



Letter from the President

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Dear EAHIL Colleagues,

I would like to start this letter with some important information about the life of our association. As you probably remember, in my last President letter in September, I expressed the Board and my own personal concerns about not having received proposals to organise the next EAHIL events, in the years after 2020. We asked, with the involvement of our Council members, to submit expressions of interest within the month of September, otherwise, it would not have been possible to have the 2021 Workshop. It is with great pleasure that I inform you that, during the last two months, we received some interesting and reliable proposals.

The EAHIL Executive Board, in its online session of October 30, approved two bids for organizing the next two EAHIL Workshops.

- Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey, submitted a proposal for organizing the EAHIL Workshop in 2021. The venue of EAHIL 2021 Workshop will be the Rectorate of Marmara University Building at Sultanahmet Square, in the centre of the city of Istanbul. Marmara University is one of the oldest educational institutions in Turkey, with close to 3,000 academic staff and more than 70,000 students. Prof. Güssün GÜNEŞ, who already took part in the organization of the 2011 EAHIL Event in Koç University, Turkey, will be the Chair of the International Programme Committee.
- The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Medicine and Health Library, submitted an expression of interest to host the EAHIL 2023 Workshop in Trondheim, Norway. The Workshop will be held in the second half of June, within the premises of the University. The venue is located centrally in Trondheim and within walking distance from most relevant hotels in the city. Trondheim is situated in the middle of Norway, with direct flights from both Amsterdam, Copenhagen and London, and good connections to other destinations in Europe and overseas. Katrine Aronsen, NTNU University Library, supported by our EAHIL Board member Karen Johanne Buset, will chair the Local Organizing Committee.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I wish to express my gratitude to both institutions. **Applications for the 2022 EAHIL conference are still open. I hope to receive soon bids from interested institutions.**

In the last month of August, CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure) kindly invited me to give a presentation of EAHIL activities at the 2019 CDPDL Conference. CNKI is the major online publishing platform and the most comprehensive gateway of knowledge of China. It is an important project, devoted to the mass digitalization of China knowledge resources, as well as to the creation of a platform for global dissemination of Chinese academic resources. It was started and first launched in June 1999 by Tsinghua University, and has now over 1,500 institutional customers overseas in 53 countries and regions. CNKI net end-users are over 120 million, website visits account for over 16 million daily¹. CDPDL is the International Conference on Integrated Development of Digital Publishers and Digital Libraries: CNKI, in conjunction with Tsinghua University Library and The University of Hong Kong Libraries, has hosted CDPDL for nine years in China since 2009. The 2019 edition was in the city of Changchun, Province of Jilin, in a Chinese northeastern region once known as “Manchuria”. The 2019 CDPDL Conference themes were Knowledge innovation, Knowledge service and Knowledge management². The topics ranged from Knowledge innovation

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services for Universities, Decision Making and application in Medical Industry to Collaborative Knowledge Innovation for Scientific Research Institutions and Enterprises, including International Publishing.

I gave a first speech in the main session about Medical Librarians Professional Challenges in a European Perspective, giving an overview of EAHIL activities, focusing on EAHIL conferences and interactive workshops, and on education and training initiatives. I gave my second speech in the context of a workshop devoted to Intelligent Application of Medical Data. I was asked to talk about Transfer of Knowledge from Scientists to Citizens and Patients, and about how this transfer takes place in my Institute. My colleague and EAHIL Executive Board Member Witold Kozakiewicz talked about the “InterscienceClou” – integrated information platform for scientific activities at Medical University of Lodz. As you all know, Lodz will be the venue of the 2020 EAHIL Conference: CDPDL gave us a good chance to invite new colleagues to take part in this event.

The social and cultural programs were both rich and interesting. We had the opportunity of tasting Chinese cuisine in the various social dinners and lunches. We visited the eight floor Changchun University Library, technologically advanced and with huge spaces and large meeting halls for students and University staff. During our visit to the Library, I was particularly impressed by the presence of electronic totems, showing the covers of the textbooks more consulted by the students. By touching the e-book cover, it is possible to download the full text on one’s tablet.

A guided visit to the Jilin Provincial Museum gave us an idea of the history of “Manchuria”, since the prehistoric times. Finally yet importantly, Changchun was the official residence of the last emperor of China, during the Second World War, and the Japanese occupation. We could visit the Puppet Emperor Museum, the palace of the last Chinese emperor, as seen in the famous movie by the Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci. Over the weekend, we were able to visit the beautiful Changbai Mountains and the Heaven Lake, a volcanic crater lake, near to the North Korean border, at about a five-hour drive from Changchun.

I really hope that our Association will enhance international exchanges among librarians, giving them the opportunity to visit other countries knowledge infrastructures, and deepen their personal experiences about different cultures.

I take this opportunity to send my best wishes for the upcoming holidays to all EAHIL members.

Maurella



Fig. 1. EAHIL President Maurella Della Seta Presentation at 2019 CDPDL in Changchun, China



Fig. 2. Witold Kozakiewicz and Maurella Della Seta visiting Changchun University Library, August 2019.

<http://new.oversea.cnki.net/index/Support/en/project.html>
<http://gb.oversea.cnki.net/Seminar/2019Seminar/en/index.html>