

# Journal of EAHIL

**Theme Issue**

**Medical libraries:  
Scenarios for the Future**

**11th European Conference of Medical  
and Health Libraries**

**Helsinki, Finland**

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- Top Right:** A screenshot of the Thieme ElectronicBook Library website. The page title is "The Cell and Its Components" (page 21). The breadcrumb trail reads "Chapter > Fundamentals > Molecular Basis of Genetics > Some Types of Chemical Bonds". The website interface includes a search bar, navigation buttons (HOME, BOOKS, SEARCH, HELP), and a sidebar menu for "Color Atlas of Genetics". The main content area displays a detailed diagram of a eukaryotic cell with labels for various organelles: Plasma membrane, Nucleus, Lysosome, Golgi apparatus, Nucleolus, Mitochondrion, Chromatin, inner, Outer membrane, Nuclear pores, and Peroxisome. A scale bar indicates a size of 3-10 μm.
- Bottom Right:** The Thieme logo, which consists of a stylized tree icon inside a circle, followed by the word "Thieme" in a serif font.

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# Journal of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries

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# Editorial

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Hello Everyone,

For many, Easter came very early this year, but the Orthodox Easter was only celebrated on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. However, in Christian religions, Easter was celebrated more than a month earlier making it the earliest Easter for 85 years. The next time it will be on that date will be 2160! I appreciate it when Easter is much later, as this year in Romania, because spring has just passed, and the summer is beginning. As the first of May was also a national holiday, everything closed down here for over a week and gave everyone a much needed break.

The theme of the May issue is *Medical libraries: scenarios for the future* and we have received some interesting articles on this subject. The article by Oliver Obst gives us a *tongue in cheek* picture of the demise of libraries in from now until 2030... but who knows, maybe, in fact, it is not such an unreal scenario! Other articles are from our UK colleagues, Erica Swain and Janet Peters, Tony McSeán, Derek Law, Linda Lisgarten, and our American colleagues, Donna Flake, Judy Blaine and Ann Cullen and a final one from Tünde Gracza which missed the last issue. I do hope you enjoy reading them. The themes for the final two issues are:

| ISSUE    | THEME  | DEADLINE                            |
|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| August   | The 11 <sup>th</sup> European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries | <b>15<sup>th</sup> July 2008</b>    |
| November | Open Access: Today and Tomorrow  | <b>15<sup>th</sup> October 2008</b> |

It is now time to vote for the EAHIL members to act as your representatives on the EAHIL Executive Board. As we did last year, all candidates have sent in a summary of their career and their interests in EAHIL in order for you to know who you are voting for. We shall be able to vote electronically for the first time. Arne Jakobsson, EAHIL Past-President [p.a.jakobsson@ub.uio.no](mailto:p.a.jakobsson@ub.uio.no), will be sending out instructions on how to vote by e-mail to all EAHIL members. Please take the time to cast your votes!

There is a lot of information regarding the Helsinki conference in this issue. It looks as if will be an excellent conference both professionally and socially. On Saturday 28 June, from 11.30-13.00 the EAHIL General Assembly will take place. Remember to bring your EAHIL membership card with you. This is compulsory!

I shall be in Helsinki with the *EAHIL Echo* team again bringing your daily newsletter throughout the conference. I look forward to seeing you all there.

# The future of libraries - the Minister for Media Affairs, Boris Becker, threatens to shut down the very last German library. Looking back at 2008\*



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### Abstract

*The author presents a vision of what libraries could be in the year 2030. Printed media have been relegated to their final repositories in gigantic storehouse; books and journals are available only in electronic versions. The article describes the chronological events leading up to the demise of the library as we know it today.*

*Key words:* libraries; medical libraries; open access; publishing industry; future; peer-review; second life.

### Introduction

Currently, in the year 2030, libraries are not what they used to be twenty-two years ago. Printed media have been relegated to their final repositories in gigantic storehouses; books and journals are available only in electronic versions. Actual physical assemblies of people and of publications have become obsolete on account of the seamless merging of computers forming the cyberneurosphere (CNS). Anybody can access the CNS from his 2LifeBox, regardless of where he happens to be at any given moment. He has total global recourse to any information he requires; the CNS enables communication with other people as well as with his own digital self. This alter

ego is made up of the totality of his e-life, his medical history, his genome sequence, his appointments and agenda, as well as all the books and journals he has ever read. The following chronology reviews the steps taken to accomplish this.

### 2005-2010

*Institutions built on a mediator philosophy will not survive the information age.*

*R. Heterick*

At the beginning of the century, the so-called “digital central libraries” took over more and more of the services that traditionally had

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\* This article is an update of Obst, O.: “Griff nach der Information: Medienminister Boris Becker droht, die letzte Bibliothek zu schließen. Ein Rückblick aus dem Jahr 2050“ AGMB aktuell 4(2):29-35 (2000) URL: <http://medbib.klinikum.uni-muenster.de/obsto/text/mbi/borisbecker2050.pdf> (visited on Feb 6, 2008).

formed an integral part of local library functions. This process of transferring services from local to centralized units accelerated in the first decade. In rapid succession, local versions were replaced by centralized digital data bases.

The sole remaining function of the library consisted of creating a link from the home page to these product choices. Immediately following the centralization of the main data bases, digital central libraries began to incorporate reference works and journals. Increasingly, electronic titles became accessible through central libraries, while local libraries lost more and more of their purchasing power. However, since the libraries happily pointed to the centrally licensed electronic journals, which they regarded as compensation for local cancellations they might have suffered, they failed to notice the ongoing centralization of important services. The only media left to prosper were printed monographs and textbooks, but as the Google major digitization project continued to succeed and the publishers granted permission, now every single book written in english was available online.

A local lending library was no longer required in order to take out books; on the contrary, there was a perception that the more one was able to avoid local libraries, the simpler and quicker it became to access the requested materials.

What at the end of the 20th century had been mere conjecture, now acquired the status of hard fact. Having lost the information monopoly, libraries were suddenly barehanded – a condition that could not be easily concealed for long. Users and sponsors demanded to know exactly what duties and responsibilities remained that could justify the libraries' continued existence, now that everything had

become freely available via the internet. Faced with the obligatory library service and maintenance bill, the debt-burdened states of the federation suddenly realized how great an expense it was to maintain ten or twenty libraries, which all had more or less the same media and services on offer. As a result, all library services now had to be tendered on a cross-European platform, whereby the cheapest offer would clinch the deal, regardless of whether it was issued from a Polish library, a Dutch magazine agent, or a Portuguese bookseller. Costs were thereby cut down to half in a very short time, while the service provided improved markedly. Since online booksellers like amazon.com could provide monographs much quicker and at greatly reduced cost, and since for most titles there were only one or two prospective customers in any case, the library budget for monographs was drastically slashed. The funds were placed at the disposal of the appropriate institutes and clinics. As a result, several positions were vacated all at once, given the library's staff appointments scheme; these posts were reallocated to clerical administrative jobs.

## 2010-2015

*A library is "just a nice place to have".*  
Anonymous

Growing competition between libraries has led to specialization. Libraries have fought for their users by the institution of 24-hour services, joint formation of call centers, multimedia internet courses and by supplying a professional information service. All employees have been forced to wear a uniform and to attend several weeks of professional customer relations' training courses (at present, the Lufthansa intensive training

program is very much the rage.) Noncompetitive libraries have had to cut back on staff. The privatization of the German Universities has led to easily terminable and strictly performance-oriented employment contracts. Several libraries have been forced to close down altogether or to dismiss all of their employees. As had already happened before, a certain number of dismissed employees were then rehired by strictly profit-oriented companies on the basis of a part time job, at very unfavourable conditions. There were no longer any wage agreements; out of work librarians were frequently retrained as online-booksellers, operators of PC-/ library-hotlines or salespeople for office supplies. By 2015 more information could be found on the internet, the world's virtual library, than in any traditional university library. Thanks to the semantic web, metadata and sophisticated search engines, this information has become just as easily accessible as it would have been in a traditional library.

The electronic book reading system eBook™, which was beginning to take hold at the start of the 21st century, became available as eJournal™ - an article reader for journals. It was not a technological hitch that delayed the transfer of this system to the reading of journals - the technology was ready and in place by 2005 - the real problem was that new licensing contracts had to be worked out. From then on, journals were no longer delivered in print, but rather electronically onto a PC or as eJournals™ for the road (or for the bathtub). eJournal™ cost less than 250 €, and the links in the articles could optionally be traced on the web through wireless connections. Thanks to the new electronic ink technology and the Mignon fuel cells, eJournal™ only needed to be recharged once every several weeks. The display quality of the article was guaranteed by the producer to be the same or better than the

original, traditional journal, otherwise the customer had the right to full refund. Working with eJournal™ was completely self-explanatory. Initially the journal's TOC was downloaded for free. A fee was charged, however, for every article subsequently downloaded from a commercial journal, which was paid for out of the library budget. As the library space was now frequented only by socially motivated users, some libraries were redesigned as comfortable and attractive reading rooms. Upon entering, each user was given an eJournal™. Since the German widespread introduction of WLANs in 2015, a physical connection to a university network has been no longer required.

Every printed book and journal that is part of the cultural heritage of a country is ultimately housed in gigantic, fully automated high shelf book towers on the greens. Instead of human beings, robots on wheels zoomed through the narrow canyons between the towering shelves some 60 ft high. They were built with an integrated instant book scanning device, and filled the few individual requests for non-digitalized volumes within a matter of seconds. However, access to these treasures was restricted to scientists. In an analogy to the cave paintings of Altamira, total conservation was thus achieved, far from any potentially damaging human handling. The archetypical librarian's most cherished dream had finally come true...

### 2015-2020

*In the past, books could stink,  
In the present, books can link,  
In the future, books will think.  
“according to” E.J. Valauskas*

The development of computer and telecommunications technology resulted in

radical changes to systems of publishing and information. The global operations of the multi-publishing giant *Elspring* were faced with multinational library groups. The industrial scientific-commercial complex succeeded in creating two classes of users. The studies published by highly acclaimed scientists appeared in the pricey pages of commercial journals, while the findings of less well-known members of the scientific community could be looked up at Google Knol. Precursors of Google Knol were open access encyclopedias, publishers, and repositories such as Wikipedia, BioMedCentral, or arXiv.org. Because of the growing number of scientific papers, fewer and fewer scientists were prepared to review them free of charge. For this reason, Knol publications no longer passed through a pre-peer-review, but were evaluated only after publication by the comments and marks given by scientist colleagues (post-peer-review). These evaluations were obligatory: every reader of an article had to make a comment or at least give it a grade before being able to leave the web page in order to go on to read another article. An article's most important characteristics were the number of readers and its individual impact factor. Quoting from other scientific papers became more difficult. As articles were subject to dynamic change, quoting now required including the date of the last reading, as well as the update status, similar to a quotation from a web page. While all scientists had access to Knol articles, commercial research publications were available only to affluent universities. According to new copyright laws enforced by publishers and standardized EU electronic licensing contracts ("no printed journals anymore"), interlending was no longer permitted.

Communication among the scientific community was greatly impaired by this division into "info fat-cats" and that of the "info have-nots". Most scientists were still able to help each other out through the use of black-market copies of illegally circulated papers, but the general public was no longer willing to accept being deprived of access to important publications. Unrestricted access to up-to-date information, particularly in health matters, had quite literally become a question of life and death.

Powerful patient organizations began to actively campaign in this cause, and as a result one hundred Nobel prize winners filed a petition addressed to the Presidents of the American and European Unions. Fortunately for them, the President of the AU himself had recently become the victim of medical malpractice on account of a misguided library research. During a state visit to the African Union he had contracted a rare infectious disease and his physician only could find details of it in source material supplied by Knol, but chose to ignore the inadequate coverage therein of tropical medicine. As a result of the inappropriate treatment he received, the President suffered from heavy symptoms for weeks. At the next G10 summit meeting in Calcutta, he argued convincingly for the introduction of worldwide legislation against the sellout of scientific know-how to profit-oriented commercial publishers, a suggestion that gained the approval of many Heads of State. In Congress and the European Parliament, in the Duma and the various representative bodies of many other states, a new bill was passed concerning copyright law. The main thrust of this bill was that the copyright for publicly funded scientific research papers remained the property of the author, or rather of the state, and could not be passed on to third parties. Scientists were



further obliged to publish all their work in Knol. Within a few years of this legislation coming into effect, this revolution in the publishing system caused commercial publishing houses to all but die out. Elsprinley filed for bankruptcy, the publishing server was taken off the Web, and all of a sudden forty volumes of thousands of journals were no longer online. Despite all assertions to the contrary, there was no archival server and the post archival rights claimers of the Elsprinley were not worth their digital signatures. Neither Portico or another archive portal was licensed by any European library. Instead, a flourishing trade in the research profiles of scientists and companies culled from the server's log files started up on the Web. The first twenty volumes of journals could be scanned from the printed editions, but following the print stop in 2020, there were no more backup versions on paper and these volumes were now irretrievably lost. Dramatic action was taken to try to persuade researchers to present their papers a second time, but the feedback was only minimal.

### 2020-2025

*Information professionals are facing more stress than ever before.*

*A. Winzenried*

The third revolution was triggered by neuronal biocomputers that flooded the entire globe in only a few years. In contrast to conventional computers, which computed only by means of two numbers 0 and 1, these "thinking" machines computed with all the "numbers" in between. This enabled them to simulate human thought in all its incredible speed and flexibility. These new biocomputers were now capable of self-programming. As a result, software evolution was powerfully

accelerated. In only a few years' time, computers with all indicators of artificial intelligence were being built. Initially, they created simulated worlds of knowledge. These were used to represent relevancies and data in scientific articles by three dimensional relations and colours - a method known as similarity space visualization. Holographic projectors served as output devices. Since man is primarily a visual creature, he comprehends and analyzes complex situations much more readily in a visual presentation. Before long, this technology had fundamentally revolutionized the information quest.

Subsequently, all electronic appliances merged into a global cyberneurosphere (CNS). There all data and information was stored, regardless of their public or private significance. In the CNS every citizen possessed a virtual cyber body containing his entire e-life: his medical data, his agenda, and all the books and articles he has read in his whole life. You would log on to the CNS by means of a chip card which could be used with any electronic apparatus, be it the toaster, the fridge or the family car. The most commonly and universally used gadget was the hand-sized *2LifeBox*, which resembled a hybridization of a smart phone, TV, and 3D-Headset. For certain functions, the monitor might be too small, for instance for watching movies or video conferences; in such cases a miniature laser could project the images directly onto the retina of the eye. The *2LifeBox* was first developed about the year 2001, when Texas instruments and the German Telecom produced a TV box that enabled the user to surf the internet as easily as he would zap through TV channels. Accordingly, the content of the publicly accessible CNS - TV programs, publications or libraries - was evaluated by the respective audience ratings. The CNS is dominated by *MicroGoogle*. After the buyout of Yahoo! to Microsoft, and the

following merger with Google, this unrestricted global information multi-magnate MicroGoogle was no longer only running operating systems or search engines, but also the inner workings of the CNS.

## 2025-2030

*People will have to find new ways to protect their physical lives from the intrusions of the electronic world.*

*F. Cairncross*

Whoever can afford it has access to a virtual librarian - a CNS-knowledge robot, shortened into *knowbot*. According to the individual's level of income, he can purchase the latest, super-fast, state-of-the-art model, or an older one of a discontinued production line which only allows access to outdated information. This *knowbot* is like an electronic system of experts, which can scour the CNS for information autonomously. Thanks to its speech module, the *knowbot* is able to respond to any question; it arranges appointments with other people's *knowbots*, composes the morning paper in time for breakfast, plays the stock market, does the shopping etc. If his owner happens to be indisposed, it is able to make independent decisions. Just like a human butler of old, the *knowbot* eventually came to know his owner's needs and predilections better than the owner did himself!

Nevertheless, several specimens of the endangered species *bibliothecarius traditionalis* managed to survive and became highly capable, supremely competent specialists in the arrangement, structuring, development, assessment and realization of information. These people were the true engineers of knowledge. They possessed

outstanding information techniques and together with the bio-informaticians, they were the only people alive who were able to understand and manipulate the highly complex structure of the neurobiological data-network CNS. Solely these *CNS high-priests* were cognizant of how knowledge organizes itself. But one had to have strong nerves to become such an "information scout", as they were called, because with the Information Liability Act of 2025 becoming law, every transmitter of information could be held responsible for the accuracy and reliability of the information passed on by him.

Yet there remained some oddbods who could not stand the increasing inequality between "info-fat-cats" and "info-have-nots", and the concomitant loss of privacy. As a counterpoint to the CNS they went into the wild where they founded the Henry-David-Thoreau society, "Walden3". Within their ranks, they renounced gene chips, cyber bodies and the 2LifeBox, but they paid a high price for this. They became incapable of surviving in the information society and their life expectancy sank to only about eighty years, as compared to the 120 years that had become realizable through genetic reengineering techniques. However, thanks to the process of natural selection, they possessed a healthier genetic make-up, which was welcomed as a usable gene pool by pharmaceutical companies and anthropologists.

### **And what became of the libraries?**

Nowadays, libraries have become extremely popular, for conferences, meetings, festivities and all kinds of events. There is something profoundly stirring about holding a meeting or a debate in such time-honoured surroundings, encircled by the venerable, leather-bound repositories of knowledge. Occasionally, a

participant in the assembly will take out and reverentially handle one of the dust-covered books, full of awe. But nobody would seriously consider seeking information or studying his subject by such inefficient and old-fashioned means as a book. It is difficult to picture that not even so very long ago, at the beginning of our present century, it was common to drive for hundreds of miles in order to physically reach a certain building, only for the sake of obtaining some specifically required information. Personal

presence was absolutely essential; cyber body attendance was inadmissible!

In 2030, the Minister for Media Affairs, Boris Becker, will shut down the Bavarian State Library in Munich, the last German library that justifiably deserves this name. The Minister said, "This library has long been lacking economical viability; it does not have enough sex appeal in the CNS; this probably explains the drastic decrease in audience ratings in the end"

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# A backwards look at the future: three librarians towards the end of their careers look at what libraries and librarians might become



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### **Abstract**

*The authors, who between them have many years of medical librarianship experience, take a look at the current state of library and information provision and predict some of the changes and challenges that the profession will need to address to ensure survival and success.*

*Key words:* libraries; medical libraries; open access; publishing industry; future.

### **External Changes**

#### *Content*

Scientific and medical publishing in the traditional print format is now a by-product of publishers' main business. The major publishers make more than 50% of their worldwide income from e-journals. For most libraries in the major European Union markets it is probably only anomalies in the way VAT is applied that keeps print alive — in the UK the 17.50% differential leads at least one major university keeps its scientific print journals in remote storage without even taking them out of the envelopes (or did until recently). And this does not only apply to current subscriptions; the major publishers already have their backruns available and we can expect to see the cost of accessing these fall drastically in the next few years. E-books are not yet so fully

integrated into our “collections”, but are increasingly available in worthwhile quality and quantity and take-up is likely to grow.

Within the next six years, Google plans to make available 36,000,000 book titles. The free out-of-copyright books will have limited value for the health community, but there will also be more recent material available for sale or loan. Google's rivals have competing projects. The open web is, of course, a huge resource of free information, although much of this carries no quality assurance. We all have our favourite examples of ludicrous or dangerous websites—soap that washes away body fats and miraculous protections against contracting HIV. Institutional, national and subject repositories continue to gather strength and federate, and to include elusive material such as

theses and grey literature which extends their use beyond peer-reviewed papers. And despite the radically changed information landscape, the print-era publishing industry of commercial companies and learned societies retains a financial and structural grip on the dissemination of the formal literature of health.

This brave new world of open-ended and diverse information resources may, paradoxically, require more rather than less professional intervention and support if the benefit to our researchers and practitioners is to be maximised. The more varied the range of information retrieval options available, the more scope there is for sub-optimal (or as we might say *rubbish*) search results.

### *User expectations*

As the technology of information delivery changes, so do the expectations of our users and the ways in which they will formulate and go about satisfying their information needs. Prensky's widely quoted division of the world into digital natives (the Facebook generation) and digital immigrants (the authors and 80% of our profession) mark a fundamental shift in user expectations. Resources are either on-web or off-web and for most practical purposes off-web might as well not exist for digital natives, particularly in the scientific context. Although the printed word is not in any immediate danger of extinction, Prensky argues convincingly that we are dealing with a far-reaching discontinuity and not just a generational shift. Think, for example, how much more at ease digital natives are with collaborative and group working (read Prensky at <http://tinyurl.com/ypgvf> .)

### *Access*

The library is no longer necessarily a place. Reliable dial-up, broadband, internet cafés, wireless and blackberry-type mobile phones

have progressively expanded information access to the point where city dwellers are rarely more than five minutes' walk from mailbox and search engine. As librarians, our place at the physical heart of our institution may be in terminal decline, but our reach has expanded beyond any previous expectation. The resources we manage are already in laboratories and offices, homes and cafés, parks and gardens. Increasingly they are also to be found in wards and surgeries, pockets and handbags, corridors and office kitchens. Information access and conversations are no longer something to be planned for and timetabled. They are an unremarked utility, as much a part of our workaday infrastructure as heat, light, water and shelter.

### **Internal changes**

Even digital immigrants of mature years, such as your authors, can internalise the individual implications of these changes, and adapt accordingly the way we live our working and social lives. The profound structural implications will take longer to show themselves, and as a profession we need to begin to adapt appropriately or the information profession will decline as surely as did the travelling companies of ventriloquists, magicians, acrobats and singers when cinema and television became ubiquitous.

Many of our traditional skills and activities are no longer relevant in the electronic world. A couple of examples:

- many of the particular skills we have evolved to search collections of paper documents will no longer be needed by any but a small minority of researchers (and those librarians who provide for their needs);

- it may well be that the need for collection development work will decline drastically. One of the elements still missing from the our brave new world is a business model for e-resources that matches the way they are supplied and used rather than they way they are packaged and marketed – i.e. as an integrated database rather than as a collection of discrete and distinct products. Big Deals were the first faltering step in this direction but the current mismatch between space age products and the stone age business plan is surely unsustainable – we need a new model which reflects the nature of the web;
- we have developed processes and procedures, often of spectacular complexity, to ration access to scarce resources fairly. There is no scarcity with ejournals and hundreds of students and researchers can access the same *NEJM* article simultaneously without any civil unrest or danger to the fabric of the library;
- cataloguing as your authors were taught it, has surely now passed into history for all but the most specialist applications.

The pace and depth of change in libraries and information services will accelerate further. Our relationship to our premises will adapt as technology changes the geography of our user base from homeland to diaspora. The first stirrings of this change are already evident in our evolving attitudes to behaviour and (shudder) catering inside the library. We are also seeing the beginning of a systematic embedding of information professionals in the everyday working environments of those we serve: with clinical librarians and informationists our profession is beginning to follow information access out into the wider world.

The electronic revolution will certainly require a reduction in the number of less expensive staff for managing stock acquisition, issue, return. We take for granted the Byzantine complexity of many of these processes, but outsiders find our ability to devise and implement them one of the remarkable (though not necessarily admirable) aspects of what we do. With this change, we will also have less need to develop the special skills needed to manage significant-sized teams of paraprofessionals.

Many of the general implications of current trends for information services have already been mentioned. But alongside the savings in routine work it seems very likely that the diversity of information resources and the loss of a corporate centre for information consultation will both require more rather than fewer skilled professional staff. These customer-facing and alert professionals will be essential to ensure that the information activities of researchers, practitioners and students are informed and efficient; that where necessary specialist information practitioners can intervene in the process to save time and money; and that, above everything, the results of information seeking are of high quality and reflect the totality of published knowledge and not some strange, warped subset.

### **Conclusion**

Most of our users think that all the web's information resources are free as air, including those we provide for them at huge expense to our institutions. Our profession has a very great deal of work to do to correct this misapprehension, and in particular to gain a broad acceptance that information quality has as much importance to the outcome of research and clinical practice as other major support components. Our customers' personal experience of LIS delivery is important, as is

general advocacy, but crucial to this effort will be the development and maintenance of an effective evidence base showing the benefits and cost-effectiveness of good information management and of the staff who deliver it.

We live in an increasingly number-driven world, and one in which intermediaries of all kinds are under pressure to justify their existence (when was the last time you booked a flight through a travel agent?). The danger signs are there to be seen. At least one of the major publishers has a project group working on ways to develop models for selling information resources direct to researchers and doctors, and there is an increasing move towards the centralisation and

aggregation of licensing for e-resources in a way that bypasses our profession.

The information professional is the very essence of an intermediary, and if we secure the future that our skills deserve, we have to be able to demonstrate to sceptical audiences that we add more real, quantifiable value to the process than we take out in real, quantifiable costs. Our users are developing an almost religious faith in the web, many of them happy to accept it as omni-present, omniscient and infallible. Omni-present it might be, omniscient it might become in the course of time, but infallible it will never be — and it is up to us to make sure that our users never forget it.



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# Professional development for the future: SLA – an international organization supporting information professionals in specialized sectors such as healthcare



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### Abstract

*The activities and benefits of membership in the Special Libraries Association (SLA) are reviewed with a focus on areas of interest to European health information professionals. This international organization founded in 1909 supports information professionals and their strategic partners through learning, professional development, advocacy and networking initiatives. One of the strengths of SLA is the broad scope of its membership represented by its 24 subject divisions and 59 regional chapters. After providing a brief overview of the organization overall, this article provides details on SLA Europe, the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division, the Pharmaceutical and Health Technology Division as well as the personal accounts of how the authors came to be members of SLA.*

*Key words:* professional associations; professional development; careers; training; networking; information professionals; research support; Europe.

### Introduction

On a recent trip to Rome Ann Cullen had the opportunity to meet Federica Napolitani Cheyne from the Istituto Superiore di Sanità over lunch. This lunch was part of a visit she had scheduled with Jane Wu, Chief Librarian of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, to whom she had reached out as a fellow member of the Special Libraries Association (SLA). In the midst of the lunch, Federica, who is member of the Editorial Board of *JEAHIL*, suggested writing an article about SLA for this journal. This is how this article came into being. We will first provide a broad overview of what SLA does

and then spend the remaining part of the article focusing on the activities of this association that would be of most interest to health information professionals in Europe.

### Overview and background on the SLA organization

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) was founded in 1909 with a membership comprised of professionals in “library service geared to meet the needs of specialized situations (1)”. Initially a US focused organization; its first meeting had 40 members in attendance. It is now an international association with membership of



over 12,000 representing the interests of information professionals and their strategic partners in over eighty countries worldwide. The mission of SLA is to promote and strengthen its members through learning, advocacy, and networking initiatives (2).

SLA members have a diverse scope of subject expertise. As a means to support members' regional and subject matter needs, SLA has 24 subject Divisions and 59 regional Chapters. Each Division and Chapter has their own newsletters, publications and meetings, and are where many of the activities of SLA members occur. The major event of the SLA organization is the annual conference, the key programming and networking event of the association. Typically drawing 5,000-6,000 people, past conferences have included keynotes from such luminaries as environmentalist and former US vice president Al Gore and management "gurus" Peter Drucker and Gary Hamel. Conference programs cover a diverse range of topics given SLA's broad membership scope. For an idea of the types of programming offered we encourage you to visit the website for the upcoming SLA conference in Seattle, Washington at <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2008/index.cfm>. The main monthly publication of the organization is called "Information Outlook". Each issue contains stories on the activities of members and features the latest topics of interest to them. Recent issues have covered articles on marketing information services, knowledge management, commentary on the latest search technologies and detailed resource reviews and comparisons.

SLA membership offers a number of opportunities for networking, professional development and training. These include:

- Click University (ClickU);
- Continuing Education courses at the annual conference;
- Scholarships and Grants;
- Local Chapter and Annual Conference events;
- An Online Membership Directory;
- Job Postings and Career Advisory Resources;
- Consultation Services advising on information infrastructure support.

### *Click University (ClickU) and Continuing Education Offerings*

"SLA is the only organization in the world with an online professional development program dedicated to keeping library and information specialists on the cutting edge"(3). This online service called "Click University" or ClickU is the self-directed learning portal of SLA. With more than 300 courses, "classes may be taken individually; through a group purchased site; or on a more structured, multi-week schedule"(3). Just initiated a few years ago, courses such as the Competitive Intelligence Certificate Program have already been getting excellent reviews from participants (4). For more information on all its offerings see the ClickU website at - <http://sla.learn.com>.

SLA also provides a series of in-person continuing education half and full-day courses as part of its annual conference. This year some of the courses include:

- Diving into Patents: A Primer for Librarians;
- Creating a Brand Identity to Market Information Services;
- Basic Strategic Planning for the Information Center;
- Researching Companies Globally: Methods, Sources and Solutions;

- Science Information Literacy for Non-Scientists;
- Purchasing E-Content: From Negotiation to Allocation;
- From Content to Context: Making Knowledge Management Effective;
- Digitization Essentials;
- Ontologies: What Should Librarians Know?
- Six Degrees of Separation: Mining Social Networks for News Research.

#### *Information Professional Advocacy*

SLA is a strong advocate for the information profession, “building partnerships and communicating the industry’s message to influential audiences in many countries”(3). One useful resource available at the association’s website is the “Resources for Employers” (5) page. This provides a compelling explanation of the types of services information professionals provide and why organizations should consider having an information function.

#### **SLA Chapters**

There are 59 regional Chapters covering geographic areas mainly in the United States and Canada. The regions covered by Chapters outside North America include: Asia, Australia and New Zealand, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Chapter of most interest to readers of this journal would most likely be the European Chapter called “SLA Europe”.

*SLA Europe: the European Chapter of the SLA organization (<http://www.sla-europe.org/>)*

SLA Europe has existed for 25 years and has recently seen a lot of growth in membership with the increasing enthusiasm in Europe for information specialists to work together. SLA Europe offers a direct link to an active network of information professionals in Europe. Many of

the in-person networking events for the chapter are in the UK but recently there have been some in other European countries as well. SLA Europe has a very active listserv drawing participation from its broad membership. It is fascinating to see a difficult research question appear on the list from an information professional in one country that is then answered by someone in another. The Chapter also puts out a quarterly newsletter highlighting European member activities. This research and networking support throughout Europe is certainly one very valuable aspect of membership in this Chapter. SLA Europe offers two awards for its regional members: a Student Travel Award that funds four students to attend the annual SLA conference and the SLA Europe Information Professional award recognizing outstanding achievement in the information profession by those living and working in Europe (6).

#### **SLA Divisions**

SLA has 24 subject Divisions. Each concentrates on information activities in a certain field providing a forum for networking between members with similar concerns. Members are welcome to join as many Divisions as they wish. Here is a list of all the SLA Divisions to give an idea of broad range of subject and functional areas covered:

- Advertising & Marketing;
- Biomedical & Life Sciences;
- Business & Finance;
- Chemistry;
- Competitive Intelligence;
- Education;
- Engineering;
- Environment & Resource Management;
- Food, Agriculture & Nutrition;
- Government Information;
- Information Technology;
- Insurance & Employee Benefits;

- Leadership and Management Division - serves as a forum for the exchange of knowledge on the theory and application of management and leadership techniques in special libraries;
- Legal;
- Military Libraries;
- Museums, Arts & Humanities;
- News - news and media organizations;
- Petroleum & Energy Resources;
- Pharmaceutical & Health Technology;
- Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics;
- Science-Technology - all areas of science and technology, including computing;
- Social Science - social sciences information and research;
- Solo Librarians - information managers without professional peers in the same organization;
- Transportation.

### Scope and activities of the Divisions in SLA focused on the health sector

SLA offers two subject Divisions of particular interest to information professionals in the health sector, the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division and the Pharmaceutical and Health Technology Division. In this article we will provide a detailed review of the offerings of these two Divisions but it is worth noting that some of the other Divisions that also may be of interest to health/medical information specialists include the Chemistry Division, the Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Division and the Social Science Division.

#### *Biomedical and Life Sciences Division (DBIO)* (<http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/>)

This Division was started nearly simultaneously in 1934 by medical librarians in New York and biology librarians in Boston. The scope of DBIO is very broad, encompassing all aspects, pure and applied, of life sciences: from humans to animals to plants; from botany to microbiology

to zoology. The Medical Section (7) of DBIO was started in 1996 and concentrates more specifically on health science information.

Resources offered by this Division include:

- Biofeedback (8) – This newsletter is published online four times a year and features product reviews and book reviews, as well as news of publications and accomplishments of fellow members;
- DBIO Email Discussion List (9) – This list offers members a way to exchange information on a wide range of topics. Some recent conversation threads discussed medical dictionary software, journal impact factors, dental and veterinary drug sales information, and search strategies for finding reports of interim data analyses. There are also announcements of new resources, such as a recent post about a database of field guides for biologists;
- DBIO Blog (10) - This blog is yet another forum for dissemination of information and opinion for biomedical and life science librarians and information specialists provided by the Division.

#### *Pharmaceutical and Health Technology (P&HT)* (<http://units.sla.org/division/dpht/>)

This Division started out in 1947 as a section of the Sci-Tech Division and later splintered off as a separate SLA Division. P&HT provides a forum for information professionals in pharmaceutical, biomedical, biotechnical, cosmetic, medical device, and other health care fields. The Division is involved in all aspects of information science, as related to education, research, business and marketing in the health care field.

One unique feature of this Division is its spring meeting, attended by members from all over the

world. Unlike the more general association-wide annual meeting, the P&HT Spring Meeting (11) is entirely focused on issues of specific interest to its members. The meeting features two full days of keynote speakers, vendor panels, and presentations on topics that have been suggested by members themselves. The meeting is a wonderful opportunity for members to meet face-to-face with the many people with whom they may have already established e-mail and/or phone relationships.

Other resources offered by this division include:

- CapLits (12) – This P&HT bulletin is published three times a year. One issue is usually devoted to reports on the programs presented by the Division at the Annual Conference, and one issue reports on the Spring Meeting. Book reviews and tips gleaned from the discussion list also appear frequently in the bulletin;
- P&HT Discussion List (13) – Like other division listservs, this is a rich source of advice on resources, vendors, search strategies, government regulations, and clinical trial data, just to name a few.

### **Personal experiences – Why did we join SLA?**

Ann joined SLA in 1990 after graduating from Columbia University with a Masters in Library Science and attended her first conference in 1997. Prior to her first conference she just attended New York City Chapter events. She has found membership invaluable as a means to stay up to date with the latest trends, network and for career development support. In terms of career development Ann credits several of her jobs to contacts she made at SLA. Ann started out her library career at Columbia University and then spent a number of years working in financial firm research libraries. Five years ago she returned to working in academia at the Harvard Business School. Given that most of Ann's work has been in business libraries in the private and public sector, the division she has been most active in is

the Business and Finance Division. She has found it invaluable in helping her stay up to date in her subject field and helped her identify people to reach out to when she needed assistance with difficult research requests or other information projects she was working on such as evaluating service providers. In this regard she has found the Business and Finance Division's listserv tremendously useful. For more information on the Business and Finance Division, see their website at <http://units.sla.org/division/dbf/>. She is currently serving SLA as a Director on the Business and Finance Division's Board.

Judy Blaine joined SLA as a student at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS). While studying at Simmons, she visited several types of special libraries as a participant in Boston Chapter's popular "Day on the Job" program. She attended her first SLA Annual Conference in 1991 in San Antonio, as winner of that year's Boston Chapter student travel stipend. After a brief position at an academic library, Judy moved to solo positions: first in biotech/pharmaceutical companies where she established and then managed their information services /libraries. She could not have done it without the wealth of expertise, advice, and friendship freely dispensed by members of SLA's Divisions, particularly the Pharmaceutical and Health Technologies, and the Solo Librarians Divisions. She is currently at a non-profit health and environment research institute, discovering the resources available from still more divisions. She is currently Chair-Elect for the Pharmaceutical and Health Technology Division and Secretary for the Boston Chapter.

### **Conclusion: How the networking opportunities available through SLA can help support information professionals as they face the future**

One real benefit of SLA membership is its broad scope in supporting information professionals in

so many fields. Through their SLA connections, members can get subject support from so many disciplines. This diverse expertise is even evident in this article's co-authors. Had SLA not covered such a broad scope of fields, given their very different professional backgrounds, it is unlikely that they would have met one another to collaborate on this article. This is the real strength of SLA. There will continually be new

challenges that information professionals face from many different directions. The broad scope of diverse functional, regional and subject specific opportunities offered by SLA, all within the scope of the information professional sector, gives members what they need to face the future with the knowledge, skills and expertise to assure success.

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# Libraries undergo a health check: a review of the Cardiff University and All-Wales health library services



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### Abstract

*A review of the health libraries at Cardiff University library was undertaken in 2007. The health libraries offer a diverse range of services to users within the University and at partner institutions around Wales. This diversity requires that equity of access to library services and resources across all user groups and locations be ensured, deliverable both on site and remotely from high quality physical environments which befit an institution with world-leading aspirations. Following consultation with all major stakeholders a series of recommendations is put forward by the review, designed to take the health libraries successfully into the future.*

*Key words:* libraries, medical; library services; health care; quality assurance; Wales.

*A nursing student at Cardiff University, Susan is coming to the end of a four-week placement 150 miles away at Wrexham Maelor Hospital. Today she has observed a new procedure which she wants to read about, and a visit to the hospital library at the end of her shift leads her to a book she is allowed to borrow on the subject, using her Cardiff University library card. Whilst at the library she is able to log into a hospital NHS Trust computer with her University password. This single login lets her access Cardiff's portal where she can electronically submit the first draft of a report on her placement, chat to other students on her course who are on other placements around Wales, access the University's electronic journals for her assignments, and also check the times of her*

*lectures for next week when she is back at Cardiff. This is Sarah's third placement away from University and the hospital library in each location is always an important place to study and keep in touch...*

### Introduction

Cardiff University's health library service consists of seven libraries which serve staff and students of the University, as well as clinicians in two local NHS Trusts. Funded by the Higher Education Council for Wales, the local NHS Trusts, health charities and the Welsh Assembly Government, the libraries employ 27.5 FTE staff including a professional Librarian / Manager at each site. The service founded the Support Unit for Research Evidence (SURE) in 2000 to assist with and

undertake research in support of evidence-based practice and policy, both within Cardiff University and for projects relating to external public bodies such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Cochrane Collaboration. The University health libraries also play a lead role in the All Wales Health Information and Library Extension Service (AWHILES) which is a partnership with 21 NHS libraries throughout Wales, plus the National Public Health Service Library (Figure 1). AWHILES, first established in 1972 as an inter-lending scheme, now undertakes to offer wider library support to Cardiff University healthcare students on clinical placements around the country, training grade doctors and dentists and also those clinicians who teach or supervise healthcare trainees while on placements in the Trusts. As part of the regular quality

assessment of all placement locations around Wales carried out by the Postgraduate Deanery and the Undergraduate Medical School at Cardiff, each AWHILES library is visited annually by the University Librarian or her deputy to ensure minimum standards are met.

**Rationale for the review of health libraries**

Cardiff University undertook a review of health library services in 2007, entailing a comprehensive investigation of the current service at the 7 University libraries in Cardiff and also the 21 NHS libraries around Wales. Key aims of the review were to document and assess the need to update the physical health library services on the University campus, to develop further the links with the NHS libraries around Wales through improved access to electronic information “anywhere, anytime” and, through enhancement of quality

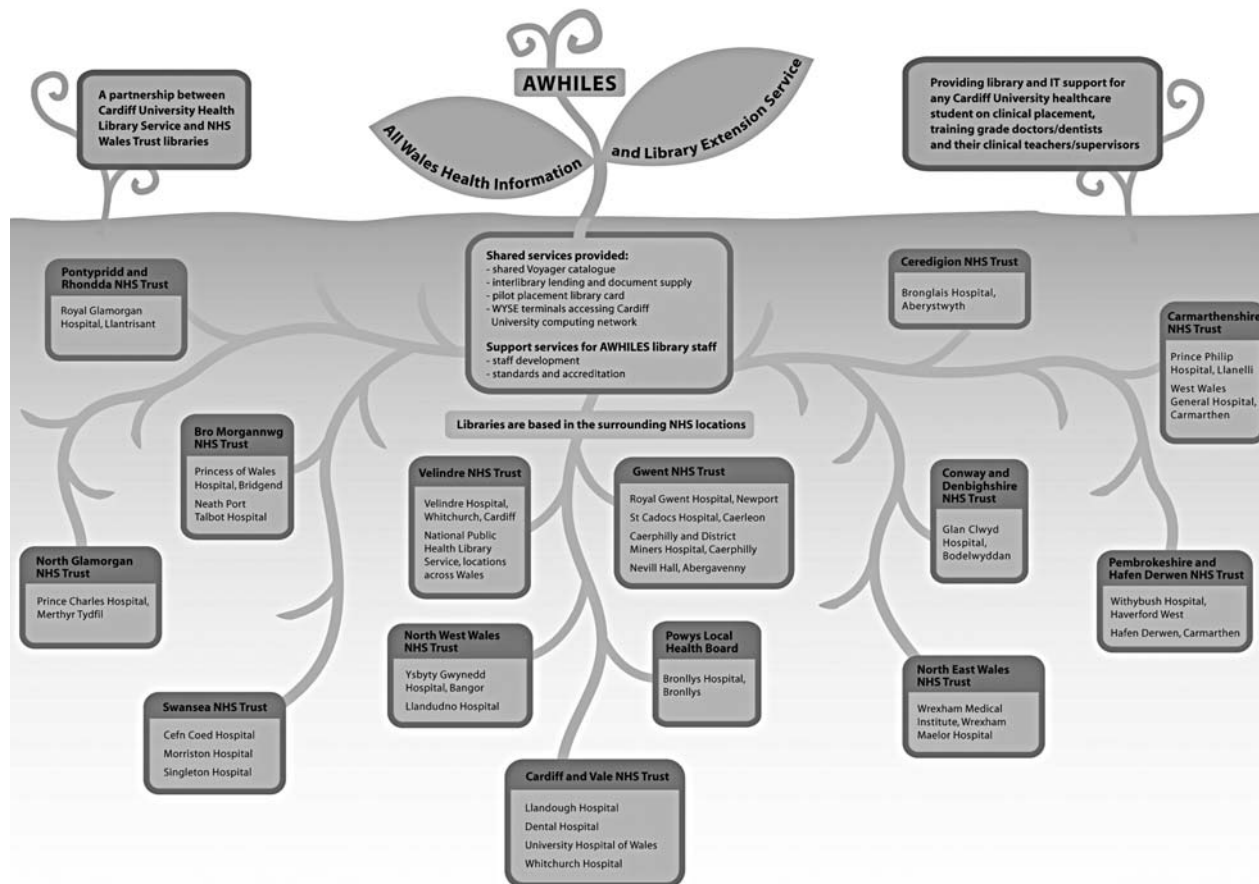


Fig. 1. Illustration of the All Wales Health Information and Library Extension Service (AWHILES) as at January 2008. Designed by Esther KilBride, Nursing & Healthcare Studies Library, Cardiff University.

assurance measures, to standardise the level of service users can expect, regardless of location. The review of health library services builds on an earlier review in 2004/5 of Cardiff University library services primarily for non-healthcare Academic Schools. At the time of this earlier review Cardiff University was in the process of merging with the former University of Wales College of Medicine which was to bring five new healthcare Schools into the University. It was thus recognised at the time of the first review that a second review would be required to address the specific circumstances of the new Schools.

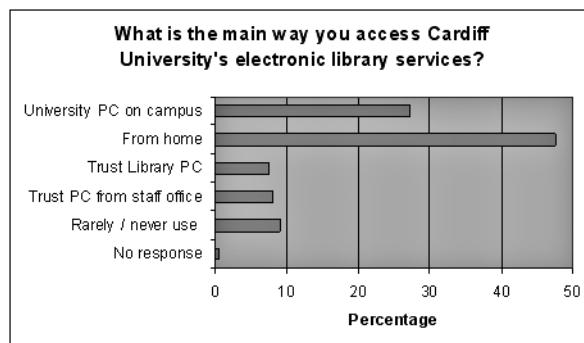
**Process of the review**

To undertake the review of this diverse and geographically dispersed service, a Review Group was established, chaired by Professor Simon Smail CBE, former Dean of the Postgraduate School of Medical and Dental Education. Dr Judith Palmer (Keeper of Scientific Books at the University of Oxford, until December 2007), was appointed as external advisor to the review. Other members included the University Pro Vice Chancellor for Health, senior figures from each of the Health Schools, the University Librarian and several of the Health Librarians, a University Estates Division representative, plus a representative from each of the two local NHS Trusts and a Librarian representative of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales.

The work of the group began with a series of stakeholder consultations to involve the key parties in discussions and draw out the issues relating to library and information services provided by the University and its NHS partners. Review group members were met individually by the Chair, who also met with the AWHILES librarians from around Wales at their annual conference and with groups of students from the various Schools within Cardiff and elsewhere in Wales on placements. Externally, consultations were held with the Chief Medical Officer for Wales to take into account the

health-related priorities of the Welsh Assembly Government (which is a major funder of the health library service), and with the Head of the NHS (England) Library for Health to compare provision with that in England. Representatives of the NHS Wales e-library group and Value Wales (a body which supports value for money procurement within the public sector in Wales) were consulted to discuss maximisation of the use of e-resources in health education and practice, particularly in the context of promoting joint procurement of e-journals between the NHS and the academic sector.

An online survey of all health library users was carried out to consult on issues such as preferred usage patterns of library resources (including on-site versus remote access to electronic resources (*Figure 2*), views on services offered at placement libraries around the country and opinions about the current physical library environments within the University. Comments such as *the computers are never available and there is very little workspace available and the library provides an alternative place which is often more conducive for reading / thinking than sitting in a shared office*, have helped determine the type of modern library facility which is required for the future. The survey was also helpful in highlighting levels of awareness of some of the services offered by the libraries; it was apparent that further promotion and training in relation to the use of some services was needed.



**Fig. 2.** Chart indicating survey respondents' strong preference for accessing the University's electronic library services remotely from home.



A literature review was undertaken by a member of the review group to identify broad trends and best practice in health library service provision. Issues highlighted included the complex nature of funding streams in NHS and health-related HE libraries, the inequity of access to (particularly electronic) information between different user groups, difficulties surrounding incompatibility of IT infrastructures and confusion over access rights to information. Many of the themes were echoed in a PEST analysis undertaken by the review group, while SWOT analyses by Cardiff health librarians and by delegates at the 2007 AWHILES conference gave a more detailed, specific picture of the issues facing health libraries in the University and the NHS Trusts in Wales.

The report was published in January 2008 as a consultation document and approval is now being sought from key University committees. The next stage will be to integrate the outcomes of the review into the first phase of the Library Review undertaken in 2004/5 to form a single cohesive strategy for the future of the University Library Service. Implementation of the recommendations which are specific to this second, health library-focused phase of the review, will be carried out by a new implementation group to be convened later this year.

*... Back at Cardiff after her placement, Susan goes to the new health library after the morning's lectures. She meets her friends in the atrium by the fountain and they spend half an hour relaxing over lunch together before heading upstairs to use a group study room which Susan had booked online last night. The sound-proofed room is equipped with wheeled, movable furniture which can easily be arranged into a variety of configurations. The room's IT facilities include a PC with a large swivel screen they can all see easily and projection equipment so the group can practise their presentation. There is also ample space to spread out the print materials they need to*

*consult whilst they are working. Online clinical digests of current health issues produced by library staff are invaluable for their research as they prepare for tomorrow's class. On their way out, they spot their lecturer coming from a teaching session in a library seminar room so they ask him for advice about a question relating to the presentation. Later Susan leaves her friends and goes to the quiet study area where she can plug in her laptop and catch up on another assignment before the afternoon's session in the simulated operating theatre...*

### **Vision for the future**

In drawing up recommendations for the library service it was clear that the information needs of a number of user groups would need to be incorporated: students and staff of the University (who may be based on campus in Cardiff or in placements at hospitals around Wales), clinicians and healthcare workers in the NHS Trusts (who may also fulfil University teaching roles), and training grade doctors and dentists who may be based anywhere in the country. The recommendations made by the Review Group offer a blueprint for an innovative, user-focused, evidence-based health information service for Wales for the future. This will foster the already-established links between the academic and NHS sectors and ultimately improve patient care. It is perhaps no coincidence that the recently-published *Report of a National Review of NHS Health Library Services in England* makes very similar recommendations and some joint working on the outcomes may be possible. Within Cardiff a Partnership Board is already in existence between the University and the local Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust and this is seen as key to taking the recommendations forward.

### **The recommendations**

#### *Buildings / physical environment*

It is recognised that parts of the current University health library estate are inadequate

in terms of space, quality and potential for redevelopment. Whilst there is a clear move towards remote, electronic access to resources, it is strongly felt by all stakeholders that there remains a need for centrally-located physical facilities to offer welcoming, flexible social learning space and access to the core print texts and key journals which are still in high demand. Spaces for researchers and spaces to provide access to, and instruction in the use of, electronic resources are also needed, in IT facilities and teaching spaces which could be shared with the academic departments served. Whilst views from the user survey were mixed in relation to the possibility of consolidating some library sites and hence moving them out of the immediate teaching and clinical areas they serve, the Review Group felt that a new consolidated facility in a closely neighbouring building would enable desired enhancements to be implemented such as longer opening hours and zoned space to provide individual (silent), group (discussion) and teaching areas. It is thus anticipated that the two largest libraries, serving the major user groups on the Cardiff University hospital campus, will be brought together in a new joint facility. Remote access to electronic resources will be enhanced for clinicians working within the hospital so they can access required research directly from their place of work. Some separate University libraries will be retained at outlying hospital sites and a library in the Dental School within the Dental Hospital will also be retained.

#### *IT harmonisation*

Issues of speed and equity of access to IT facilities and the related ease of access to electronic resources via these facilities were found to be paramount. These arise mainly from the fact that the University and the NHS operate separate computer networks. Prior to the review the two networks were mutually exclusive, requiring Trust staff eligible to access University resources to remember multiple passwords and sometimes even to

have two separate PCs in their offices, one Trust and one University, to be able to access the different resources they were entitled to use via each service. Similarly, University library staff wishing to help Trust staff with enquiries were unable to access the same sets of resources as the Trust visitors to the library. Each library presently also needs to maintain dedicated PCs for Trust staff to log in and access Trust-only resources. Recommendations are to work towards resolving these issues by ensuring all access entitlements to electronic journals and other resources are deliverable from any PC (Trust- or University-based), while retaining necessary levels of security. External bodies will be involved in improving internet connection speeds and bandwidth on Trust networks, while increased training and awareness of available resources will be promoted to library users. Significant overlap in electronic resource procurement between the NHS, the Trusts and the University is an issue to be addressed. This is also experienced in England, where there is already an encouraging precedent for joint-procurement between NHS and Higher Education in parts of London.

#### *Staff development and quality assurance*

New challenges in the future will call for differing and enhanced skill sets as librarians move further into educational roles and the technology-rich e-learning solutions which underpin them. Advocacy and marketing of the role of librarians need to be promoted to ensure that librarians are adequately represented at the highest level in the management structures of the organisations they serve. This is vital to ensure that planning and service development within the libraries support pedagogic advances in the health sector and so that librarians can influence and drive forward developments in education, based on their own skills and experience. It is also crucial that users are fully aware of the wide range of facilities available to them. To these ends it is recommended that training and development

for librarians, within Cardiff University and throughout the AWHILES network, be accelerated in areas such as leadership, marketing, teaching and integration of e-resources into e-learning programmes. Such training and development of library staff will also equip librarians better to develop new innovative services to support clinical activity, teaching and research. To enhance the library service's contribution to research locally and nationally there is a recommendation to use the expertise in the already-established SURE unit to develop a full pilot clinical librarian service, rolling out systematic review and clinical digest services to a wider audience. It is also recommended that work be undertaken with other health information and library services in Wales to find ways in which the University Library Service could contribute to a unified public health information system.

Quality assurance will be enhanced by a recommendation that the University Library Service and AWHILES libraries, in consultation with the Postgraduate Deanery, identify sets of standards for library provision to ensure a consistent level of service across Wales. With libraries of differing sizes, financial means and staffing levels, this will present challenges but the diversity of the service is a strong motivation for putting such standards in place.

### *Funding*

The final area of concern in the review's recommendations is that of funding. Besides investigating the means of financing a new library for the University on the health campus, solutions are also sought to standardise the currently often complex funding streams for all the AWHILES libraries around the country to ensure equity of service provision for placement students and trainee health professionals wherever they are based.

### **Conclusion**

Many of the outcomes of the review have been designated "short term" and should be achievable within the next three years, including roll-outs of enhanced training for library staff and users and the fostering of existing links with the NHS to harmonise IT access between HE and the NHS. Others, such as physical estate, may take longer to progress in view of the need to secure approval and funding. The review process has identified a large range of strengths in the library service, not least the dedication of staff to providing an exemplary service to their users as evidenced in the results of the survey. The stakeholder meetings, meanwhile, have uncovered real enthusiasm to take collaboration to new levels in order to overcome current inefficiencies that have been identified. In short, the Health Library Review has given us a blueprint to inspire our staff to deliver an even better evidence-based information service for the future.

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# Medical terminology in Hungary



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## Abstract

*Only a mere 15 million people speak the Hungarian language. For this reason, it may appear bold to write about the topic mentioned in the title using only Hungarian medical terminology, and the closely related journals written and presented in solely Hungarian. However, this might be useful in view of a possible comparison between medical terminologies in other countries. How Hungarian medical terminology developed and its use in modern day Hungarian language will be discussed.*

*Key words:* terminology; medical journalism.

## Introduction

Terminology is the collection of phrases and words based on specific fields of knowledge, and used in everyday conversation. Knowledge is an acquired cognisance presented in an orderly format. The connection between the two is guaranteed by the exchange of information and can be as varied as the many types of passing information in existence. The medical journal, as a result of its regular publication, its pertinence, and its subject matter is the most recent and the most important carrier of research information; therefore, the most effective information distributor. It is beneficial to page through the first issues of each journal as prefaces often reflect the intentions of the writer or publisher. It informs the reader of the purpose of the journal, those topics which are most typical and as a result, we get a picture of the terminology used in the journal.

The current Hungarian medical terminology and the Hungarian medical journals appeared simultaneously. In fact, we can say that the main purpose of the Hungarian medical journal was to put Hungarian medical terminology into use and make people aware of Hungarian medical terminology as quickly as possible. A fully detailed history of this topic is not possible in such a small space; however, we will mention some of the relevant facts, which together played an important role in the initiation of Hungarian medical journals at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century:

- the changes in society which resulted in the development of Hungarian medical terminology came about in the 18<sup>th</sup> century;

- poor Hungarian public health and the determination to bring about change;
- the social circumstances of the inhabitants, the need to fight against poverty, health ignorance;
- Hungarian medical teaching was performed in some places in Latin, others in German, and only sporadically in Hungarian;
- for the few number of doctors practicing at long distances from each other a doctors' society was organized;
- Hungarian political circumstances in that era.

According to general opinion, three medical journals are known to have had the greatest influence on the development of Hungarian medical terminology. The importance of their efforts towards the formation and development of medical terminology has been established.

The *Orvosi, és Gazdasági Tudósítások (Medical and Economical Reports)* edited by József Sándorffi (1767-1824) was published in 1803. Until then, as a result of the lack of medical journals written in Hungarian, Hungarian doctors' publications were found only in multi specialized, informative, and academic journals. Sándorffi wished to inform his readers weekly of the newest medical research, news, and results. He meant the journal not only for researchers, but also for the general public. The subjects of the publications ranged from the smallpox vaccination to the prevention of foot and mouth disease, from the (at that time popular) blood-letting to the lifestyle of expectant mothers. Only a few issues of this journal are still in existence. However, this title is worth mentioning because the editor used, for the first time, such Hungarian medical terminology that could be understood by both professionals and laymen alike.

Between 1831 and 1848 the *Orvosi Tár (Medical Showcase)* attempted to provide a professional forum on behalf of all doctors. Its editors and publishers were Pál Bugát (1793-1865) and Ferencz Schedel (1805-1875). The aim of the journal, its objectives, and a review of its contents were drafted by the editors in the preface, called *Vezérszó*, which appeared in the first edition. By including practicing doctors and medical academic staff from the University of Pest, they attempted to introduce all specialties with regard to medical research in four columns. They promoted the formation and cultivation of the Hungarian medical language which they cared about deeply. They established a number of new words. Some were not rooted deep in the Hungarian language, while others are now still a part of medical terminology. The new Hungarian terminology created by them was introduced gradually in a way that the old terminology, the Latin, and the new terminology were used simultaneously. In addition to the new words, the Latin equivalent was indicated in brackets, as well. The expressions obtained as a result of this bilingual disclosure, were published in the issue called *Magyar-deák és deák-magyar orvosi szókönyv az Orvosi Tár 'első két évéhez, (Hungarian-Latin Dictionary to the Medical Showcase)*.

The June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1857 edition of "*Honi és külföldi gyógyászat és kórbuvarlat közlönye*" (*Hungarian and Foreign Medical and Etiopathological Bulletin*) published as *Orvosi Hetilap* attempted to "cultivate the entire medical field". Its founding father was Lajos Markusovszky (1815-1893), who established the Association of Hungarian Medical Publishers for the purpose of the further development and distribution of Hungarian medical terminology. The *Orvosi Hetilap (Medical Weekly)* is currently the sixth oldest medical journal (1) among the present

day published medical journals. It is preceded by journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, *Münchener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, *Nederland Tijdschrift voor Geneskunde*, and it was founded the same year as the *British Medical Journal*. Paging through the various issues of the journal, we can obtain a picture of the development of Hungarian medical terminology. The opinion stated in 1936 by the 4<sup>th</sup> Editor-in-Chief of the journal is still valid today: “Write in Hungarian. Therefore, if we write Hungarian and wrestle with the influence of our Latin education and our science’s foreign mostly Latin-Greek artificial words, it is not a rootless devastation, it is only thinning. It is our duty to express everything in Hungarian that can be expressed with acceptable Hungarian words.”

As we have already mentioned, Hungarian medical instruction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was in German or in Latin, and rarely in Hungarian. We can unequivocally state that the supporters and opposers of the use of the Hungarian medical language split the medical society in two. This disharmony is present in our current day medical terminology. Today’s medical terminology – although there is an official viewpoint- (the so called *Brencsán Medical*

*Dictionary* accepted by the Egészségügyi Tudományos Tanács in 1955 and reprinted in many editions) shows a varied picture. Our statement can be supported by countless examples, since many thousand articles and publications have been written in Hungarian in the medical field. By giving an example from the terminus technicus, which can be understood by medical colleagues, the confusion that this has created is clear. The Hungarian equivalent of pathology is *kórtan*; however, this expression is not used within modern Hungarian medicine due to its archaism. In publications, we find *pathologia*, *patológia*, and *patológia* instead. In our electronic world, where every character has a separate meaning, the search for the relevant information is of great concern for our librarians. Remaining with this example, librarians have to take all of its possible definitions into consideration when doing literature searches; therefore, the work is tripled or even quadrupled.

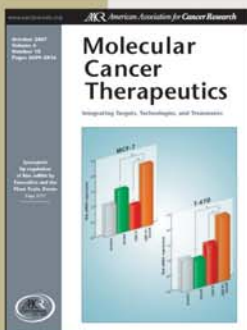
It would be interesting to research and compare the development and use of medical terminologies in other European countries, as demonstrated in the various national professional journals. Such a comparison might prove to be a useful basis for future publications on this topic.

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### Scientific Programme

#### Tuesday June 24

9.30 - 17.00 EAHIL Board Meeting

19.00 - 20.00 Concert at Church in the Rock (Tempeliaukio Church)

#### Wednesday June 25

10.00 - 12.00 Get together for EAHIL Conference First-timers

10.00 - 12.00 EAHIL SIG-Meetings

12.00 - 15.00 EAHIL Council Meeting | Meeting Rooms 22 - 23

#### 15.00 - 16.00 Opening Ceremony [Congress Hall A]

The 11th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Helsinki, Finland  
23rd - 28th June 2008

- 15.00 - 15.05  
**Merja Jauhiainen, Pirjo Rajakiili**  
Chair of LOC, Chair of IPC  
*Welcome to EAHIL Conference*
- 15.05 - 15.15  
**Suzanne Bakker**  
President of EAHIL  
*Welcome to EAHIL Conference*
- 15.15 - 15.30  
**Sari Sarkomaa**  
Minister of Education and Science  
*Opening Words of the EAHIL Conference*
- 15.30 - 16.00  
**Leena Peltonen-Palotie**  
Professor, Head of Human Genetics, Wellcome Trust, Sanger Institute, UK;  
Research director, Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland FIMM, University of Helsinki and  
National Public Health Institute, Finland  
*Opening Speech*

16.00 - 17.00 Opening of Exhibition and Poster Exhibition

18.00 - 19.30 Welcome Reception at the City Hall



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## Thursday June 26

### 9.00 - 10.00 Plenary Session I [Congress Hall A]

Chair: Suzanne Bakker, Netherlands

#### Anne Brice

NHS National Knowledge Service, Oxford, UK

Centre for Evidence Based Medicine, University of Oxford, UK

Working with uncertainty: the role of DUETs in harvesting what we don't know

#### Heather Todd

University of Queensland Library, Australia

Library spaces - new theatres of learning

### 10.00 - 10.30 Coffee

### 10.30 - 11.30 Parallel Session A

| A1 - Virtual communities and virtual libraries  | A2 - Health information policy - health promotion  | A3 - Education and professional development  |
|---|--|--|
| Congress Hall A   | Congress Hall B  | Meeting Rooms 22 - 23  |
| Chair: Françoise Pasleau, Belgium   | Chair: Anette Munthe, Norway   | Chair: Muriel Haire, Ireland   |
| <b>New tools for an old challenge: can a wiki help at a service desk</b><br>Isabelle de Kaenel (Switzerland)  | <b>From public library to patient's support library</b><br>Kerstin Wockatz (Sweden)  | <b>The library's role in a hospital-based HTA-centre - experiences from Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden</b><br>Therese Svanberg, Eva Alopaeus (Sweden) |
| <b>How wiki-intranet changes the internal communication?</b><br>Katja Hilska (Finland)                        | <b>Patient choice in health care: the library role</b><br>Janet Harrison, Natalie Matchett, Suzanne Lockyer, Claire Creaser (UK)   | <b>CERTIDOC: the European system of certification of libraries and information professionals</b><br>Eric Sutter (France)                                       |
| <b>Space up your library: social networks and libraries</b><br>A.J.P. van den Brekel (Guus) (The Netherlands) | <b>Libraries as a meeting place for health promotion: the experience of a collaboration with the Italian AIDS Help Line</b><br>Paola De Castro, Anna Maria Luzi, Anna Colucci, Luisa Marquardt, Anna Maria Rossi (Italy) | <b>The role of the librarian as a research collaborator</b><br>Fiona Brown, Marshall Dozier (UK)   |
|   | <b>Evidence-based healthcare - is it having an impact on clinical practice and patient care?</b><br>Olwen Beaven (UK)  |  |

### 11.30 - 12.30 Exhibition and Poster Session

### 12.30 - 14 Lunch

## 14.00 - 15.30 Parallel Session B

| B1 - Veterinary Session   | B2 - Public Health Session   | B3 - Virtual communities - Scholarly publishing   | B4 - Virtual communities - Changing roles, transferring skills  |
|---|--|---|---|
| Meeting Room 21   | Meeting Rooms 22 - 23  | Congress Hall A   | Congress Hall B   |
| Chair: Friedhelm Rump, Germany  | Chair: Päivi Pekkarinen, Finland   | Chair: Benoit Thirion, France   | Chair: Tuulevi Ovaska, Finland  |
| Scientific libraries and publishing communities dealing with new consumer's information needs in nutrition and food safety<br>Luisa Fruttini, Raoul Ciappelloni (Italy)                           | Supporting government initiatives to promote evidence based policy and practice in public health: the role of Information Research Bulletins<br>Sue Thomas (UK)              | Promoting scholarly publishing through libraries<br>Jukka Englund (Finland)   | Merging academic libraries: an opportunity for a face-lift?<br>Nancy Durieux, Sandrine Vandenput, Christine Brouwir, Nicolas Faron, Francoise Pasleau (Belgium) |
| Research documentation - counting of the results<br>Kirsti Strengehagen (Norway)  | Applying the principles of EBM to public health - searching for public health evidence - the experience at NICE<br>Marion Spring, Marta Calonge-Contreras, Daniel Tuvey (UK) | The discipline makes the difference: impact of research results published in open access and non-open access journals<br>Elisabetta Poltronieri, Alessandro Giuliani, Antonella Mangone (Italy) | Job-sharing, flexible working and part-time librarianship: a new paradigm for the virtual age<br>Vicky Grant, Alison Little (UK)                                |
| Net the net generation!<br>Bea Winkler, Eva Orban (Hungary)   | Rural health information assessment in Romania<br>Catalin Baba, Gabriela Florescu, Emanuela Sirlincan (Romania)  | A role of value-added mediated search services in medical publishing: a case study<br>Jarmila Potomkova, Jiri Gallo (Czech Republic)  | Flexible working - the realities of being Elastagirl<br>Sam Martin (UK)   |
| Placing the academic library at the centre of veterinary PhD students' training<br>Christine Brouwir, Sandrine Vandenput, Michel Maas, Nancy Durieux, Nicolas Fairon, Francoise Pasleau (Belgium) | Continuing professional development in developing countries<br>Jean G. Shaw, Shane Godbolt (UK)  |   |   |

## 15.30 - Excursions to Libraries in the Helsinki Area

Friday 27 June

### 9.00 - 10.00 Plenary Session II [Congress Hall A]

Chair: Arne Jakobsson, Norway

**Oliver Obst**  
Medical Library, University and Regional Library, Muenster, Germany  
**Marketing of virtual services**

**Christine L Borgman**  
University of California, USA  
**The role of libraries in E-science**

### 10.00 - 10.30 Coffee



### 10.30 - 11.30 Parallel Session C

| C1 - Virtual communities - Collaborative practices  | C2 - Evidence-based practice 1  | C3 - Virtual communities - Value of library and information services   |
|---|---|--|
| Meeting Rooms 22 - 23   | Congress Hall B   | Congress Hall A  |
| Chair: Teodora Oker-Blom, Finland   | Chair: Meile Kretaviciene, Lithuania  | Chair: Iona Robu, Romania  |
| Library as presence: A true library without walls<br>Thomas L. Williams (Qatar)   | The role of the information service in developing and maintaining national guidelines programme<br>Maurella Della Seta, Rosaria Rosanna Cammarano (Italy) | Entrez - bridging the gap from PubMed to Bioinformatics - a case report<br>David Herron (Sweden)   |
| Medical virtual library (MEDVIK) - collaborative environment for innovative information services in Czech Republic<br>Filip Kriz, Ondrej Horsak, Lenka Maixnerova, Helena Bouzkova (Czech Republic) | Does collaboration improve health?<br>Lesley Sander, Mala Mann, Sara Hayes, Fiona Morgan, Hilary Kitcher, Ben Carter (UK)                                 | How do users formulate their queries? A morpho-syntactic analysis<br>Nicolas Fairon, Christine Brouwir, Nancy Durieux, Sandrine Vandenput, Francoise Pasleau (Belgium) |
| A consortium for health care related databases, full text journals and other electronic information resources prepares for the future<br>Jan Lindmark, Eva Alopaeus (Sweden)                        | Supporting evidence-based health in the county hospitals and the health care-educations<br>Karina Sjögren (Sweden)  | Implementing RefTracker - a case study<br>Sally Birch, Ellen N. Sayed, Bijan Esfahani (Qatar)  |

### 11.30 - 12.30 Sponsor Session [Congress Hall A]

### 12.30 - 14 Lunch

### 14.00 - 15.00 Parallel Session D

| D1 - Evidence-based practice 2   | D2 - Virtual communities - Changing library space   | D3 - New technologies and applications   |
|--|---|--|
| Congress Hall B  | Meeting Rooms 22 - 23   | Congress Hall A  |
| Chair: Eva Alopaeus, Sweden  | Chair: Paula Saraiva, Portugal  | Chair: Patricia Flor, Norway   |
| Clinical librarians as facilitators for an evidence-based nursing practice<br>Sylvia Määttä, Gudrun Wallmyr (Sweden)               | Changing physical library space - planning and design of new academic library<br>Leena Toivonen, Maarit Laskujärvi (Finland)                              | FeedNavigator - a medical current awareness service<br>Pasi Keski-Nisula (Finland)   |
| The role of the information specialist at the National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence (NICE)<br>Caroline Miller (UK)   | Learning resource centre model - 12 years of experience in transitional and developing economies<br>Irina Ibraghimova (Croatia), Irina Shumilova (Russia) | Cataloguing and displaying Web feeds in the French language health field<br>Gaétan Kerdelhué, Benoit Thirion, Badisse Dahamna, Stéfan Jacques Darmoni (France) |
| Three of your "five a day": a decade of development for librarians on an Evidence-Based Council<br>Alison Little, Vicky Grant (UK) | Experimenting with scientific information. The biomedical library as an information lab<br>Wouter Schallier (Belgium)                                     | OPAC 2.0: opportunities, implementation and analysis<br>Patrice Chalou, Emmanuel di Pretoro, Laurence Kohn (Belgium)   |

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee

15.30 - 16.30 Parallel Session E

| E1 - Virtual communities - Changing information services   | E2 - New technologies - Mobile applications  | E3 - Evidence-based practice 3  |
|--|--|---|
| Congress Hall A  | Meeting Rooms 22 - 23  | Congress Hall B   |
| Chair: Ulrich Korwitz, Germany   | Chair: Elisabeth Husem, Norway   | Chair: Carol Lefebvre, UK   |
| Electronic outreach breaks down barriers<br>Tatjana Petrinic,<br>Linda Atkinson (UK)   | Is there a mobile challenge for the libraries? - Mobile web 2.0 and the future of mobile access to content<br>Lars Iselid (Sweden) | Thesaurus support for quality health information searching on HealthInsite<br>Jill Buckley Smith (Australia)  |
| Making a virtue out of virtual communities: working electronically with an advisory panel of library users<br>Anne Collins, Isla Kuhn,<br>Peter Morgan (UK)                              | Change to a mobile environment: PDA reference services at the Library!<br>Paula Saraiva (Portugal)                                 | Finding toxicological databases: an approach for occupational health professionals<br>Irja Laamanen, Jos Verbeek,<br>Guiliano Franco, Marika Lehtola,<br>Marita Luotamo (Finland) |
| Experiences with a cross-country exploratory project to offer current awareness (alerting) services to oncology nurses<br>Ina Fourie (South Africa),<br>Suzanne Bakker (The Netherlands) | New challenges in medical library: From shelf to PDA<br>Angels Carles, Ana Castellano,<br>Fernando Guerrero (Spain)                | EMBASE dot com: strength and weaknesses; a comparison<br>Dieuwke L. Brand-de Heer,<br>Suzanne Bakker (The Netherlands)  |

19.00 - Gala Dinner at Kalastajatorppa

## Saturday 28 June

9.00 - 10.00 Plenary Session III [Congress Hall A]

Chair: Manuela Colombi, Italy

Eero Hyvönen  
Helsinki University of Technology, Finland  
HealthFinland - Finnish Health Information on the Semantic Web

Lotta Haglund  
Karolinska Institutet University Library, Sweden  
Implementing EBLIP to stimulate professional development

10.00 - 10.30 Coffee

10.30 - 11.30 Session F

F1 - New technologies - Web 2.0 [Congress Hall A]

Chair: Oliver Obst, Germany

How to use Web 2.0 technologies in you library instructions  
Dorine Kieft-Wondergem (The Netherlands)

The revolution of the Web 2.0 in the library and information services  
Giovanna F. Miranda, Francesca Gualtieri, Paolo Coccia (Italy)

Using your bite: a collaborative approach to evaluating improvement in information literacy skills using Web 2.0 technologies for dental and oral health students: a pilot study  
Nicola Foxlee, Pauline Ford (Australia)



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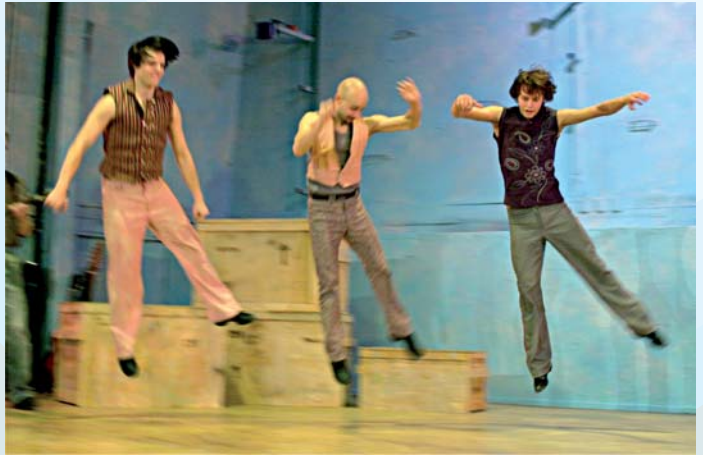
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## Conference Gala Dinner Highlight: Tsumi Dance Company

In the conference gala dinner Friday 27 June 19 pm at Kalastajatorppa (Kalastajatorpantie 1, Helsinki) you can enjoy a show by Tsumi Dance Company. Tsumi might be familiar to you from the Eurovision Song Contest 2007 in Helsinki. This is how the dance group describes themselves: *“Roots in tradition, head in clouds - Tradition lives, renews itself and prospers. However, it needs people to make it, cherish it and question it. Tsumi Dance Company from Helsinki gives the field of Finnish folk dance and music an airing, observes potential barriers and finds ways to overcome them. Tsumi brings dance traditions and the old tonal world to the present day - skill and competence combined with sensitivity and humour. The fiery Karelian temperament and the laconic western Finland meet in the heart of the city”*.

[www.tsumi.com/en](http://www.tsumi.com/en)



Tsumi Dance Company Picture (photo by Marko Mäkinen)

## Greetings from the CEC-working group

### Continuing Education Courses at EAHIL 2008 in Helsinki

Fourteen interesting CECs on a variety of subjects will be organized on Monday the 23rd and Tuesday the 24th of June, 2008, in Helsinki. On Monday there will be six courses in the Viikki Science Library on the Viikki Campus of the University of Helsinki, and on Tuesday eight courses in Terkko, the National Library of Health Sciences on Meilahti Campus of the University of Helsinki.

The CECs offer a wide variety of chances to professional development for everyone. There are courses for experienced librarians and information specialists as well as for beginners in the field, and also for the managers and leaders.

Eight courses will be held in PC-classrooms where you will have an opportunity to immediately practice your new skills on health2.0 and library2.0 or better Internet searching, and on searching databases like CAB abstracts, Cochrane Library, Global Health and Pharmaceutical Pipelines, or PubMed and other Entrez databases.

The six courses taking place in group study rooms will give you an excellent chance to learn about and discuss topics like progressive inquiry learning, supporting the evidence, becoming an evidence-based practitioner, practicing critical appraisal in a journal club, effective marketing, and strategic planning.

All but one of the courses last half a day (4 hours) so that you have an excellent chance to take more than one - even four! - CECs. The fees are very reasonable and the facilities convenient and modern. The teachers are enthusiastic and experienced. Some courses are already full, but you will still be able to choose from a variety of CECs according to your interests. For details and timetable, as well as registration, see the conference website [http://www.congreszon.fi/eahil\\_2008/](http://www.congreszon.fi/eahil_2008/).

Looking forward to seeing you in Helsinki, we wish you a very warm welcome to the courses and the conference!

Your CEC-working group,  
Tiina Heino, Ann Liljegren and Tuulevi Ovaska

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### Two international medical library partnerships



Silvia Ciubrei<sup>1</sup>



Diane Darrow<sup>2</sup>



Mark Darrow<sup>2</sup>



Donna Flake<sup>2</sup>



Velta Poznaka<sup>3</sup>

1) Scientific Medical Library, State Medical and Pharmaceutical University, “Nicolae Testemitanu”, Chisinau, Moldova.

2) SEAHEC \*, Wilmington, North Carolina, USA

3) Medical Library of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

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\* In January 2008, Coastal AHEC changed its name to SEAHEC

#### Abstract

*Partnerships between established medical libraries in different countries can be very successful. We describe the partnerships that have developed over a period of years between the SEAHEC Medical Library in Wilmington, North Carolina, and the Medical Library of Latvia, and more recently, the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova. The partnerships began very differently, and have contrasting administrative structures. This article reports the results of the partnerships which have been impressive, and have gone beyond original visions.*

*Key words:* libraries, medical; sister libraries; library partnerships; international cooperation.

Partnerships between established medical libraries and those in emerging former Soviet block nations can be fruitful and very successful. Below we describe the partnerships that have developed over a period of nine years between the SEAHEC Medical Library in Wilmington, North Carolina, and the Medical

Library of Latvia, and more recently, the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova. The partnerships began very differently, and have contrasting administrative structures. The results to this point in time have been impressive and have gone beyond original visions.

### **The Latvian experience**

The Medical Library of Latvia serves as the National Medical Library for Latvia. In 1999, as the medical infrastructure of Latvia emerged and grew, the need for modernization of their medical information systems became very evident. There was an immediate need for medical library assistance and materials of all types. A sister library partnership between the Medical Library Association's (MLA) International Cooperation Section and the Medical Library of Latvia was formed at that time. This was an MLA pilot project which lasted from 2000-2003. The International Section of MLA formed a 15 member committee with broad representation. The Nordic Group, particularly Liisa Salmi, Eva Alopaeus, and Elizabeth Husem, provided guidance and suggestions. Velta Poznaka former Deputy Director of the Latvian Library became Library Director in 2002. Together the MLA committee and the Latvian librarians identified specific needs of the Library. The MLA committee sought financial support from library vendors, and provided the Latvian library a broad range of information, services, and materials.

The accomplishments included:

- organized donations of 12,000 current medical books and journals from 100 US and Canadian libraries;
- partnered with the Latvian Welfare Organization in the US for shipping materials from the US to Latvia;
- partnered with the American Latvian Doctors and Dentists Association;
- solicited support from library vendors to provide databases such as MD Consult, Stat! Ref, and UpToDate, as well as monetary funds for the partnership;
- arranged for 40 US and Canadian libraries to provide free, electronic interlibrary loans;

- improved access to health information;
- increased physicians' awareness and use of library services.

After the program was established, many doctors immediately began to use the electronic interlibrary loans because the turnaround time decreased from fourteen to sixty days, down to two to four days. Also, Latvian doctors wrote heartwarming letters of appreciation for their new ability to use valuable medical databases, and to read recent medical literature.

When the pilot project ended in April 2003, Donna Flake, Director of the SEAHEC Medical Library, and Velta Poznaka did not want the partnership to end. At that time the SEAHEC Medical Library formally became the sister library to the Medical Library of Latvia. Nearly all of the accomplishments continued, but most of the vendor support for databases ceased at that point in time. In light of the savings resulting from the partnership, the Latvian Library was able to purchase MD Consult for its users. Donna Flake visited the Latvian Library in 1999, 2003, and 2007, and Velta visited the SEAHEC Medical Library in 2004 to further strengthen the partnership.

The SEAHEC Medical Library and the established network continue to work closely with the Latvian Welfare Group in America and with the American Latvian Physicians and Dentists group to gather additional support as needed. The structure of this partnership began with a library association, and evolved into a library to library partnership, but with large numbers of US and Canadian libraries continuing to provide donated books and interlibrary loans.

It is important to point out that the structure did not include, nor involve the Latvian Minister

of Health, the office to which the Latvian Library reports, nor the American Embassy in Latvia. Because the Latvian relationship was primarily between libraries and not parent institutions or governments, we felt a need to involve the two libraries' parent institutions. In September 2007, Donna Flake, Director at the SEAHEC library and Diane Darrow, the AHEC Library volunteer who works specifically on international partnerships, went to Latvia. We took Dr. Mark Darrow, President/CEO of Coastal AHEC, with us. Dr. Darrow met Velta and saw the tremendous accomplishments of the partnership, and how our partnership has improved healthcare in Latvia. Individual teaching faculty and leaders from the Medical School praised the accomplishments of the partnership. There has been an explosion of availability of all types of medical information and access to it. Dr. Darrow became a big supporter of the SEAHEC-Latvian partnership after witnessing the sheer size and extent of information. We visited the American Embassy in Latvia and the Latvian Office of the Minister of Health to inform them of our partnership, and ask for their support for Velta as she now contemplates expanding access to medical information to the public at large in Latvia.

### **The Moldovan experience**

In 1999, North Carolina and the eastern European nation of Moldova established a Bilateral Agreement for mutual cooperation. Cultural exchanges happened almost immediately: Moldovan choirs came to NC, NC physicians and dentists visited Moldova to provide training, and educators on both sides paid visits to the other country. In 2005, Donna Flake was asked to speak to a delegation of NC government officials, and Moldovan government officials about the library partnership with Latvia. The group included members of the NC Governor's office and Dr.

Ababii, the Moldovan Minister of Health. After the talk, Dr. Ababii asked Donna if the Latvian model could be replicated for the Moldovan Medical Library.

Much conversation took place over the next year among North Carolina medical librarians trying to identify a champion for the project. In December 2005, Diane Darrow agreed to co-lead the Moldovan partnership with Donna Flake based again at SEAHEC.

From this point, progress was made quickly using the previous experience with Latvia as a model. One of the first steps was to get supporting institutions involved. In the Latvian model it was the private Latvian citizens groups; however, no such structure existed in the US for the country of Moldova. Fortunately it did not take long to obtain the support of the other NC medical libraries as the Governor of NC, Michael Easley, Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State, and many NC governmental officials immediately lent their help and support. In the Latvian partnership, forty US and Canadian Medical Libraries participated. Though small in numbers, there were twelve medical libraries in North Carolina ready and willing to participate in the Moldova partnership led by the SEAHEC Medical Library. The twelve libraries included four academic medical libraries, and eight AHEC medical libraries.

Our partner library in Moldova is the Scientific Medical Library in Chisinau, the capital. This library serves as the National Medical Library for Moldova. Silvia Ciubrei is the Deputy Director of the library, and serves as our primary contact. Liubovi Karnaeva is the Library Director. The library is part of the State Medical and Pharmaceutical University "Nicolae Testemitanu" which has 1,000

professors, 4,800 students, 1,800 residents, and 91 residency programs. There are 6 faculties within the university: General Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Residency and Training Courses for Doctors. The library employs 62 staff members and own 1,200,000 books and journals primarily in the Russian language that are significantly dated. The library has five reading rooms, two information centers, and three Internet classrooms located in the student hostels.

In September 2006, Donna Flake and Diane Darrow visited Moldova to begin organizing the partnership. Donna Flake taught the Moldovan librarians how to use several medical databases, as well as DOCLINE, the US National Library of Medicine document delivery program.

The partnership encouraged two Moldovan librarians to apply for scholarships to attend the EAHIL Conference in Cluj, Romania in 2006. They were successful in obtaining the scholarships. At the EAHIL conference, the two Moldovan librarians were immediately welcomed into EAHIL, and had the opportunity to network with librarians from all over Europe. Velta Poznaka was in attendance from Latvia and immediately re-enforced the success of her Latvian Partnership. In 2007, Silvia Ciubrei was asked to serve on the EAHIL Council.

In Spring 2007, a study tour for Liubovi Karnaeva and Silvia Ciubrei to six of the North Carolina medical libraries was arranged. This March-April 2007 study tour was extremely valuable in furthering the partnership, establishing the bonds of friendship, and was an important learning experience for the Moldovan librarians. They visited all four academic medical libraries and three of the AHEC Libraries in North Carolina.

Just prior to the Moldovan librarians' NC visit, Liubovi and Silvia spent one week in Oxford, England learning about evidence-based medicine, HINARI, and UK medical libraries. This was arranged by Partnerships in Health Information in the United Kingdom. This relationship developed during the 2006 EAHIL Conference when the Moldovan librarians met Shane Godbolt, Executive Director of Partnerships in Health Information.

Our NC-Moldovan Medical Library Partnership succeeded in accomplishing many of the same objectives that our Latvian partnership achieved. The participating medical libraries and NC physicians donated 7,000 current medical books and journals to the Moldovan library. None of the information was older than 5 years. Counterpart International, part of the US State Department, shipped the boxes to the Port of Odessa, in the Ukraine, and then took them by truck to the Moldovan Library. The partnership helped to obtain database donations from Ovid, Elsevier, EBSCO, and Stat!Ref for the Scientific Medical Library. The library now has access to six outstanding medical databases: Ovid MEDLINE, Clin-eguide, MD Consult, First Consult, Dynamed, and Stat!Ref. Furthermore, the twelve North Carolina Medical Libraries are providing free interlibrary loans to the Moldovan medical library.

In September 2007, Mark Darrow, President/CEO of SEAHEC, his wife Diane, and Donna Flake traveled to Moldova to work on the partnership, and to see the books and journals that had been sent, and how they were being used. The shipment was so greatly appreciated and valued that they were asked to participate in a national press event hosted by the Moldovan Medical University and attended by the American Ambassador, Mr. Michael Kirby. The event was broadcasted on

Moldovan National TV and got coverage in Moldovan newspapers. One other highlight was Dr. Darrow teaching two courses at the medical school on aging. Also, Donna and Diane continued coordinating all the elements of the partnership, including future shipments of books and journals to Moldova, and the continued provision of databases and interlibrary loans.

### Forging lasting friendships

In conclusion, these two partnerships have the qualities to succeed into the future! These qualities are support of governments, personal friendships, and a large network of partners. We have learned so much from these two partnerships. One lesson is that support from the parent organization and the government is essential. We certainly had support for the Moldovan partnership from its parent organization, as well as the Moldovan government in the form of the Moldovan

Minister of Health who actually conceived the idea of the partnership. We also had enthusiastic support from North Carolina government officials.

In the Latvian experience private citizen's groups and also many US medical libraries, proved to be the strong supporting partners. We later added administrative support, in 2007, by visiting the offices of the Latvian Minister of Health, and the American Embassy. We gained further administrative support by having Dr. Mark Darrow join with Donna Flake and Diane Darrow to visit the Medical Library of Latvia in September 2007. Regardless of the source, it is clear that both institutions have taken full advantage of the initial assistance they have received and are either in the process of or already have advanced themselves and taken their resources much further.

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## **Walk the talk: how to apply new developments of information management into the HTA context**

Make the IRG pre-conference workshop part of your annual HTAi (<http://www.htai.org>) meeting plans! Join us in Montreal on **Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> 2008** for a full day of training and lively discussions. Our workshop includes a mixture of presentations and group discussions highlighting important developments in HTA information management.

IRG Workshop 2008 themes are “**Searching and filtering**” and “**Reporting and documenting**”. Leading experts will present experiences and research results and ideas for developing new ways of information management within the HTA context.

In the morning session “Searching and filtering”, **Julie Glanville** (Project Director - Information Services, York Health Economics Consortium Ltd, University of York, UK), **Anna Wilkinson** (Information Officer, School of Health & Related Research, SchARR, University of Sheffield, UK), and **member of the SEARCH project** group will present three projects regarding use and evaluation of search filters and search maps for optimizing the information search process.

“Reporting and documenting” is the focus of the afternoon session. **Jessie McGowan** (Senior Information Specialist, University of Ottawa, Canada), **Susan Bidwell** (Information Specialist Manager, NZHTA, New Zealand), and **Becky Skidmore** (Medical Research Analyst, Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), will report results from their projects and studies on status and aspects of reporting searching within HTA reports, systematic reviews and clinical guidelines.

The three presentations of each session will be followed by group discussions, where you will have the chance to discuss your ideas and reflections based on the theme sessions with colleagues from all over the world.

Details regarding conference registration are available at [http://www.htai2008.org/en\\_registration.phtml](http://www.htai2008.org/en_registration.phtml). For more information, please contact Malene Fabricius Jensen, HTAi Information Resources Group (IRG) Chair, [mfj@sst.dk](mailto:mfj@sst.dk)



## Take a Look!



### **Benoit Thirion**

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The goal of this section is to have a look at references from non-medical librarian journals, but interesting for medical librarians (for lists and TOC's alerts from medical librarian journals, see: <http://www.chu-rouen.fr/documed/eahil67.html>).

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## Public Health Special Interest Group Welcome to Helsinki!

Thanks to many active members who have contributed to the forthcoming EAHIL Conference in Helsinki, 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June. We can offer you an interesting scientific and social programme, with special Public Health sessions on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

After the sessions, we invite you to visit the National Library of Health Sciences, - the WHO Documentation Centre in Finland <http://www.terkko.helsinki.fi/english/who/> . For Thursday evening we are planning an informal get-together for you to relax.

Looking forward to seeing you in Helsinki.

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## Using a Wiki for the library



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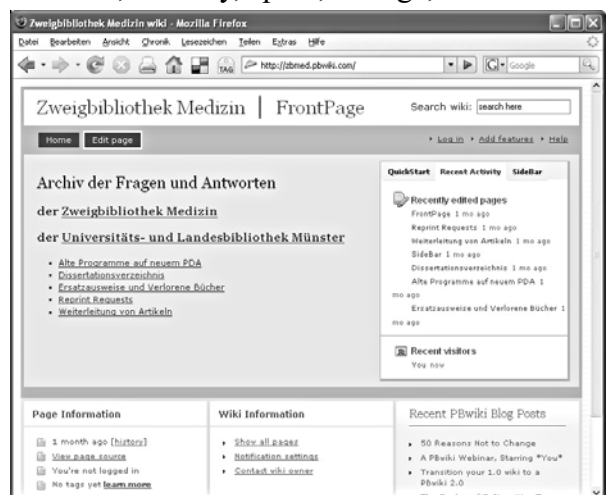
Last issue I drew your attention to wikis, the Web 2.0 tool behind - for example - Wikipedia. I pointed to some useful health related wikis and the ease of editing Wikipedia pages. Today I found a nice definition: “Wiki pages look and act like normal web pages, except they have an ‘Edit’ link that makes it easy to modify existing pages and add new pages” (1). In the meantime I was able to play a little bit around with some wikis – both software to be installed locally as well as web hosts. Here are my experiences:

### PBwiki

If you are looking for a thoroughly easy way to start a wiki by yourself, the best way is with hosted wikis (2). PeanutButter Wiki (3) (PBWiki) is a cute example and definitely worth a try:

- you can just cut&paste whole web sites into the editor and PBWiki will understand it - no need for sophisticated reformatting and remembering that `##xyz##` is for bold and `[[url anchor]]` is for a hyperlink. That feature is a great benefit if you do not want to start from scratch, but have already some web pages to build on;
- you can embed any RSS feed in your wiki’s sidebar;
- you can choose from three layouts;
- you do not have to bother about technique, software, security, spam, storage, etc.

Take a look also at the *zbmed wiki*, which I created in half an hour for our medical library (Figure 1) (4). PBWiki is free, but, of course, you can upgrade it for a fee. Eight dollars a month will give you seven layouts, 1GB storage, and RSS feeds for each page, not only the start page. Even if the advertising mails are sometimes boring, the human support will reply to your questions in time (although they were not able to tell me why the use of their new *point-and-click editor* crashed my Firefox browser!). There were no problems with Microsoft Internet Explorer.



**Fig. 1.** The experimental *zbmed wiki*

### PmWiki

On their server, the University Zürich provides PmWiki for faculty, staff, and students. With this wiki software, Anna Schlosser from the Medical Library Careum, Zürich (5) successfully created a wiki for internal management purposes (Figure 2). PmWiki (6) can be downloaded for free by

anyone, it needs only PHP-support - a prerequisite nearly every web server provides. It comes with a nice and well organized layout, which can be modified by skins and templates. By using extensions (recipes) (7) one can customize the wiki greatly and add new mark-up.



**Fig. 2.** *The internal wiki of the Medical Library Careum*

### MediaWiki

If you think in terms of user friendliness and acceptance, MediaWiki (8) should be one of the first options: It is the very wiki software Wikipedia is based on. It is free and can be installed on any web server with PHP and MySQL (but beware, it is really huge) and provides the look & feel of Wikipedia to your wiki. Virtually anybody who you would like to make happy with a wiki, is already acquainted with Wikipedia, so MediaWiki will be a real advantage. If you do not have access to a server or do not want to install and maintain hundreds and thousands of files, MediaWiki can also be used via a hosted server, e.g. at WikiCities (9).

### WikkaWiki

WikkaWiki is a “flexible, standards-compliant and lightweight wiki engine” (10). It is released under an Open License and can be used by anyone. It is striking because of its many features:

- it is much more plain and clearly laid out than MediaWiki and therefore easier to administrate;
- it stores the pages in a MySQL database, so I could “just copy” my respective blog entries to the wiki;
- like MediaWiki, it can be installed on any standard web server which supports PHP and MySQL;
- and last but not least, I know the programmer ;-).

### How can you make use of wikis?

At my library’s blog we have a category called FAQ - Fragen & Antworten (11). There we offer and archive the frequently asked questions of our readers and the respective answers of the library. Recently it became clear to us that for this kind of knowledge database, a blog is not very useful at all. The about 100 FAQ entries were outdated, not linked to each other, and not easy accessible because they were buried in the huge overall blog. Both to promote this special set of information

to our customers and to benefit from the wiki features, we created a distinct point of access by converting the FAQ entries into a WikkaWiki wiki (12) (Figure 3). The advantages:

- tremendously easy creating, modifying, and linking of pages. Just type a word with a capital in between a *CamelCase* such as PubMed and the wiki will embed a link to that respective page. If the page does not exist, a click on the link will let you create that page from the scratch;
- a “Page History” preserves older versions of a page and makes it possible to restore it;
- the reader can comment on the entries such as in blogs. If you do not mind, the readers can even modify them;
- the list of “Recent Changes” to your wiki pages keep you informed of what is going on. Of course, you can subscribe via RSS to every page. If you write for instance a page on PubMed and keep it updated, the user will be currently aware, if there are downtimes or new features or whatsoever happens to that database.;
- you can fine-tune access and browsing by providing categories.

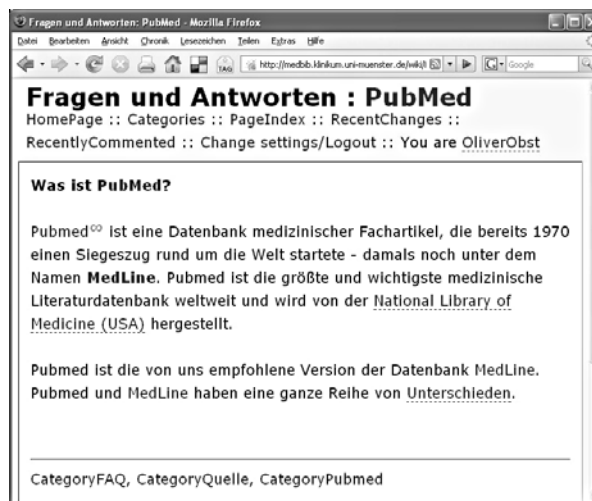


Fig. 3. The readers' questions and answers' wiki

A second usage for a wiki which hits you right in the face is the library homepage itself. With WikkaWiki you can easily create a homepage in no time, with Pbwiki you do not even need a server and get your own web address in addition. Or make use of a wiki for promoting conferences. For the example, the organizers of the EAHIL conference at Helsinki choosed Atlassian Confluence (13), an "Enterprise solution wiki", for their nice programme web site (14).

For years I had hesitated to take a closer look at wikis, because I was already satisfied by the features of weblogs and tried to concentrate on that tool. But now I am somewhat overwhelmed and excited by the power of wikis. I will explore this Web 2.0 tool further and let you know.

## References

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## Letter from the President



**Suzanne Bakker**

Centrale Kanker Bibliotheek, Amsterdam

Contact: s.bakker@nki.nl

Dear EAHIL members, dear colleagues,

By the time this issue reaches you, many of you will be prepared to travel to Helsinki for the 11<sup>th</sup> EAHIL Conference. Presenters will have sent their papers to the organizers and will be busy updating their presentations, the oral version and accompanying slides. Final amendments to your posters will also be in hand, which so many of you are able to produce and print in the most sophisticated ways. Personally I have never prepared a poster and I must admit that I admire everyone who has and does. To me it seems a lot more work than an oral presentation! I look forward to viewing your posters in Helsinki.

Important issues to be dealt with in Helsinki are:

- the **Council Meeting**, where I would like to discuss with the Councillors the meaning of the Statutes and Rules of Procedures of EAHIL. Of course, you can download and read these from the EAHIL web pages, but by discussing why these are formulated as they are, we will come across the items that need updating or should be added. A kind of EAHIL staff training and quality management;
- the **General Assembly**, where we will vote on the outcome from the electronic elections and voting system for President and Executive Board members;
- the first results will be presented and discussed on the **EAHIL Register** by the taskforce on this subject Helena Bouzkova, Ioana Robu, Françoise Pasleau, Maurella Della Seta and me. EAHIL has taken a pragmatic approach and would like to develop this registry over the coming years. Anyone who has looked at the Certidoc system will realize that it can be very hard to get a full blown certification system up and running. The Certidoc system is well constructed, but very time consuming and needs a huge effort to get it started in your country as well as maintaining it. EAHIL might want to join this system and enrich it with the subject-related and subject-specific items that play an important role in the medical and health related information profession;
- the **Executive Board** which will present the results of finances and operations of the Association over the past year as well as the budget allocation for the coming years (2009-2010);
- but the most interesting probably is news about **future events**: where will we meet in 2011 (workshop) and 2012 (conference) and the years thereafter?

On behalf of the Board I invite you all to make a proposal and send us a bid for organizing one of these events: the Board will meet in Helsinki on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup> and in February 2009.

# News from EAHIL

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## Elections for the EAHIL President (2009-2010) and Executive Board Members (2009-2012)

The elections will be done electronically through the EAHIL membership database. The election period for casting your votes is open from 15<sup>th</sup> of May until the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Instructions for voting will be sent out by e-mail\* through the membership database. The instructions will also be published on EAHIL website [www.eahil.net](http://www.eahil.net) by 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

### Candidate for re-election as President (2009-2010)



**Suzanne Bakker**  
Central Cancer Library  
The Netherlands Cancer Institute  
The Netherlands  
[s.bakker@nki.nl](mailto:s.bakker@nki.nl)

### Professional Career

In 1984 Suzanne Bakker entered the library profession as the Director of academic medical libraries, first in Nijmegen, then in Amsterdam, and since 1998 as Director and Information Specialist of the Central Cancer Library of the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam.

Her first EAHIL meeting was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference in Bologna in 1988 and she has been involved in EAHIL ever since, chairing International Programme Committees of the Montpellier (1992) and Utrecht (1998) conferences. Since 1999 she has been an EAHIL Board member and since January 2007 serving as President of EAHIL.

### Professional interests

- clinical librarianship, this service was introduced in the early 90s in the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam and is still continuing;
- bibliometrics and scientometrics (citation analyses for collection management and the social study of science);
- instruction for end-users (searching bibliographic databases and using database management systems);
- continuing education for medical librarians.

### Plans for EAHIL

Her motivation for being actively involved in EAHIL is not only that she wholeheartedly supports EAHIL's aims and scopes, but also finds so rewarding the experience of meeting so many colleagues from all over Europe, building professional relations and personal friendships and contributing to a better understanding among European citizens.

\* If you do not receive the e-mail with voting instructions by 15<sup>th</sup> of May, then your e-mail address in the membership database is incorrect! Please update your e-mail address in the membership database so you do not miss future e-mails.



### Candidates for re-election as Executive Board Members (2009-2010)



**Manuela Colombi**  
Janssen-Cilag SpA  
Milan, Italy  
mcolombi@jacit.jnj.com

#### **Professional career**

I have been employed at Janssen-Cilag in Italy since 1998. I am in charge of the management of scientific documentation and drug safety department. All my previous job experience has been in the pharmaceutical industries.

I have been a member of EAHIL since the beginning of the nineties and I have been active as a EAHIL Council member, then as a Board member. As a member of EAHIL, I have organized two workshops in Italy and have been a member of the Scientific Committees of numerous conferences.

From 1999 to 2000 I had the responsibility and honor of being President. At present, I am Treasurer of EAHIL, a role which I would be able to continue with, if I was re-elected. The financial wellbeing of EAHIL, now that we are a 'no-fee' association, is very important.



**Helena Bouzková**  
National Medical Library  
Prague, Czech Republic  
bouzkova@nlk.cz

#### **Professional career**

- 1985 - 1993 Librarian of the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Hradec Králové;
- 1994 - 1998 Librarian of the Medical Library of the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education;
- 1998 - today Director of the National Medical Library in Prague;
- 2001 Special exam in the field of Public Health.

## Candidates for the EAHIL Executive Board

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### Professional interests

- member of the Czech Information Society;
- board member of the Czech Society of Health and Scientific Information and Czech Society of Social Medicine and Public Health of the Czech Medical Association of J.E. Purkyně;
- board member of EAHIL since 2005 (first term) – activities in the EAHIL Accreditation Group;
- member of Central Library Council in the Czech Republic;
- participation in various Czech collaborative projects such as: Medvik system, e-journals and databases subscription.

### Plans for EAHIL

I would like to participate actively in the EAHIL accreditation process and promote EAHIL activities in the Czech Republic.



### **Benoit Thirion**

Medical Library-Rouen University Hospital-France

Benoit.Thirion@chu-rouen.fr

Benoit\_Thirion@yahoo.fr

### Professional career

- responsible for the Medical Library of the Rouen University Hospital since 1983;
- coordinator of the CISMef project (started in 1995): Catalog and Index of French-language;
- health resources: <http://www.cismef.org/>;
- Council member for France in EAHIL, 2003-2006; Board member and Vice President 2007-2008;
- Internet Page Editor for Journal of EAHIL.

### Awards

- Albert Sézary Price & Laureat in October, 2000 from the French National Academy of Medicine;
- EAHIL Prix D'Honneur winner in 2002.

### Plans for EAHIL

- try to enhance the European identity and specificity of EAHIL;
- offer a better visibility of European Projects in the medical librarians' areas.

### New candidates for election as Executive Board Members (2009-2010)



**Lotta Haglund**

Karolinska Institutet University Library  
Stockholm,  
Sweden  
Lotta.Haglund@ki.se

#### Current position

Head of Information and Public Relations, Karolinska Institutet University Library, Stockholm, Sweden. The position involves marketing the library services to students, faculty and staff at Karolinska Institutet, as well as staff development, and management.

#### Professional career

- BA degree in Archaeology from the University of Göteborg, Sweden;
- MA degree in Library and Information Science for the University College of Borås, Sweden;
- worked as a librarian at the Stockholm School of Economics Library in 1991;
- worked at the National (Royal) Library of Sweden, 1991-92;
- worked at the Sprilibrary 1992-1999;
- Head of Information and Public Relations at Karolinska Institutet University Library since 2000;
- evidence summaries writer for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (<http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/EBLIP>) since 2006 (together with David Herron);
- Conference Chair for the 5th International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Conference, to be held in Stockholm June 29th – July 3rd 2009 (<http://eblip5.kib.ki.se>).

#### Professional interests

- marketing/communicating the specialist competence of librarians to library users;
- evidence-based practice;
- professional development;
- library management.

#### Plans for EAHIL

- work to promote EAHIL among health/medical librarians in the Nordic and Baltic countries, and especially encourage this community to actively participate in EAHIL activities by submitting papers to conferences, publish in JEAHIL etc.
- work for even more communication between East and West, North and South within the EAHIL community.

## Candidates for the EAHIL Executive Board

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### **Ivana Truccolo**

Centro di Riferimento Oncologico,

Aviano, Italy

itruccolo@cro.it

### **Professional career**

- Since 1984, responsible for the Scientific Library of the Aviano-Pordenone Centro di Riferimento Oncologico IRCCS (North-East of Italy). Since 1998 a section of the Library devoted to the information to patients which has been developed as a pilot project in Italy in this field;
- coordinator of a specific project – granted by Alliance Against Cancer, the network of Italian national cancer institutes – for the implementation of a Database of Resources in Oncology and allied Sciences for Patients and Citizens (2007-08);
- involved in many Italian collaborative projects and systems based on cooperation between libraries such as: BIBLIOSAN <http://www.bibliosan.it/>; GIDIF-RBM <http://www.gidif-rbm.it/>; SBN <http://opac.sbn.it/index.html>; Azalea, Italian multicenter collaborative database of cancer information material for patients on the web, coordinated with Cognetti G., Rome (2003-2006).

### **Awards**

Premio 5 stelle, Bologna 2002, national competition in the field of quality of health care for the project Library for Patients

### **Professional interests**

- 2007 - EAHIL Council Member for Italy;
- 1987 - member of GIDIF-RBM, Italian group of Documentalists of the Pharmaceutical Industry and Biomedical Research Institutes;
- 1986 - member of AIB, Italian Association of Librarians;
- 2002 - Board member of BDS, Italian Association of Biomedical Librarians.

### **Plans for EAHIL**

- try to strengthen the medical librarian identity in Italy through the European Association and initiatives;
- try to develop specific European collaborative projects in the field of health information to citizens.

### Beatrice Doran retires as RCSI Librarian



Beatrice Doran, who retired recently as Librarian to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) in Dublin, was a founding member of EAHIL and a regular attendee and presenter at EAHIL conferences. She served on the EAHIL Board as Hon. Secretary and Senior Vice President. A graduate of the National University of Ireland - UCD (MBA, BA, Diploma in Librarianship), she is presently a Hon. Senior Research Fellow in the RCSI Department of Medicine at Beaumont Hospital. With Professor N.G. McElvaney (Chair of the Department of Medicine), she is principal investigator for a Pilot Study to introduce the concept of a Clinical Informationist service to Ireland for the first time.

Beatrice has worked in a number of academic libraries during her long career in Librarianship including the Royal Dublin Society, New University of Ulster (Coleraine) and University College Cork, where she was Medical Sub-Librarian, Deputy and Acting University Librarian. She became Librarian to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1986. Beatrice an Associate of the Library Association of Ireland (ALAI) has always been an active member. She was President three times, and was instrumental in the founding of the Múnster Regional Section and the Health Sciences Librarians Group and served as Chair and Secretary of both. She chaired *Access to Healthcare Information for Healthcare Professionals*, a research project carried out by Dr. Jennifer MacDougall, which led to sixteen new posts of Hospital Librarians in Ireland. To mark her retirement and her contribution to the development of Health Science Libraries in Ireland, the Health Science Libraries section of the Library Association of Ireland has named a lecture in her honour, (The Beatrice Doran Lecture), an Eponymous lecture which will be given each year by a distinguished medical librarian.

Beatrice has always had an interest in Library planning and in developing new libraries. She set up the Medical Library at Cork University Hospital in the 1980s and the Library at Beaumont Hospital in the 1990s. Beatrice has worked as an international Library Consultant in Bahrain, Iraq, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Kingdom and Ireland. She was a member of the Editorial Board of *Health Libraries and Information Journal* for many years and also of the Editorial Board of *The Surgeon*. She has published on various Library topics and has been a speaker at national and international Library conferences. Beatrice was the Irish Higher Education Authority (HEA) nominee on the Library Council (a Government body) and represented the RCSI Library at the Consortium of National and University Libraries in Ireland (CONUL) and SCONUL in the United Kingdom.

### Medical Library Association report for EAHIL



**Bruce Madge**

MLA representative to EAHIL

London Upright MRI Center, London, UK

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The main event to mention in this issue of the *Journal of EAHIL* is the upcoming MLA Annual meeting in Chicago in May. Registration is now open for MLA '08, *Connections: Bridging the Gaps*, May 16-21, 2008, Chicago, IL so if you plan to go you should be booking now! Online registration is fast and easy (I know I've done it!) and you will need either your MLA membership ID number or the email address where you receive MLA-FOCUS. More hotel space has been added as this is proving a popular conference and the MLA '08 Preliminary Program has been mailed to members; a PDF version is available on the MLA '08 website.

The other major piece of news and congratulations are in order for Carol Lefevbre, a UK Council member of EAHIL, who has just been awarded the "T Mark Hodges International Service Award" for 2008. She will receive the award at the luncheon at Chicago in May.

EAHIL members are also advised to check out the various bursaries and awards that are available to support those interested in discovering how American medical libraries work and for those who want to attend the Annual MLA meeting. Details can be found at [www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org)

MLA is now beginning to do more webcasts which are available through [www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org). The spring webcast, *Web 2.0 Principles and Best Practices: Discovering the Participatory Web*, is available for on-demand viewing at the moment. This webcast intends to introduce people to the concepts of Web 2.0 and how it will affect them in future.

In the March issue of *MLA News* there are some articles of interest which include the MLA '08 meeting preview and *Delivering Consumer Health Information Using the Electronic Medical Record System*. Plus check out new job ads, posted on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

# Publications and new products

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**Giovanna F. Miranda**

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Dear Colleagues,

Asian nations are approaching Europe and the United States in terms of scientific output and the number of publications is growing exponentially. Two articles examine the problems arising from this new reality and how librarians can better deal with this phenomena. Publications from China, Japan and South Korea have increased rapidly in recent years, and by 2006 made up one-fifth of the scientific literature indexed by Thomson Scientific's Science Citation Index (SCI). There are problems associated with searching citations with Asian authors. Elsevier and CrossRef have different approaches to find a solution (Qui J. *Nature*. 2008;451:766).

A study investigates the accessibility, form and content of China's major biomedical databases. Information specialists should be aware of different Chinese databases and health science researchers should consider supplementing Medline searches with others. (Xia J. *et al. Health Information and Libraries Journal*. 2008; 25:55).

**Giovanna F. Miranda**

## Journal issues

The following journal issue of *Health Information and Libraries Journal* has been received:

### Vol. 25 Issue 1

#### **C. Brown. The information trail of the 'Freshman 15' – a systematic review of a health myth within the research and popular literature. p 1-12**

This article suggests how collaborative efforts between health science and academic librarians, faculty and journalists construct new paradigms for the translation of scientific evidence into information that individuals can use for decisions about health and well-being.

**C. Twose, P. Swartz, E. Bunker, N. K. Roderer, K. B. Oliver. Public health practitioners' information access and use patterns in the Maryland (USA) public health departments of Anne Arundel and Wicomico Counties.** p. 13-22.

The purpose of this article was to increase understanding of the information needs and use of public health practitioners.

**R. Deurenberg, J. Vlayen, S. Guillo, T. K. Oliver, B. Fervers, J. Burgers on behalf of the SEARCH Group. Standardization of search methods for guideline development: an international survey of evidence-based guideline development groups.** p. 23-30.

This aim of this study was to assess the methods used for the selection of evidence for guideline development by evidence-based guideline development organizations.

**R. Jackson, W. Baird, L. Davis Reynolds, C. Smith, S. Blackburn, J. Allsebrook. Qualitative analysis of parents' information needs and psychosocial experiences when supporting children with health care needs.** p. 31-37.

The objective of the paper was to identify the information needs of parents of children with health care needs.

**W. E. Nwagwu. Effectiveness of sources of HIV/AIDS awareness in a rural community in Imo State, Nigeria.** p. 38-45.

The aims and objectives of this study was to measure the effectiveness of each of the 14 sources of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) awareness available to women and adolescent girls dwelling in a rural community in Imo State, Nigeria in order to understand the relative contribution of the sources to the general knowledge about human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS possessed by the women and the girls.

**J. Petrak, H. Markulin, T. Matić. Information literacy in continuing professional development of medical practitioners: a Croatian example.** p. 46-49.

This paper reports on the training of medical practitioners in information literacy. The course is carried out by an academic medical library in collaboration with its parent institution and the local physicians' licensing body.

**M. Ullah, I. Farooq Butt. Rating Pakistani medical journals using the principles of citation analysis.** p. 50-54.

The objective of the paper was to quantify the impact of Pakistani Medical Journals using the principles of citation analysis.

**J. Xia, J. Wright, C.E. Adams. Five large Chinese biomedical bibliographic databases: accessibility and coverage.** p. 51-61.

This study aims to investigate the accessibility, form and content of China's major biomedical databases to information specialists outside of the country.



# Publications and new products

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## Book reviews

**World Guide to Library, Archive and Information Science Education. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.** Ed. A. Schniederjürgen. Munich: K.G. Saur, 2007 (IFLA Publications; 128/129). ISBN 978-3-598-22035-7. € 168 (€ 148 for IFLA Members). The third edition of this guidebook is new and a completely revised edition. This guidebook lists education institutions worldwide where professional education and training programmes are carried out at a tertiary level of education or higher: more than 900 universities and other institutions, and more than 1,500 relevant programmes from all over the world. The entries provide address and contact details, as well as information regarding teaching staff and students, programmes' contents, duration and level, admission and completion requirements, tuition rates, library and technological facilities, continuing education.

**Peer Review and Manuscript Management in Scientific Journals: Guidelines for Good Practice.** Ed. Irene Hames. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, England, 2007. \$ 39.95; p. 211; ISBN: 13-978 1-4051-3159-9. This book illustrates the steps taken by editors when handling submissions. The book includes templates of editorial documents (checklists, form, guidance for reviewer and editorial letters.

## Paper reviews

**Web 3.0 and health librarians: an introduction.**

Cho A, Giustini D. JCHLA/JABSC.2008;29:13

**Rise and shine.**

Caldwell T. Information World Review. 2008;244:12

**Wales urges librarian to help build better Wikipedia.**

Chillingworth M. Information World Review. 2008;242:3

**Identity crisis.**

Qiu J. Nature. 2008;451:766

**Grow your professional abilities.**

Griffin D. Information World Review. 2008;242:17

**The dilemma of authorship.**

Sokol DK. BMJ. 2008;336:478

## News

**The Espresso Book Machine (the "EBM")** is a fully integrated patented book making machine which can automatically print, bind and trim on demand, at point of sale, perfect bound library

quality paperback books with 4-color covers (indistinguishable from the factory made original) in minutes for a production cost of a penny a page. The Company has access to over 200,000 out-of-copyright files provided by the Open Content Alliance together with approximately 2,200 World Bank titles and Arabic-language texts from the Library of Alexandria, Egypt.

<http://futureperfectpublishing.com/2008/02/27/espesso-book-machines-invade-the-bookstore/>

### **Information sources... Web based**

**EHL.** The AED-SATELLIFE Center for Health Information and Technology announces the launch of a new and updated gateway on Nutrition, part of the Essential Health Links (EHL) gateway.

EHL connects users to over 700 health/medical websites selected by experts for their reliability, accuracy, and relevancy. Specifically designed for health professionals in low-income countries, the EHL Nutrition is the leading gateway of its kind, authoritatively identifying pertinent and valuable websites on a variety of important topics in nutrition, diet and chronic disease, food security, general nutrition, micronutrients, mother and child nutrition, and severe acute malnutrition and emergencies. Nutrition and HIV issues are addressed in most of these sub-topics.

<http://www.healthnet.org/essential-links>

**SEARCH WIKI.** Wikia is working to develop and popularize a freely licensed (open source) search engine. Wikia's search engine concept is that of trusted user feedback from a community of users acting together in an open, transparent, public way.

<http://re.search.wikia.com>

**KNOL.** Google started inviting a selected group of people to try a new, free tool called "knol", which stands for a unit of knowledge. The Google goal is to encourage people who know a particular subject to write an authoritative article about it. The tool is still in development and this is just the first phase of testing.

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2007/12/encouraging-people-to-contribute.html>

**BIRD FLU.** The World Health Organization (WHO) is developing an electronic system to track influenza A(H5) viruses that have been shared by Member States with WHO through the Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN). Currently the data entry is conducted by WHO Collaborating Centers, WHO H5 Reference Laboratories, and regulatory laboratories which are involved in the WHO H5N1 vaccine virus selection and development process.

[https://www.who.int/flu\\_virus\\_tracker](https://www.who.int/flu_virus_tracker)

### **News from publishers**

**Thieme Publishers** has announced the launch of **WinkingSkull.com** a free, interactive resource for medical students and people interested in science. A website design allows quick access to the region of interest. Users can turn labels on or off while studying. A testing feature allows users to drag and drop labels onto the anatomical illustrations while being timed. Users may view test

## Publications and new products

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results instantly to measure their proficiency of the material and compare scores with other users. WinkingSkull.com features highly detailed images, derived from the "THIEME Atlas of Anatomy" series.

<http://www.winkingskull.com/navigation.aspx>

**Elsevier** has announced today that it has acquired Edra S.p.A., an online publishing company in the healthcare field. Together, Elsevier and Edra will be able to provide professional and promotional support to pharmaceutical companies by combining Elsevier's content and services with Edra's electronic capabilities and online delivery channel. An important tool is Medikey, the largest online medical and healthcare professional community in Italy.

[http://hub.elsevier.com/wps/find/authored\\_newsitem.cws\\_home/companynews05\\_00856](http://hub.elsevier.com/wps/find/authored_newsitem.cws_home/companynews05_00856)

**Wiley-Blackwell** announces that over the next few months approximately 1500 books from the former Blackwell Publishing will be incorporated into the OnlineBooks™ program on Wiley InterScience. This integration of content from the two publishing operations will expand the scope of the online book offering on Wiley InterScience, and enable the library and user community to search and access, on one platform, a vast repository of monographs across the sciences and humanities (including 300 books covering many medical disciplines and evidence-based medicine).

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/browse/?type=BOOK>

**Scopus®**, has announced that it will add 600 new titles to its database of 15,000 peer-reviewed journals. To ensure it covers all information deemed relevant to scientific researchers, Scopus has established a content strategy that puts the research community's voice at its core. Users are invited to submit titles for inclusion which are evaluated by librarians and researchers represented in the independent Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB). Scopus®, has announced that it has partnered with QUOSA to introduce **the Document Download Manager**, a new tool that enables its users to download and rename multiple full-text articles simultaneously, reducing the procedure from minutes to seconds. With Document Download Manager, researchers can initiate the download of up to 50 full-text articles simultaneously from the Scopus results list. In some cases this can be done with as few as three clicks in total versus the approximately 150 clicks needed to do so without the Document Download Manager. The tool is freely available in Scopus.

<http://info.scopus.com/etc/suggesttitle/>

[http://info.scopus.com/news/press/pr\\_190208.asp](http://info.scopus.com/news/press/pr_190208.asp)

## **Forthcoming events**

**11-24 May, 2008, Oxford, UK**

**16<sup>th</sup> annual “Libraries and Librarianship: Past, Present and Future” seminar.**

For further information: <http://sils.unc.edu/programs/international/oxford.html>

**26-30 May, 2008, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

**Navigating the seas of change**

The Canadian Health Library Association. 2008 Annual Meeting

For further information: <http://www.chla-absc.ca/assoc/conference.html>

**1<sup>st</sup> June, Tenerife, Spain**

**First Workshop on Semantic Interoperability in the European Digital Library**

**To be held as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> European Semantic Web Conference 1-5 June 2008**

For further information: <http://multimedia.semanticweb.org/siedl/>

**2-3 June, 2008, Kraków, Poland**

**Library: The Key To Users' Success**

**14<sup>th</sup> international conference**

**The Institute of Information and Library Science, Jagiellonian University:**

For further information: <http://www.inib.uj.edu.pl/eng/confer/ks/index.html>

**2-7 June, 2008, Dubrovnik and Mljet, Croatia**

**Libraries in the digital age (LIDA) 2008**

For further information: <http://www.ffos.hr/lida/>

**5-7 June 2008, Vancouver, BC, Canada**

**Information Beyond Borders. LIS interacting with other disciplines**

36<sup>o</sup> Annual Conference Canadian Association for Information Science

For further information: [http://www.cais-acsi.ca/2008call\\_fr.htm](http://www.cais-acsi.ca/2008call_fr.htm)

**15-18, June 2008, Seattle, WA, USA**

**SLA 2008**

**Special Libraries Association Annual Conference**

For further information: <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2008/index.cfm>

**23-28 June, Helsinki, Finland**

**Towards a new information space - innovations and renovations**

11th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries

For further information: [http://www.congreszon.fi/eahil\\_2008](http://www.congreszon.fi/eahil_2008)

**21-22 July, 2008, Cardiff, Wales, UK**

**Impact and Influence: Evolving to Succeed**

**The 2008 Health Library Group Conference**

For further information: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/conf2008/index.html>

# Forthcoming events

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**9 August, 2008, Québec City, Canada**

**Role of Evidence-based Research in Medical Libraries**

**Satellite Session of the 74th IFLA General Conference and Council**

For further information: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/satellite-en.htm>

**10-14 August 2008, Québec City, Canada**

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## **DUBROVNIK, CROATIA TO HOST PHARMA-BIO-MED NOVEMBER 2008**

Dubrovnik, Croatia has been announced as the venue for the next Pharma-Bio-Med Conference and Exposition, Pharma-Bio-Med 2008. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference, that is now established as the 'must go to' event in Europe for information professionals working within the pharmaceutical, biomedical, medical, biotechnology, and health sciences industries, will be held in historic Dubrovnik, Croatia, 2-5 March 2008.

Join us in Dubrovnik - the Pearl of the Adriatic - for Pharma-Bio-Med 2008, the ideal forum for information managers and professionals to engage in networking, continuing education, professional development, and the sharing and benchmarking of information best practices.

The program for Pharma-Bio-Med 2008 draws on the valuable feedback from the nearly 200 delegates who attend this specialist conference and exposition each year.



To receive the latest announcements regarding Pharma-Bio-Med 2008, including early registration, please join the discussion list at [www.Pharma-Bio-Med.com/discussion.html](http://www.Pharma-Bio-Med.com/discussion.html).

The Pharma-Bio-Med 2008 Call for Papers, as well as early registration details, are posted on the conference website at [www.Pharma-Bio-Med.com](http://www.Pharma-Bio-Med.com).

Please share this news with your friends and colleagues in the industry who you think may be interested in attending Pharma-Bio-Med 2008.

We look forward to seeing you in Dubrovnik!

**Historic Old Town is the heart of Dubrovnik. The best way to get a sense of Old Town is to walk its thick fortification walls, which are 80 feet high at some points and pass through a plethora of fortresses and turrets. A one-hour stroll affords great views of tiled rooftops, hidden monastery courtyards, and the surrounding coastline of the Adriatic Sea.**

Contact [admin@pharma-bio-med.com](mailto:admin@pharma-bio-med.com) with questions or additional information regarding Pharma-Bio-Med 2008.

# Colophon

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