

## Memories from EAHIL Scholarship recipients



**Van Meel Chayenne**

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I am very happy that I was able to attend the EAHIL 2023 Workshop in the beautiful city of Trondheim, and I am truly grateful to be a recipient of the EAHIL Scholarship this year. My colleagues have been very positive about previous EAHIL events, and now I can confidently say that all the good things I had heard are definitely true.

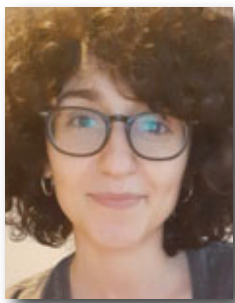
As I am still relatively new to the profession of medical information specialist, this EAHIL Workshop was one of the first opportunities for me to meet face-to-face with international colleagues. It was lovely to make so many new connections, and share experiences with colleagues from all over Europe (and even all over the world).

The EAHIL 2023 Workshop provided a well-filled scientific program, with very informative Continuing Education Courses, outstanding keynote, stimulating workshop sessions and teachmeets, and inspiring oral presentations. Over the course of the Workshop, I improved my searching competency in the "Effectiveness and efficiency in systematic searching" CEC, learned how to teach skills in a fun way using educational games, and discovered many new tools and resources to take home and apply in the library.

Together with Claudia Kapp and Marshall Dozier, I hosted the workshop "Fantastic R packages and where to find them". This workshop was organized by a project group of the Evidence Based Information SIG. Unfortunately, the other members of our project group could not attend. Claudia did a wonderful job giving a small introduction into R and presenting the goal and preliminary results of the project, in which we aim to systematically search for R packages that are relevant to librarians and information specialists. This was followed by a fishbowl discussion about the expected outputs and future direction of the project. The workshop participants engaged in fruitful discussions and this has provided us with a clearer view of how to continue the project and how to best present the results to the community.

The scientific program was complemented by a lively social program. The first timers' reception included a fun activity to break the ice, and offered plenty opportunity to socialize. We were treated to a beautiful organ recital in the Nidaros Cathedral (with surprise appearance from Wichor Bramer), and enjoyed a delicious conference dinner with live entertainment from the Peer Reviews.

I would like to thank the Organizing Committee for arranging such a wonderful conference, and hope to attend EAHIL conferences and workshops again in the future.



**Laura Chierico**

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I am Laura and I have been working as a biomedical librarian at IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria in Bologna (Italy). My research institute was born in 2020, so we started from scratch to build the administration structure. We are defining frameworks, roles, and sometimes we make mistakes. However, in the end we (luckily!) find solutions.

I am new to this profession. I am trying to take any opportunity to learn more about the health field and the chance to discuss with more experienced colleagues. For this reason, I really thank the EAHIL Board for awarding me the scholarship because I've had the occasion to participate to my first international conference. It was informative, and above all truly enjoyable, listening to similar experiences from different points of view, speaking with colleagues from all over the world and sharing with them opinions about our job, our life-styles and our countries.

This year, the annual EAHIL conference took place in the amazing city of Trondheim, in Norway. The theme "Radical positive change agents" also involved biomedical libraries in the debate on sustainability, inclusiveness, visibility and impact on research. Through the exchange and comparison of stories, the aim was to urge the implementation of new and good practices in our libraries to meet the challenges of this decade. Listening to the oral presentations and keynotes of the speakers about social and environmental issues was inspiring and I felt proud to be part of this community.

I appreciated, indeed, the debate about the reproducibility and the "decolonisation" of research strategies that must be pursued. As specialists in information literacy, we can actively contribute to refresh the skills for proper research and the evaluation of information, favoring the decolonisation of research, archives, study materials, and supporting inclusive recruitment processes in our institutions.

In light of this, the words of Professor David Lankes in his keynote speech take on new meaning and reshape the challenges of the coming years, which see us defending scientific knowledge, often threatened and under indictment.



### Tarquin Mittermayr

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I felt equally delighted and honoured to be awarded an EAHIL scholarship for attending this year's workshop in Trondheim.

Upon arrival by train, I was immediately met by the friendliness of the city's inhabitants and its unique Scandinavian architecture (which is perfectly reflected on the workshop's subtle logo).

After participating in the very informative CEC on documenting search strategies, which for me also served as a hands-on introduction to the Miro board in action, and some time spent on exploring Trondheim, I attended the opening keynote lecture by Professor R. David Lankes. In his captivating video presentation, Prof. Lankes illustrated the challenges of being a librarian in today's world, especially in US communities with an increasing lack of understanding for a librarian's professional role.

As an example of this sceptical approach, he mentioned the disconcerting trend of "book banning" in – predominantly Texan – libraries, on the ground of stocking books on subjects such as LGBT(QIA+), which hold the alleged potential of influencing children's minds and their sexual orientation. The information given by Prof. Lankes that librarians not only face an angry mob in their workplace but potentially up to six years in prison for providing "sexually explicit, obscene or other 'harmful' literature" is concerning at the least (no wonder that – on several occasions during the presentation – he showed images of cute kittens to lighten the mood). This keynote speech certainly lent the motto of this year's workshop "Radical Positive Change Agents" a particularly weighty meaning in relation to the role of librarians as providers of objective information.

In general, I was very impressed by this workshop's high number of oral presentations on not just their professional role, but addressing what it actually feels like being a librarian nowadays, to perform the everyday balancing act trying to satisfy the expectations of readers and academics on the one hand and an ever-increasing workload on the other.

Other interesting presentations and hands-on workshops focused – amongst others – on practical tips for systematic searching and the use of newly introduced databases and tools, such as Deduklick for deduplicating search results. As a user of the latter, I was happy to meet a Deduklick representative in person and to exchange my experiences with this new tool.

The social events of this year's EAHIL Workshop offered not only excellent opportunities for networking, but provided unforgettable and moving experiences, such as the organ recital in Trondheim's stunning cathedral.

I am very grateful for having been given the opportunity to participate in this conference. I will remember it for all the stimulating presentations and lively discussions with colleagues (some newly acquainted) and the friendly and welcoming Norwegian hosts.

After this rewarding experience I am looking forward to attending further EAHIL conferences in the near future.



### **Karin Sandqvist**

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Professor R. David Lankes' quote on the necessity for librarians to be "radical positive change agents" served as the inspirational theme for EAHIL 2023 in Trondheim and sparked a variety of intriguing discussions throughout the workshop. I feel immensely honored and grateful to be one of the recipients of the EAHIL scholarship, and as a first timer I felt so empowered by listening to and meeting so many dedicated colleagues exploring new and expanding roles for librarians. This was my first international event since I changed careers from journalism to library and information science and I found the collective competence gathered at NTNU in Trondheim truly impressive.

The keynote speakers shared valuable insights on the role of librarians as catalysts for positive transformation within our communities – whether discussing the threats to our democracy and book banning, sustainable library development, or the existential crisis of librarians in times of rapid change and digitization.

Given my background as a journalist I found subtheme 5, Visibility and impact (of the health library), particularly interesting. The workshops and oral presentations provided useful ideas on how librarians can acquire new skills, and embrace novel tasks, collaborations and methods of outreach. Other significant takeaways included innovative approaches to improving systematic searching skills and enhancing library services through User Experience (UX).

One of the most enriching aspects of the conference was the opportunity to connect with colleagues from not only Europe but also Australia and the United States. Meeting with professionals from different types of libraries broadened my perspective and understanding of library practices. Additionally, talking with the sponsors offered insights into the latest services and technologies, including the use of AI, which I look forward to exploring further.

The only cloud in the otherwise so blue Trondheim sky was that the wide range of interesting topics covered during the presentations, workshops and teachmeets made it hard to choose. I wish I could have attended at least twice as many sessions.

Beyond the educational aspect, the social events during the conference, and the food, were fantastic! Particularly the organ recital in the beautiful Nidaros Cathedral, with the setting sun casting its light through the rose window, left a lasting impact on my heart.

Lastly, I want to express my warmest gratitude to the Local Organising Committee, the program committee and everyone else contributing to making the 2023 EAHIL workshop an unforgettable experience that by far exceeded my expectations. I am deeply grateful for the scholarship that made my participation possible, and I will encourage my colleagues to consider joining EAHIL. The workshop has motivated me to seek new opportunities to broaden my skillset and I look forward to using the newfound knowledge and ideas in my work at Skåne University Hospital.



**Louise Stenholt**

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My warmest thanks to EAHIL and EBSCO for granting me an EAHIL-EBSCO scholarship for this year's conference in Trondheim. I was very fortunate to get the possibility of attending the EAHIL 2023 workshop in beautiful Trondheim and meet fellow librarians and information professionals from all around the world.

The EAHIL 2023 workshop was my first-ever EAHIL conference and it was all that I could have wished for and more. Unfortunately, I missed out on the first-timers event due to delays and cancelled flights. Hence, I was very excited about the small orange stickers to wear on my badge to signal I was a first timer. It was a very clever way to go about being a first timer participant, and I really feel that it made it a lot easier for me to engage in conversations and meet new people. I met a lot of amazing people at the conference.

The keynote speakers were immensely inspiring. I truly felt as a radical positive change agent afterwards and took it to heart that we as librarians don't need to legitimise the library as an institution in any way, shape or form! In fact, we have an important professional role to play and need to embrace it.

In all workshops and plenary sessions that I took part in, I learned new things and best practices that I can use, share with my colleagues and embed in our library. The teachmeet session where I had the opportunity to hear several presentations was a fun and engaging way to connect and learn from multiple people in a short period of time.

Apart from the scientific program, I was so amazed by the stunning Nidaros Cathedral and enjoyed every minute of the beautiful music at the organ concert. I enjoyed walking in the beautiful historic streets of Trondheim not to mention the clear blue sky and sunny weather throughout the entire conference.

I really would like to thank the Organising Committee for their tireless work and outstanding job arranging the EAHIL 2023 Workshop. Hopefully, I will be able to attend future EAHIL conferences and meet some of all the wonderful people again that I met this year.

## EAHIL 2023 Workshop, Trondheim, Norway

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### Julia Walz

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After attending EAHIL 2021 Istanbul and EAHIL 2022 Rotterdam only virtually I was delighted and most grateful for being awarded this year's EAHIL scholarship by the Board! The scholarship made it possible for me to attend an EAHIL event in person for the first time and it gave me the opportunity to talk to and connect with colleagues from around the world and to visit the truly beautiful city of Trondheim.

It was reassuring for me to see, that we, as medical librarians, all are facing similar challenges. The oral presentations I attended gave me new ideas and helped me with thinking outside the box. I also participated in several workshops. At each event I learned something new to take home with me. The insights I gathered in those few days will surely benefit our whole team. Of course, the hardest thing for me in Trondheim was which event listed in the scientific programme to attend. Just everything in the programme seemed to be so interesting!

I was very impressed by this year's key note speaker R. David Lankes' statement "To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question". It is so true! I was very pleased to discuss this important topic with the "EAHIL family".

Speaking about "EAHIL family": I really appreciate the comparatively small but well-networked professional community I belong to. It enables such close and fruitful exchange from which everyone can ultimately benefit. It was awesome to meet all the amazing people I have only met online before! Especially the social events were great opportunities to get in touch and to have longer talks with international colleagues.

All in all, I had a wonderful time in beautiful Trondheim! Therefore a big THANK YOU to the Local Organizing Committee who did a great job hosting the EAHIL-Workshop 2023 and to all those who shared their experience in a presentation or workshop. Last but not least, I would like to thank the sponsors who made the EAHIL-Workshop 2023 possible. I hope that I will be able to attend future EAHIL events to continue this beneficial exchange.



**Karolina Wójcikowska**

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I am immensely grateful for the financial assistance provided by EAHIL, which enabled me to participate in the EAHIL 2023 Workshop held in the captivating town of Trondheim. This experience marked my first international conference attendance and introduced me to the beautiful country of Norway, making it a truly remarkable and memorable journey.

Before the Workshop, I had heard from colleagues that EAHIL conferences are extraordinary events and renowned as one of the top conferences in the field of medical librarianship. The level of organization and the quality of workshops surpassed my expectations. The workshops I had the privilege of attending were engaging, interactive, and highly inspiring. What's more, the atmosphere at the workshops was incredibly supportive, and I felt comfortable asking questions, sharing my experiences, and collaborating with other participants. With numerous interesting topics on offer, it was challenging to select which workshops to participate in. I only wish I could have attended more, but unfortunately, some sessions coincided with each other.

During the workshops, I acquired valuable insights into the process of conducting systematic reviews - I acquired practical tips and techniques for formulating research questions accurately, including the importance of collaborating with researchers. Furthermore, I familiarized myself with novel methods for conducting literature searches and identifying studies relevant to systematic reviews. In general, the workshops equipped me with extensive knowledge and skills essential for proficiently developing search strategies, framing research questions, and carrying out systematic reviews using innovative methodologies.

The EAHIL Workshop in Trondheim also offered abundant opportunities for personal growth. Constantly speaking English, sharing work experience and interacting with people from around the world boosted my self-confidence and I feel equipped with numerous tools to enhance my skills as a medical librarian. Moreover, the kindness and support of the organizing committee and board members truly made a significant impact and exemplified the spirit of the conference.

I am sincerely grateful for the incredible time I spent in Trondheim and I wholeheartedly hope to have the opportunity to attend future EAHIL conferences. Once again, I extend my deepest appreciation to EAHIL for invaluable support and for making this experience possible.



**Muguet Koobasi**

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I had the privilege of attending the EAHIL conference in Trondheim this year, and I am grateful for the EAHIL scholarship that made this possible. Receiving confirmation of being granted the scholarship was a wonderful moment, and I want to express my gratitude to EAHIL for this opportunity and the organising committee's exceptional work in organising the conference.

The theme of this year's conference, "Radical positive change agents," sparked my curiosity from the start. I was eager to explore how we, as librarians, could actively contribute to positive change within our communities. The words of R. David Lankes, "To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question. It is to be a radical positive change agent within your community," resonated with me throughout the event, setting the tone for meaningful discussions and engagements.

The keynotes were carefully selected and were truly interesting and inspiring. Furthermore, I participated in a series of enlightening workshops that addressed various aspects of our roles. These workshops introduced innovative approaches to enhance our digital capabilities and shared strategies for improving efficiency in systematic searching, which is a crucial aspect of my work. The oral presentations were equally enriching, with notable talks on research impact evaluation, literature reviews for students, and collaborative efforts for evidence-based clinical guidelines. These presentations provided valuable insights and inspired new ideas to elevate my professional practices.

A personal highlight for me was being part of the team presenting the Library of Search Strategy Resources (LSSR) website during a teachmeet session. As an initiative of the Evidence Based Information Special Interest Group (EBI-SIG), the LSSR website received positive feedback, enabling us to gather valuable impressions and suggestions for further improving our website. The interactive discussions allowed us to connect with other professionals and exchange ideas. I hope this teachmeet format, which was introduced instead of posters, stays as it was a beneficial format. Remarkably, our team's work on another EBI-SIG project earned the award for best oral presentation. Although I accepted the honour on behalf of my colleague who presented the talk: "What do journals' author instructions state on search methods for systematic reviews?", it was a testament to our collective effort and dedication on this project.

Beyond the educational aspects, also the social events provided opportunities to network and connect with fellow professionals. Meeting remarkable individuals who shared their experiences and perspectives enriched my understanding of the challenges and opportunities in our work.

The 2023 EAHIL Conference in Trondheim proved to be an exceptional experience. The theme encouraged us to reflect on our role and inspires us to initiate transformative actions within our communities. All the sessions and networking opportunities enabled us to broaden our horizons, address challenges, and gain practical insights that can be implemented in our respective libraries. I am truly grateful for the knowledge, connections, and inspiration that I gained during this event.