



Managing the infodemic: what can be done?

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Dear EAHIL members

We are all aware of the consequences that infodemic has been causing during the pandemic. A pandemic that, differently from its predecessors, is spreading in a world that is both incredibly globalized and highly digitalized.

Since the first days of the COVID-19 outbreak, we've witnessed an over-abundance of information, both accurate and inaccurate, as well as a "tsunami" of publications aimed at disseminating, as quickly as possible, information and data on the new virus. Undeniably, it was "too much information" - as quoted in the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of infodemic. Perhaps, also too much information mixed with views that ended up by causing uncertainty amongst people, leading to behaviour potentially harmful for health. The scope note of the MeSH term "Infodemic" (MeSH 2022) focuses on the core of the problem: "as facts, rumours, and fears mix and disperse, it becomes difficult to learn essential information about an issue (from Merriam Webster Dictionary)".

Can the community of librarians and information specialists tackle this difficulty? Can they be of help in fighting the infodemic? Katri Larmo (University of Helsinki, Finland) and Michelle Wake (UCL, UK), both members of *JEAHIL* Editorial Board, along with the authors of the articles published in this December issue, help us with the challenge of managing misinformation. I wish to thank Katri and Michelle for editing the issue, and the authors for accepting the invitation and writing for *JEAHIL*.

Exciting news in sight for EAHIL in 2022! Would you like to know more? Don't miss the Letter from our President Lotta Haglund, who kindly keeps EAHIL members periodically updated with important information on the life of the association.

I'm also glad to present the very first report from the Evidence-Based Information Special Interest Group (EBI-SIG) published in the News from EAHIL section of the journal. EBI-SIG aims at improving the quality of systematic reviews, as the authors of the report explain in introducing us to the group activities and to its future projects.

EAHIL works in strict contact with sister organizations (see the [list](#) online). Representatives to and for EAHIL have an important task in strengthening this collaboration and I am sure you'll appreciate their effort in finding the time to write their reports about developments, news, events occurring in their respective associations. This time, I wish to thank Carol Lefebvre and Dianne Babski for their reports on the US Medical Library Association and on the US National Library of Medicine. I am also looking forward to hearing from

the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA), from ALIA Health Libraries Australia (HLA), from the Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA) and from Taiwan Medical Library Association (TMLA).

In this issue, Letizia Sampaolo, member of *JEAHIL* Editorial Board, opens her regular column on Publications and new Products with a humorous note, and rightly reminds us: "let's not forget to smile"!

Finally, I wish to inform you that the Journal's March issue will be a no-theme issue (deadline for submission online: 5th of February), whereas the June issue will be focusing on open education, open science. If you wish to contribute to the latter, please contact editors Fiona Brown and Petra Björk (deadline for submission: 5th of May).

I wish you all the happiest of holidays and an abundance of health and joy for this coming 2022.

Federica