

### Letter from the President



**Marshall Dozier**

Information Services  
University of Edinburgh  
Edinburgh, UK  
Contact: [marshall.dozier@ed.ac.uk](mailto:marshall.dozier@ed.ac.uk)

Dear Colleagues,

As the trees in Edinburgh are beginning to turn gold and red, it's pleasant to think back to summertime and the conference in Rome! I hope you had a good summer, with holidays and excursions and plenty of fun.

Since this issue is focussing on the conference in Rome, I thought it would be a useful exercise to draw on the feedback that participants sent in, and look at the ideas for topics of future EAHIL events. So, having had a successful conference in 2014, where do we want to go next?

Some basic numbers, first, to give an impression of the size of the pool of participants who responded with suggestions as of 13 August 2014. There were 90 feedback forms sent in, and 41 respondents sent ideas of topics for future events. Many people had multiple ideas – there was a total of 119 ideas! There were many repeated or related ideas, so I tried to categorise them all into themes – sometimes this was a bit difficult to do, especially since some of the ideas could reasonably fit into more than one theme. In the paragraphs below I have highlighted in bold the various themes I identified, and in parentheses () I have indicated the number of ideas submitted that fell within each broad theme or narrow topic. In the table below I have listed all the thematic categories and the narrower topics.

The most frequent thematic category that I identified is *researcher support*, made up of 25 submissions. Some were quite general (5) and some named particular topics, like repositories (6), research data management (6) or linked data (2). Into this category I also put the idea of 'research librarians' – though a case could be made for this idea to fit into another theme I saw of *professional context*.

Into *professional context*, I gathered suggestions 17 ideas including ways in which we manage continuing professional development and the types of skills we want to develop (such as job exchange and mentoring, and leadership and negotiation skills). I also put the idea of 'cooperation and collaboration' (4) into professional context since those are integral to our profession as ways of working.

*Teaching* was another large category with 17 responses, both general and specific. Into this area I grouped 'information literacy' and 'patient education' as well as methods of teaching, like 'MOOCs' and 'screencasts and tutorials'.

Another distinct area that I formulated is *user services* (14), where I gathered together ideas of 'embedded librarianship' (2), 'building networks with people' (3), and 'marketing and promotion' (3) as well as a few other topics.

I nearly made a large category of 'new technologies' but I decided that instead *keeping up-to-date* (16) might be a better thematic heading, since some of the technologies named weren't necessarily that new but are being applied in new and relevant ways, and some innovations (2) and best practices (1) aren't based on technologies. Into this

category I gathered ‘new technologies’ (5) and ‘digital libraries’ as generic terms as well as specific ones like ‘semantic web’ (1), ‘big data’ (1) and ‘federated and aggregated discovery services’ (2).

I made thematic categories out of *advanced searching methods* (8) and *bibliometrics* (5). It could be argued that those could also fit under the broader heading of researcher support, but the numbers of ideas submitted made me think these two areas warranted their own separate categories. These could also have been put under the category research (5), but I felt that research should be about doing research, rather than supporting our clinical or academic colleagues. Into research, I gathered doing writing, getting published and being involved in research.

The last two categories I saw were *collection development* (4) and *economics* (5) – they are a bit interlinked, perhaps! Finally, there was the suggestion to cover *translation of MeSH* in future events, and I found I could not decide how to categorise this topic. This work touches on so many of the different themes that I had identified – it’s an example of cooperation and collaboration, but it’s also integral to researcher and clinician support, and links closely to user services too.

So, thinking ahead to future EAHIL events, to anything that you are organising locally, or working on such as paper submissions, workshops or projects - I hope this summary gives you ideas and inspiration! Many thanks to everyone who submitted the feedback!

Sending all best wishes,  
Marshall

Categories and ideas	Number of times submitted
<b>Advanced searching methods</b>	3
data mining	1
link with Cochrane methodology group activities	1
searching	1
systematic reviews	1
text mining	1
<b>Bibliometrics</b>	3
altmetrics	2
<b>Collection development</b>	0
ebooks	1
e-resources	1
health information sources	1
point-of-care resources	1
<b>Economics</b>	3
Consortiums	1
licensing	1
<b>Format and type of sessions</b>	0
practical sessions	1
present real research	1
User studies	1
<b>Keeping up to date</b>	0

## Letter from the President

---

best practices	1
big data	1
digital libraries	2
federated and aggregated discovery services	2
Innovation & horizon scanning	2
New Technologies	5
Semantic web	1
social media	1
<b>Professional context</b>	0
continuous professional development	1
job exchange	1
leadership	1
management	1
mentoring	1
negotiation skills	2
staff development	1
Working in different contexts (eg clinical vs research)	1
cooperation & collaboration	4
hospital and clinical librarianship	1
librarian salaries	1
relationships between academic-research librarians and hospital librarians	1
remote sites	1
<b>Research</b>	1
academic writing	1
getting published	1
research - involvement, doing	2
<b>Researcher support</b>	5
linked data	2
open access	6
open peer review'	1
Repositories	5
research data management	5
research librarians	1
<b>Teaching</b>	6
information literacy	4
MOOCs	1
Patient Education	4
Screencasts and tutorials	1
student support	1
<b>Translation of MeSH</b>	1
<b>User services</b>	0
building networks with people	3
customer service	1
demonstrating impact	1
embedded librarianship	2
library space	1
Marketing and promotion	3
public health information	1
service development	1
Virtual Reference Services	1