

### Publications and new products



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*Dear friends,*

*During World War II, malaria posed a huge threat to American GIs in the South Pacific, as dreadful as that of the enemy's military forces. At that time, quinine was the only treatment and it was not always available. So, tens of thousands of men died.*

*Therefore, a little later but early in the conflict, a malaria control office was established. It provided soldiers with plentiful supplies of the new antimalarial agent Atabrine. However, soldiers didn't view the threat seriously enough, and they didn't take the risk to submit themselves to Atabrine's side effects such as headaches, nausea, and vomiting. Consequently, it happened that while the battle was raging, two-thirds of the troops were either afflicted by the disease or recovering, and could not fight when it was needed. To counteract the situation, the Armed Forces Radio began broadcasting many malaria advisories but it was immediately clear that GIs mostly responded to information only if it was presented as fun.*

*This is the reason why in 1944 an artist named Frank Mack was asked to design pinup malaria-content calendars designed to reach soldiers all over the battlefields.*



*Undoubtedly, these rare 1945 pinup calendars, of which the picture above is an example, are attracting souvenirs of lived military life and the holes in their corners state the duty they did many years ago when they were hanging on a clinic's office wall. Mike "Sport" Murphy originally published this fascinating article in 2011, in *The National Library of Medicine's Hidden Treasure*. *Circulating Now* from NLM recently republished it. Find the full article and enjoy the read!*

### JOURNAL ISSUES

*Health Information and Libraries Journal: Contents of March 2019*

#### Editorial

##### 10 year anniversary

Grant MJ

#### Review Article

##### Topic search filters: a systematic scoping review

Damarell RA, May N, Hammond S, Sladek RM, Tieman JJ

#### Original Articles

- **Provision of consumer health information in Alberta's Rural Public Libraries**  
Danhoundo G, Whistance-Smith D, Lemoine D, Konkin J
- **Novel insights into views towards H1N1 during the 2009 Pandemic: a thematic analysis of Twitter data**  
Ahmed W, Bath PA, Sbaffi L, Demartini G
- **Development of a search filter to identify reports of controlled clinical trials within CINAHL Plus**  
Glanville J, Dooley G, Wisniewski S, Foxlee R, Noel-Storr A
- **Towards a deeper understanding of meaningful use in electronic health records**  
Sina Joneidy Maria Burke
- **Optimal search strategies for identifying moderators and predictors of treatment effects in PubMed**  
Marcia Tummers Ralph van Hoorn Charlotte Levering Andrew Booth Gert Jan van der Wilt Wietske Kievit

#### Regular features

- **Dissertation into Practice**  
**Electronic healthcare records and data quality**  
Charnock V
- **International Perspectives and Initiatives**  
**Medical academic libraries in Romania – breaking with the past and turning towards the future**  
Madge OL, Robu I
- **Teaching and Learning in Action**  
**New roles and challenges for health information specialists: professional changes over the years**  
Pizzarelli S, Cammarano RR, Sampaolo L, Della Seta M

### FROM THE WEB

- **Kári Stefánsson: the Master Decoder**

The Scientist published a post by Anna Azvolinsky last March 1st, 2019 about the chief executive and founder of deCODE Genetics, a company based in Reykjavik that was set out in 1996 by Kári Stefánsson to draw useful or valuable material from the unique genetic makeup of Stefánsson native land. He says that few places have the ideal conditions for genetic research provided by Iceland. In his words, “there are relatively few ancestors that account for a large percent of the current-day population. This means that rare genetic variants important in disease show themselves more readily in the genes of Icelanders than they would”. After more than 20 years, Stefánsson and his staff’s greatest hits in genetics research are the following:



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- Using extensive genealogy data on the Icelandic population going back hundreds of years, provided evidence of a genetic component to human longevity.
- Demonstrated that the most common late-onset form of Parkinson's disease has a genetic component.
- Identified 10 percent of the human genome that likely has evolved faster as a result of meiotic recombination by analyzing the relationship between recombination rate and reproductive success.
- Identified common gene variants that raise schizophrenia risk, and a link between creativity and predisposition to schizophrenia.
- Isolated genetic variants linked to educational attainment and found that there is negative selection against these genetic elements, as individuals with these variants tend to have fewer children.

Why not take a look at the full post? It will be surely an exciting journey through human genetics!

- **The World Inequality Report 2018**

The first ever World Inequality Report was published in 2018 and presented at the inaugural WID.world conference at the Paris School of Economics last 14th December. “The availability of transparent, systematic and up-to-date statistics on the evolution of income and wealth is a necessary condition for peaceful democratic debates on inequality and growth”. This is the conviction under which WID.world, the author and publisher of the Report, works. This conviction is shared by many because it is deemed as the direct translation of health inequalities research into the realm of policymaking. From his part, the World Inequality Database (WID.world) wishes to contribute providing open access to the most extensive available database on the historical evolution of the world distribution of income and wealth, within countries and between countries.

Inequality is increasing thoroughly across the world – that is the strong finding of this first ever World Inequality Report. Specifically, it has grown fastest in Russia, India, and China – where this was long supposed but there was a scarcity of accurate data to draw a reliable picture.

The Report is fully downloadable and its Executive Summary is available to download in nine different languages. The slides originally presented summarizing the World Inequality Report 2018 are accessible [here](#).

- **Libraries and the Google Generation**

In his interesting contribution “Generation X: A Critical Sociological Perspective” (Generations, vol. 41, no. 3, Fall 2017, pp. 12–19) Stephen Katz tells that The Google Generation has grown up in the era of modern technology with full access to the Internet, mobile devices and social media. This kind of use of the media might have shaped their expectations about search and user experience, leading them to expect for content that is readily available and digestible. Add to that a crave to be constantly connected. This may have also generated a negative effect on their research behaviour, used to prompt gratification of search results.

What does that imply for your library? It simply means that your library end-users want self-sufficient tools and platforms. Also, they might need to be trained on the main tools of research while having access to strong search platforms that satisfy their user expectations, while simultaneously guiding them in their research

Take the quiz EBSCO set out and discover how well you know the Google Generation. Take the quiz EBSCO set out and discover how well you know the Google Generation.

### NOT ONLY BOOKS

#### **Medicine on Screen. Films and Essays from NLM.**

Movie lovers will find Sarah Eilers' post on the NIH's Circulating Now very stimulating. She is the Manager of Historical Audiovisuals in the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine. Last February, she published about the National Library of Medicine's collection of films named Medicine on Screen, related to human health and illness. It is a portal to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) historical audio-visual collections, whose titles are regularly digitized. It showcases unique, rare, and important medical films enriched with contextual information and related resources. It is open to the public and accessible online through NLM Digital Collections.

Recently, a mysterious item that lacked a title or any other information was catalogued and acquired to the collection. It was named Anatomical animation by Frank Armitage. Effectively, the author name was the only available information. He was Frank Armitage, a mural artist, Disney animator, and medical illustrator as well, whose precious work is worthwhile taking a look at. As Armitage says in the voice-over commentary: “I like to feel there can be great beauty in medical art, a beauty that really goes hand-in-hand with science, as we explore the infinite inner spaces of the human body.” Indeed, the film's first three minutes provide examples of medical art's beauty, moving from animated sequences of the heartbeat to a journey through the history of art.

Oliver Gaycken, Associate Professor in the Department of English and Core Faculty in the Film and Comparative Literature Programs at the University of Maryland, on February 28 gave a speak at the National Library of Medicine about “Fantastic Voyages through the Historical Audio-Visual Collections of the National Library of Medicine.” Since his lecture was of high interest, it was live-streamed globally, and archived for later consultation.

### SOME INTERESTING FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

**April 8-12, 2019, Suna Kiraç Library, Istanbul, Turkey**

**2nd International Library Staff Week**

Info: <https://libguides.ku.edu.tr/iilsw19>

**April 10-11, 2019, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland**

**LAI/CILIP Ireland Joint Annual Conference 2019**

Info: <http://conference.libraryassociation.ie/>

**May 20-24, 2019, Hønefoss, Norway**

**20th Nordic Workshop in Evidence-Based Practice**

Info: <http://www.congressoevent.com/20thnordicworkshop>

**June 15-19, 2019, Cologne, Germany**

**HTAi 2019 Annual Meeting**

Info: <https://www.htai2019.org/register/>

**June 17-20, 2019, Basel, Switzerland**

**European Association for Health Information and Libraries Workshop**

Info: <https://eahil2019.net/>

**August 24-30, 2019, Athens, Greece**

**85th IFLA General Conference and Assembly**

Info: <https://2019.ifla.org/>

*Please feel free to contact me (letizia.sampaolo@iss.it) if you have any further suggestion about events you would like to promote.*