



Memories from EAHIL Scholarship recipients

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I am sincerely grateful to EAHIL for awarding me a scholarship to attend the EAHIL Workshop in Antalya. As someone who is still relatively new to the profession of health information specialist, this opportunity was both exciting and incredibly valuable. The conference allowed me to learn from experienced colleagues, expand my professional network, and gain new insights that I can bring back to my work at KU Leuven.

One of the highlights was the workshop on developing search hedges, led by Emily Brennan, Rachel Whitney and Lynn Kysh. As a beginning information specialist, I found this course particularly enriching. It provided me with practical knowledge and a deeper understanding of how carefully designed search filters can improve the quality and efficiency of literature searches. I left the course with new skills and greater confidence in my expertise.

Another session that I enjoyed was Karlijn van Loon's workshop on translating search strategies using large language models. The workshop combined innovative ideas with hands-on exercises, making it both informative and engaging. It was fascinating to explore how emerging AI technologies may support our work while also discussing their limitations and the importance of critical evaluation.

Several presentations also stood out to me such as using artificial intelligence for supplementary searching, which offered thought-provoking perspectives on how AI can complement traditional search methods. I was equally interested in the presentations on ASReview and OpenAlex. These sessions demonstrated how rapidly our field continues to evolve and how new tools and databases are creating opportunities for more broader and efficient research support.

I also had the opportunity to present my own findings about OpenAlex. Sharing these experiences with colleagues and receiving feedback was particularly rewarding. I appreciated the chance to discuss OpenAlex with Dutch colleagues and learn more about the analyses they have conducted and the decisions they have made regarding its implementation. These conversations demonstrated the strength of the EAHIL community and highlighted the value of international collaboration. I hope to continue exchanging knowledge and working together with colleagues from the Netherlands and the wider EAHIL community in the future.

Beyond the scientific programme, the conference was wonderfully organised. The accommodation, food and social activities were all excellent. The musical entertainment during the gala dinner created a warm and festive atmosphere and contributed to many enjoyable conversations and new connections.

I would like to thank EAHIL, the organisers and the scholarship sponsors for making this experience possible. I return home inspired, motivated and eager to apply the knowledge I gained in Antalya. I very much look forward to meeting the EAHIL community again at a future conference.

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As an early-career medical librarian, receiving an EAHIL scholarship to attend the conference in Antalya was a truly special opportunity to broaden my perspective on the profession. In my application, I wrote that one of my main goals was to connect with peers, not only to learn as much as possible, but also to spend time with people who share the same sense of purpose: helping to bridge the gap between people and the information they need, and supporting the creation and sharing of knowledge in an ethical, transparent, inclusive, and responsible way.

The reality exceeded my expectations.

It is easy to feel inspired in a place like Antalya, with its beautiful setting between the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains. The scenery, combined with the warmth and hospitality of the local organising team, created the perfect atmosphere for learning, sharing ideas, and building new connections.

One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to meet colleagues from across Europe, the United States, and the Middle East. Although we work in different institutions and countries, many of us face similar challenges in our daily work. Conversations over coffee, between sessions, and during social events quickly turned into exchanges of ideas, experiences, and practical solutions.

The workshops deserve a special mention. What struck me most was that the learning did not come only from the workshop facilitators. Every participant brought their own perspectives, experiences, and practical insights, which enriched the discussions. I often left those sessions feeling that, as soon as I returned to my library in Lisbon, I would have new tools, techniques, and ideas ready to put into practice.

The conference also offered an opportunity to present the work of my library team and in discussions on evidence synthesis and the integration of AI into library and research workflows. These conversations were particularly valuable, as they highlighted the opportunities (but also the limitations) that AI brings to our profession. Sharing experiences and receiving feedback from such a knowledgeable and supportive community was both encouraging and motivating. It reinforced the feeling that professional growth is not achieved in isolation but through dialogue, collaboration, and openness to learning from others.

Beyond the academic programme, the social events played an important role in building connections. The conference dinner was a memorable celebration of Turkish culture, with traditional music, circle dances, and the surprisingly therapeutic custom of breaking plates.

Perhaps the most lasting outcome of the conference has been the sense of belonging to a network. Since returning to Lisbon, I have already exchanged emails with several colleagues I met in Antalya. Knowing that these connections remain active creates a reassuring feeling: there is now a community of professionals whom I can approach for advice, support, or collaboration. More importantly, it reminds me that librarianship is built on generosity, mutual assistance, and a shared commitment to advancing knowledge for the benefit of others.