



## Remembering Dr. Beatrice Doran

(1940s- Deceased 13th October 2025)

The Irish health library community and European colleagues were saddened to hear of the passing of Beatrice Doran this year. Beatrice was formerly Chief Librarian of the Library at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. She was one of the founding members of EAHIL. Her name is on the list of attendees of the meeting in Brighton in 1987. In later years both Beatrice and Shane Godbolt were often seen together, during dinners or other outside conference meetings, during EAHIL events. Indeed, Beatrice published an homage to her friend Shane published in the HJNI (1) in 2020.

Beatrice was a presenter on the programme of London ICML in 2000, an event that incorporated the EAHIL meeting of that year. The subject of her presentation was “Continuing education for librarians”. Beatrice was rather involved in that subject and studied business administration in the years that she was head of the RCSI library. She achieved an MBA and a PhD in 2011, “Knowledge Management: an empirical analysis in relation to Irish healthcare”. It is the first empirical study of its kind in the health system of the Republic of Ireland. Beatrice was an EAHIL Board member from 1993 to 1996. Beatrice was a trailblazer for Irish medical librarians and remained committed to and interested in librarianship long past her retirement. Those of us who have been working in this field for many years recall her sharp intellect and her strong support of emerging young professionals. She introduced the first clinical librarian post in Irish hospitals, was former Vice President and Secretary of EAHIL, and a President of the Library Association of Ireland. Founding member of the Munster Regional Section of the Library Association of Ireland. She was greatly involved in the implementation of early fully integrated Library computer systems. As a Library consultant, she worked internationally in Iraq, the Sudan, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia (2). In retirement she gained recognition as a local historian and published a number of books on the history of the Dublin suburb of Donnybrook.

Beatrice was active in the Irish library community and often gave inspiring presentations at Library events, which boosted the confidence and morale for the library community at large. A bibliography of some of her publications are available on Wikipedia (3). She wrote about medical school libraries (4); presented on a groundbreaking report known as the ‘McDougall report’ for Irish health libraries (5) Her interest in continuing professional development and new emerging roles for librarians was greatly appreciated. Beatrice is well remembered by Valentina Comba and Laura Cavazza for the collaboration in the 2nd European Conference of EAHIL.

May she rest in peace.

### **Acknowledgements**

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4. Doran BM. Marketing medical school libraries. *Health information - New possibilities*. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands; 1995. p. 67-71.
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