

## Memories from EBSCO Scholarship recipients



**Eva Karin Karlsson**

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It was a great privilege to be awarded one of the EAHIL-EBSCO scholarships 2018 and to be able to attend the EAHIL Conference in Cardiff. Thank you!

One of the best experiences of the Conference was to meet and share ideas with experts and colleagues from different countries at all the social events. We do struggle with much the same questions, sometimes we can discover that we have similar solutions to our problems and sometime we can learn to do things in a different way.

There were many different presentations, posters and workshops to choose from on the Conference theme: "Inspiring, Involving and Informing: Improving the Health and Wellbeing of the Citizens of Europe"

As my work focus on searching for systematic reviews I choose to attend presentations about:

- how to improve search strategies. I learned that there is a lot of research to be done on what impact the use of fewer databases or more specific search strategies can have on systematic reviews;
- how to do critical appraisal of search strategies. Here I was confirmed in my belief that the reporting of search strategies is bad in many systematic reviews and that I myself could improve my reporting;
- rapid reviews, where I realized that I am not the only one wishing for more of a consensus on how the term is used and how to conduct a review.

I was also inspired by the presentations on impact especially the presentation on collection of impact stories. This is an idea to re-use.

My week started off with one of EAHIL Continuing Education Courses, Supplementary search methods lead by Morweena Rogers, Alison Bethel and Amanda Wanner. This helped me sum up what a supplementary search is or could be. It also helped me improve my searches and my documentation.

The tour of the Cardiff University's Special Collections & Archives and the Temple of Peace and Health was also a great experience and gave me new knowledge about Wales.

Thank you for an inspiring, involving and informative conference. It has been a wonderful experience!



**Sabine Klein**

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I was very grateful to receive an EAHIL-EBSCO scholarship this year to attend the Conference in Cardiff. This was my first EAHIL Conference and my first visit to Wales, too.

I started my current position as subject librarian medicine in October 2016. I have a PhD in biochemistry and

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used to work in biomedical research, statistics, and complementary medicine. Thus, this is a new profession to me, and I was happy to see that I share interests and hobbies with other librarians, including even jogging or knitting.

One of my tasks is to perform literature searches for systematic reviews. At the EAHIL Conference, I attended several very interesting and helpful lectures and learned about e.g.

- How many databases should be searched?
- How many results are enough/too many/reasonable?
- How about the quality and reporting of search strategies published? Should we offer our customers more support with the reporting?

Another topic I am personally interested in is health literacy. From a former research project, I knew that there is a large difference between the North and the South of Europe concerning clinical decision-making and the inclusion of patients' wishes. This fact was reflected in several lectures and seems to influence the health librarians' work in various countries.

Discussions during the breaks and receptions have inspired my work as much as the lectures themselves. I had the opportunity to talk with people who had given interesting speeches, e.g. Jane Falconer, who also won a first-time attendee prize, or Andrew Booth, whom I had previously heard on a webinar. It was also very nice to meet people from the EAHIL Board. The names I had read so often now had faces and voices. Unlike on some other conferences, here it was much easier to make contact with everybody.

In addition to the scholarship, I received a poster prize – with a free entry to either next year's Workshop or the following Conference. What a nice surprise!

Thank you again for the scholarship and this wonderful Conference. Having co-organised a meeting (not related to libraries) a few years ago, I know how much work this means. I especially appreciated the little details such as the unobtrusive yet always present photographer, the pin board for suggestions, or the contest to name the dragon.

Of course, I plan to attend next year's Workshop and hope to see you all again in Switzerland.



**Evamaria Krause**

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I would like to thank EAHIL and EBSCO for the scholarship, which gave me the opportunity to attend this year's Conference in Cardiff. It was my second time to attend an EAHIL Conference after Dublin last year. It was a rewarding experience in many ways: learning, exchanging ideas and meeting colleagues from across Europe and from different professional fields.

My own contribution to the Conference was the CEC "Introducing electronic laboratory notebooks (ELNs): What are they and how can information professionals support their use?" which I held together with Harald Kusch from the University of Göttingen and Dominic Tate from the University of Edinburgh. My fellow course leaders and I really enjoyed the CEC because of the active participation by group members, who in some cases are already involved in ELN projects at their home institution and shared their own experiences. From further discussions with conference attendees it was my impression that many of us are involved in research data management (RDM) projects. Therefore, I would be delighted to see more RDM related topics on the programme of future EAHIL events.

Almost needless to say, I received countless inspirations during the Conference week. To name just a few,

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I really liked the teaching approaches and the Active Learning Classroom at the Biomedical Library at Gothenburg University presented in the great CEC “Student-activating methods in information literacy”. I am also eager to re-use the methodology and code published accompanying the talk “Dissecting PubMed”, in order to see to what percentage of articles findable via PubMed our library provides access to. The animated group conversations in the workshop “2017: A Space Odyssey: a workshop on coping with change and planning for the future” also provided ample food for thought, especially since I only started a new position a week prior to the conference. In addition, the Conference theme “Inspiring, Involving, Informing: Improving the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Europe” in my view was an invitation to attendees to see the bigger picture. For instance, I found the experiences shared in the workshop “The knowledge gap in critical care: perspectives from a patient, a doctor and a librarian presenting intensive care” very impressive. Last but not least, attending my second EAHIL Conference was a great opportunity to both keep in touch with colleagues and to meet new colleagues from this welcoming, supportive and inspiring community. For instance, I met my fellow IPC members for the workshop next year in Basel, some of them for the first time in person. With that said, I am looking forward to next year’s Workshop and more EAHIL events to come.



**Jasmin Schmitz**

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First of all, I would like to thank EAHIL and EBSCO for the generous scholarship. I attended last year’s Conference in Dublin, so this was my second EAHIL Conference. At ZB MED I am responsible for the Open Access Advisory Services. Along with the PUBLISSO publication platform, which offers different publication facilities for both the green and gold route of open access, ZB MED also provides comprehensive advisory services which address all aspects that are related to open access and open science. The services target both researchers from the life sciences as well as key disseminators from scientific libraries, graduate schools, and university life sciences departments. Advice is provided by means of different formats: for example, a list of FAQs can be found on the PUBLISSO website to address self-learners. Personal consultation via email, phone, or face-to-face is provided as well. We also organise workshops or presentations on open access and related topics and attend conferences in order to meet and exchange experiences with our target groups.

At last year’s EAHIL Conference I presented a poster on “Online Services for the Evaluation of (Open Access) Journals”. For this year, I decided to propose a workshop on “Open access publishing and open science – what is the role of medical libraries?” in order to discuss which questions and issues medical libraries face with regard to open access and open science, which service they offer (or they are planning to offer), and which tools can be used either for personal information or for providing advice to researchers. One of the main conclusions I have drawn from the workshop was that problems and issues are very similar across countries and therefore need to be addressed on a more global scale.

I also attended the SIG TrEDMIL meeting on behalf of ZB MED’s information literacy department and the SIG Evaluation and Metrics meeting. Since we also address the effects of open access on scholarly reputation, I am interested in all issues that are related to bibliometrics and altmetrics and keen on learning what other medical libraries offer in this respect.

The Conference programme was very versatile. In my view, especially the key note presentations provided much food for thought: Cormac Russells’ analysis that health problems are also community problems and

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therefore need to be addressed not only on the level of the individual was very striking. Neil Frude's detailed presentation of the concept of "bibliotherapy" and the role that libraries can play to support people with mild or moderate mental health problems was very impressive as well. What I like most about EAHIL conferences is the open-mindedness of the participants. Since there are tendencies towards isolation in Europe, it is good to know that these tendencies do not affect our profession and that people are willing to listen and learn from each other.



**Thomas Vandendriessche**

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It is an honor for me to have been awarded one of the EAHIL-EBSCO Scholarships. Therefore, first of all, many thanks to both EAHIL and EBSCO!

For about two years I have been working as a reference librarian in Biomedical Sciences for KU Leuven Libraries – 2Bergen – Désiré Collen Learning Centre. My job consists mainly of teaching information literacy/Evidence-Based Practice to students, supporting researchers in Scholarly Communication and helping medical doctors in developing a well-defined search strategy while conducting a systematic review. When I started as a reference librarian, I was happy to find out about the existence of a conference/association dedicated to Health Information and Libraries. Soon after, I attended my first ICML + EAHIL Conference in Dublin (2017), to which I contributed a poster on pop-up information literacy sessions in the library. The Conference was an exciting event where I could expand my network, share my experiences and, above all, learn from the experience of other reference librarians. Keeping this wonderful experience in mind, I was looking forward to EAHIL 2018 in Cardiff. Thanks to the scholarship, it was possible to attend the Conference and present a poster on the role of biomedical libraries in Research Data Management.

The Conference was well organized and again, there were many interesting contributions. Especially thought-provoking was the presentation on the quality and reporting of literature search strategies in systematic reviews by Jane Falconer and Jim Coles. The discussion afterwards about how information professionals can guard the quality of search strategies was inspiring, and hopefully signals the beginning of a new SIG on systematic reviews.

The interactive workshops gave the Conference a nice extra. The workshops I attended – "How to run a Wikipedia edit-a-thon" and "Critical appraisal of search strategies" – were both very well organized and interesting. During such workshops, you do not only get the chance to learn new skills, but they are also the ideal opportunity for meeting new people, for boosting inspiration and for reflecting together on certain topics.

Finally, the "Round table discussion on professional qualifications" was a very pleasant and enriching experience as well.

In conclusion, EAHIL 2018 was an outstanding event on which I learnt many new things and could reflect with fellow reference librarians on certain topics/problems we encounter in our profession. In addition, it was a great opportunity for expanding my network and making new collaborations.

I am already looking forward to EAHIL 2019 in Basel! I just hope I will manage to clone myself a couple of times, since every year it is difficult choosing between the many interesting presentations/workshops.



Fig. 1. EBSCO scholarship recipients receiving their award in Cardiff, 2018. (@adamthomasjones Photograph)

### Memories from EAHIL AHILA Scholarship recipients



**Masimba Muziringa**

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I was honored to be the recipient of the EAHIL AHILA Scholarship for 2018 for my participation at the EAHIL Conference held in Cardiff, Wales. It was the first time that I attended an EAHIL event and the conference was an excellent opportunity to build the leadership and managerial skills of a mid-career health Librarian from Africa, by placing them in the heart of the international best practice in health and medical librarianship.

The hallmark of the conference activities centered on poster presentations, participation in interactive workshops, learning through continuing educational courses (CEC), attending board meeting and social interactive networking with colleagues from various European countries. My participation in the CEC gave me the rare opportunity to learn, refine and consolidate my skills in areas such as information retrieval techniques, systematic reviews, critical appraisal and innovative teaching skills. There has been increasing demand from researchers at my institution requesting these skills and the conference provided the impetus to enhance and refine my skills level. I was privileged to participate in several interactive workshops which were spiced up with keynote addresses and presentations on a broad array of topical issues confronting medical and health librarians in the 21st century. These sessions provided me with a unique personal and professional development as they were inspiring, involving and informing, thus resonating perfectly with the theme of the conference.

Upon reflection of my participation in this years' conference, another key learning experience was on understanding the intricacies of governance issues for associations. This I learnt through by attending the Journal of EAHIL Editorial board meeting as well as various social interactive sessions I was privileged to have with several members of the EAHIL board.

This knowledge and skill is going to be relevant in our efforts to recalibrate and strengthen the sister association of EAHIL, the Association of Health Information and Libraries in Africa, AHILA. I am privileged to boldly assert that I have been able to return back to Zimbabwe with greater skills, knowledge and confidence to tackle challenges and opportunities facing health libraries in Africa. Attendance of EAHIL conference was an incredible opportunity which will help the next generation of African medical librarians transform health and medical librarianship in Africa.

May I also express my sincere appreciation to the EAHIL Past President, and her team for making my trip and stay in the UK a memorable one despite challenges around my travel.