

Memories from EAHIL EBSCO Scholarship recipients



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First of all, I would like to thank EAHIL and EBSCO for awarding me the EAHIL-EBSCO scholarship. I was very pleased and honored to have the opportunity to go to the beautiful city of Basel and talk to colleagues around the world.

I attended my first EAHIL conference this year and it completely exceeded my expectations.

The first evening I attended the First-timer event where I met some very friendly people also attending the conference for the first time as me and I had fascinating conversations about how it is to work as a medical librarian and what constitutes a medical librarian. What struck me the most was how different and yet similar our jobs are because we are all librarians but come from different institutions (e.g. hospital or university).

The scientific program at the conference was very inspiring and educational. I joined several workshops about systematic reviews and in all of them I learned something new that I can take home with me and use in our library. The keynote speaker and the plenary sessions contributed to a better understanding of our different roles as librarians. Apart from the scientific program I really enjoyed the social program, and the gala dinner was especially worth mentioning – librarians really know how to party!

Along with three of my colleagues from Denmark I also brought a poster to the conference and it was very interesting to discuss our findings with our peers. It was my first poster submitted but hopefully not my last. It certainly sparked my interest in doing scientific research.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the Organizing Committee who did a wonderful job arranging the conference. I hope that I will be able to attend future conferences and hopefully meet some of the amazing people I met this year.



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Receiving this scholarship was the biggest surprise of this year. I'm delighted to have been able to attend the EAHIL Workshop in Basel. It was my first time as an EAHIL participant and I don't regret a minute. So far it was the largest conference I have attended.

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I took part in 7 workshops, completely different. Two of them were CEC sessions: “How to get the PDF (with or without the help of your library)” and “Developing an answerable question to design an effective search strategy”. The next few days just confirmed my first impressions – I’ve learned a lot of new things, could practice with new colleagues, share with my experiences, ask questions to presenters. The EAHIL Workshop in Basel gave me an amazing opportunity to meet people who are much more experienced than me and who want to share their knowledge. The atmosphere was great – friendly and supportive.

I have to admit, I don’t really like workshops as a working method, especially in groups, I like working alone (even though I appreciate their role and importance). But here, in Basel, I found out once again (but very literally) that a lot depends on a good leader. I didn’t feel bad during any of the workshops, on the contrary, I always felt very comfortable. I could make most of them, I didn’t bother about my language skills (because it turned out that I can understand almost everything and almost always people understood me) or my only two years’ experience in medical library (because people were nice and always pleased to help). All of the workshops’ leaders were both very experienced and willing to explain every complexity of their themes. For me very important was the workshop “Better than presentation – workshop facilitating skills as new competencies for (health) library professionals” - the information I gained there will help me to run my own student classes.

As I mentioned, at my work sometimes I lead workshops too. It is always a big stress for me but I think I will feel more confident after this event. For me, personally, it is the biggest advantage of attending the EAHIL Workshop in Basel. The need to constantly speak English, to present myself and my work, to cooperate with other people from all over the world, and to speak about myself in public during the interview with me and other scholarship winners helped me to believe in myself a little more. In addition, I’ve met a lot of wonderful people, other participants and workshops’ leaders, and I feel like I’m equipped with a lot of new tools to be a better medical librarian.

I am also delighted with the city. Basel is beautiful, clean and stunning with views. Although I didn’t have enough time to visit it thoroughly, I took a few walks around the city and along the river. Thanks to EAHIL 2019 organisers we could get to know the city a little better (trips, artistic program during dinner, direct conversations) and spend lovely time in Switzerland. I would also like to thank very much EAHIL and EBSCO for this extraordinary award, which gave me a lot of knowledge and joy.



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Because my colleagues were very enthusiastic about past workshop-events of EAHIL, I was very pleased with receiving the EAHIL EBSCO-scholarship 2019. Indeed, the workshops stimulated a lot of interaction between the participants. The event created a positive learning environment and facilitated collaborations between motivated professionals.

Our poster about systematic reviews and involvement of librarians (inspired by a talk of Jane Falconer on last year’s EAHIL event) stimulated participants to approach us for a possible collaboration. It also got attention on social media and thanks to this, our future publication might get cited in a planned book-update. So EAHIL is a great way to get noticed.

Together with Thomas Vandendriessche, Marshall Dozier and Alicia Fátima Gómez, I organized a brainstorm workshop and hosted a first meeting for the new Evidence-based information special interest

EAHIL Workshop, Basel, Switzerland, 2019

group (SIG). The big turnout of participants was encouraging and their input was amazing. This made me appreciate the power of EAHIL, enabling people to make things happen at European level. Even the Canadian SIG joined our meeting, willing to gather forces as well. One of the main goals of the evidence-based information SIG will be to create awareness amongst journals about the importance of a good and transparent search strategy and the existence of guidelines for this. Also, we want them and database providers to start appreciating the added value of involving librarians and learning from their searching expertise. I'm looking forward to be part of these efforts in the coming years.

During the Research Data Management (RDM) workshop presented by Thomas Vandendriessche I got the main vibe that most universities don't have a detailed RDM policy or task division yet. The role of the library is still unclear. However, what we can do even now as librarians is to raise awareness about RDM. Some librarians are already raising awareness in interesting ways, like organizing a lost data week with stickers, buttons, tweets and talks. Or by getting to speak about RDM at a science café. This was very inspiring to me. Regarding teaching and evidence-based medicine (EBM) I got stimulated by the interactive libguide workshop (Katharine Alix Hayden and Zahra Premji) and by the "sold-out" teaching EBM workshop (Catherine Pepper). It's a notable approach to use an interactive libguide as teaching material, instead of a presentation. Furthermore, Catherine shared her discoveries from her road trip across some American universities, for example that there exist no standards for teaching EBM.

Finally, I was glad to get introduced to "real-world data" during the workshop of Janice Kung and Lisa Tjosvold. I now see the concept popping up in publications everywhere. As an information specialist it will be important to prepare and be able to support the researchers in finding some of these real-world data. In this way the EAHIL event is also a great way to keep track of upcoming trends. Therefore, I would like to recommend anyone new in the profession to apply for this scholarship.



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I am very happy and grateful to be a recipient of an EAHIL-EBSCO Scholarship, because it helped get my application to attend the Workshop in Basel approved. A big thank you to the EAHIL Board and to EBSCO for this great experience.

Until a year before this workshop in Basel I had not heard about EAHIL. So, when a colleague from another medical library suggested that we present a joint project as a poster at the Workshop, I didn't really know what to expect. After a closer look at EAHIL as an organization and the upcoming Workshop, I quickly became a member, and together with my colleague started preparing an abstract for our poster proposal. Our poster was accepted and I looked forward to share our knowledge with colleagues from all over Europe and, as it turned out, the world.

The Workshop was a great learning and inspirational experience mainly because of three central things: the content of the workshops, the great setting in Basel, and the many wonderful and intelligent librarians attending. Most of the workshops I attended had a great introduction to a subject followed by discussions amongst the participants, which made it much more than a one-way presentation. Even if you knew a lot about the subject before, the discussions made you see new sides that you may have overlooked on your own. The presentation of our poster was somewhat rushed in the short time allocated for all the posters, but we had

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many interesting conversations afterwards with people interested. It was great to talk to experts and peers concerning subjects that are not usually a hot topic for our users in the health professions.

The city of Basel and all the hard work of the local organizing committee really shined throughout the entire week, from the little details surrounding the practicality of the workshops to the impressive gala dinner with carnival entertainment.

And lastly all the great people I met during the week at the first-timers event, workshops and the other scholarship recipients. I hope to meet some of these people at future events to continue the sharing of knowledge and bridging of borders as the motto for this workshop so beautifully put it.



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This year, I had the opportunity to participate in the EAHIL Workshop 2019 at the University of Basel by winning both the EBSCO-EAHIL scholarship and the JoVe scholarship. I was very happy and honored to participate by digging two scholarships. I previously attended national and international professional conferences in Turkey but it was the first time I attended an international conference abroad.

The EAHIL Workshop in Basel was entirely focused on learning and development and required a strong contribution from the participants. I gained really useful professional knowledge from continuing education sessions, workshops and poster presentations. In all sessions, I had the opportunity to learn about the professional methods applied by the participants from different countries in their institutions. I had the chance to meet many sponsors at their stands and get detailed information about their products. After returning, we had the opportunity to share many trial access opportunities with our users.

The EAHIL Workshop 2019, which I attended for the first time this year, has made a great contribution to my professional development. I met many colleagues and the EAHIL Board Members at the First timers dinner event. The members of the EAHIL Association were very willing and sincere to meet the scholarship participants and introduced them to other colleagues. I can now say to know many colleagues from Europe and America. We've added each other on social networks and now we're in touch with professional issues! During the event, our communication strengthened in social activities. I had the experience of getting to know Switzerland and the city of Basel as a traditional, cultural experience. The opportunity to visit the libraries of the University of Basel gave me many ideas for the institution I work for.

The information I got from the sessions organized under the main theme of the conference was really quite fruitful. This year, one of the themes of the conference was open access and many sessions dealt with this theme. These issues were directly proportional to the roles I took at the university. Again, ideas and suggestions about the ways in which Evidence-Based Medicine methods can be included in the curriculum were very valuable for me.

When I returned to Turkey, I tried to convey my experience at EAHIL Workshop 2019 to the Turkish Librarians with a webinar. I received positive feedbacks from my colleagues in my own country for this sharing. I was also happy to learn that EAHIL 2020 will be held in Poland. I look forward to participating to this event next year. I would like to thank once again EAHIL and everyone involved in the organization of the Basel Workshop 2019. Thank you also for providing me with the scholarship and allow me to participate.



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I am very grateful to EAHIL and EBSCO for their financial aid that gave me the opportunity to participate in the EAHIL 2019 Workshop, which took place in the charming little town Basel in Switzerland. It was my first international conference attendance and my first visit to Switzerland, so it was a completely new experience, which I liked a lot. Before the Workshop I've been told that EAHIL conferences are special events and that they are one of the top conferences of the medical librarianship area, and this showed to be true. Everything was so well organized. The workshops I attended were interactive and inspiring. They covered many interesting topics and it was hard to decide which to pick. I wish I could have participated in more of them but unfortunately, some of them were at the same time. Thanks to the workshops that I attended, I became familiar with novelties related to variety of research data management services in medical libraries. I've adopted tips and tricks related to predatory publishing and how to detect questionable journals and new technologies to find studies for systematic reviews. I heard of the new tools for Medical Subject Headings translation and of resources for sharing literature searches and blocks. The conference speakers were experts in their field and I learnt a lot from them. Considering everything, I can say that I profited a lot from attending the Workshop. Poster presentation, round table and other sessions rounded up the conference and made it interactive and even more interesting.

In addition, social events that took place during the conference were glamorous and fun at the same time. The welcome drink and especially the official dinner that took place in a wonderful historic building where organizers gave us an extra surprise by presenting us a part of the famous Basel Carnival made a great impression on all of the participants.

The conference gave me the opportunity to connect with colleagues from different countries. I met many interesting people with whom I exchanged experiences and views that will help to upgrade my professional knowledge. A very important part of the conference are the kind people that organised everything and the Board members, with willingness to help, represent the heart of it. The completely positive experience ended in a post workshop visit to the medical and law libraries of the University of Zurich, which was led by a great guide. The visit helped me to compare our library to other libraries in the same field and gave insight into services we could develop to improve our home libraries. I spent a great time in Switzerland with EAHIL members and I hope to attend EAHIL conferences in the future.



Fig. 1. EBSCO scholarship recipients receiving their award in Basel, 2019 with the EAHIL President and the EBSCO representative.