



## Sustainability: time to act for a better world

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Dear EAHIL friends,

I've always cherished December deeply; it is a time of reflection and celebration, in which we look upon the past with a critical eye, remember what we achieved, figure out what we could have done better, re-live whatever joys we were gifted and reconcile with whatever sorrows we were forced to endure.

However, in writing this Editorial, rather than looking back upon this disastrous and unprecedented year, I wish to rather reflect upon the future.

In the upcoming months, the global distribution of a vaccine will hopefully guide us out of this pandemic, however, once the virus is defeated, we can only hope that its devastating passage has served as a warning, to act swiftly on many fronts in order to help create better environmental, social, and health conditions for us all.

As is well known, in 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). It was an urgent call addressed to all countries - developed and developing - and stakeholders, to act in collaborative partnership in order to transform our world within the following fifteen years. "The Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development (...). We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path". At the heart of this Agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and amongst them Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

How do medical libraries fit in this scenario? Is a "green librarianship" possible? This December-themed issue of *JEAHIL* will help us answer these questions. It is guest-edited by Irma Klerings and Gerhard Bissels, and is dedicated to "Medical and health libraries and sustainability". I am sure it will inspire us all to take concrete and impactful actions in our countries and different working environments. I'm also sure you will join me in thanking both the editors and the authors for their contributions: Gerhard Bissels, Franziska Corradini, Petra Hauke, Irma Klerings, Tuulevi Ovaska.

Following the monographic section, you will find Maurella Della Seta's Letter from our President, containing important information on the results of the EAHIL elections, the News from ICML+AHILA by Emma Farrow (Secretary, IFLA Health and Biosciences Libraries section), and the update from the National Library of Medicine by Dianne Babski (Associate Director, Library Operations, NLM).

Last but not least, I am truly glad to inform you that a new column titled "Looking at the past" has just been inaugurated with a detailed and passionate report by Suzanne Bakker (EAHIL Executive Board Member, President and Past-President 1999-2012 and the EAHIL Secretariat Supervisor since 1998). While reading this report, new EAHIL members will have the precious opportunity to learn about "The years before 1987: the primordial state of EAHIL" (this is the title of the paper) and existing members to recall events and be reminded of long standing colleagues and friends.

In reading Suzanne's report, you might get enticed to browse the old EAHIL Newsletter and read some of its first issues. Be aware that the online collection (1987-2004) has now been checked and completed with the help of Petra Björk, Katri Larmo and Michelle Wake, members of the Editorial Board. This was one of the goals that the Editorial Board had envisaged for 2020.

Going back to the theme of this issue, I invite you all, during the next days, to watch the video "Nations United: Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times | Presented by Thandie Newton" which I personally found deeply engaging and inspiring. <https://youtu.be/xVWHuJOmaEk>

*I wish you and your families the most serene and joyful of holidays*  
*Federica*