

NEWS LETTER

TO EUROPEAN HEALTH LIBRARIANS

DES BIBLIOTHECAIRES EUROPEENS DE LA SANTE



European Association for Health Information and Libraries

Association Européenne pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé

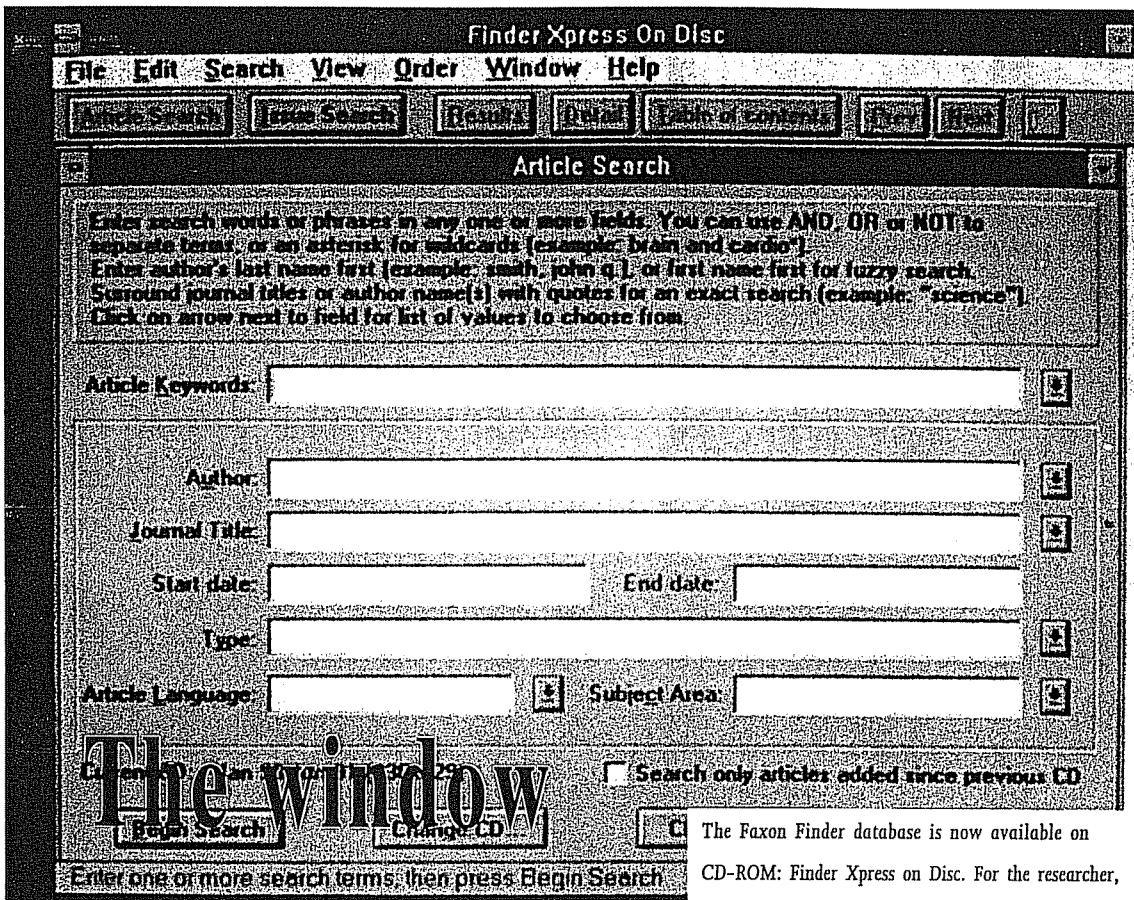
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EDITORIAL

Medical libraries are becoming very important to their host organisations. The financial recession in many European countries compels the decision makers to re-evaluate what is essential in the management of their organisations. Health care maintained by public resources is becoming impossible and solely privately financed systems do not work. In this environment the significance of information intensifies and health sciences libraries are better appreciated than before as sites of well-organised information acquisition. These existing channels are ready to be used - if only our clients can use them.

This is also a big challenge to us. The greatest gap between us and our clients is perhaps that we do not know each other's work well enough. Close ties to faculties, clinics, departments - the whole clientele - enhances smoothly running cooperation. We also have to re-evaluate information from our libraries to the clients. Do we tell them clearly enough of new databases, networks and services in the electronic world which may seem obvious to us ? If we can promote interaction with our organisation, good; the rest of the problems may be more easily overcome and resources guaranteed.

As a new Editor, I hope that we can discuss these matters together. I think good relations and fluent cooperation with the users is the basis of all our work and all our activities are devoted towards this end. Please tell your colleagues about your experiences, let us know your opinions, write to us about your library events and although this is a newsletter, we are also interested in your philosophy and thinking behind your daily work.

It is a privilege for a new Editor to come to this post after Jean Shaw, who has to our great joy promised to stay with us on the Editorial Board. The new Board and Council will be introduced in the October issue, in which we will also report on the Fourth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Oslo in July in greater detail.

Liisa Salmi
Editor

EDITORIAL

Les bibliothèques médicales deviennent importantes aux yeux de leurs institutions. La récession économique dans beaucoup de pays européens conduisent les décideurs à réévaluer ce qui est essentiel dans la gestion de leurs entreprises. La santé, qu'elle soit subventionnée par des ressources publiques ou par des fonds privés, ne va plus de soi. Dans ce contexte, la portée de l'information s'intensifie, et les bibliothèques de santé sont mieux appréciées qu'auparavant comme des lieux où l'information est bien gérée. Ce sont des voies prêtes à être empruntées, si seulement nos utilisateurs en connaissent le chemin.

Cela représente un défi pour nous. La plus grande lacune entre nous et nos utilisateurs est que peut-être nous ne connaissons pas suffisamment le travail de chacun. Nous devons également rééva-

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luer l'information que nous diffusons en direction de nos utilisateurs. Parlons-nous suffisamment des banques de données nouvelles, des réseaux, des services rendus par ce monde électronique qui nous semble si naturel ? Si nous pouvons interagir efficacement au sein de notre institution, les problèmes restant seront plus facilement résolus et les résultats garantis.

En tant que nouvelle rédactrice-en-chef, je souhaite que nous discutions ensemble de tous ces sujets. Je pense que de bonnes relations et une coopération fluide avec nos utilisateurs constituent la base de notre travail; toute notre activité tend vers ce but. Parlez à vos collègues de vos propres expériences, faites-nous connaître vos opinions, écrivez-nous ce qui se passe dans votre biblio-

thèque. Et bien que ce soit une Newsletter, nous sommes intéressés par votre philosophie et votre opinion sur votre travail au quotidien.

C'est un privilège de succéder à Jean Shaw; Jean restera cependant, à notre grande joie, dans le Comité de Rédaction. Les nouveaux membres du Bureau Exécutif et du Conseil vous seront présentés dans le numéro d'octobre, et il sera fait un compte-rendu détaillé de la 4ème Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales et de Santé tenue à Oslo du 28 juin au 2 juillet.

Liisa Salmi

Rédactrice-en-chef

NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

More Like Hell than Bell

Three quarters of the way through my term of office, I can say without reservation that being President of EAHIL has been a complete pleasure. Eighteen months ago, my wife was unimpressed by the argument that now I was President of Europe it would be beneath my dignity to do any housework, but such disappointments have been few and my responsibilities have been interesting and enjoyable.

Most of the responsibilities have been obvious and as expected: letters to be answered, meetings to be chaired and that sort of thing. One of the few unexpected responsibilities, however, has been to produce a President's Column for the Newsletter whether or not there was a burning professional issue to write about. This time around, the easy answer would have been to write up reports of the African health librarians' conference in Kampala and/or the American MLA conference in San Antonio. However, as you will see elsewhere in this issue, Monique Cleland also attended these meetings and at our editor's request has produced the most interesting and informed account.

Attending two such very different conferences in rapid succession, though, emphasised just how important networking and resource sharing are to contemporary libraries - be they small primary health care units in equatorial Africa, or the best endowed of US medical school libraries. Telecommunications was the theme which permeated almost every session of both conferences, with applications ranging from electronic mail systems using HealthNet satellites to the most sophisticated exploration and manipulation of Internet resources.

Most of us in Europe do not have to work with the levels of constraints which our African colleagues take for granted, but in turn we can learn a great deal from the ingenuity with which effective information services are set up and maintained in the most unpromising circumstances. It was reminiscent in some ways of the earliest days of library computing, where sheer determination, commitment and creativity could produce catalogues and circulation systems from processors less powerful than those which control domestic central heating systems. At the other extreme, we can but envy the telecommunications systems which our American colleagues take so blithely for granted. There are many glorious compensations to living in Europe, but in darker moments (and particularly when trying to send a fax or email message to some remote corner of the WHO Euro Region). I would probably be prepared to sacrifice one or two of the more ordinary cathedrals for the simple, inexpensive, universal and largely deregulated North American Bell telephone system. The British PTT is by no means the worst of its kind in Europe, but it still weighs us down with cumbersome approval procedures which mean that our best-buy modems are always a generation behind and twice as expensive as they need be.

This situation becomes so much worse when we start to cross national boundaries. The rule seems to be that if you are crossing the territory of several PTT's the quality, awkwardness and expense of the service is dictated by the worst. We can fondly hope that, at least within the European Union, those responsible for equalising and harmonising will eventually run out of important subjects like German beer, French cheese and whether car headlights should be white or yellow - and deal with trivia like the telephone system, air fares and the way banks rob you when you change currency.

Until we get an integrated data communication system fit for the demands of the 1990s, we medical librarians will continue to trail round the Internet a couple of laps behind the Americans. And if this column appears unusually sour-tempered, it is probably because I made the mistake of writing it immediately after spending half a lifetime trying to sort out the reason why a BMA member in Germany was unable to dial-up and download from our Medline service!

Tony McSeán
EAHIL President



Report of the Board meeting held in Brussels in February 5, 1994

All Board members attended the Brussels Board Meeting held in Brussels on February 5. Here are the main topics discussed at that meeting.

Newsletter editor. Jean Shaw has expressed her wish to stand down as editor after 5 years of hard and effective work. With the help of Teddy Oker-Blom and other Board members, Liisa Salmi has agreed to take over as editor from July 1994. Jean has agreed to stay on a English-language editor.

Eastern European Workshop 1995. At the last Board meeting it was agreed to look into the possibility of a small scale EAHIL linked event in Eastern Europe. Contact has been made with Otakar Pinkas in Prague asking him if he is interested in co-ordinating this event. EAHIL would hope to help find speakers and volunteers from Western Europe as well as distributing information about this workshop.

Ethics. Susan Gove and Lise Christensen have expressed an interest in working on an EAHIL code of ethics. It is important that Eastern and Southern Europe are adequately represented and if no volunteers are forthcoming the President will search more actively. He plans to meet the leader of the MLA ethics programme, Dick Lyders at the 1994 MLA conference.

Treasurer's report. The printed figures show a positive balance and it is hoped to remain within budget by the end of 1994. The four sponsors for the Newsletter have renewed their financial support for 1994 and advertisements keep coming in. However, the Association needs to recruit new members.

Oslo Conference. Elisabeth Husem reported on the progress to date in relation to the Oslo Conference. The question of providing sponsorship for Eastern European librarians to attend the Oslo conference was discussed in some detail. The proceedings of the Oslo conference are to be edited by Tony McSean and John Van Loo. In

the context of the conference, the Council meeting in Oslo has been scheduled to 16:00 instead of 13:00 in order to accommodate the arrival of Council members.

1995 Workshop. The possibility of a Workshop at the Nordic Conference to be held in Copenhagen in 1995 was suggested. The possibility of a Board and Council meeting in Dublin in 1995 was also raised. It was noted that the last meeting of the present Board will be at the Oslo conference.

1996 EAHIL Conference. The location (Coimbra, Portugal) for the 1996 conference was discussed and it was agreed that the local organiser should be invited to attend the Board Meetings prior to the conference ex officio. It was also suggested that the Chair of the present Programme Committee should be invited to be a member of the following conference organising committee to allow for some continuity.

EAHIL Directory. It was decided to base the new edition of the EAHIL Directory on membership of the association - members and libraries in which they work. The new simplified format will make the Directory an efficient instrument for personal use and the promotion of EAHIL membership. Roselyne Hoet is to engage someone for three months to compile the Directory and the BMA will take responsibility for the final layout of the Directory.

Any other business. - At the request of Teddy Oker-Blom it was agreed that MIC Forum would be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting - Monique Cleland raised the issue of Western European members who were unable to pay their annual subscriptions to the Association. After much discussion the Board felt it cannot sponsor individual librarians since our commitment in the first instance has to be to the organisation of conferences and workshops for our members - A letter from Ursula Hausen regarding co-operation with Eastern Europe was discussed.

Awards. To date no nominations have been received for the main EAHIL award. The timing of the presentation of the award for the best paper presented by a medical librarian under the age of 30 was discussed and it was agreed that the award should be presented at the closing ceremony of the conference. As a trophy it was agreed that a free registration for the next conference together with some form of prize will be presented to the winner, together with a framed certificate. The big award for someone who has made a major contribution to medical librarianship will be by nomination of EAHIL members. The winner must be a member of EAHIL. It was agreed that a trophy would be presented to the winner.

ICML conference (Washington). It was agreed by the Board that a meeting of EAHIL will be held during the Washington conference.

The meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m.

Béatrice Doran, *Executive Secretary*

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News from Oslo

About the EAHIL Conference in Oslo.

The Editor has kindly reserved this column until the very last moment to allow space for a few initials about our 4th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries held in Oslo on June 28-July 3. A more complete report will appear in the next Newsletter, but October seems a very long time away and so here are some first reactions.

The Conference was undoubtedly a huge success: over 550 people attending; an excellent conference centre with plenty of rooms for formal sessions, smaller business meetings just to mill around and get to know each other; unbelievably magnificent weather on every day except one; and a programme of papers which succeeded in informing and challenging the audience. Most of all, though, it was a superbly organised conference. The small army of volunteers and the hard work of Noble Incentive gave us a conference which combined complete efficiency with efficiency that gave the (completely unreal) impression that the conference was unfolding entirely without work.

If the biggest cheer of the conference was reserved for the closing ceremony and the vote of thanks to the Local Organising Committee, the second-biggest cheer was certainly that given to the announcement that Marc Walckiers had been awarded EAHIL's first annual Prix d'Honneur. The award was made in recognition of the key role which Marc played in setting up our Association and guiding it through its first fragile years: chairing the Board, running the Newsletter and organising the first conference in Brussels. In his acceptance speech, Marc paid eloquent tribute to his fellow pioneers, but it is significant that those who were there at the time are the very people who place the highest value on Marc's contribution.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank not only the organisers, and the sponsors and exhibitors that made the event possible, but also the members and others whose attendance and contributions made it an important

event. I hope also, that those non members who attended it be sufficiently impressed with the vitality and relevance to take out membership, either personally or on behalf of their institution. Like so many activities - it is so much more enjoyable to participate than to spectate!

Postal Vote

The one regrettable note of the Oslo Conference is that the 1994 General Assembly could not take place, because there were insufficient members present to meet the 50% quorum required by our Rules of Procedure. Delegates did review and approve the management of the Association since the last General Assembly, but there are some matters which can only be formally approved by either a properly-convened General Assembly or a postal ballot. In the absence of a General Assembly, the EAHIL secretariat is now preparing a postal ballot of the entire membership. Through this vote, the Board will seek the membership's approval for the following matters:

1. The 1995 and 1996 EAHIL budgets
2. Changes to the Statutes to extend Councillors' term of office from 2 to 4 years
3. Changes to the Rules of Procedure to simplify and reduce the cost of the election procedures
4. Changes to the Rules of Procedure in order to reduce the percentage of members needed to convene a General Assembly.

Information about each of these issues will be included with the ballot paper, which you should receive before the end of July. In order to take account of the holiday season, the closing date for votes will be September 30th. may I take this opportunity to urge you to exercise your democratic rights and vote, whether or not you agree with the Board's recommendation. It is important for the health of EAHIL that the members play an active part in managing association affairs, and I very much hope that a substantial vote here will prove a worthy substitute to the abortive General Assembly.

Tony McSeán
EAHIL President

4th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Oslo

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OSLO PAPER PUBLISHED

Once again, the Proceedings of the Oslo Conference will be published by Kluwer Academic Publishers and will be available for purchase directly from EAHIL. But before we can publish the excellent programme, copies of all the papers need to be sent to the Editor, and the purpose of this announcement is to jog the memories of all the authors. Please send your papers in hard copy plus an IBM or Mac floppy disc to

Tony McSeán,
*British Medical Association, Library,
Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, UK.*

Papers should not be longer than four pages, and to be guaranteed publication they must arrive in London by August 15.

NOUVELLES DE NOTRE ASSOCIATION**Lettre du President**

Les trois quarts de mon mandat de Président arrivant bientôt à expiration, je peux affirmer sans réserve qu'être Président de l'AEIBS a été un réel plaisir. Il y a 18 mois, j'avais annoncé à ma femme (pas du tout impressionnée) qu'étant dorénavant Président des bibliothèques médicales de l'Europe, je ne pouvais plus accomplir de travaux domestiques; je peux dire maintenant que les désagréments furent moindres et les responsabilités intéressantes et plaisantes.

La plupart de ces dernières furent évidentes et attendues : courriers, rencontres à présider, ... Une des responsabilités inattendues fut, cependant, celle d'écrire le Bloc Notes du Président dans la Newsletter, qu'il y eut ou non une actualité professionnelle brûlante. Il eut été facile d'écrire des comptes rendus de la Conférence des Bibliothécaires de Santé Africains à Kampala (AHILA) et/ou de la Conférence de la Medical Library Association (MLA, USA) à San Antonio. Cependant, comme vous le constaterez dans ce numéro, Monique Cleland a participé à ces réunions, et en a donné des comptes rendus très intéressants et complets.

En assistant à ces deux conférences très différentes dans un temps court, l'on peut constater combien le concept de réseau et celui du partage des ressources sont essentiels à nos bibliothèques contemporaines - dans des petites unités de soins primaires en Afrique équatoriale, ou dans la plus renommée des écoles de bibliothécaires américaines. les réseaux de communication étaient un des thèmes récurrents de ces deux conférences, avec des applications telles que le courrier électronique grâce aux satellite HealthNet, jusqu'à celles très sophistiquées des ressources proposées à travers Internet.

Beaucoup d'entre nous, Européens, ne subissent pas les mêmes contraintes dans leur travail que nos collègues africains, mais, en retour, nous pourrions apprendre un certain nombre de choses; et notamment comment maintenir un service d'information dans des circonstances difficiles. Cela peut être mis en corrélation avec les premiers temps de l'informatisation des bibliothèques où la détermination, l'engagement et la créativité ont permis la production de catalogues, d'applications sur des ordinateurs infiniment moins puissants que ceux qui contrôlent nos chaudières domestiques!

D'un extrême à l'autre, nous pourrions envier le réseau de télécommunications mis au point par nos collègues américains. Il y a de grandes joies à vivre en Europe, mais dans des moments plutôt sombres (et particulièrement, quand il s'agit d'envoyer un fax ou un courrier électronique dans un coin éloigné d'Europe), ne pour-

rions-nous pas sacrifier une ou deux de nos cathédrales les plus quelconques en échange d'un système de télécommunications aussi simple, peu coûteux, universel et déréglementé que North American Bell? Les PTT britanniques sont les pires en la matière en Europe.

Cette situation n'est pas meilleure lorsque nous traversons nos frontières: il faut alors se confronter à plusieurs systèmes postaux de qualité et de coûts différents. Il faut réellement espérer que nos responsables politiques, à l'intérieur de l'espace européen, mettront sur le même plan et harmoniseront le secteur des télécommunications, les coûts aériens et le change des devises, à l'instar de la bière allemande, du fromage français et de la couleur des phares (blanc ou jaune).

En attendant que cela soit mis en place afin de faire face aux défis des années futures, nous, bibliothécaires médicaux, continuerons à courir après Internet, en retard de quelques encablures sur les Américains. Et, si ce Bloc-Notes est un peu amer, c'est probablement parce que je l'ai écrit immédiatement après avoir essayé de comprendre la chose suivante: pourquoi un membre de la British Medical Association ne peut se connecter sur notre service Medline tout en étant en Allemagne?

Tony McSeán
Président de l'AEIBS

**Compte rendu de la réunion du Bureau Exécutif qui s'est tenue à Bruxelles le 5 février 1994.**

Tous les membres du Bureau étaient présents lors de la réunion du Bureau Exécutif à Bruxelles le 5 février 1994. Voici la teneur des principaux sujets de discussion.

Le rédacteur en Chef de la Newsletter. Jean Shaw a exprimé son désir de ne plus être rédacteur en chef après 5 années de dur et efficace labeur. Avec l'appui de Teddy Oker-Blom et d'autres membres du bureau, Liisa Salmi a accepté de reprendre le flambeau de rédacteur en chef à partir de juillet 1994. Jean continuera cependant en tant que chargée de rubrique en langue anglaise.

L'Atelier de travail Europe de l'Est 1995. Lors de la précédente réunion du bureau, l'AEIBS/EAHIL se proposait d'organiser un atelier de travail qui se déroulait en Europe de l'Est. Des contacts ont été pris avec Otakar Pinkas à Prague afin qu'il puisse en être le coordinateur. L'Association aimerait trouver des intervenants d'Europe de l'Ouest ainsi que des volontaires pour diffuser cette information.

Ethique. Susan Gove et Lise Christensen ont exprimé le désir de travailler sur le code de l'éthique de l'AEIBS/EAHIL. Il est important que l'Europe de l'Ouest et l'Europe du Sud soient parties prenantes dans ce projet; dans le cas où peu de volontaires se présentent, le Président entamera une recherche active. Il prévoit de rencontrer le responsable du programme sur l'éthique de la MLA, Dick Lyders à la conférence 1994 de la Medical Library Association.

Rapport du Trésorier. Les schémas ont montré une balance positive et il serait souhaitable que le budget reste équilibré jusqu'à la fin de 1994. Les 4 sponsors de la Newsletter ont renouvelé leur soutien financier pour 1994 ainsi que pour la publicité. Cependant, l'Association a besoin de recruter de nouveaux membres.

La conférence d'Oslo. Elisabeth Husem exposa le compte rendu des évènements en rapport avec la Conférence d'Oslo. Trouver des soutiens financiers pour que les bibliothécaires d'Europe de l'Est puissent assister à la Conférence fut un des sujets débattus en profondeur. Les actes d'Oslo seront édités par Tony McSean et John Van Loo. La réunion du Conseil à Oslo a été reportée à 16h au lieu de 13h afin de permettre aux membres du conseil d'être présents.

Atelier de Travail 1995. La possibilité d'organiser un atelier de travail à la Conférence des Pays Nordiques en 1995 fut évoquée. Ainsi que la tenue d'une réunion du Conseil et du Bureau à Dublin en 1995. Il fut notifié que la dernière réunion de l'actuel Bureau se tiendrait durant la conférence d'Oslo.

La Conférence 1996 de l'AEIBS/EAHIL. Le lieu de la tenue de la Conférence en 1996 (Coimbra, Portugal) a été discuté, et il fut accepté que l'organisateur local serait invité à assister aux réunions du Bureau devant avoir lieu avant la Conférence. Une autre suggestion émise était que le Président de l'actuel Comité de Programme soit invité en tant que membre du comité d'organisation, ceci afin d'assurer une continuité.

L'Annuaire de l'AEIBS. La nouvelle édition de l'Annuaire s'appuiera sur les adhérents à l'Association - membres et bibliothèques dans lesquelles ils sont employés. Le nouveau format simplifié rendra le nouvel Annuaire plus pratique pour un usage personnel et la promotion de l'Association. Roselyne Hoet sera assistée d'une aide permanente pendant une période de trois mois afin de réaliser l'Annuaire et la BMA prendra la responsabilité de la finition.

Autres travaux. A la demande de Teddy Oker-Blom, MicForum figurera sur l'agenda de la prochaine réunion du Bureau. Monique Cleland évoqua le fait que plusieurs membres d'Europe de l'Est ne sont pas en mesure de payer leur cotisation. Après de nombreuses discussions, le Bureau conclut qu'il ne pouvait sponsoriser des bibliothécaires individuellement; en effet, depuis sa création,

il avait été décidé que l'Association n'engagerait des fonds qu'en vue d'organiser les conférences et les ateliers de travail destinés à ses membres. Une lettre d'Ursula Hausen sur le sujet de la coopération avec les pays de l'Est a été débattue.

Les Prix. A cette date, aucune proposition n'a été reçue pour le principal prix AEIBS/EAHIL. Le moment de la remise du prix pour la meilleure communication présentée à la Conférence d'Oslo par un bibliothécaire médical de moins de 30 ans a été abordé et le Bureau fut d'accord pour que le prix soit remis durant la cérémonie de clôture. La récompense serait l'inscription gratuite à la prochaine conférence ainsi qu'un certificat. Le grand prix pour la plus importante contribution à la bibliothéconomie médicale se fera sur décision des membres de l'Association. Le gagnant devra être membre de l'AEIBS/EAHIL.

International Conference of Medical Libraries (ICML) Washington DC. Le Bureau accepta qu'une réunion organisée par l'AEIBS/EAHIL ait lieu durant la conférence de Washington.

La réunion fut close à 17h00.



NEW EAHIL MEMBERSHIP

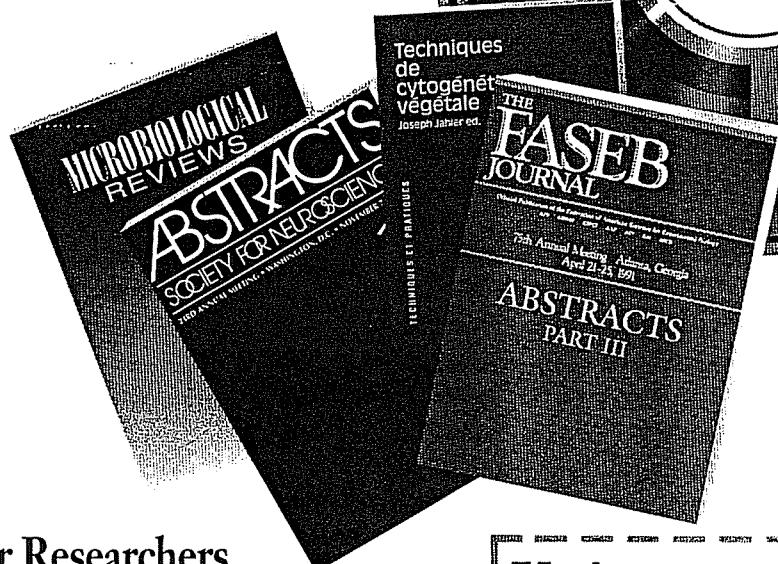
We would like to thank the additional affiliated member who has renewed the membership for 1994:

OVP-EDITIONS VIDAL, 11 rue Quentin Bouchart, F-75384 Paris Cedex 08, France

We extend our warm welcome to new EAHIL members:

- BAERT Michèle, Direction des Hôpitaux, Ministère de la Santé, Fontenoy, France
- GALIGIURI Carla, Roma, Italy
- DANISH VETERINARY & AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, Library, Anne Eslay Larsen, Frederiksberg, Denmark
- DELLA SETA Maurella, Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Roma
- FERRARA Rosalia, Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Roma
- HVEEM Ase Marie, Aker University Hospital, Oslo, Norway
- LILJEGREN Ann, Kliniska Centralbiblioteket, Göteborg
- LOURY Annie, Centre Hosp. V. Dupouy, Argenteuil, France.
- McClure Lucretia, Univers.of Rochester, Medical Center, Rochester, NY, USA
- NORHEDE Alice, Danish Pharmaceutical Library, Copenhagen
- OSTFOLD SYKEPLEIERHOGSKOLE, Library, Hanne Dybvik, Fredrikstad, Norway
- STADLER Peter, Boehringer Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany
- TOMCZYK-CHURSKA A., Central Med.Lib., Torun, Poland
- VELDMAN Gertie, Medical Library, Utrecht, Netherlands
- VERCELLESI Luisa, Zeneca SpA, Med.Information Group, Basiglio, Italy

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Nouvelles d'Oslo

Nouvelles de notre 4ème Conférence Européenne

Un rapport détaillé sur notre 4ème Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales et de Santé tenue à Oslo du 28 juin au 3 juillet sera publié dans notre Bulletin d'Information du mois d'Octobre. D'ici là, j'aimerais déjà en dire quelques mots. La Conférence a été, sans aucun doute, un grand succès grâce aux comités d'organisation volontaires et à Noble Incentive qui ont veillé à ce que tout se passe dans un accueil chaleureux. Plus de 550 participants, un programme de communications riches en information et intérêt, des sessions plus restreintes permettant de créer de nouveaux contacts et des échanges d'expériences ont contribué à ce succès. Le soleil resplendissant était de la partie. Au nom de L'Association, je voudrais remercier les organisateurs les sponsors et les exposants d'avoir rendu cet important événement possible, mais également tous les membres qui ont tenu à se joindre à cette Conférence.

Vote par correspondance

A notre regret, l'Assemblée Générale de EAHIL n'a pu délibérer valablement, les 50 % requis du quorum n'ayant

pas été atteints. Le secrétariat de l'EAHIL/AEIBS prépare actuellement un bulletin de vote qui sera envoyé à tous les membres de plein droit pour les questions qui n'ont pu être délibérées. En voici les 4 points:

- 1.Le budget de l'AEIBS 1995/1996
- 2.Modification aux statuts pour la prolongation du mandat des membres du Conseil à 4 ans;
- 3.modification aux Statuts et Réglements d'Ordre Intérieur concernant la procédure des élections;
- 4.Modification aux Réglements d'Ordre Intérieur concernant le pourcentage des membres requis à l'Assemblée Générale pour permettre de valablement délibérer.

Les informations concernant ces 4 points seront jointes au bulletin de vote que vous recevrez avant fin juillet. étant donné la saison des congés, la date limite des bulletins de vote sera fixée au 30 septembre. Puis-je vous demander avec insistance de nous renvoyer le bulletin de vote sans tarder, que vous approuviez ou non les propositions du Bureaux Exécutif. Il est important que les membres participent activement aux affaires de l'Association et apportent leurs contributions.

EAHIL vous en remercie d'avance.

Tony McSeán
Président de l'EAHIL

NEWS FROM EUROPE

ExtraMed: A Full Image Bank, Document Delivery System and Index Medicus - All In One!

ExtraMED : des revues en texte intégrale non incluses dans Medline

ExtraMED contains the full images of more than 2000 health and biochemical journals - some 8,000 pages a month, containing all the text and illustrations of the original publications, exactly as printed.

Who needs ExtraMED ?

Medical libraries. ExtraMed gives medical libraries the most important journals of the non-MEDLINE word in one product. Few Western libraries have many of the journals among their holdings. Since there is no royalty charge on printing from the system, researchers visiting the library can use the product with minimal supervision and control. Librarians who are understandably wary of payment-for-usage systems have an ideal, straightforward product with no hidden or delayed costs. ExtraMed is also of great interest to developing countries. CD-ROMs are particularly suitable for transferring large amounts of data in a compact way. It only costs a few hundred dollars to add to a CD-ROM reader an existing computer. Users require little training to enjoy the full benefits of this powerful information source. It is no exaggeration

to call ExtraMed a library on a disk. Particularly where resources are scarce, ExtraMed represents a quick and comprehensive answer to a major information need.

Drugs companies, hospitals, clinics, physicians. ExtraMed contains rare information of interest to hospitals and physicians, much of it not extensively covered in MEDLINE journals. Indexing brings out keywords of potential use in retrieving tropical disease information, including symptomatology, drug regimens and epidemiological results. This allows hospitals and physicians to extract potentially life-saving information about tropical disease. Drug companies will have a unique research to consult when reviewing applications of their products - and those of their competitors.

Development organizations. ExtraMed has been enhanced to permit the extraction of information of particular interest to development organizations. WHO and UNICEF have collaborated in the preparation of an "information filter" to facilitate indexing and retrieval of information related to action-oriented approaches, goal-directed projects and examples of community participation. Thus, ExtraMed, provides a convenient current-awareness system for all development organizations - international, national, multilateral, bilateral and NGOs - working in the field of health.

Apporter une aide-documentaire au tiers-monde, en finançant des lots documentaires en santé publique, santé de la mère et de l'enfant

The International Center of Childhood (Paris) helps the Third World in Public Health Documentation

NOMBREUSES SONT LES STRUCTURES DE SANTÉ (HÔPITAUX, CENTRE DE SANTÉ) DU TIERS-MONDE QUI MANQUENT D'INFORMATIONS DE BASE EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE ET SANTÉ DE LA MÈRE ET DE L'ENFANT.

Le service de documentation du Centre International de l'Enfance, collecte, traite et diffuse l'information scientifique sur la santé de la mère et de l'enfant dans une optique de santé publique. Conscient des carences en documentation des structures de santé des pays en développement, le Centre International de l'Enfance recherche un financement pour diffuser des lots documentaires en santé qui comprennent les éléments suivants:

- **Le MODOC Santé.** C'est une bibliothèque de base en santé publique qui contient 67 ouvrages de base, 8 abonnements pour 2 ans à des périodiques francophones de perfectionnement et d'actualisation de connaissances ainsi que des ouvrages et de périodiques gratuits et de qualité.
- **Le CD-ROM BIRD.** Il contient l'ensemble de 120 000 références bibliographiques de la base de données informatisée Robert-Debré, seule base de données spécialisée en santé publique, santé de la mère et de l'enfant. Les références de cette base concernent prin-

cipalement les pays en voie de développement, et beaucoup sont issues de leur littérature scientifique.

- **L'ensemble du matériel informatique** (micro, lecteur de CD-ROM, imprimante) nécessaire à l'utilisation du CD-ROM.

Ce lot documentaire en santé coûte 25.000 FF. Coordination du projet: Daniel Baudin.

Daniel Baudin

Centre International de l'Enfance
Service de Documentation
Bois de Boulogne
F-75016 Paris



Seminar at Libtech International: Managing the one-person library

Seminar and discussion led by popular speaker and author Joan Williamson from the Royal Automobile Club Library. As staffing reductions hit library and information workers, the concepts outlined here are becoming ever more relevant. This is a second chance to hear Joan on this subject: her seminar at the Under One Umbrella Conference in 1993 became lively and instructive discussion, greatly enjoyed by all who attended. Morning session. Cost £10. Please book in advance, before end July if possible. Contact: Janet Ogleby, Library, ABPI, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY, UK. Tel. 44 71 930 3477, Fax: 44 71 930 3290.

Janet Ogleby

ABPI/OHE
London, UK

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE EUROPE

A H I L A - Fourth Congress held in Kampala, Uganda on April 25-29, 1994

Les membres et amis de AHILA (Association pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé en Afrique) se sont réunis à Kampala dans l'Uganda pour le 4ème Congrès de cette Association. Les congrès précédents avaient eu lieu à Brazzaville, Congo et Harare, Zimbabwe. Quelques 70 participants représentaient 17 pays des régions francophones et anglophones d'Afrique ainsi que la Suisse, la Grande Bretagne et le Etats-Unis. Un événement remarquable a salué l'ouverture de ce congrès, la publication du premier numéro de l'*Index Medicus Africain*.

Conscients des besoins pressants pour l'accès à l'information au niveau local ou régional, un groupe de bibliothécaires africains, sous l'égide de l'OMS, bibliothèque de Genève, s'était réuni à Accra en janvier 1993 et ainsi le projet de publier un *Index Medicus Africain* était lancé. Les objectifs du projet sont clairement énoncés dans la circulaire accompagnant le premier numéro. Le projet tout entier repose sur une coopération nationale et internationale. Le projet veut développer un réseau d'échanges d'information sur les questions de santé entre institutions, bibliothécaires, professionnels du domaine de la santé. "Le projet devrait être aussi un encouragement pour les professionnels du domaine de la santé pour publier dans les revues de leur propres pays.." Ainsi il

est clair que les tenants et aboutissants du projet sont multiples. Marc Lippman du Bureau Régional de l'OMS à Brazzaville a grandement facilité la réalisation de ce projet et sa publication initiale.

Un atelier sur HealthNet, un réseau d'échanges d'information de la santé avait aussi été organisé dans le cadre du congrès de AHILA. Plusieurs rapports sur les expériences au sein de HealthNet indiquent clairement que les bibliothécaires africains sont désormais bien organisés pour jouer un rôle dynamique dans la dissémination de l'information autant pour les professionnels de la santé que pour les autorités politiques, gouvernementales ou éducatrices. HealthNet facilite le transfert de l'information au moyen de stations terrestres communiquant avec un satellite en basse orbite.

L'impact de telles stations sur la vie quotidienne des bibliothécaires médicaux africains fut clairement démontré par les rapports de Regina Shakakata de Zambie et Maria Musoke de Kampala. Toutes deux ont pu témoigner de manière éloquente sur la différence que HealthNet a apporté dans leur travail quotidien.

Dans son discours d'ouverture, Dr James Makubmi, Ministre de la Santé dans l'Ouganda incita les participants à jouer un rôle dynamique. Ainsi son appel à l'action a trouvé un écho direct dans les présentations faites au congrès de l'AHILA avec les témoignages de plusieurs bibliothécaires. L'Assemblée Générale de AHILA vit l'élection à la présidence de Fumi Akhigbe, récipiente d'une bourse Cunningham (MLA) qui succède à Lucinda Hunter de l'Office Régional de l'OMS à Brazzaville.

Un rapport sur le congrès de AHILA vient d'être publié dans le numéro du mois de mai de Satellife News. Satellife est une fondation située à Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Cette fondation facilite le développement des stations opérant avec les satellites à basse orbite pour diffusion de l'information dans le monde médical de divers pays, de l'Afrique et d'ailleurs. Un rapport plus détaillé sur Satellife paraîtra dans un prochain numéro de EAHL Newsletter.

AHILA stands for the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa. Members and friends of AHILA met in Kampala, Uganda for its Fourth Conference on April 25-29, 1994.

Former conferences had taken place in Brazzaville, Congo, and Harare, Zimbabwe. Some 70 participants represented 17 countries from French and English speaking Africa, as well as Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. A major event marked this congress: the publication of the first issue of the African Index Medicus.

Mindful of the acute needs for access to local and regional health information, a group of African librarians and representatives of WHO in Geneva, met in Accra in January 1993 and the project for an African Index Medicus was launched. The objectives of the project are clearly stated in the announcement accompanying the first issue of the African Index Medicus. The entire project rests on a national and international cooperation. It aims at developing a network to exchange health information between institutions libraries, health professionals. "It should also be an encouragement of health professionals to publish in their respective countries." Thus its results should be manifold. Marc Lippman of WHO Regional Office for Africa in Brazzaville was especially instrumental in setting up the project and the publishing of the first issue.

Within the AHILA congress, a workshop on Healthnet, had been organised. Reports from experiences with Healthnet, a network for information exchange and transfer realized through the use of ground stations linked to a low orbit satellite showed clearly that African librarians are well on their way to take on a meaningful and dynamic role in the dissemination of information to health professionals and authorities in the political, governmental or educational field. The impact of such satellite communicating stations in the life of African librarians was demonstrated by the reports from Regina Shakakata from Zambia, and Maria Musoke from Kampala. Both could testify to the difference Healthnet has made in their daily activities.

The opening remarks by Dr James Makubmi, Minister of Health in Uganda called for a new, dynamic role of health information workers. Thus his call for action found a live echo in the presentations of the congress which focused on needs, and on means to satisfy those needs.

The general Assembly saw the election of a new President, Fumi Agkhibe, a former Cunningham fellow (MLA fellowship) who succeeds Lucinda Hunter, Brazzaville, as President.

A report on AHILA meeting in Uganda has been published in the 1994 issue of Satellife News. Satellife is the non-profit organization, operating out of Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, which provides the tools and the means, the training and the know-how in developing the network of ground stations communicating through a low-orbit satellite. A more detailed report on Satellife itself will appear in a future issue of the EAHL Newsletter.

Monique C. Cleland
Bibliothèque de Médecine
CHUV-BDFM
CH-1011 Lausanne, Switzerland

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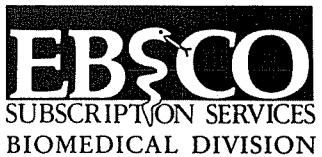
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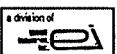
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M L A - Medical Library Association - Que Pasa?

La 94ème Conférence annuelle de MLA, s'est tenue à San Antonio, Texas, les 13-18 mai, 1994. EAHIL y était bien représentée. Le cœur de toute la conférence était Internet, le réseau des réseaux. Les bibliothécaires américains y sont pleinement immersés. Ils cataloguent les ressources pour leurs utilisateurs et introduisent des notices virtuelles dans des bases virtuelles sur leur catalogue en ligne. Une révolution pour le bibliothécaire. Les questions qui concernent les bibliothécaires européens restent bien réelles: coût des abonnements, formation, diminution du personnel, etc..

Venice? certainly not! Mexico? not really .. but a bit of illusion of each. This is San Antonio, Texas, the seat of the 94th Annual Conference of the Medical Library Association, on May 13-18, 1994. A small canal in the heart of the city with flat bottom boats always on the verge of colliding with the many other embarcations cruising on the 2 km of green water which circumvent the heat of this city! If you happen to be thrown in it in the course of a lively evening party (it happens!), be sure to keep your lips tightly sealed. Tacos and Guacamole on the other hand may take you far away from the Venice of Texas to the illusion of a Mexican restaurant.

Like in past conferences, EAHIL was well represented! The heart of the matter was no doubt the tremendous impact of Internet on the daily activities of librarians evidenced throughout the exhibition and through the many papers which presented discussed all aspects of this fan-

tastic tool. Internet, the network of networks where information appears today and is gone tomorrow. A writer wrote recently that the success of Internet was its anarchy. How to understand the navigation which makes you discover everything from Alice in Wonderland, to Zen and the Art of Internet or the latest information on AIDS and the GenBank, with the whole story of the development of the human genome. All in the same session, without knowing where you came from and not being able to decide how you are going to go back. This is Internet: sophisticated, powerful, ephemeral, totally uncontrolled ... American librarians are in it. They have started cataloging these resources for their users and put virtual records of a virtual source on their very really virtual online catalogues. A revolution for the traditionnally conservative librarian.

It was not surprising to realize that issues of concern common on European grounds are still very much issues of concern on American grounds, independently of the excitement surrounding the use of Internet in daily professional life; sky-rocketing prices of journals, shortage of staff, reduced budget, training of librarians who have received an education which has little in common with the demands of today's professional life. Also, the search for the proper wording for a code of ethics which will occupy a task force for some years to come.

Another very real concern of a group of librarians is the forthcoming 7th International Congress of Medical Librarians which will take place in Washington DC, next year ... More about it in the next Newsletter.

Monique C. Cleland
EAHIL Past President

WANTED

35 MM SLIDES FOR THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

May 10-12, 1995, Washington D.C.

The Organizing Committee for the Seventh International Congress on Medical Librarianship would like 35 millimeter slides (color or black and white) of medical libraries and medical librarians from all over the world to show before and during breaks in the opening and closing ceremonies and plenary sessions. The slides could include pictures of colleagues taken at earlier congresses or meetings as well as pictures of those taken recently. Although the emphasis is on up-to-date pictures, historical ones will be used.

Please send slides with a brief caption describing the content of the picture, that is " (name) .., Librarian at the (name) ... Library in Paris, France" or the " (name) ... Library in Moscow, 1975" to:

Lois Ann Colaianni
National Library of Medicine (NLM)
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20904, USA

Unfortunately the slides cannot be returned.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Citation analysis and impact factors *La fréquence des citations scientifiques : analyse et impact*

La fréquence des citations scientifiques (c'est-à-dire combien de fois un article publié dans un périodique scientifique a été cité par d'autres articles) est considérée comme une méthode d'évaluation de l'impact de la littérature sur la recherche scientifique. Il ne faut cependant pas oublier que le nombre de citations d'un article n'est en aucun cas une garantie de sa qualité. Près de 3000 articles ont été écrits sur ce sujet, mais le sujet présente des limites évidentes. Certaines de ces limites proviennent du fait que la principale source produite par l'Institute for Scientific Information à Philadelphie est d'origine américaine; la part belle est faite à la recherche scientifique américaine au détriment d'autres nationalités. La fréquence de citations est très variable selon les spécialités, et il y a également des "modes" même dans le domaine scientifique. Citons d'autres limites plus techniques: les citations mutuelles entre confrères; des noms mal orthographiés dans certaines banques de données; la citation peut dépendre également de la taille de l'article. Parfois, les articles cités ne correspondent pas au sujet recherché; aucun compte n'est tenu de la communication électronique ou orale; et enfin, le point de vue de l'auteur l'emporte sur l'intérêt de la publication. La qualité n'est donc pas toujours privilégiée : une sorte de "consensus scientifique" s'est donc ainsi créé au détriment d'une recherche scientifique créative.

Medical librarians, especially those who work at university (hospital) libraries often have to answer questions about the evaluation of scientific research. It is a difficult task and there are no simple or exact replies. Citation frequency counts have become very popular as an aid in assessing the "value" or impact of research, because they yield hard data. This creates the illusion that the quality of scientific work can also be measured by these figures. The Science Citation Index (SCI) is often turned to when tools for assessing academic achievements are sought.

The idea of citation analysis is to count how many times an article published in a scientific journal has been cited in pertinent literature, with the assumption that the number of citations indicates the "impact" of the article on research. Citation indexes are good sources of information and they can be used for various purposes, but it must not be forgotten that citation figures only denote the quantity and not the quality of research. The figures resulting from citation analysis are only descriptive parameters of what has happened, i.e. statistical figures of scientific activity. There are more than 3000 articles written on the significance of citation analysis for the evaluation of research, but they are mostly theoretical speculation. This is quite natural because empirical research on quality or impact is extremely difficult. If citation analysis is used, the limitations of this method must always be kept in mind.

General Limitations

The Science Citation Index (1960-) covers a selection of 3000 journals and some other publications in natural and technical sciences. It is maintained by the Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, USA, which means

that the selection of sources is made from an American point of view. This has to be kept in mind because information is, as we know, always bound to its producer, intermediary and user. Americans are, no doubt, good in science and have never been too modest about it, and thus American and Anglo-American -because of the language- science occupies the greatest part of the contents of this database. As to citation usage, there are a couple of investigations which show that Americans like to cite their fellow Americans more than others, compared with the British for instance who are more apt to acknowledge research achievements of nationalities other than their own.

The lists of references to the literature in the published articles of the 3000 journals are mounted on the database, so the number of all journals involved adds up to appr. 6500. The proportion of each subject field is not very large. The total number of existing medical journals for example is about 30 000, and the National Library of Medicine in the US has selected some 3700 of them to be included in MEDLINE. When SCI includes new journals it prefers frequently cited journals, which means that a vicious circle is developed.

If we have agreed to use citation analysis as one of the tools for assessing scientific achievements, the first thing to remember is not to make any comparisons between different subject fields. Citing and use of literature varies from discipline to discipline and some are more national than others. Citation practice in biochemistry is very different from that in psychiatry; social sciences are more national than medicine. Fair comparisons cannot even be made between different subspecialties, so actually comparisons can be made within narrow subspecialties only, and even then with caution. Also, there are "fashio-

nable" trends even in science - a topic becomes very popular for obvious or less obvious reasons and articles on this topic abound and are frequently quoted.

Technical Limitations

The number of citations only indicates the quantity and not the quality. Some fields are large and some others are small, which of course affects the absolute number of citations. Self citations are an obvious fallacy (which can nowadays be eliminated) and one can easily quote one's own research group members. The number of these mutual citations has grown with the popularity of citation analysis in the evaluation of academic achievements. The theory and mathematical models behind citation analysis are rather simple and unsophisticated. Furthermore, being an American database, a quarter of foreign or non-English author names are misspelled. SCI denotes the first author only in citation analysis; if an even quantitatively correct result is desired, a researcher's whole bibliography has to be analysed. Citation analyses are always recommended to be carried out over a long period of time - only an extensive time span reflects a scientist's activity in the field. The character of the article also influences the number of citations. Review articles are referred to differently from articles based on original research, and methodically strong articles are quoted more than others.

Human Limitations

Even if we pay attention to the limitations of citation analysis, the simplicity of the underlying mathematical models multiplies mistakes and distorts the results. The database's present construction makes it too mechanical and ignores the various matters connected with human actions.

For instance citing an article seems to be rather haphazard. It has been shown that as little as 30 % of the issues dealt with in the article get a citation. The original researcher is not always referred to but secondary sources, e.g. review articles are often quoted instead. Sometimes more than half of the citations may be incorrect as to the subject matter. Citations are made to published work, and thus the informal information channels are not shown. Written (by hand or electronically) or oral communication within the invisible college has great influence in science, and this is completely ignored. Motives for citation have been little investigated, but existing research shows that there are three equally important reasons for citation: the author wants to show that he or she is up-to-date, that he or she wishes to distribute new information to the readers and that he or she seeks support to his or her own views and results.

Impact Factor

The impact factor of a scientific journal indicates the average number of citations to all articles in the journal. Before an impact factor figure can be used, certain reservations must be borne in mind:

- the impact factor for the journal considers all articles equally "valuable", though the individual articles receive very different quantities of citations;
- an individual researcher can never be assessed by the impact factor of a journal;
- the number of citations to a particular article does not correlate with the average number of citations to all articles, e.g. if a researcher publishes in a journal with high impact factor, the number of citations he or she gets does not differ from the number of citations he or she gets in a low impact factor journal;
- consequently, a journal with a high impact factor is not automatically a uniformly "good" journal;
- therefore, it is meaningless to evaluate the impact of a journal, when readers are usually interested in a specific article rather than the journal.

Conclusion

The greatest pitfall in using citation analysis and the impact factors of journals in assessing the scientific value of research is to take them as indicators of quality when they only denote the quantity. As to the evaluation of quality, we can never draw conclusions mechanically and without sophistication. If we "trust" in citation figures or use them uncritically, we narrow our view of science and scientific creativity and accept the existing paradigm. In doing this, we end up in "consensus science", instead of carrying out and supporting new, creative and intuitive research even if its citation figures are low. The scientific community knows very well that some of the most innovative thoughts are not necessarily published in journals with high impact factors. The process of creating novel ideas and distributing them to the scientific community is much more profound.

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EAHIL DIRECTORY

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L'ENSEIGNEMENT DE LA DOCUMENTATION EN MEDECINE ET EN SOINS INFIRMIERS

TRAINING DOCUMENTATION IN MEDICINE AND IN NURSING

Training documentation in medicine and in nursing is developing at different levels, and it is, in France, a new challenge to face. Librarians schools are now including in their programme a course in medical bibliography (explaining Index Medicus, Medline, PASCAL) ; some institutions (such as The International Center of Chidhood or The Council of Medical Faculties in French Language) are planning, every year, continuing education in medical librarianship for French language librarians coming from Africa, Asia, East Europe or Haïti. And is it necessary to speak about the work done by EAHIL during the Conferences in terms of training for European librarians? Inside hospitals or medical faculties, librarians have to face the demand of professors, physicians and students in order to use medical bibliography and the new accesses to information (networks, online, or CDROMS). And, this is rather new in France, nurses and schools for nurses begin to ask about training in documentation. As an evidence, the medical librarian is one of the intermediaries between a technical world, a specialized information, and users who need it for their practice.

Dans un précédent article paru dans le Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France, (1992, t. 37, 6, 46-50) intitulé "Bibliothèque et documentation à l'hôpital : pluralité des disciplines, diversité des utilisateurs", étaient détaillés les différents types de populations (médicale, infirmière, paramédicale, administrative et technique) utilisant les ressources d'un centre de documentation au sein de l'institution hospitalière. Au-delà de cette typologie, une autre se dessine très nettement avec le développement actuel des besoins en documentation médicale et en soins infirmiers et de son enseignement. Ecoles de bibliothécaires, facultés de médecine françaises et francophones, instituts de formation en soins infirmiers (destinés à former les infirmier(e)s), écoles de cadres infirmiers, formation continue des médecins, sont des demandeurs potentiels pour cet enseignement.

Les écoles de bibliothécaires

Il est révélateur de constater que certaines écoles de bibliothécaires (en l'occurrence l'Ecole de Bibliothécaires-Documentalistes (EBD) de l'Institut Catholique de Paris, par exemple) accorde, dans leur programme, une place non négligeable à l'enseignement de la bibliographie médicale et scientifique, ainsi qu'à l'interrogation des banques de données spécialisées telles Medline, PASCAL, SCISearch. Cet enseignement est, en fait, destiné à des étudiants susceptibles de travailler en bibliothèque médicale ou en documentation pharmaceutique ; de nombreux débouchés sont offerts dans cette branche spécialisée. L'enseignement est dispensé sous la forme d'une liste d'ouvrages de base : une méthodologie de recherche bibliographique en médecine et en sciences est développée avec, à l'appui, des séances de travaux pratiques portant sur les outils papiers (type Index Medicus, Current Contents, Science Citation Index) et l'interrogation en ligne des banques de données correspondantes.

Les bibliothécaires francophones

Un certain nombre d'organismes institutionnels, tels le Centre International de l'Enfance, la Conférence

Internationale des Doyens des Facultés de Médecine d'Expression Française, délivrent des stages de formation pour des bibliothécaires francophones travaillant dans le domaine de la santé. Ces stages, d'une durée de 15 jours à un mois, accueillent une vingtaine de bibliothécaires et permettent des échanges fructueux entre formateurs et "formés", bien que les niveaux d'études, les expériences professionnelles, les représentations linguistiques (Afrique Noire, Maghreb, Asie, Europe de l'Est, Caraïbes) soient pour le moins différentes. Les besoins en documentation médicale sont à la fois très pratiques (comment se procurer des ouvrages médicaux, comment s'abonner à des revues scientifiques, qu'est-ce-qu'un réseau etc...) et très générales (la gestion d'une bibliothèque, son informatisation). L'intérêt pour les nouvelles technologies est cependant très fort, en mettant bien entendu l'accent sur les avantages du CDROM et des banques de données destinées à ces pays, la plupart en voie de développement (BIRD, PASCAL, MEDIDOC, REDOSI, EXTRAMED, etc...).

Les bibliothécaires européens de santé

Tous les deux ans, ou au cours de congrès et séminaires internationaux (Section des Sciences Biologiques et Médicales de l'IFLA), la jeune et dynamique Association Européenne pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé (AEIBS-Bruxelles), créée en 1986 sous l'égide de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé, propose à ses membres (quelques 500 bibliothécaires de 23 pays différents), des cours de formation continue en français et en anglais dans le domaine de l'information biomédicale. Très suivis, ces cours permettent à ces professionnels de l'information de santé d'être au courant des derniers développements de la technologie (CDROM et banques de données) et de la bibliothéconomie (gestion, personnel). De plus en plus, mais c'est aussi vrai dans les autres domaines de la documentation, l'attention se porte sur le rôle futur du bibliothécaire, le concept de "bibliothèque virtuelle" et sur les nouveaux réseaux de la communication scientifique type Internet. La 4ème

Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques de Santé , qui se tiendra à Oslo du 28 juin au 3 juillet prochains, avec pour thème L'Information de Santé - Nouvelles possibilités, propose une série de ces cours à des professionnels avides d'être informés des évolutions à la fois humaines et technologiques du métier.

La formation continue du corps médical

Le corps médical dans son ensemble a pour obligation de mettre à jour de façon constante ses connaissances scientifiques : c'est vrai de par la nature même d'un enseignement qui doit être réactualisé, par le fait que les découvertes scientifiques et médicales se périment au bout de cinq années en moyenne ; et également qu'un médecin, s'il veut évoluer dans sa carrière, se doit d'écrire un certain nombre d'articles scientifiques, et si possible, dans des revues internationales indexées dans les banques de données médicales (type Medline par exemple).

La formation continue des médecins empreinte donc plusieurs chemins :

- * la lecture régulière de la presse spécialisée, soit par abonnement personnel ou grâce à la fréquentation d'une bibliothèque (dans les centres hospitaliers universitaires, les centres hospitaliers généraux, les facultés de médecine, les laboratoires de recherche) : cette lecture s'avère cependant de plus en plus difficile de par l'abondance des publications. Les staffs de bibliographie sont, en général, un bon exercice pour le maintien des connaissances dans un domaine particulier au sein d'un service hospitalier par exemple ; de nombreux médecins réalisent également des synthèses bibliographiques pour une revue ou le bulletin bibliographique d'un laboratoire pharmaceutique (dans ce cas, c'est, pour eux, une voie d'accès aux centres de documentation de l'industrie pharmaceutique)
- * la participation à des congrès médicaux : on ne dira jamais assez l'importance des échanges personnels au cours de ces congrès, une ou deux fois par an. Il existe, en général, des congrès pour chaque spécialité.
- * enfin, des cours de formation continue dans les facultés de médecine et les hôpitaux avec l'enseignement post-universitaire.

D'une manière ou d'une autre, la formation continue est en interaction avec la documentation. L'informatique, les nouvelles technologies (CDROM), les banques de données (300 dans le domaine biomédical) ont révolutionné l'aspect de la documentation médicale. Impulsés par la nécessité pour les médecins d'être informé le plus rapidement et complètement possible, les bibliothèques et centres de documentation ont très vite adopté ces technologies, et organisent des cours de formation à leur utilisation.

L' A.F.M.H.A (Association pour la Formation des Médecins Hospitaliers à la gestion Administrative-Hôtel-Dieu-Paris), propose, depuis 1992, des sessions de formation avec pour thème "Les Nouvelles Technologies au service de la Documentation Médicale" : une douzaine de praticiens hospitaliers sont ainsi initiés, durant deux jours, à tous les nouveaux produits offerts par la technologie actuelle : accès Minitel, banques de données classiques ASCII ou sur disquettes, CDROM bibliographiques ou présentant des périodiques scientifiques en texte intégral.

La formation des étudiants en médecine

Outre le fait que certaines facultés de médecine (Nancy, Lyon par exemple) dispensent aux étudiants des cours en documentation, les étudiants en médecine, afin de parfaire un enseignement magistral de plusieurs années, effectuent des stages dans les hôpitaux et font fonction d'internes. Ils participent ainsi de façon étroite à la vie des services médicaux. Les staffs de bibliographie déjà nommés précédemment, l'étude de cas médicaux et, finalement la constitution de leur bibliographie pour la thèse de doctorat sont autant de raisons pour les amener à utiliser la bibliographie médicale. Les bibliothécaires médicaux organisent des cours de bibliographie, qui sont à la fois l'apprentissage d'une méthodologie de la recherche bibliographique, et une approche des possibilités offertes par les banques de données, et ce, quel que soit leur support. C'est aussi, pour ces futurs praticiens, une manière de les amener à compléter et à faire évoluer efficacement, par la lecture, des connaissances théoriques.

La recherche bibliographique en soins infirmiers

Le bibliothécaire de santé voit son rôle élargi à d'autres populations, celle des infirmier(e)s dans les Instituts de Formation en Soins Infirmiers (IFSI, qui ont remplacé les écoles d'infirmières), des cadres infirmiers et cadres infirmiers supérieurs dans les écoles de cadres. Pour les premiers, il s'agit surtout, depuis la récente réforme du diplôme d'Etat en 1992, de s'adapter au module obligatoire de recherche. Cela passe par des études ponctuelles sur des sujets étudiés en cours et la rédaction d'un mémoire de fin d'études. Pour les seconds, c'est l'évolution dans la carrière qui est envisagé avec également la rédaction d'un mémoire. Depuis peu, les Instituts et Ecoles ont intégré un module de recherche documentaire en faisant appel à des bibliothécaires ou documentalistes.

A l'instar de la population médicale, le corps infirmier, à toutes les étapes de sa carrière, se doit de se former et de s'informer : les techniques évoluent, les rapports au malade également. Une réflexion sur les soins infirmiers a émergé ces dernières années, et cette réflexion passe obligatoirement par un savoir bien intégré.

Le bibliothécaire médical, médiateur de l'information

Ainsi, le bibliothécaire médical voit son champ d'action s'élargir en fonction de la diversité des demandes et des types d'utilisateurs, et également de l'évolution des technologies qu'il lui faut dominer et maîtriser. L'impulsion donnée par la connaissance scientifique est un des moteurs essentiels qui font de cette branche spécialisée de la documentation, un domaine évolutif, passionnant et ouvert sur un avenir prometteur.

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Chargé d'enseignement à l'Ecole de Bibliothécaires-Documentalistes (EBD) de l'Institut Catholique de Paris, à l'Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris. Organise des sessions de formation sur les nouvelles technologies au sein de l'A.F.M.H.A. et au Centre International de l'Enfance. Cet article sera également publié dans le Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France.

REVIEW

Health Libraries Review Vol.11 no.1 March 1994

This issue is largely taken up by articles on nursing libraries in the U.K. Nursing Libraries have received greater attention, if not finance, during the changes which have taken place in the education of nurses in the U.K. Student nurses are now integrated into higher education and the curriculum, which used to be based in practical apprenticeship, is very much more academic in content, and concentrated on Nursing as a discipline rather than as an adjunct to medicine.

The first two articles in this issue are by David Stewart (Whither nursing libraries. p.1-2) and S.M. Childs (A survey of nursing libraries in the Northern Region. p.3-28). The third article by S. Crane and Christine Urquhart (Preparing for PREP: the impact of changes in continuing education of nurses on library provision of journals and current-awareness services: a case study) is, as the title implies, concerned with the continuing education of qualified nurses. One of the problems raised by the separation of nurse education from the practice of nursing is the danger that libraries in hospitals will have less nursing material on site for working nurses who need to keep up with current research and practice.

The results of the survey of the Northern Region show amongst other things that nursing college and multidis-

ciplinary libraries have an important role in the training and updating requirements of National Health Service staff and it includes some comments on continuing education. The survey of trained nursing staff in Plymouth (PREP -Post-Registration Education and Practice) endeavoured to ascertain personal preferences with regard to continuing education. The most popular combination of learning styles was reported to be a study day backed up by further reading. Recommendations concerning the provision of appropriate library services are given.

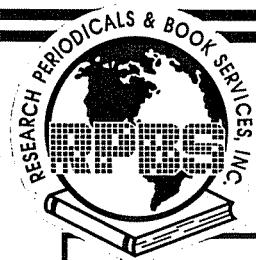
The two other, full articles in this issue are concerned with technology and its impact/incorporation into library and information services; ADONIS: a document delivery service, by W. Morris (p.39-51), and Beyond CD-ROM: wider horizons in the provision of electronic information, by Derek Law (p.52-56). The first assesses the use of ADONIS in the University of Wales College of Medicine Library. Potential benefits, journals management, potential disadvantages, and financial savings (cancelling the journal subscriptions for items held on ADONIS + the increase in titles available on the system) were examined and discussed in the light of experience with the system.

The article by Derek Law looks not at CD-ROM but at networked information. Networks, he suggests, will have more impact in the future, but raise a number of issues for the information professional. Plans in the U.K. for navigation and filtering tools to contain the flood of information; the funding of datasets [such as Excerpta Medica, which is available at a set charge to all U.K. Universities willing to sign up to the agreement]; end user training, document delivery, and the marginalization of the traditional library are all issues which are briefly explored.

Also covered in this issue are meeting reports on a variety of topics but largely concerned with information flow and medical education within the U.K. National Health Service. Others concerned with a wider geographical area are the 21st HECLINET Indexer Conference, October 1993 in Berlin, by Alison Jefcoat (HEalth Care Literature NETwork) and a Symposium of Computer Applications in Medical Care, 17th Annual Symposium, held in Washington DC, by B. Madge.

The Information Technology section is devoted to a review of Uncover (by Roger Brown), one of the alternative services now being used for document supply, and there are reviews of seven books covering a wide range of subjects - including Information transfer: new age - new ways, the proceedings of our own EAHL conference in Montpellier in 1992.





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Letters to the Editor

About The Electronic Library

Les bibliothèques électroniques

Un des derniers numéros de la Newsletter a traité du problème essentiel de la bibliothèque électronique et des nouveaux modes de fourniture électronique de documents. Il s'agit là d'un problème majeur dont nous parlons tous. Nous sommes conscients que notre avenir en sera largement modifié et transformé à moyen terme; mais ce que sera notre futur immédiat et comment nous allons traverser les différentes évolutions successives, cela peu le savent. Cela explique peut-être que certains préfèrent attendre et voir comment d'autres construisent l'avenir.

Mais nous ne pouvons pas attendre les bras croisés que tout se fasse sans nous, ne serait-ce que parce que - entre beaucoup d'autres choses - la fourniture de documents, par exemple, n'est plus le privilège des bibliothèques. Tant de nouveaux venus se partagent aujourd'hui le gâteau (les agences d'abonnements ou les fournisseurs électroniques de documents (Uncover, care, UMI, ...) que nous devons participer nous aussi à cette compétition.

La première chose à faire, me semble-t-il est de se tenir informé des changements. C'est une tâche difficile, mais la Newsletter de l'AEIBS/EAHIL pourraient être un canal privilégié de discussions entre nous. Cela prendra du temps, mais c'est une étape indispensable. Le deuxième point serait que nous voyons ce qui peut changer dans nos établissements grâce aux nouvelles technologies. Enfin, nous devons explorer les nouvelles possibilités de fournitures de documents, en essayant de les tourner à notre profit.

En conclusion, le domaine du transfert de l'information offre actuellement de grandes possibilités. C'est aussi à nous de les explorer.

In the last issue of the EAHIL Newsletter Jean Shaw wrote an interesting article about the electronic library and the new ways of document delivery. It is certainly an exciting matter as, beyond any doubt, every part of our job will be affected in the near future with matters related to the electronic or virtual library. The difficulties are, however, numerous. Most librarians and users have more or less in their mind rough ideas of what libraries might be in ten years, but what will happen in the meantime? How will we cope with uncertain changes, that we do not know? Sometimes I wonder if most of our colleagues are not quietly waiting till the "avant-garde" libraries have done the job. Afterwards they will follow close behind. It is so comfortable to wait for

changes without participating, in concrete terms, in their elaboration.

But, as most of the Newsletter readers do know about it, we cannot sit idly by. In particular - and it is not the only reason - document delivery is no longer the library's privilege. So many competitors are nowadays beginning - not only beginning I'm afraid - to share the cake: the subscription agencies (Ebsco, Blackwell, Faxon, Dawson etc...) or the electronic suppliers (Uncover, UMI, OCLC...). If we do not want to be put on the sidelines, we have certainly to be active in this stream.

Firstly - and it ought to be one of the easiest points - we have to inform ourselves about the changes. This journal could be the place for informal exchanges of ideas, possibly through "Letters to the Editor" or whatever. Could I suggest also that from time to time a column to be devoted to "New trends in the electronic or virtual library", with substantial abstracts in other languages. Since most of the information-transfer journals are only written in English, my opinion is that we must publish articles at least in part in other languages. Explaining all the changes will certainly be long-term work, but it is worthwhile.

Second, and it will be more difficult, because more costly and also a matter of mentality, librarians and also their staff have to think for themselves how and what they can change in their own libraries or in collaboration with others - for instance OPAC (there are already many different examples) - or collective catalogues on CDs, not to speak of the Internet and the like. For most people "Internet" is a magic word that one can usually juggle with, without doing anything with it. As a matter of fact it is a huge, fantastic opportunity we must use.

Lastly, and the term Internet could be a good transition, we must explore the new possibilities of document delivery. So many colleagues here and there in the world, several libraries have already put on Internet (with the publishers' agreement) the table of contents of the journals they receive to stimulate demand. Sometimes they put on the full text, with or without passwords.

It's enough! I don't want to write a long article. The only thing I would like to conclude with is that there are also many other opportunities in the field of information transfer that I have not described here, including all those I don't know yet. Be sure there is room for other EAHIL members to share here their own thoughts and experience.

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8 avenue Rockefeller - F-69373 Lyon

PUBLICATIONS

New Products

1994. Fondation Suisse pour la promotion de la Santé. Centres de documentation pour la promotion de la santé. Catalogue des principaux centres en Suisse et de quelques institutions à l'étranger. En vente. Schweizerische Gesundheitsstiftung RADIX, Stampfenbachstrasse 161, 8006 Zürich, Fax: 41 1 362 1036.

1994. Fondation Suisse pour la promotion de la Santé. Catalogue du matériel de promotion de la santé disponible en Suisse. Diffusion par RADIX.

Prins H. & De Gier W. 1993. Status, image and reputation of librarianship. A report of an empirical research undertaken on behalf of IFLA's round Table for the management of Library Associations. 85p. The editor Russell Bowden from IFLA recommends that the report be read in conjunction with the proceedings: "The Image, Status and Reputation of the library and Information Profession" published 1994 by K.G. Saur (IFLA series).

DIMDI launched GEROLIT, a new database in the field of gerontology. GEROLIT is a literature database in German in the field of Social Gerontology. It contains worldwide information with an emphasis on Germany and Europe.

A new MEDLARS database HSTAR (*Health Services/Technology Assessment Research*) was launched by NLM in February 1994. Devoted exclusively to the health services research domain it will be useful to all persons involved in the wide field of health care. 1.25 million post-1984 citations have been taken from the Medline, Health and Catline databases, but 4000 citations to journal articles and technical and government reports are not from theses sources. Newspaper articles and meeting abstracts will be added in the future.

Doody's Health Sciences Book Review Journal provides information of new books in the health science field, i.e. basic sciences, clinical medicine, associated health professions, bioengineering, quality improvement, ethics, education, etc. Up to now approximately 90 publishers are participating. The reviews are written by physicians and allied health experts. The journal is endorsed by MLA. Free sample copies are available. Subscriptions from Blackwell Scientific Publications. £160.00 for 1994, reduced rate for MLA members.

Bourdin J. Lénart, M. 1994. Recherche documentaire et gestion de bibliothèque: un logiciel unique? L'offre du marché. Paris: ADBS Editions, 1994. 338 p. (Collection Sciences de l'information, série Etudes et techniques. ISSN 1160-2376. ISBN 2-901046-70-3. En vente à l'ADBS.

Couzinet, V. Huillier, P. Pomart P.D., Velten D. Le dossier documentaire : conception, réalisation, valorisation. Paris. ADBS Editions. 1994. 268 p. (Collection Sciences de l'Information, série Etudes et techniques. ISSN 1160-2376). ISBN 2-901046-61-4. en vente à l'ADBS, 25 rue Claude Tillier, 75012 Paris.

Feldbaum E.G. & Hughesman M. 1994. Healthcare Systems: Cost Containment versus Quality. Available from FT Management Reports, PO Box 6, Camborne TR14 9EQ, UK. £258. The report covers the UK, France, Germany and the US identifying crucial factors for the healthcare industry including those that add to rising health cost in these countries.

Leeves J. ed. (1994). Library Systems in Europe, a directory and guide. London: TFPL Publishing. ISBN 1-8700889-47-9. £45.00. Source of information on computer systems that fulfil all the essential day-to-day library functions evaluating the major systems used throughout Europe.

INIST has published MEDIDOC on CD-ROM. It contains approximately 40,000 bibliographic references from journals, theses and conference proceedings in French from the years 1991 to 1993 in the field of medicine, biology, psychology, psychophysiology and psychoanalysis. For more information: Inist Diffusion, Service Clients, fax: 33 83 30 46 66.

The latest issue of Technologie et Santé published by CNEH, Centre National de l'Équipement Hospitalier, is devoted to: L'Impact de la loi Huriet-Serusclat sur l'industrie du génie biomédical. Contact: V. Douville for this special number (FF 450) or a subscription of the journal (FF 1,200). Fax: 33 1 4044 8234

The 1994 CD-ROM EuroPharm consisting of several pharmaceutical reference documentation bases (Rote Liste, Compendium Suisse des Médicaments, Vademeum international, Martindale, Vidal + IAM, Farmadisco, Simposium Terapeutico, PDR) is available. It can be interrogated in French, English, or German by proprietary name, active ingredient, manufacturer and key words. Contact: OVP, 11 rue Quentin-Bauchart, F-75384 Paris Cedex 08, fax: 33 1 47 20 72 89. Available from Euroconfidentiel (BP 54, 1332 Genval, Belgium):

1994 Directory of EC Information Sources, 6th ed. ISBN 2 93006611 3, BF. 8.600, comprising the institutions of the EU;

1994 EC Trade & Professional Associations and their Information, 1st ed. ISBN 2 93006608 3, BF. 4.99, covering 8 500 associations;

1994 Access to European Union, 4th ed., ISBN 2 930066 13 X, BF. 2,500, covering the latest economic and legislative developments in all major industrial and commercial sectors. Available from European Study Service (avenue Paola 43, B-1330 Rixensart, Belgium):

1994 Guide to Grants and Loans, 14th ed. (BF. 8,400) with national supplement (BF. 1,500);

1994 Access to Social Europe (BF. 10,000) an in-depth analysis of EC social policy, e.g. free movement of workers, freedom of establishment and recognition of diplomas, employment policy, vocational training, health and safety at work, improvement of living and working conditions.

1994 European Lobbyist Guide, 1st ed. (BF. 2,900), pocket size trilingual guide for those intending to promote or defend their interests before the EU's institutions.

Publications from WHO

1994. Nuclear Power and Health. The implications for health of nuclear power production. WHO Regional Publications, European Series nr. 51. The most recent publication in a series of publications on public health aspects of various nuclear power production issues with contributions by French scientists and experts.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 7-8, 1994 - Hatfield, UK

LIBTECH International 94. Opening doors to library technology. Further details: Bill Forster, University of Hertfordshire, Library & media Services, College Lane, Hatfield, AL10 9AB. Fax: 44 707 284 666.

September 8-11, 1994 - Dublin, Eire

The Electronic Environment of Academic Libraries and Information

Centres in Europe. University College, Dublin. Further details : FACE Secretariat, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland. Fax : 353.1.269.44.09.

September 18-22, 1994 - Chambery, Savoy, France

14th International CODATA Conference. "The quest for a healthier environment". Call for Papers: Prof. Jacques-Emile Dubois. ITODYS, Université Paris 7, 1 rue Guy de la Brosse, F- 75005 Paris, France.

October 11-13, 1994 - Aalborg, Denmark

EUSIDIC Annual Conference 1994. Theme: "Change - a continuous phenomenon". Information and contact: Eusidic, P.O.Box 1416, L-1014 Luxembourg, fax: 352 250 750222.

October 12-14, 1994 - Brussels, Belgium

"Library Networking in Europe" Palais des congrès, Brussels Organised by EFLC-Contact: LIBRIME, 17 Chemin des Vieux Amis B-1380 Lasne Belgium, Fax : 32 2 633.54.28

November 11-12, 1994 - Bucarest, Roumanie

Séminaire de coopération hospitalière en Europe. "Le rôle des hôpitaux dans les systèmes de santé en évolution et en transformation". Contacts: COFRAHOPE, 5 allée de l'Ile Gloriette, B.P 1005, F-44035 Nantes, France, Fax: 33 40 08 46 57

December 6-8, 1994 - London - UK

Online Information 94. Contact: Learned Information Ltd. Woodside, Hinsey Hill, Oxford OX1 5AU, Fax: 44 865 736354.

September 25-29, 1995 - La Habana, Cuba

INFO'95. Theme:"Information: a factor for success in human development". Further details: Lic. Humberto Arango Sales, Aptdo. Postal 2019, La Habana, Cuba. Fax: 537 338 237

May 10-12, 1995 - Washington DC, USA

7th International Congress on Medical Librarianship. "Health Information for the Global Village". For further information: Mrs Frances Groen, International Organizing Committee, c/o McGill University Libraries, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1Y1

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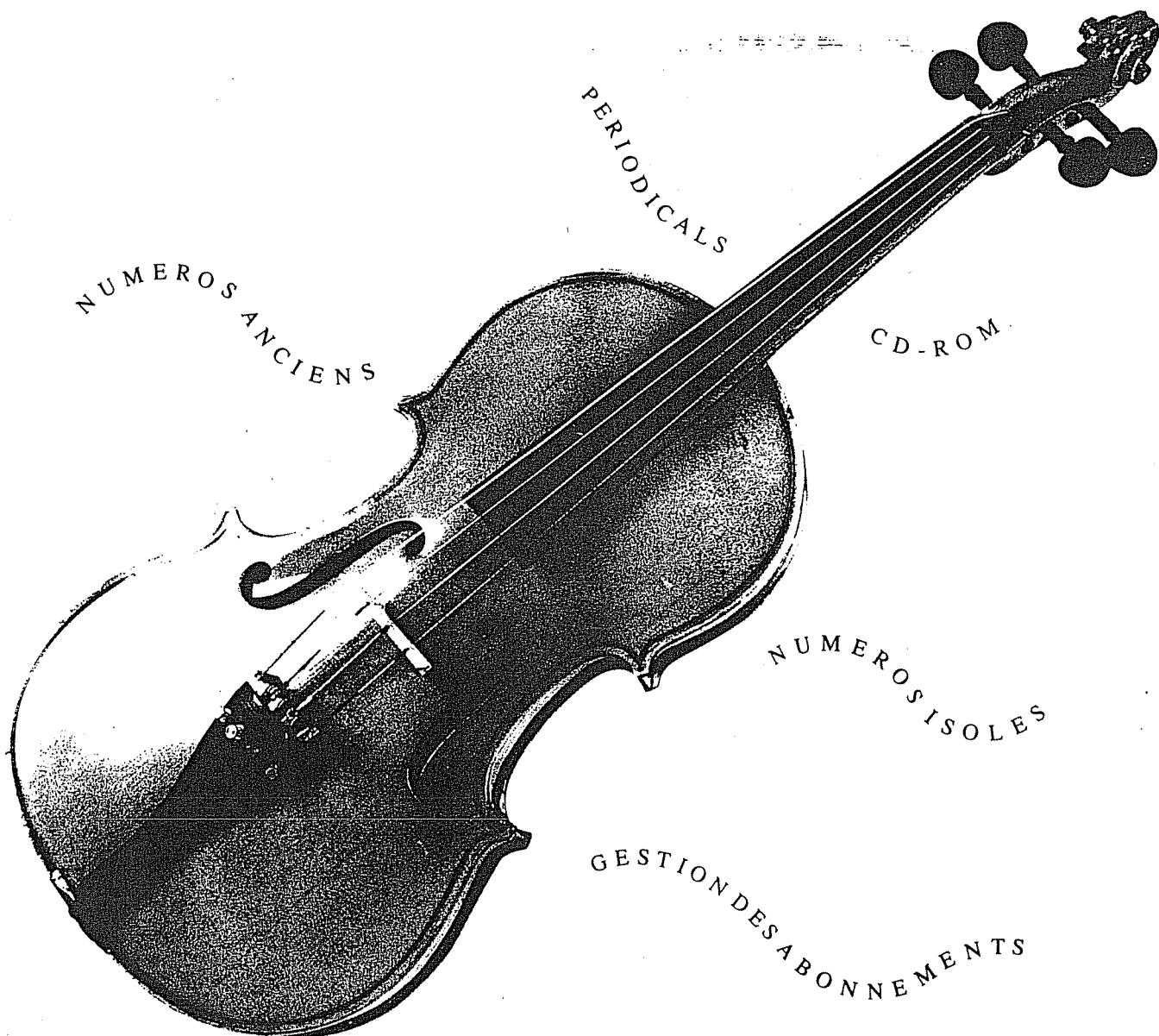
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