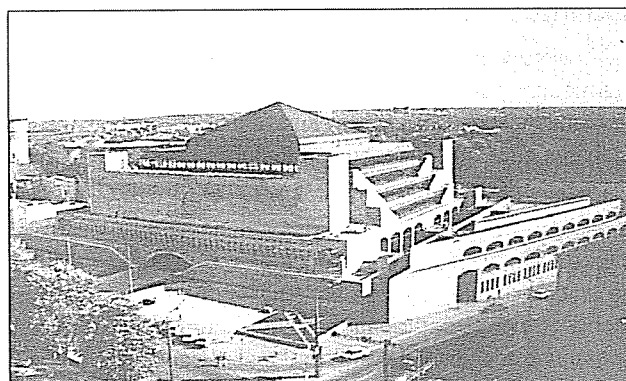
University Clinicum was established on the basis of medical, educational and research institutions. The purpose of the Clinicum is to render medical treatment at all levels as well as to educate and offer professional training to doctors and other medical personnel and to carry out research in respective fields. Considering the information demands of the largest medical institution in Estonia - Tartu University Clinicum - the Board of the Clinicum scheduled the establishment of a centre for medical information (MIC) in 1994. The main purpose was to develop up-to-date technical infrastructure for a system of medical information, providing facilities to create an electronic medical information centre, have access to CD ROM databases, organize training in software usage and retrieval of electronic information, have access through the INTERNET to the databases of foreign companies and libraries. Our project to create an electronic medical information centre was supported by the Open Estonia Foundation (SOROS FOUNDATION). By now, the first stage of the project has been completed. Besides regular courses with the participation of members of the medical staff, courses on medical informatics for advanced training (ca 100 persons per year) are arranged.

The second stage will include the establishment of EENET (Estonian NET), thus securing for the departments of the Clinicum and county hospitals of Estonia access to computerized databases. We envisage the final result of our project as a comprehensive medical information system, which begins in the Centre of Medical Information of Tartu University Clinicum and reaches every hospital of the country. At present we have subscribed to the complete MEDLINE (1966-present). The OVID Core Biomedical Collection I-IV is now available in the Tartu University Clinicum from the beginning of 1997. It contains Ovid Full Text versions of the world's leading biomedical journals. It will provide a good opportunity for the university staff, doctors and students, to use the 60 electronic journals available on their desktop. The use of OVID CBC with Medline will stimulate the interest of the physicians of Tartu and South-Estonia in the use of electronic databases and raise

the level of their professional qualification. The number of users of the Medical Information Centre has increased steadily. Several hospitals have been connected to the information system of Tartu University Clinicum with the aim to use the services of the Medical Information Centre. The host institution of the EAHIL Workshop in Estonia is Tartu University Clinicum.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA

The predecessor of the National Library of Estonia (NLE) was founded on December 21, 1918 when the Provisional Government of the Estonian Republic passed a law to establish a State Library. It was assigned the task of collecting the printed matter essential for lawmaking and governing in the new state. In the independent Republic of Estonia the library developed and grew quickly. In 1919 it began to receive a legal deposit copy of all materials published in Estonia. The



National Library of Estonia

first foreign exchange agreements were made in 1921. By the end of the 1930's, if we judge by the size and composition of its collections its readers, the State Library had become much more than a governmental library. Its collection was about 50 000 items, among its patrons were outstanding intellectuals, prominent cultural and public figures. There were plans to start the construction of a new building but World War II broke out and the new building did not materialize for more than fifty years.

Under Soviet rule the library was initially known as the State Library of the Estonian SSR. Not only had the library been renamed, its role had changed considerably as well. The bulk of Estonian and foreign publications were placed under restricted access, relations with foreign libraries were severed, Russian publications gained predominance. Despite great ideological pressure, thanks to the research library status, the State Library managed to save most of its Estonian pre-war publications from physical destruction, the fate of millions of volumes all over the country. In 1953, the State Library was named after Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald, an outstanding public figure of the Estonian National Awakening Period, the author of the national epic Kalevipoeg. By 1953, the collections of the library had already reached one million items. The Baltic liberation movement, born in the second half of the 1980's, as well as the restoration of the independent Republic of Estonia on August 20, 1991, changed the role of the library considerably. In 1988 the Fr. R. Kreutzwald State Library became the National Library of Estonia, a year later, bridging 50 years of history, the library became a parliamentary library. It is possible to cope with this dual function thanks to the construction of a specially designed building at Tonismagi, completed in 1993.

Address: Tonismagi 2, Tallinn EE0100, Estonia
e-mail: nlib@venus.nlib.ee
<http://www.nlib.ee>

Association Européenne pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé

Workshop

Vers des Services d'Information Médicale de Qualité Les Vertus de l'Environnement Virtuel

**TARTU, ESTONIE
30 JUIN - 2 JUILLET 1999**

C'est un plaisir pour moi de vous inviter à assister à l'Atelier de l'A.E.I.B.S. qui aura lieu dans la vieille ville universitaire de Tartu (Estonie) en juin 1999.

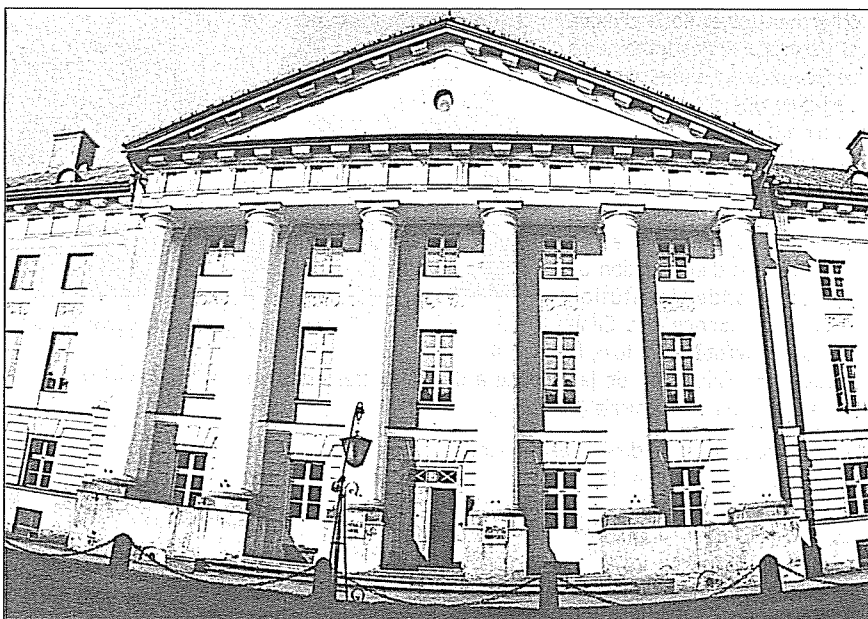
L'Université de Tartu a été fondée en 1632 par le roi de Suède Gustav Adolf. L'université a fonctionné, avec des interruptions causées par la guerre, jusqu'à l'invasion de la région baltique par les russes en 1710. En 1802, l'université a rouvert ses portes et est devenue la seule université de langue allemande de Russie. En 1919, lors de l'établissement de la république indépendante d'Estonie, l'estonien était adopté comme langue d'enseignement à l'université. Depuis la fin des eighties, l'université a retrouvé sa position d'institution de recherche et d'université de type occidental.

Les préparatifs de l'Atelier de l'A.E.I.B.S. sont en cours. La langue de travail sera l'anglais. Nous ferons de notre mieux pour que votre séjour en Estonie soit agréable. Grâce au programme social, vous aurez une merveilleuse chance d'apprécier l'héritage culturel unique et la beauté de notre ville historique et de nos campagnes.

Nous espérons que vous apprécierez votre séjour en Estonie tout autant que la qualité du programme et les rencontres avec vos collègues. Vous trouverez plus d'informations sur le programme scientifique et culturel dans la prochaine Newsletter.

J'espère avoir le plaisir de vous rencontrer à Tartu.

Keiu Saarniit
Chair of the local
organising committee



*Université de Tartu,
bâtiment principal*

COMITÉ D'ORGANISATION LOCAL

Liisa Salmi, conseillère (Université de Kuopio, Finlande) ;
Keiu Saarniit, présidente (Centre d'Information médicale de
l'Université de Tartu)
Aili Noorberg (Bibliothèque nationale d'Estonie)
Sigrid Prank (Bibliothèque universitaire de Tartu)
Milvi Tedremaa (Bibliothèque médicale d'Estonie)

PERSONNE DE CONTACT

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COMITÉ CONSULTATIF INTERNATIONAL DU PROGRAMME SCIENTIFIQUE

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Donna Flake (USA)
Eeva Kihlberg (Finlande)
Suzanne Bakker (Pays Bas)
Elisabeth Husem (Norvège)
Oliver Obst (Allemagne)
Teodora Oker-Blom (Suède)

LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE MÉDICALE D'ESTONIE est une bibliothèque générale qui assure la fonction de bibliothèque scientifique centrale et qui fait partie du système d'information scientifique estonien. La tâche principale de la bibliothèque est de servir les médecins, infirmières, scientifiques, étudiants et élèves des écoles médicales, mais aussi les spécialistes d'autres branches (biologie, chimie, pédagogie, psychologie) qui ont besoin de littérature médicale dans leur travail scientifique et pratique ou dans leurs études quotidiennes. La bibliothèque achète, préserve et rend accessibles les documents pour les utilisateurs de littérature médicale. La bibliothèque médicale nationale prépare la nouvelle littérature en ouvrant les systèmes d'information nécessaires; bases de données, catalogues, permet les recherches via les systèmes d'information, répond aux investigations, consulte les utilisateurs, compile et publie les bibliographies conseillées, compile et publie de la bibliographie médicale d'Estonie, participe au programme bibliothéconomique national, en fonction de ses compétences, participe au PEB et sert les utilisateurs, participe à la promotion de la santé dans la presse, à la radio et à la TV.

L'INFORMATION MÉDICALE À LA CLINIQUE UNIVERSITAIRE DE TARTU

L'Estonie est un petit pays dans un environnement où l'information est en pleine expansion. Les ressources nationales en information médicale sont éparpillées en de nombreux endroits tels la Bibliothèque médicale de Tallinn, la Bibliothèque universitaire de Tartu et de petites bibliothèques spécialisées. Mais la réception de l'information n'est pas efficace, lente et coûteuse pour les clients. En 1993, la Clinique universitaire de Tartu a été créée sur le modèle des institutions médicales, éducatives et de recherche. L'objet de la clinique est de procurer des traitements médicaux à tous les niveaux aussi bien que d'éduquer et de fournir des stages professionnels aux médecins et autres membres du personnel médical ainsi que d'effectuer de la recherche dans ces domaines. En 1994, au vu des demandes d'information de la plus grande institution médicale estonienne – la Clinique de l'Université de Tartu –, le Conseil d'Administration de la Clinique a décidé la création d'un centre d'information médicale (MIC).

Le but principal était de développer une infrastructure technique de pointe pour un système d'information médicale fournissant les commodités pour créer un centre d'information médicale électronique, avoir accès aux bases de données sur CD-Rom, organiser la formation à l'utilisation de logiciels et à la recherche d'informations électroniques, avoir accès aux banques de données de compagnies et de bibliothèques étrangères via Internet. Notre projet de création d'un centre d'information médicale électronique a été soutenu par la Fondation Ouverte d'Estonie (Fondation SOROS). A ce jour, la première étape du projet est terminée. En plus des cours réguliers auxquels participent les membres de l'équipe médicale, des cours d'informatique médicale de niveau avancé (environ 100 participants par an) sont organisés. La 2e étape comprendra la création d'EENET (le net estonien), donc l'assurance pour les départements de la Clinique et des hôpitaux régionaux d'accéder aux bases de données informatisées. Un abonnement au Medline complet (de 1966 à nos jours) est en cours. L' "Ovid Core Biomedical Collection I-IV" est disponible à l'université de Tartu depuis le début de l'année 97. Elle contient la version textuelle complète des journaux biomédicaux mondiaux les plus importants. Cela va permettre aux membres de l'équipe universitaire, médecins et étudiants, de disposer de 60 journaux électroniques directement en leurs bureaux. L'utilisation d'Ovid et de Medline va stimuler l'intérêt des médecins de Tartu et de l'Estonie du Sud pour les



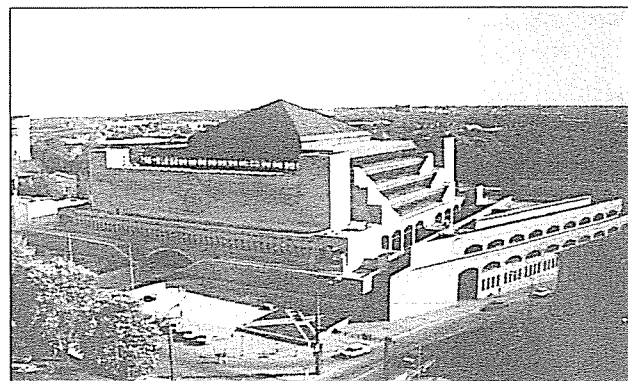
Keiu Saarniit

banques de données électroniques et augmenter leur niveau de qualification professionnelle. Le nombre d'utilisateurs du MIC ne cesse d'augmenter. Plusieurs hôpitaux se sont connectés au système d'information de la Clinique de l'Université de Tartu dans le but d'utiliser les services du MIC. L'institution hôte de l'Atelier de l'A.E.I.B.S. en Estonie est la Clinique universitaire de Tartu.

LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE D'ESTONIE (BNE)

L'institution qui a précédé la BNE a été fondée le 21 décembre 1918, quand le gouvernement provisoire de la République estonienne a promulgué une loi établissant une bibliothèque d'état. Cette bibliothèque avait pour tâche de récolter les imprimés essentiels au pouvoir législatif et au gouvernement du nouvel état.

Sous la République indépendante d'Estonie, la bibliothèque s'est développée et a crû rapidement. En 1919, elle a commencé à s'occuper du dépôt légal des œuvres publiées en Estonie. Les premiers accords d'échange internationaux ont été pris en 1921. A la fin des années 30, à juger par sa taille, la composition de ses collections et ses lecteurs, la bibliothèque d'état était devenue beaucoup plus qu'une bibliothèque gouvernementale. Les collections dépassaient les 50000 documents, parmi ses dirigeants figuraient d'éminents intellectuels, des personnalités publiques et culturelles importantes. Des plans de construction pour un nouveau bâtiment existaient, mais le 2e guerre mondiale a éclaté retardant sa mise à exécution de plus de cinquante ans. Sous le joug soviétique, la bibliothèque a d'abord été connue sous le nom de Bibliothèque d'Etat de la République soviétique socialiste d'Estonie.



Bibliothèque Nationale d'Estonie

Non seulement la bibliothèque avait été renommée, mais son rôle avait considérablement changé. L'accès aux publications estoniennes et étrangères était restreint, les relations avec les bibliothèques étrangères étaient coupées, les publications russes prédominaient. Malgré une forte pression idéologique, la Bibliothèque d'Etat, grâce aux statuts de bibliothèque de recherche, a réussi à sauver la plupart des publications estoniennes d'avant-guerre de la destruction physique qui fût le sort de millions de volumes dans tout le pays. En 1953, la Bibliothèque d'Etat prit le nom de Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald, une personnalité publique éminente de la période du Réveil National Estonien, auteur de l'épopée nationale "Kalevipoeg". A cette époque, les collections atteignaient déjà le million de documents. Le mouvement de libération balte, né dans la deuxième moitié des eighties, ainsi que la restauration de la République Indépendante d'Estonie le 20 août 1991, ont considérablement changé le rôle de la bibliothèque. En 1988, la Bibliothèque d'Etat F.R. Kreutzwald est devenue la Bibliothèque Nationale d'Estonie et un an plus tard, rattrapant cinquante ans d'histoire, la bibliothèque est (re)devenue une bibliothèque parlementaire. Grâce à la construction d'un bâtiment spécialement conçu à Tonismagi et achevé en 1993, la bibliothèque peut mener de front ses deux fonctions.

Address: Tonismagi 2, Tallinn EE0100, Estonia
e-mail: nlib@venus.nlib.ee
<http://www.nlib.ee>



Electronic Sources: Offers, Costs and Solutions - 14th GIDIF, RBM Congress

Sources électroniques : offres, coûts et solutions - 14e congrès de GIDIF, RBM

L'association italienne GIDIF, RBM qui regroupe les documentalistes de l'industrie pharmaceutique et des institutions de recherche biomédicale a tenu son 14e congrès en novembre dernier sur le sujet des sources électroniques. Lesquelles sont disponibles ? Sous quelle forme ? A quel prix ?

Après la présentation de différents produits et services, les questions furent nombreuses et la discussion intense. Les mêmes normes d'exactitudes, d'autorité, de couverture, d'objectivité et de rapport qualité/prix doivent être aux ressources d'internet comme à tout autre média.

GIDIF, RBM is the Italian Association of the information officers of pharmaceutical industries and biomedical research institutions. Since its beginning the Association organizes a Congress once a year on a managerial or professional topic. The topic chosen last November concerned electronic sources: what is available, in which formats and at what cost. Participation was very high with more than one hundred people, much more than on previous occasions. The answers were many and the discussion was intense, showing the interesting nature of the topic.

The first speaker was Tony Delamothe, editor of BMJ, a very active journal in the transition from traditional to electronic publishing. The advantages of electronic publishing are evident: update, access without geographic limits, no space limits, interactivity, hypertextual links with other publications. However, some problems have still to be solved mainly those of price politics. In any case the printed journal is still of some interest, especially for grouping the publications by area of interest and for filing documents independently of any technology.

The second speaker was Gert Staal from Elsevier Science. He described two new products: EES (Elsevier Electronic Subscription) and ScienceDirect. EES is a CD-ROM product containing more than 1100 journals with specific software to be loaded on local area networks. The big advantage is the product integration and the presence of a user-friendly browser to access journals, to run SDI and printouts, as well as to download articles. ScienceDirect is an online product, with the full text of about 300 journals (to be increased to 1200), accessible through a gateway common to all Elsevier services. The files in PDF or HTML format are

browsable, searchable and are combined with abstracting and indexing services.

Suzie Alexander spoke on behalf of Ovid Technologies, London. She simulated the search of full text articles by an end-user. This simple Ovid product allows users to identify, search and subscribe to personally selected online journals. The system allows grouping of users or of journals with a pay-as-you-go access.

The Italian EBSCO offices presented a product which would become available in Spring 1998. With this product, provided with a unique access, a unique interface and a unique search engine, the library could subscribe to many journals with the possibility of downloading full articles. At the same time, the librarian could run searches on the abstracts of journals to which he does not subscribe.

Swets & Zeitlinger introduced the presentation of its product with a dissertation on the changes of the traditional workflow author, publisher, distributor, library and end-user. In the electronic era, some of these characteristics will disappear. Swetsnet offers 800 journals by different publishers with a browser access pay-per-view. The files are in PDF, HTML and real page format.

The newborn The Dialog Corporation made its first official appearance. The Italian manager presented the new strategies of this big company: from information distributors to service centers, from the instrument of the information specialist to support of the profession, from end-user hunter to its prey. Nowadays, the host must devote its knowledge to the study of new interfaces and new software to satisfy the different needs of information officers and end-users. Moreover, the host is willing to be a

partner of information and knowledge managers to study personalized solutions and to offer its customer forums and virtual meeting points.

The last part of the day was dedicated to organizations devoted to document delivery. The first speaker was Mick Osborne from the British Library Document Supply Center. Thirty percent of requests reach the BLDSC by electronic medium (e-mail, fax or online hosts). Reproduction operations are still mainly manual, but the delivery is more and more electronic: the number of articles delivered by fax is now three times higher than five years ago. Moreover, it was underlined that numerous ongoing projects concern electronic publishing, telecommunication, scanning operations, view and printing of documents; in the near future they will affect the availability of electronic journals and document retrieval. The future goals of the BLDSC is the scanning and filing of electronic documents. The trend is to draw up agreements with the publishers of electronic journals to access their holdings in order to offer new services. No news about the copyright of electronic material, on which publishers and service providers are working to find a suitable solution.

The last presentation was given by Robert Howard and concerned the two services offered by ADONIS: the Electronic Journal Subscription (EJS) and the Document Delivery Service (DDS). ADONIS EJS allows access to 400 journals in electronic form (CD-ROM). One can choose which journal to subscribe to, free text and keywords searching is allowed, viewing and printing of the images is of high quality. ADONIS DDS gives access to about 800 serials, about 120 CD-ROM per year. The copyright is paid each time an article is printed or transmitted through a LAN. On a quarterly basis, ADONIS collects the



NEWS FROM EUROPE

information on the printed articles and issues the relevant invoice.

From the final discussion it clearly arose that we are all waiting for the decisions taken by the publisher as far as electronic documents are concerned. Many are the problems still open: copyrights, costs, older documents. It was however clear that the 'old and traditional' library, with its big spaces and noteworthy management

problems will exist for a few more years and will be an invaluable source to be coupled with the new technologies. It will be progress which will allow us to substitute paper materials with electronic documents. It is our job to follow carefully but critically the evolution and, possibly to be an active part in the changes.

As my personal final consideration please note that the figures given in the body of the article may now be different as more

than six months have passed from its presentation.

The above text has been summarized from an Italian version written by Mariateresa Pesenti and Maura Moggia.

Manuela Colombi

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NEWS FROM OUTSIDE EUROPE

MLA's Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia, May 22-27, 1998.

Elisabeth Husem's presentation, EAHL President,
at the MLA Conference

Célébration du centenaire de la MLA, Philadelphie, 22-27 mai 1998

*Présentation d'Elisabeth Husem, Présidente de
l'AEIBS, à la Conférence de MLA*



Elisabeth Husem and Donna Flake, MLA representative to EAHL

La M.L.A. célèbre son centième anniversaire cette année. La réunion annuelle sur le thème "Visions du futur, Réflexions sur le passé" tenue à Philadelphie est devenue une digne fête d'anniversaire, comprenant un programme professionnel et des festivités de haute qualité. Philadelphie est le lieu de la toute première réunion de la M.L.A. en 1898 : à ce moment, un groupe de médecins et de bibliothécaires médicaux s'asseyait pour déjeuner à Philadelphie pour ce qui devait devenir leur première réunion annuelle.

Aujourd'hui, la M.L.A. est une organisation professionnelle qui représente plus de 1200 membres institutionnels et de 3800 membres individuels dans le domaine de l'information en sciences de la santé. Les membres de la M.L.A. servent l'association en développant de nouveaux systèmes de fourniture de l'information, en organisant des programmes d'éducation et de recherche pour les professionnels et en encourageant une meilleure sensibilisation du public en matière de soins de santé. La M.L.A.

dispose aujourd'hui d'une section internationale importante.

Voici le discours de la Présidente de l'A.E.I.B.S. à la célébration du centenaire :

"Chère Présidente Anderson et chers membres de la M.L.A.,

Tout d'abord, je voudrais vous dire combien je suis heureuse d'être parmi vous ce soir et vous remercier pour votre aimable invitation. Au nom du Bureau et des membres de l'A.E.I.B.S., je désire vous féliciter à l'occasion du centenaire de la M.L.A. L'importance de celui-ci dépasse largement les frontières de l'Amérique du Nord. Peu de professionnels de l'information travaillant dans le domaine de la médecine et de la santé n'ont pas bénéficié directement ou indirectement des activités de la M.L.A. L'A.E.I.B.S., Association Européenne pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé, a fêté son dixième anniversaire l'an dernier. C'est une jeune association. Nous sommes très impressionnés par le fait que la M.L.A. est dix fois plus vieille ! La M.L.A. a atteint la maturité, en engrangeant des connaissances et une expérience de valeur. L'A.E.I.B.S. a toujours considéré la M.L.A.

comme un parfait exemple pour ses activités. Il y a toujours eu des liens solides entre la M.L.A. et l'A.E.I.B.S. Ces liens se sont resserrés lorsque Donna Flake est devenue la représentante de la M.L.A. auprès de l'A.E.I.B.S. en 1995. Elle a accompli un travail formidable de promotion de la M.L.A. auprès des membres de l'A.E.I.B.S. et vice versa. Beaucoup de membres de l'A.E.I.B.S. participent à cette réunion de la M.L.A. ici à Philadelphie et j'invite les membres de la M.L.A. à nous rejoindre lors de la conférence de l'A.E.I.B.S. aux Pays-Bas cet été. Nous apprécions notre collaboration et espérons consolider les liens entre nos deux associations. Je vous prie d'accepter nos cordiales congratulations et nos meilleurs vœux pour un futur fructueux "

The Medical Library Association (MLA) celebrates its 100th Birthday this year, and their annual meeting in Philadelphia with the title "Visions of the future, reflections on the past", became a worthy birthday party, where both the festivities and the professional program were of high quality.

Philadelphia was the site of the very first



MLA meeting in 1898: At that time a group of physicians and medical librarians sat down to lunch in Philadelphia at what was to be their first annual meeting.

Today MLA is a professional organization of more than 1,200 institutions and 3,800 individual members in the health sciences information field. MLA members serve society by developing new health information delivery systems, fostering educational and research programs for health sciences information professionals, and encouraging an enhanced public awareness of health care issues. And MLA has today an important international section.

Below you will find the birthday-speech delivered by the President of EAHIL at the centennial celebration:

" Dear President Anderson and MLA-members

First, I would like to say that I am very happy to be here, and thank you for your kind invitation. On behalf of the EAHIL Board and EAHIL members, I wish to congratulate you on the occasion of MLA's centennial. The importance of this milestone reaches well beyond North America. Few information professionals working in health and medicine have not benefited directly or indirectly from MLA's activities.

EAHIL, the European Association of Health Information and Libraries, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, it is a young association. We are very impressed by the fact that MLA is ten times older!

MLA has reached a mature age, with valuable experience and knowledge. EAHIL has always looked at MLA as a perfect

example for its activities. There have always been strong links between MLA and EAHIL, and these links enhanced when Donna Flake became the MLA representative to EAHIL in 1995. She has done a marvellous job promoting MLA among EAHIL-members, and the other way around. Many EAHIL-members are attending the MLA-meeting here in Philadelphia, and I welcome you, MLA-members, to join our EAHIL conferences. The next one is in Holland this summer.

We appreciate working together with you, and we hope to strengthen the links between our two Associations.

Please accept our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the future! "

Elisabeth Husem
EAHIL President

A MLA First Audio Broadcast

Une première diffusion audio pour la MLA

A l'occasion du congrès MLA sur les "Visions du futur, Réflexions sur le passé" organisé en mai 1998 à Philadelphie, Pennsylvanie, l'Association des Bibliothèques médicales a montré une vision du futur qui est une réalité d'aujourd'hui.

Pour la toute première fois, les internautes ont pu écouter la transmission en direct du discours présidentiel.

Ceux qui n'avaient pu se rendre à MLA 98 étaient invités à participer aux célébrations du centenaire en écoutant le mot de bienvenue et le discours de la Présidente, Rachael K. Anderson. La cérémonie d'accueil a eu lieu le dimanche 24 mai 98 à 9 h. (heure locale) à l'occasion du plus grand rassemblement mondial des professionnels de l'information en sciences de la santé à Philadelphie, site de la toute première rencontre de la MLA en 1898. La MLA a diffusé ces deux discours sur internet en Utilisant le Real Broadcast Network et le logiciel appelé Real Player version 5.0. Ce logiciel est libre et disponible sur Real Audio à <http://www.real.com/>. Le temps de chargement est important.

Pour entendre la diffusion en direct, les auditeurs devaient se connecter sur le site de la MLA (<http://www.mlanet.org>) quelques minutes avant 9h. (heure locale) le dimanche 24 mai 98. Une heure après la diffusion, la version archivée a été rendue disponible pendant trente jours

sur MLANET. Cette toute première radio-diffusion via Internet réaffirme l'engagement de la MLA de fournir à ses membres la meilleure programmation éducative directement en leurs bureaux en utilisant les plus récents outils d'internet. MLANET reste la meilleure source d'information en ligne pour les professionnels de l'information de santé. Pour plus d'informations, contacter Ray Naegele à la MLA Chicago.



*O*n occasion of the Congress on "Visions of the future, reflections on the past", MLA '98 held in Philadelphia, PA, the Medical Library Association showed a vision from the future that is today's reality!

For the first time ever - Internet users were able to hear a live broadcast of the President's Address.

Those who were unable to be at MLA '98, were invited to be part of the Centennial Celebration by listening to MLA President Rachael K. Anderson's Welcome and President's Address. The Welcome Ceremony was held on Sunday, May 24, 1998 at 9:00am EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) from the largest gathering of health sciences information professionals in the world in Philadelphia, PA, the site of the very first MLA meeting in 1898.

MLA had broadcast the address and the

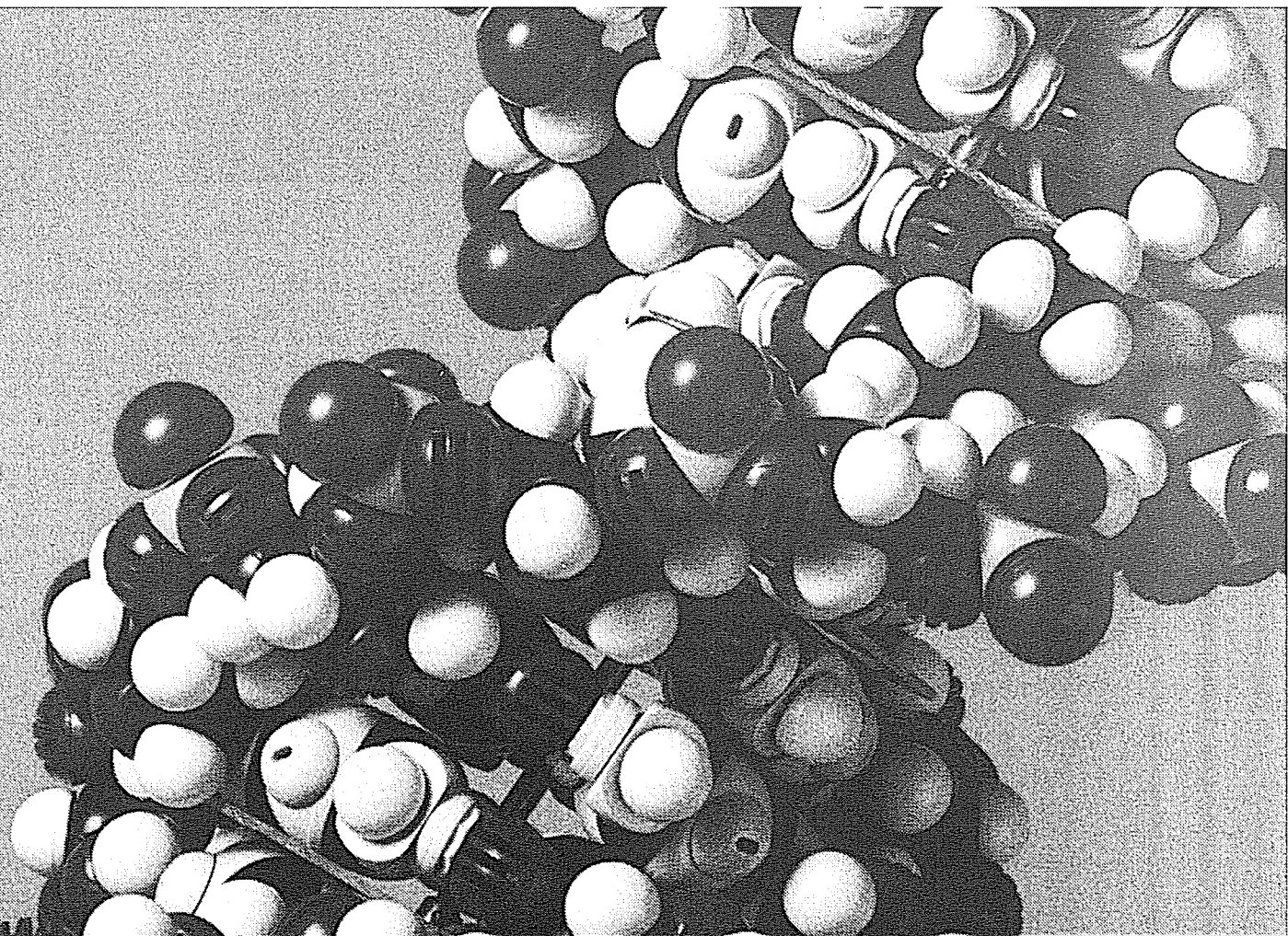
welcome ceremony over Internet using the Real Broadcast Network*, using a free software called RealPlayer* version 5.0 loaded on their PC. This software is free and available from RealAudio* at <http://www.real.com/>. It takes time to load the software.

To hear the live broadcast, listeners had to go to MLA's web site at <http://www.mlanet.org/> a few minutes before 9:00am EDT, Sunday May 24, 1998. One hour after the conclusion of the live broadcast, the archive version has been available for 30 days on MLANET at <http://www.mlanet.org/>

This first-ever Internet broadcast reaffirms MLA's commitment to provide members with the best educational programming right to their desktops using the latest Internet tools. MLANET continues to be the best on-line professional resource for health information professionals.

For more information, contact:
Ray Naegele at 312/419-9094 x17;
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Medical Library Association,
6 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 30
Chicago IL 60602-4805
<http://www.mlanet.org>

Donna Flake
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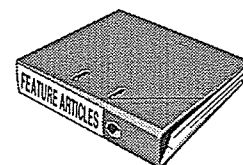
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On the role of bibliometrics in the knowledge society: bibliometric quicksand or bibliometrics challenge?

Sur le rôle de la bibliométrie dans la société du savoir : sables mouvants bibliométriques ou défis bibliométriques

Voici une tentative de réponse aux questions suivantes :

Pourquoi les bibliothécaires deviennent-ils sceptiques face à la bibliométrie ? Les raisons du scepticisme proviennent-elles des changements émergeant de l'ère électronique ou existe-t-il des raisons immanentes à cette crise de la bibliométrie qui sont compliquées par ces changements ? Les bibliothèques modernes avancées nécessitent-elles le service et l'assistance de la bibliométrie ? Que doivent faire les bibliométriciens pour survivre professionnellement et rester utiles dans un environnement mouvant ? La bibliométrie est-elle un cours nécessaire pour les écoles de bibliothéconomie ? Comment devrait-elle être enseignée ?

This paper is an attempt to answer to the following questions: Why do librarians become more sceptical to bibliometrics? Do the reasons of these sceptics refer to the emerging changes of the era of electronic communications or are there some IMMANENT reasons for the crisis of bibliometrics that were just complicated by these changes? Do modern advanced libraries really need bibliometric services and assistance? What are bibliometricians to do to survive professionally and retain their usefulness in the changing environment? Is bibliometrics a necessary subject in the curriculum of a library school? How should it be taught?

Bibliometrics decay

Nowadays bibliometrics is getting less and less popular. A lot of bibliometricians are on the point of giving up using the very term "bibliometrics" ⁽¹⁾, and it becomes more and more difficult to insert a bibliometric presentation into the program of a good conference in librarianship: the organisers of such conferences invite mostly papers on electronic issues and treat bibliometric topics as negligible.

Such a state of affairs is very understandable because:

1. On-line and CD-ROM rapid access to powerful databases (including the full text ones) gives people the impression that bibliometric assessment of documents is of no more use: this assessment is (really) of a retrospective nature, not very rapid, sometimes very labour-intensive and, therefore,

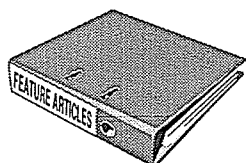
expensive. As on-line access is really fast, it now seems simpler to undertake a fast interactive retrieval on a variety of remote databases than to investigate any bibliometrically grounded limitations for reasonable sources of the retrieval beforehand. Also, the opportunities of electronic access made a lot of people think that it is now not very useful to have journal collections in situ, while the best thing that bibliometricians could really effectively do for librarians was the development of the lists of necessary scientific journals.

2. Enthusiasts of the "information era" (i.e. electronic documentary communications) again forecast the dying off of the scientific journals (including now the electronic ones, too). The principal scheme of this potential piece of future events is vividly featured in the J.S. Katz's paper entitled "Bibliometric quicksand" ⁽²⁾. Hence, the conclusion given is that the dissemination of "electronic papers" - not synchronised and regulated by a journal format of presentation - will make bibliometricians "definitely standing in the quicksand of change" ⁽²⁾ and, possibly, to perish as "no techniques are available for automatically classifying large numbers of articles" while more articles that are not restricted by journal limitations are expected to appear ⁽²⁾.

Invalid implication ?

Are the "external" reasons for bibliometrics decay (like those featured

above) really based on valid implications? E.g. will scientific journals really die? Since 1948 it has been forecasted plenty of times using, practically, the same essential arguments (except the electronic form of articles dissemination), but the journals are still here. Will the scientists prefer not to publish their works in well-reputed journals and thus lose the privilege of telling their colleagues that "my papers are published in the most cited journal in my field"? Electronic communications ARE mighty, but the ambition of a human being has not been reduced since Adam and Eve... Moreover, will the possibilities of electronic publications really significantly increase the number of papers to be published? As there will be no more limitations in article size it seems more likely that the scientists' ambition will provoke them to publish LONGER papers to take a privilege to say that "my last paper is 60 pages long" (Well, let's say 120 kilobytes). Then, why must we think that the databases accessible directly via WWW or wherever will need no more comparative bibliometric assessment? The more databases that are easily available, the more time one has to spend to pick up the same items from the various databases which are still different in volume, principles of documents selection, prices etc. Why should we imply that there will be no reason to start the information retrieval with the papers that gained the most quantity of citations? Could we imagine that scientists will stop citing each other? And so on...



The real nature of bibliometrics crisis ?

In my opinion, the reasons like those put forward in the first part of this paper are not really the cause of librarians' disappointment in bibliometrics, but just an accomplice of it. The point is that besides these "external" reasons for decay there are INTERNAL ones, e.g. too much schematic mode of bibliometricians' thinking, too uncertain interpretations of the obtained results etc. Such facts WE'RE ALWAYS TRUE, and the aforementioned new conditions just gave more background to seeing them.

What do I mean by "uncertain interpretations"? While bibliometrics is an implement for quantitative assessment, the bibliometricians have not really arrived at any mutual agreement on account of those specific properties that are under assessment⁽³⁾.

The examples below will make this rather paradoxical statement clearer. Thus, when we just count documents the reason of the study is not to assess any property at all, but to directly measure the quantity of the documents (if one prefers, it may be stated that such "property" as "productivity" of document collection is measured, but, anyhow this is the case of DIRECT measurement which does not cause any uncertainty in a basic interpretation). But starting with the citation analysis the essence of the study is no more a direct measurement, but an INDIRECT ASSESSMENT... The clue question is "the assessment of what?". The bibliometricians say: "of impact", "of quality", "of significance", "of value" (etc.) of the cited documents, their authors, journals that published these documents and so on. Such terms are being used ARBITRARILY, and the choice of the specific term is often determined just by an author's intuition. But such terms as "impact", "value", "quality" and "significance" are NOT the synonyms. They indicate at DIFFERENT properties of a document, while the use of a SPECIFIC bibliometric method for an indirect assessment of some properties of a document can ADEQUATELY (i.e. with the least degree of intermediation) evaluate only one specific latent property.

The rest can be assessed, too, -- but in a still more indirect way, by making use of more conceptual intermediates, as derivatives from the "first" ("matching") property which most closely corresponds to the chosen indicator under the direct measurement. There might be the whole "chain" of such derivatives, but every new "link" (intermediate) is being assessed less and less accurately⁽⁴⁾. Unless this is not realised by bibliometricians before a study design has been started, the snow-slip of misinterpretations is almost inevitable. The terminological chaos in the nominations of the properties to be assessed that is caused by the lack of understanding of what a use of a specific method makes it possible to assess PAR EXCELLENCE when an indirect assessment is undertaken, cause, in its turn, very vague interpretation of the results. And the practical recommendations suffer. And, consequently, librarians would not care much about any bibliometric recommendation.

Bibliometricians have to understand the reasons of sceptics and become distinct in their promises and interpretations

The challenge

Does the above mean that bibliometricians will not professionally survive or that they are not able to offer the effective service to librarians any more? I think one has always to meet the challenge. Bibliometricians have first to understand the basic reasons of the present sceptics to

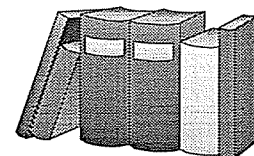
their activity. In response they must become very distinct in both their promises and interpretations of the facts they discover for their potential users. In order to achieve this they need to transfer the focus of their attention from refined mathematical procuring to the speculative consideration of fundamental concepts of the subjects of their studies, or, to tell it roughly, to acquire better command of common sense. They must undoubtedly keep on teaching bibliometrics at library schools - and even more persistently, - but in a different manner. They must really foresee as much of the emerging changes of the new electronic reality as possible and, correspondingly, change the mode of their thinking. May we wish it or not, some new objectives are really here to be realised.

NOTES:

1. See the discussion on this point in the author's paper: "Notion of a document: a center of "gravity attraction for getting metricians together" (Scientometrics 30 (1994) 2-3: p. 511-516.)
2. Katz J.S.; Bibliometric quicksand; EASST Newsletter 13 (1994) 4: p. 11-12. In this paper its author mentions that he simplifies the picture of his vision, but keeps it "reasonably approximate the general process". So do I throughout the present paper as well.
3. The best discussion of the heart of this problem can be read in papers and books by Prof. V.M. Motylev from St.-Petersburg (unfortunately, all the works were published in Russian).
4. This problem is reflected in: Lazarev V.S.; Citation analysis: what property of cited documents is really reflected: further to the paper by Liisa Salmi; Newsletter to the European Health Librarians (1995) 33: p. 16-17, Lazarev V.S.; On chaos in bibliometrics terminology; Scientometrics 35 (1996) 2: p. 271-277, Lazarev V.S.; Properties of scientific documents that are qualitatively assessed in bibliometric studies; International Journal of Information Sciences for Decision Making 1 (1997):p. 1-17. Some other author's papers are in Russian. More examples are given there, more argumentation is featured, more methods are discussed.

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Dear colleagues,

The list of publications for this issue is very rich; I hope everyone will find something of interest. In my view the major topics are cooperation, comparison and again selection criteria. As sources are increasingly enriching, our role is flowing towards teaching information skills and developing the electronic library of the future. In particular the inclusion of internet resources in our collections should follow the same rigorous criteria as for print materials. The same standards of accuracy, authority, coverage, currency and objectivity need to be applied to the web resources as to any other medium: if we manage to keep in mind this principle, our approach to the web will be easier. See you in the next issue.

Giovanna F. Miranda
Co-Editor & Publications

JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of April 1998, the following journal issue of Health Libraries Review has been received : vol. 15, 1998, no. 1

J. Petrak and J.G. Shaw, Editorial – I think the greatest obstacle just now is the limitation of our imagination. p. 1-3.

F. Akhigbe, International co-operation in Africa - problems and achievements. p.5-11. The efforts made by the AHILA (Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa) and its partners, through co-operative and supportive activities in enhancing access to health information, are discussed.

R.J.K. Kakembo, Access to health information through partnerships : problems and benefits. p.13-16. This paper is a series of reflections on the nature and history of partnerships between Universities in Africa and others elsewhere, with particular focus on that the Albert Cook Medical Library at Makerere University has participated in.

I. Bertrand and L. Hunter, African Index Medicus - a co-operative undertaking. p 17-20. Although Medline covers many of the significant medical periodical articles published in developed countries, there is still a considerable amount of medical and health documentation from countries outside the major industrialised areas which is not included. This paper outlines various initiatives to address this and goes on to describe the setting up of the African Index Medicus.

E. Husem, International co-operation and the European Association for Health Information and Libraries. p. 21-27. The co-operation between

European libraries : what EAHIL hopes to achieve, and how it may be done. In this paper only three of the six aims are referred to : conferences and workshops arranged by EAHIL, the development of an efficient network system in order to increase communication and information among members and establishment of agreements for co-operation with medical and health science libraries in Eastern and Central Europe.

L. Salmi and E. Akre, Nordic co-operation - expanding to the Baltic countries. p. 29-32. The paper describes the establishment in 1995 of the Nordic Association for Medical and Health Information, bringing together the five national associations from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland.

L. Dorst, Restoring the tower of Babel: building a multilingual thesaurus on health promotion. p. 33-39. In 1994 the International Union for Health Promotion and Health Education, Regional Office for Europe (IUHPE/EURO), began a thesaurus project in the field of health promotion and health education. This paper describes the different phases of the International project.

Short Reports

V.S. Lazarev, Chernobyl-related databases in the Republic of Belarus : their International potential. p. 41-44.

S. Kociene and V. Tamuliene, International relations of the Lithuanian Library of Medicine. p. 44-47.

O. Pinkas, International co-operation : Czech libraries. p. 47-48.

Special feature

J. Grey-Lloyd , CD-ROMs review 1995-1997 : a multicentre pilot trial. p. 49-57.

Innovation on Internet.

B. Anagnostelis Series Editors

A. Rees, Project Connect : information for health care networked across North Thames. p. 59-63

A. Besson, Document access over the Web - an intranet solution. p. 63-67.

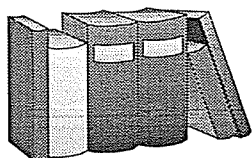
Yet More Evidence ... R & D in Health Information (J. Palmer) p. 69-72

Papers review from **Medical Reference Services Quarterly** vol. 17, Number 2, summer 1998

L. R. Brazin, Sources of Information on Postgraduate Medical Training Programs - 1998 Update. p. 1-16. The article lists directories, journal articles, Web sites, and general books that aid the librarian, house officer, or medical students in finding information on residency and fellowship programs.

J. Bandemer and N.H. Tannery, A comparison of four Current Awareness Services. p. 29-36. This article is a summary of the results of the study comparing four current awareness services : Current Contents/OVID, Reference Update/OVID, CARL Uncover, and FirstSearch.

R. L. Faraino, Teaching Medical Informatics a la Carte : A curriculum for the professional palate. p. 69-77. The informational professionals is challenged by the need for instructional programs that support the use of medical informatics to a diverse audience. The Educational Services Department at the New York University Medical Centre has designed and



PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

implemented a multidisciplinary curriculum that serves as a model for health and informational professionals to meet a variety of goals and objectives.

BOOKS REVIEW

European Health Care Reform: Analysis of Current Strategies. By R.B. Saltman and J. Figueras 1998. 310 pp. £ 13. Who Regional Office of Europe. ISBN 92-890-1336-2. This book illustrates Europe's heterogeneous arrangements. The authors concentrate on horizontal comparisons while simultaneously summarising developments in individual countries. The book is, at least for physician, an introduction to health policy, health economics and healthcare management.

The human rights, ethical and moral dimension of health care - 120 practical case studies. European Network of Scientific Co-operation on Medicine and Human Rights. 1998. 500 pp. 240 FF. Council of Europe Publishing. ISBN 92-871-3055-8. A total of eighty-two cases concerning specific health problems and thirty-eight cases found in daily nursing care are elaborated in this text. The authors evaluate the possible reactions of the health professional in the light of International legislation, ethics, and religious and lay moral principles.

OCLC 1967-1997: Thirty Years of Furthering Access to the World's Information. By K. W. Smith. 1998. 300 pp. \$ 54 (\$ 24.00 soft). The Haworth Press, Inc. ISBN 0-7890-0536-0. This book is a definitive guidebook to today's OCLC. It is for library professionals in libraries of all types.

PAPERS REVIEW

Medical Libraries Today. L.M. Asta. *Ann Intern Med*, 1998, 128, 881-882

Selection criteria for web-based resources in a science and technology library collection. R.B. McGeachin, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, n. 18 spring 1998. <http://www.library.ucsb.edu.ist/>

Internet utilisation among medical information specialists in the pharmaceutical industry and academia S.T. Johnson and C. J. Wordell, *Drug Inf J*, 1998, 32, 547-554

INFORMATION SOURCES

..... CD-Rom

World Guide to Libraries Plus. 82,000 libraries in 192 countries. Combine the two renowned databases World Guide to Libraries and American Library Directory. The CD-Rom also lists numerous libraries with small bookstock. 2nd CD-Rom edition, 1998, 1 annual update. K.G. Saur Verlag, DM 680 (subscriber DM 620).

APC Library on Disk. The Cd-Rom combines a database, clinical practice guidelines, preventive medicine guidelines, common diagnostic strategies, and recommended screening guidelines. It includes the MKSAP 10 (Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program). The CD-Rom can be installed either under Windows'95 or on Macintosh. *American College of Physicians*, 1997, \$ 195 members

Virtual Human, ver. 1.0. It combines the segmented and classified Visible Human database created from 1800-plus cross sections of the human body with a state-of-art volume rendering system, enabling the user to create life-like picture of the human anatomy. The CD-Rom can be installed either under Windows'95, Macintosh or NT. *Gold Standard Multimedia*, 1997. \$ 195.

Encyclopedia Britannica CD 98. The entire full-text encyclopedia on three CDs. The CD-Roms can be installed either under Windows'95, or NT. *Windows-compatible sound device. Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1998. \$ 125. In addition to the Cd-Rom format, the entire digitised version of EB is also available by subscription on the Internet for \$ 85 a year

NEWS FROM EDITORS

Elsevier Science - The new edition of **EMTREE**, the Embase thesaurus, is now available in three volumes. Of particular importance is the first-ever publication of volume 3 : Permuterm Index.

EMDOCS Document Delivery Service is now operating in partnership with the Uncover Company, located in Denver, Colorado.

Elsevier announce a new journal in a new field : Integrative Medicine : Integrating Conventional and Alternative Medicine. The journal examines the safety

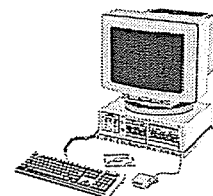
and efficacy of all approaches to health and include commentaries on controversial research, case reports that reflect integrative practices, and relevant book reviews.

Ebsco Subscription Services - According to the **Index Medicus Price Study**, the average price of a 1998 subscription to an Index Medicus title is \$ 501.11. This represents a 7.2 percent increase over the average price of a 1997 subscription (\$ 467.42). The 1998 Index Medicus Price Study analysed the cost of 2,639 titles indexed for Index Medicus by the National Library of Medicine. Sixteen subject areas have shown more than 100 percent increase in total cost over the past five years (the highest for Diagnostic Imaging). The study is designed to provide medical and health sciences libraries with information about inflationary trends within specific biomedical fields. To request a copy contact any Ebsco Regional Office or mail, fax or e-mail to Lynn Fortney, Biomedical Division Director, EBSCO Information Services, P.O. Box 1943, Birmingham, AL 35201-1943, USA ; fax (205)995-1518 ; e-mail lynnf@ebSCO.com.

Ebsco plan to further integrate Web-based products and Services. This will offer customers a true "one-stop" location for serials management needs. They plan to link the citations contained in about 50 abstracting and indexing databases currently supported by EBSCOhost to the full text articles covered by the licences to both EBSCOhost and Ebsco Online.

Swets & Zeitlinger BV announce to have reached an agreement with Cambridge University Press and Blackwell Publishers Ltd, to make available their electronic journals in SwetsNet, the global electronic gateway service. Between them, CUP and Blackwell Publishers will allow access to almost 200 titles, bringing the total number of full text journals to be available via Swetsnet to over 1,100. Further information can be found at the SwetsNet Home Page on the Web (www.swetsnet.com).

The Editorial board is working at an operating procedure to improve quality and timeliness of the Newsletter



Evaluation of information on Internet

The problem of the quality of the information is not new: people have not waited for Internet to question the validity of published information; we all know about the problem of supplements, that use the authority of a title, and permit the publication of articles with inferior value, or the rejected articles published in other journals.

With Internet, that problem is potentialized because no formal "review process" exists: almost anyone can post information as a Web page, or to a forum (newsgroup, discussion list,...). The problem can be very serious when it comes to health information, and critical for drug information.

As stated by L.C. Hoff, *"the effective use of drugs depends on the accurate and comprehensive communication and understanding of information about them"*. A recent study of one of the most renowned newsgroup (sci.med.pharmacy) has concluded that about 20% of the posted information was harmful!

Hoff also says that the effective use of drugs depends on the comprehensive understanding of that information. So, this type of misinformation can be catastrophic in the current situation where a lot of health consumers seek their information on Internet: in the last Gvu* Survey, about 16%, out of 10,000 web users, access online medical information several times per week, and 36% at least once a month.

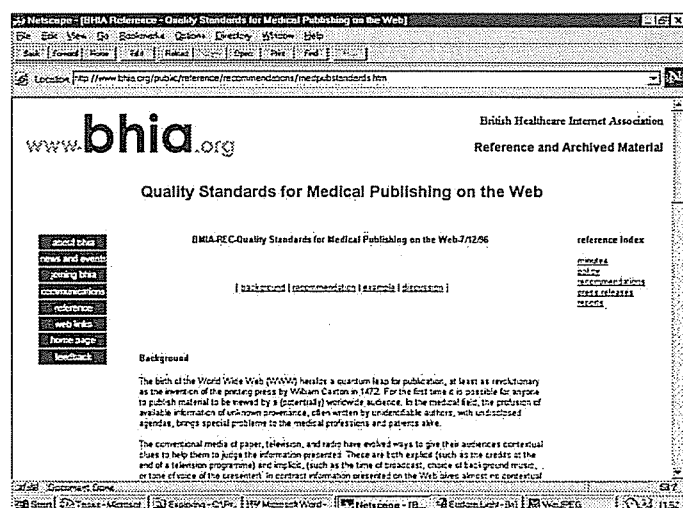
- **Gvu's 8th WWW User Survey** (from October 10, 1997 through November 16, 1997)**

http://www.gvu.gatech.edu/user_surveys/survey-1997-10/

In that context, a very interesting initiative is the publishing of very practical quality standards for medical publishing on the web by the British Healthcare Internet Association :

- **Quality Standards for Medical Publishing on the Web**

http://www.bhia.org/public/reference/recommendations/medpu_bstandards.htm



Pages should include :

- provenance: the author of original material should be identified, with its qualification (preferably in full for a lay audience)
- intended audience: in order to clearly distinguish information directed to a lay audience, and that directed to the medical professions.
- references and citations: as traditional information, information should be quoted, either in the usual way, either with hypertext link.

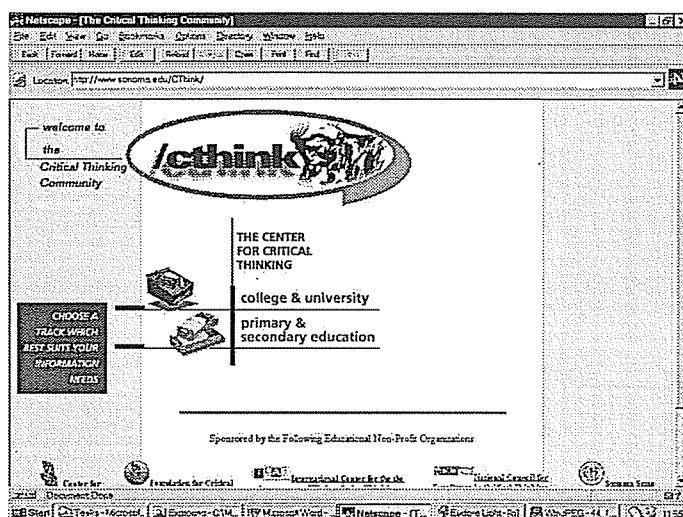
- disclaimers and cautions: for lay audience information, an appropriate disclaimer or caution has to be included.
- date of amendment or update
- a contact address, for feedback to the author. Of course, best should be e-mail or equivalent (formulary)
- notice of conflict of interest and funding: or an explicit statement that there is no conflict of interest or funding
- copyright and intellectual property statement.

Here is another important resource discussing about the quality of information in general :

- **Information Quality WWW Virtual Library**

<http://www.ciolek.com/WWWVL-InfoQuality.html>

On the librarians' side, it is not our less important role to evaluate the information we distribute. We have already talked about the "User Guides to the Medical Literature (JAMA)" and here are some additional critical thinking resources :



- **Critical Thinking Community:**

<http://www.sonoma.edu/CThink/>

- discussion list about critical thinking: send a request to bhayes@dsu.deltast.edu.

- **How to Critically Analyze Information Sources**

<http://urisref.library.cornell.edu/skill26.htm>

A lot of people have developed criteria to evaluate the quality of information on Internet. Here are some resource lists:

- **Bibliography on Evaluating Internet Resources**, by Nicole Auer, <http://refserver.lib.vt.edu/libinst/critTHINK.HTM>

A comprehensive bibliography on the subject, with articles, Internet resources, including interesting discussion lists.

- **Evaluating Web Sites: Criteria and Tools**

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/research/webeval.html>

- **Web Evaluation Techniques: Bibliography**

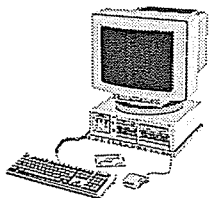
<http://www.science.widener.edu/~withers/wbstrbib.htm>

From the plenty, I have to highlight these two jewels:

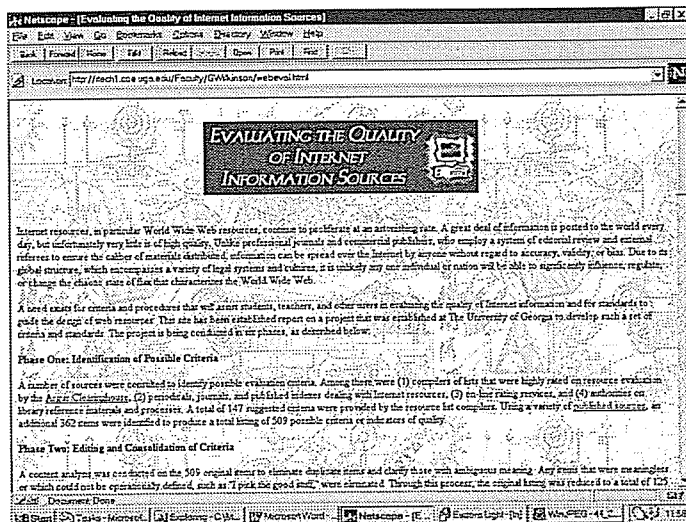
- **Evaluating Quality on the Net**, by Hope N. Tillman

<http://www.tiac.net/users/hope/findqual.html>

An excellent and often updated presentation that also reviews some well-known search engines.



INTERNET PAGE



- Evaluating the Quality of Internet Information Sources

<http://itech1.coe.uga.edu/Faculty/GWilkinson/webeval.html>

This project of the University of Georgia has reviewed 509 possible criteria to evaluate the quality of Internet information, in order to develop outstanding procedures and standards to guide the design of web resources.

More specifically about health on the Internet, it's always interesting to see how reputable resource site (such as OMNI) have managed the topics:

- The OMNI Advisory Group for Evaluation Criteria

<http://omni.ac.uk/agec/agec.html>

OMNI guidelines for resource evaluation

- Thinking critically about information on the Web, by B.

Anagnostelis, A. Cooke, A. McNab

<http://omni.ac.uk/agec/vine.html>

The Health Summit group (representatives from major health associations AMA, ANA, APA, government, and consumer groups) have developed guidelines for consumers, information providers, medical professionals, and developers of internet sites:

- Criteria for Assessing the Quality of Health Information on the Internet, Dr Rippen

<http://www.mitretek.org/hiti/showcase/documents/criteria.html>

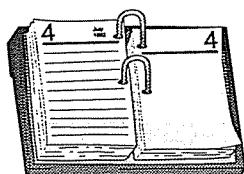
Recently, in JAMA, Jadad has reviewed the rating lists of an important list of Web sites providing health information. His conclusions? "Many incompletely developed instruments to evaluate health information exist on the Internet. It is unclear, however, whether they should exist in the first place, whether they measure what they claim to measure, or whether they lead to more good than harm."

* *GVU is a research center comprised of many participating academic units.*

** *When proof reading, the 9th user survey have become available.*



Vincent Maes
Internet Editor



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August 16-21, 1998

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

64th IFLA General Conference

General Information: Amsterdam '98, Congrex Holland bv, P.O.Box 302, NL-1000 AH Amsterdam, Fax: +31 20 625 9574, e-mail: ifla@congrex.nl

September 21-23, 1998

Berlin, Germany

Annual Meeting of the German Association for Medical Libraries.

TE Conference with Exhibition, Univ.-Klinikum Charite, Dr. V. Jost Zentralbibliothek, Schumannstraße 20/21, D-10117 Berlin, Germany Countryphone: +49 30 28023614.

May 1999

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Medical Library Association (MLA)

- Annual Meeting and Exhibition.

Contact: R. Carey, 6 N. Michigan Ave, #300, Chicago, Ill. 60602, USA, Fax: +1 312 419 8950, e-mail: info@mlahq.org

June 30-July 2, 1999

Tartu, Estonia

EAHIL Workshop "Towards quality in Medical Information Services - Virtue of Virtual Environment."

For further information: Keiu Saarniit, Medical Inform.Centre, Tartu University Clinicum, Puusepa Street 8, EE-2400 Tartu, Estonia, Tel-Fax: +372 7448186, e-mail: keiu@cut.ee

August 23-25, 1999

Bangkok, Thailand

65th IFLA Conference "Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World".

General Information: Bangkok Rai, 226/25 Bond Street, Riviera Tower 3, Muang Thong Thani, Chaengwattana, Nonthaburi, Thailand, Tel: +662 9600141, Fax: +662 9600140, e-mail: ifla@bkkrai.com.

July 3-5, 2000 - London, UK

EAHIL 7th European Conference of Medical and Health Library. With 8th International Congress of Medical Librarianship (ICML).

Contact: Tony McSean, BMA, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, UK, Fax: +44 171 388 2544, e-mail: tone@bma.org.uk

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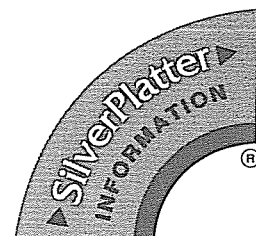
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Chiswick, London W4 4PH

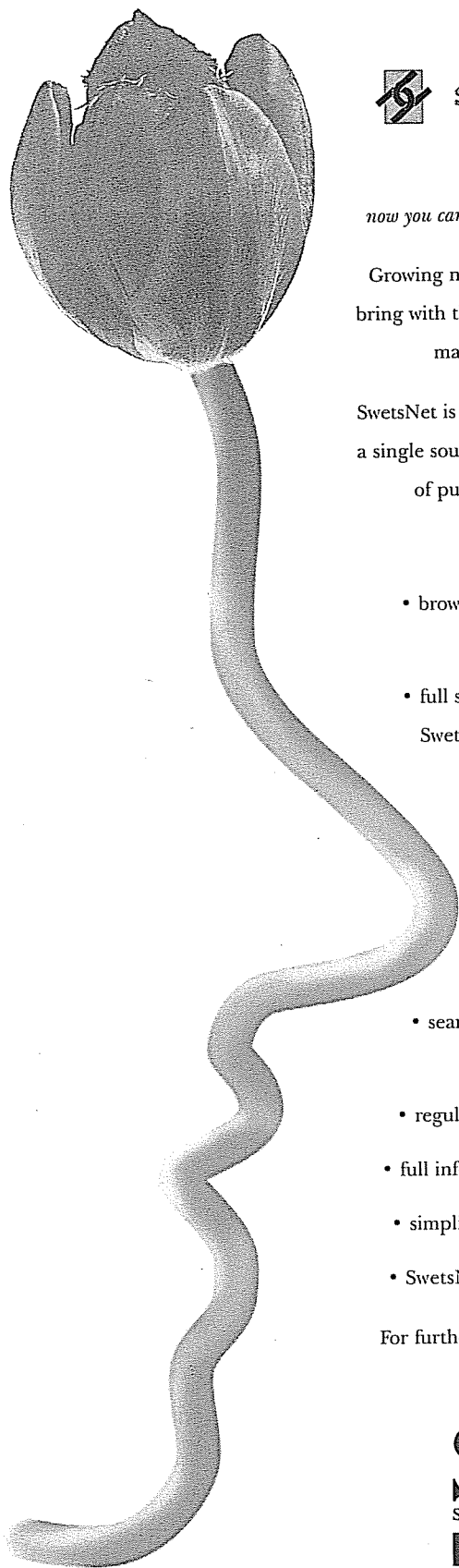
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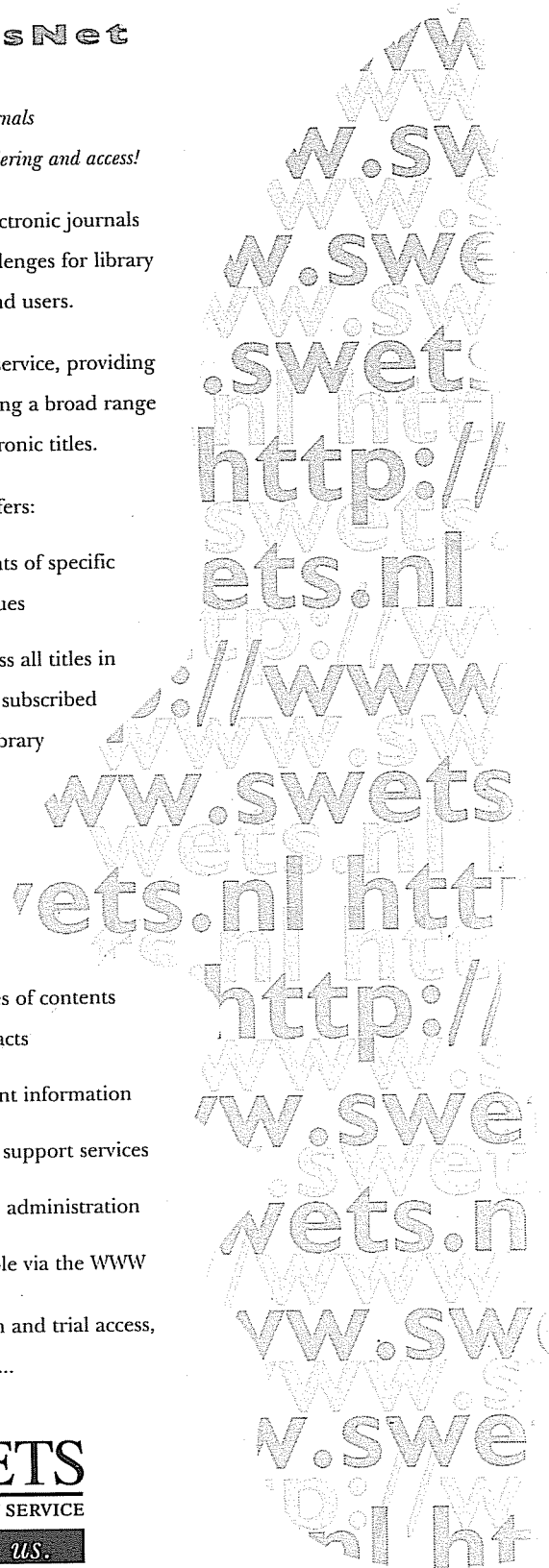
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