

Letter from the President



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Dear EAHIL Colleagues,

When this letter is published in the June issue of *JEAHIL*, summer will have arrived, and in the northern part of my country, you can see the midnight sun. We're only a few weeks from our next event, which we're all looking forward to. The EAHIL 2021 workshop, hosted virtually by the Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey, will be the second EAHIL event organised as an online meeting. It promises to be successful, with exciting keynote speakers, presentations and posters, as well as CECs and interactive sessions. Our Turkish colleagues have worked very hard to organise an exciting program and some fun social events. I hope to see you all on-screen in July!

Even though we're still in the middle of the pandemic, we now see more initiatives for the "restart" of our societies. Some of these initiatives include libraries, like the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which describes investments in digital strategy and platforms for cultural heritage, the removal of physical and cognitive barriers in museums, libraries, and archives to enable wider access to and participation in culture, and improving energy efficiency in cinemas, theatres, and museums. In Sweden, the Library Association arranges an annual conference, this year with the theme "Restart". The European Union has a plan for "the new generation EU," which includes digital initiatives. Initiatives like these inspire hope for the future, and I will make sure to keep a lookout for opportunities for funding new development in my library.

Recently the EAHIL Board has been made aware of two changes in connection to the EAHIL events. The first one is a direct consequence of the pandemic; the Czech manufacturer of the crystal trophies awarded the winners of best poster/best oral presentation at EAHIL events since 2008, is no longer able to provide the same services. It has been incorporated into a larger company with a different line of products. I want to extend the gratitude of the EAHIL Board to Helena Bouzková and Ondřej Horsák for their longstanding help in providing us with the beautiful trophies and the EAHIL awards for outstanding medical librarianship or contributions to the field or special services and dedication to EAHIL.

The other change affects the EAHIL-EBSCO scholarships. One of the aims of EAHIL is "the training, education and mobility of health librarians and information officers in Europe", and for many years the Association has been able to offer a varying number of scholarships to attend the year's event. For 2021 we have been able to offer two scholarships, jointly sponsored by EBSCO. In March, we were informed that EBSCO will pause their financial support for the scholarship from 2022. We want to thank EBSCO for their support and hope we'll be able to work together in the future

Since my previous letter, the EAHIL Executive Board has met twice, in late February, for our scheduled winter meeting and in March for an update with the organisers of the future EAHIL events. Planning for both the 2022 Conference in Rotterdam and the 2023 Workshop in Trondheim is well underway, and in preparation for next year's event, we can look forward to a call for papers for Rotterdam later this year.

Previously, as a Board member, and now in my new role as President, one of my aims has been to encourage dialogue between the EAHIL Board, the Council and all members. Dialogue needs transparency since it's difficult to have views and comments when you don't know what's being discussed in different fora. Consequently, short reports in relation to every Board meeting will be published on the web site blog. We're also discussing the possibility of replacing this column published in *JEAHIL* with more frequent blog posts, to disseminate more current news from the association.

The next Board meeting will be the pre-conference meeting on 5 July. Please let me know if there are any items that you feel should be added to our agenda for discussion. The Board strongly encourages your input, comments & feedback, either by e-mail to the official EAHIL inbox (EAHIL-SECR@LIST.ECOMPASS.NL) or during EAHIL events using the available "feedback to the Board" arrangement, e.g. flipchart, Padlet etc.