



Letter from the President

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Dear EAHIL Colleagues,

This is my third letter in 2019 and I would like to start with my memories from the EAHIL Workshop that took place last June in Basel. Indeed, this journal issue is devoted to participant's impressions and feedback. As every year, our summer meeting represents an important opportunity for professional development and update, together with a wonderful networking chance.

First, I felt inspired by the amazing organization set up by our Swiss colleagues: although the event was intense, the perfect timing allowed us to enjoy the sessions at their best. The good weather, as it often happens during EAHIL events, made the beautiful city of Basel even more attractive, and those of you who were present were able to take advantage of the long and sunny days of June. Some colleagues complained about the absence of air conditioning in Basel University, the venue of the workshop: but the last June heat wave was quite unusual for Switzerland.

The other point I would like to stress is that this workshop was truly interactive. The participants had the opportunity to participate actively in the various sessions and interact with each other. This is important, in my opinion, for two main reasons: the opportunity of experimenting new didactic methods, and the possibility of appreciating in full the difference between a "conference" and a "workshop". Many thanks, therefore, to the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Christoph Wehrmüller and Isabelle de Kaenel, for the perfect organization and timing, congratulations to the International Programme Committee, chaired by Teresa Lee, for fine-tuning the scientific programme.

Personally, I was able to follow the workshop "Medical Subject Headings translation process in the times without MTMS" (see the MeSH SIG report, in this issue as well). Moreover, I attended the workshop "Better than presentations – introducing and testing interactive methods" provided by my Executive Board colleagues Ghislaine Declève, Karen Buset and Tuulevi Ovaska. They explained several different interactive methods that are easy to implement, and the participants had the opportunity to practice the methods and to think about adding these special skills to their competences. I also took part in the "EAHIL Basel Escape Game", a special session prepared by our colleagues from Lausanne, Switzerland. Six delegates and I were locked in a room of the Basel University Medical Library, and we had to find a way to escape from the room, within a specific time, by solving puzzles and riddles. In this case, we had to find a dangerous bomber, of Italian origin⁹, who wanted to destroy the Library. Another special session I appreciated was the "All hail the fail" one. There was time to explore some examples of professional failures, with an original approach, trying to learn and take advantage from one's mistakes.

At the Basel workshop, there was a follow up of the fish bowl discussion on health librarian's competencies and education, held at the Cardiff conference in 2018.

The aim of the fish bowl was:

- a) to discuss and collect information about the need for specific training for health librarians in Europe
- b) to find out if there was something that EAHIL could do to support a positive progress, when it comes to librarian education and continuing professional development.

NEWS FROM EAHIL

During the discussion, there was consensus that it would be great if EAHIL could help influence Library and Information (LIS) programmes around Europe to add relevant content to their curricula. The EAHIL Executive Board, decided to ask the TrEDMIL EAHIL Special Interest Group to prepare a list of suggestions for courses/competencies aimed at LIS programmes, and at the TrEDMIL SIG meeting in Basel, the SIG accepted the task. The EAHIL Board will then add a cover letter explaining the aim of the list, and invite LIS educators to discuss. The list and cover letter will afterwards be made available on the EAHIL website, for use by individual EAHIL member to distribute to their national LIS programme and/or library association.

I will provide you now with some news about the last EAHIL Executive Board and Council meetings. In June, the Board discussed about several administrative issues, bank affairs, and about redesigning the membership database. During the Board and the Council meetings, it emerged that there was no proposal for EAHIL events after 2020. Following the Board reporting, Councillors discussed about this issue. There is a need to identify possible venues for next conferences and workshops; otherwise, it will not be possible to organize a yearly event. **The Board hopes to receive good proposals before September 2019, in order to have the time to examine them and give its approval.**

I really hope that those of you who are already on holiday are enjoying their rest and their free-time period. I wish all EAHIL members a good and sunny summer.

Maurella



Delegates from EAHIL Sister Organizations, together with some EAHIL Executive Board members



EAHIL Executive Board members in Basel University meeting, 17 June 2019.



EAHIL Council Meeting in Basel, 17 June 2019.