
In memory of Elisabeth Husem, President of EAHIL 1994-1998 (12 October 1940 - 25 January 2024)



Elisabeth passed away on Thursday 25th January, at the age of 84 after suffering from Parkinson's disease. This is sad news for EAHIL and all medical librarians who knew her for a long time.

She was a lovely and warm person, always in a good mood, with a smile, always stylish and beautiful, active in work and social activities and engaged in so many things. She was able to communicate cordially with colleagues and friends, of whom she had many, both in Norway and abroad.

Elisabeth has been internationally oriented ever since she graduated from the École de Bibliothécaires et de Documentalistes in Paris, met her husband there, got a job in UNESCO and lived in Abidjan at the Ivory Coast for 8 years. After returning to Norway, she worked in the library at the University of Oslo until her retirement.

Elisabeth was elected President of EAHIL in 1994 and served two terms until 1998. As President, she was very keen to encourage to join more members from Central and Eastern Europe to EAHIL. She looked for ways and means to get them involved in EAHIL activities and to come to conferences.

Many Baltic librarians still remember our first informal Nordic-Baltic meeting in Elisabeth's apartment after the 4th EAHIL conference in Oslo in 1994, where she was the main organiser and where she was elected President of EAHIL. This is where the idea of the Nordic-Baltic partnership programme was born. Since then, she has been actively involved in the Nordic Library Association, Section of Medicine and Health (SMH) Baltic Committee until 2008.

This was a long-standing Transfer of Knowledge programme that lasted for more than 15 years, bringing together Baltic medical librarians from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Later, librarians from Russian universities in the Baltic region were invited to join and Transfer of Knowledge continued up to 2009. Elisabeth was a central person in this collaboration project.

In 2005 Elisabeth was awarded the King's Medal of Merit in silver for her international accomplishments. Elisabeth retired in 2010, but even after retirement she attended EAHIL events.

Many thanks to Elisabeth for her work, time and energy spent on our profession and friendship. We will miss and not forget her.

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