Report from the Special Interest Group on MeSH EAHIL 2019 Workshop Basel, Switzerland, June 20th 2019

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The Special Interest Group (SIG) on Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) met on June 20, 2019 at 1.30 pm, in the University of Basel. Seventeen delegates, arriving from the Dutch Island of Saba, Norway, Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, England, Finland, Switzerland and Italy, attended it. Some of the participants in the meeting were MeSH translators, others information specialists and librarians interested in PubMed, medical terminologies, and more generally in National Library of Medicine (NLM) electronic resources.

As in the past years, Dianne Babski, Deputy Associate Director, Library Operations, US National Library of Medicine, attended the meeting. She focused her presentation on the new PubMed version, available for testing at an experimental site (called PubMed Labs) until January 2020, when the updated version will definitively replace the current one. The new interface, which is still in development, was designed to improve the search quality and overall usability of PubMed especially by mobile devices' users, whose number is growing dramatically.

Some of the various improvements of the forthcoming PubMed version include[1]:

a) a new relevance search algorithm, as an alternative to the traditional date sort order, to provide users with the most pertinent information

b) the enhancement of author disambiguation through the ORCID unique identifiers (if supplied to the publisher by authors)

c) the ability to supply plain language summaries right below each abstract

d) LinkOut consolidation by means of one's own library icon on every citation to direct user to full text or ILL form

e) a new Share button on the search results page to share PubMed citations on Twitter and Facebook or to grab a permalink

f) a new Cite button providing easy access to citation information in AMA, MLA and APA formats.

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[1] *More information about the new PubMed version available on the NLM Technical Bulletin:*
https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj19/brief/mj19_pubmed_mla_2019_update.html

At the end of Dianne's interesting presentation, the participants expressed their concern on issues arising from the discontinuation of the MeSH Translation Management System (MTMS). Dianne assured that the NLM's MeSH support group will continue to be operational and announced the release of 2019 MeSH Descriptor Files within the month of August.

During the EAHIL Workshop in Basel, our colleagues Filip Kriz and Lenka Maixnerova working in the National Medical Library, Czech Republic, presented an interesting workshop: "Medical Subject Headings translation process in the times without MTMS". During this interactive session, they presented an open-source system for MeSH translation workflow and data management, called "MeSH Translation Workflow" (MTW). This interface could be useful to those organizations that have not yet developed a new software replacing the NLM MTMS[2].

Participants in the MeSH SIG meeting in Basel, 20 June 2019.

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[2] *It is possible to find further information on the MTW interface at the wiki project page https://github.com/filak/MTW-MeSH/wiki.*