



### A new year ahead

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Dear EAHIL friends,

I am thrilled to present this first issue of 2016 which contains eight excellent articles on topics of both great interest and practical use for all librarians and information specialists.

Usually, the first issue of the year hosts articles on various topics rather than a section dedicated to a specific theme. I will not conceal that we have had some difficulties in the past in finding articles for publication in no-theme issues, however this year I was pleasantly surprised in noticing we actually had the opposite problem; an abundance of items provided for our journal. This is a clear indication of the growing interest in *JEAHIL* and of the members of the Editorial Board's passionate work. To each of them I extend my gratitude, in particular to our newest member of the group: Gerhard Bissel.

We worked so well together! To quote the beautiful words of Letizia Sampaolo, who writes the column on publications and new products: "One of the greatest blessings to a leader is to have that team pull together and support each other."

A new aspect found in this issue is the presence of a Commentary (by Sandy Campbell). It is a space provided for discussion and comments on current topics as well as themes reported in previously published articles. We would love for it to become an integral part of the journal, to receive letters and, why not, open a variety of other columns, such as one dedicated to EAHIL history. It would be fantastic to reprint pages of the old newsletter, photographs and memories of past conferences and events.

We are in an important period for EAHIL because of the upcoming voting, as Marshall Dozier informed us in her Letter from the President:

"Elections for President and Board will happen in the next few months, and outcomes announced at the General Assembly in Seville. Please see the dedicated pages in this issue for information on nominations and voting. The new terms for newly Elected members will begin in January 2017. Later this year, we will have nominations and voting for Council members for each country where there are vacancies. The outcomes will be announced in late autumn and the new Councillors will begin their term in January 2017. We hope to receive a nomination form from you!"

Everyone who is involved in this professional association, a setting that has become for many of us similar to that of a large family, is called to give his own contribution.

Within the forthcoming issues of *JEAHIL* there will be a small change. Gerhard Bissels has proposed a monographic section on a topic of great impact "Education and training for medical librarians". It has been decided that it will be published in December 2016, moving the "Open Access 2: Research data" theme issue to the next year.

Please find below the updated Table

***JEAHIL* next issues:**

**2016**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
2 - Open science 1: Open access		5 May
3 - Memories from Seville Conference		5 August
4 - Education and training for medical librarians		5 November

**2017**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
1 - No-theme, Deadline		5 February
2 - Open science 2: Research data		5 May

So, as you have seen, the next issue of the journal will be on Open Access. Members of the Editorial Board Fiona Brown and Katri Larmo will be the Editors of this theme issue. If you wish to contribute with your paper, do feel free to contact them. Their email addresses are: f.brown@ed.ac.uk; katri.larmo@helsinki.fi

Last but not least, I would like to announce the winners of the two scholarships awarded for the best articles published in 2015.

One award was assigned to the best Workshop Report published in issue n 3, 2015, dedicated to the Memories from the EAHIL+ICAHIS+ICLC Workshop Research-Minded: understanding, supporting, conducting research, 10-12 June 2015, Edinburgh, Scotland.

The second scholarship was awarded to the best paper published in the other issues (n 1, 2 and 4) published in 2015. The evaluation committee has declared that the winners are:

1. M.J. Foster. An overview of the role of librarians in systematic reviews: from expert search to project manager (*JEAHIL* 2015;11(3):3-7);
2. M. Toro-Troconis, C. Morton, T. Bennie, C. Leppington, A. Hemani, M. Lupton  
Design, development and implementation of a mobile learning strategy for undergraduate medical education (*JEAHIL* 2015;11(2):14-20).

Congratulations to the winners, and a big thank to the evaluation committee for evaluating the 32 feature articles published in 2015.

*To you all..... a lovely start to spring!*  
Federica

# What is the difference between a filter and a hedge?

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### Abstract

*Tracing the history of the naming of saved searches, this commentary proposes the use of two terms: filters and hedges.*

**Key words:** search filters, search hedges.

Over time many different terms have been used by searchers to describe stored searches: pre-made searches, stored searches, saved searches, canned searches, saves, filters, hedges, and now, search blocks. De Jonge and Lein, in their paper “Sharing literature search blocks: status and ideas for a cooperative solution”, appear to have created the term “search block” to represent all kinds of stored searches apart from “filters” (1). Presumably a “search block” refers to a block of text that one could copy and paste into a database search box, analogous to the concept of a “text block” from the context of word processing (2). If this is the intended meaning, the term does not encompass the many useful stored searches that have been published in articles or on websites as text that must be retyped into a database.

The term “hedge”, has existed in the literature since at least 1977, roughly the beginning of mediated online literature searching in libraries, when Funk described a “hedge” to be used in “SDILINE and the storesearch capability of MEDLARS” (3). In 1980 Dolan credited the development of the hedge concept to the Medlars Management Section of the National Library of Medicine (4). She speculated that “it was because Medlars used tree structures that ‘hedge’ was chosen to define groups of related terms that occurred across all trees”, carrying on a vegetation theme.

Dolan distinguished between saved searches or “saves” and hedges. She defined “saves” as being

“concepts that will remain constant and will be used in a majority of searches...concepts such as age groups, grade levels, sex, race and nationalities”. In contrast, she defined “hedges” as “groups of terms representing concepts which occur frequently in the search requests, but not always in the same way... [and] combine terms which are synonyms, variant spellings of the same term or terms that are related in some other way”. The term “hedge” and the practice of storing searches for later use caught on. Early database providers charged searchers to store their searches, so before there were site-licenced databases, with simple and free ways of storing and re-using searches, searchers kept “hedge books”, where they wrote down the searches that they expected to re-use (5).

The searches that Dolan described as “saves” would now be called “filters”. One needs to look no further than PubMed, to see Clinical Queries identified as filters. De Jonge and Lein distinguish “filters” from their “common literature search blocks” saying that “[f]ilters are a type of search block developed for specific purposes e.g. finding studies within a clinical concept, like diagnosis, prognosis or therapy”. There is a functional difference between a stored subject search (Dolan’s hedge) and stored searches that are used to restrict subject searches to specific clinical concepts, geographic regions, study methods or population groups (Dolan’s save). However, the terms “search hedge” and “search filter” are often used interchangeably. McMaster University’s page

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