

Report from Public Health Information Group's Meeting 16th EAHIL Conference Cardiff, Wales, July 11th 2018

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Public Health Information Group (PHIG, <http://eahil.eu/sig-2/public-health-information-group/>) met on Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 5:15-6:45 pm. Our meeting took place in the historic Glamorgan Building, an Edwardian former county hall now the base for Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences.

The main topic of discussion was HealthReach (<https://healthreach.nlm.nih.gov/>) and the potential for collaboration between EAHIL members and HealthReach to enhance access to accurate multilingual patient health information materials created in Europe and the United States. HealthReach is the National Library of Medicine (NLM) database of free multilingual, multicultural health information and patient education materials for those providing services to individuals with limited English proficiency individuals. We were privileged to be joined by Laura Bartlett and Michael Honch from NLM. They gave us an outline of the HealthReach project and described how EAHIL and HealthReach could collaborate to form a single repository for metadata, and a database where multilingual patient health materials could be more widely disseminated.

Such a database give easy access to quality health information when the need is imperative with the current migration crisis in Europe. As we consider the number of people seeking protection in Europe in recent years due to violence, war and persecution. Migration may affect physical, mental and social health. Therefore, there is a need to generate and disseminate health information based on evidence and in multiple languages.

EAHIL members can act as content collectors for materials created in their countries by identifying materials, performing informational interviews, and collecting metadata. HealthReach can serve as a repository for this metadata, providing tools for interviewing organizations and collecting metadata, collecting and storing metadata in the HealthReach system, and sharing the collection with EAHIL via website or API.

After the presentation by Laura and Michael, a stimulating discussion took place. The following issues are noteworthy:

- Connection to MedlinePlus? HealthReach provides their collection to MedlinePlus so it is the same content. The only exception is MedlinePlus en Español <https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/> which is not included in HealthReach because it does not meet HealthReach's cataloging inclusion criteria.

- Who writes the materials? The author should be a licensed health professional. Equally important is how the material is written. The text needs to be understandable for everyone. In the future, HealthReach will list the qualifications of the author (social workers, nurse, MD, etc.). This request has been made by several user groups in the US.
- NLM addressed challenges to metadata collection and using the informational interview with authoring organizations to determine how translations were performed, were members of the language-speaking community involved in resource development and/or translation review, and the language in which the resource was originally developed.
- Meeting participants reviewed the situation in their own countries. Among others, Tatyana Kaigodrova from Russia and Diala Al Samarani from Lebanon described the huge need for more high quality open health information sources. Therefore, there is lots of potential for co-operation, as in many other countries as well. In Britain, e.g. NHS Choices <https://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx> offers lots of quality checked information that we should also be aware.

The main aim was to draw upon what PHIG members could do to work in partnership with HealthReach. It was agreed that anyone interested in collaborating could be involved in the following:

- identify suitable materials to be added in HealthReach;
- collect metadata and perform informational interviews;
- find possible contact persons in their own countries;
- promote and educate HealthReach as a high quality information source;
- HealthReach can serve as a repository for metadata and share the collection via website of API. There is a huge potential for synergy and mutual benefit.

Further details of our discussion and updates from the PHIG members can be can be read on the minutes: <https://www.slideshare.net/EAHILPHIG/eahil-cardiff-2018-public-health-information-group-meeting>
HealthReach presentation by Laura Bartlett and Michael Honch <https://www.slideshare.net/EAHILPHIG/healthreach-httpshealthreachnlm.nih.gov-by-laura-laura-bartlett-and-michael-honch>

Next PHIG webinar – HealthReach – How to promote and to whom?

Tuesday Sept 25th at 14:30 (Geneva time)

HealthReach is meant for more than librarians, but how to promote it to the core audience? Join us for this online webinar when the PHIG and HealthReach will explore how to make HealthReach better known among a European audience. To participate, please send an email to ALLEN@who.int to obtain the link and details to join this online seminar on September 25th. All are welcome to join. Conference theme for EAHIL 2018 was “Inspiring, Involving and Informing” that certainly was true of the PHIG meeting. As a member of the Local Organising Committee it was a pleasure to have such an exciting, exhilarating meeting in Cardiff.



Fig. 1. Public Health Information Group's Meeting, Cardiff, Wales, 2018.