
Letter from the President



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Dear EAHIL Colleague,

As I write this letter, we are on the brink of the much-anticipated EAHIL 2024 Conference in Riga. By the time you read this, the conference will have concluded, and I hope it was as enlightening and inspiring for you as I expect it will be. This year's theme, "Small Step and a Giant Leap: Reorienting Towards a New Environment", captures the need for libraries to adapt and thrive in an evolving landscape by embracing both incremental changes and significant advancements.

One of these changes in my day job involves the growing interest from universities and funders for quality assessment of science. In my university, the interest in bibliometrics is relatively new, while at the same time, many higher education institutions are signing the CoARA (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment) agreement, taking them away from strictly using quantitative measures.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to listen to our newly appointed honorary doctor, Ann MacPhail, from the University of Limerick, Ireland. She spoke about, among other things, the evolution of research assessment methods from a heavy reliance on bibliometrics, such as citation counts and impact factors, to more qualitative approaches. MacPhail emphasised that traditional metrics often fail to capture the full scope of valuable research practices, including collaboration, societal impact, and open science initiatives. She argued that a more holistic approach is necessary to truly evaluate and reward the diverse contributions of researchers, fostering innovation and responsible research practices. Her views align closely with the CoARA initiative.

It will be very interesting to follow the development of new methods for research assessment and how libraries can contribute to this. I hope we will have the opportunity to listen to good examples of this at future EAHIL events.

I think many of us will agree that the strength of EAHIL lies in our community. Our events demonstrate the power of coming together, sharing knowledge, and building partnerships. To achieve this, we need members willing to work for us to meet each year, that is, to take responsibility for organising a workshop or conference. As I noted in the March letter, EAHIL will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2027. Would you like to host the anniversary event in your city? Please consider submitting an expression of interest. It should be sent to EAHIL-SECR@LISTS.EAHIL.EU. Please refer to <http://eahil.eu/events/arrange-conference/> for event guidelines, and feel free to contact other Board members or me for discussion and support.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!