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# Journal of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries

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The image displays the Thieme E-Journals website interface, showing a search bar, navigation tabs for Journals, Book Series, and Books, and a list of journals including Clinics in Colon and Rectal Surgery, Craniofacial Trauma & Reconstruction, Current Research: Concussion, Endoscopy, and Experimental and Clinical Endocrinology & Diabetes. Below the interface is a collage of journal covers for Hormone and Metabolic Research, Syn facts, International Journal of Sports Medicine, Planta Medica, Endoscopy, Neuropediatrics, Syn lett, Pharmacopsychiatry, and Syn thesis. The Thieme logo is visible at the bottom right of the collage.

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Dear EAHIL friends,

Usually the issue of *JEAHIL* published in March is a no-theme issue, this year, instead, it is almost entirely dedicated to the 2020 EAHIL Conference “Be Open, Act Together” (Łódź, Poland) which, as you all know, was postponed because of the pandemic and was held online on 16-18 November 2020.

Therefore, you will find here the papers written by the winners of the four Awards: best oral presentation overall; best oral presentation by a first time attendee; best poster presentation overall; best poster presentation by a first time attendee. I wish to congratulate the winners and thank them for extensively reporting their excellent studies in the form of feature articles. Here are the titles and authors: Open Science and information literacy: case study at a research center by Maria Luz Antunes *et al.*; Collaborating to plan efficient public health guideline evidence reviews: understanding which sources retrieve evidence by Andrea Heath *et al.*; Discussing the future of open peer-review: a survey of journals in the JCR Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category by Maria Cristina Barbaro *et al.*; Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence: usability for SBU Evidence maps by Maja Kärrman Fredriksson and Hanna Olofsson. In addition to these four papers, linked to the 2020 EAHIL Conference, another feature article is published in this issue: The role of Spanish health libraries in scientific publication by María Sobrido *et al.* I wish to thank the authors for such a detailed and interesting contribution.

Which challenges and difficulties did the Łódź Local Organizing Committee (LOC) face in organizing the EAHIL 2020 online Conference? How did they manage to re-organize a complex event in such a short time? Magdalena Kokosińska, Paulina Milewska and Justyna Zawada, members of the LOC, share with us their experience, their feelings and their enthusiasm and in doing so, they certainly are of great help for future events organizers. As Lotta Haglund says in her first Letter from the President "Not only did the scientific content match our expectations, but they had also come up with ways of making us feel the same EAHIL spirit as we usually do when meeting in person. An awe-inspiring accomplishment indeed". Lotta is also presenting the new EAHIL Board members, and their roles. Don't miss her Letter.

In the central pages Güssün Güneş, EAHIL 2021 Chair of the IPC and LOC Committee, is informing us on the EAHIL 2021 virtual Workshop “Crossing the Bridge, New Challenges, New Opportunities”, 5-8 July 2021.

Last but not least, this issue contains a few memories from EAHIL 2020 Conference participants, the Special Interest Groups reports and the column Publication and New Products by Letizia Sampaolo, member of *JEAHIL* Editorial Board.

The Table below lists the future *JEAHIL* issues, their themes (which were agreed by the Editorial Board) and the deadlines for the submission of papers. I hope some of you might be willing to contribute (please contact us in advance).

<b><i>Future JEAHIL issues</i></b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>2021</b>		
2 (June)	Artificial intelligence and libraries* edited by James Thomas	5 May
3 (September)	EAHIL Virtual Workshop 2021, Istanbul, Turkey	5 August
4 (December)	Infodemics and libraries* edited by Katri Larmo and Michelle Wake	5 November
<b>2022</b>		
1 (March)	No-theme issue	5 February
* <i>Provisional title</i>		

The Editorial I wrote in March 2020, was titled “Healthcare systems under pressure”, referring to the outbreak of the pandemic. Today, exactly one year after, I’m thinking that this past year has been somehow “suspended”. I hope that this “suspension” will act like a bridge. A bridge we are all building as we walk, leading to a healthier future.

*Federica*

## Open Science and information literacy: case study at a research center

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(c) ISPA - Instituto Universitário, Lisboa, Portugal

(d) UIDEF, Instituto da Educação, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

### Abstract

*The APPsyCI, a Portuguese research center, decided to incorporate, in all its areas of activity, a research line within Open Science articulated with information literacy (IL). The Open Science assumptions were implemented through several actions: repository management, teacher and researcher training, support for choosing the journals where to publish, dissemination, and promotion of scientific knowledge within FAIR principles. The social and academic impact of the research line provides some light on the national landscape for research innovation and broadens horizons and sheds when combining IL with Open Science. Thus, the creation of this research line within the research center shows that the association of Open Science with IL can be considered as the path and object of applied research.*

**Key words:** open science; information literacy; research center; higher education; case study.

### Introduction

In 2016, Recommendations for Higher Education Libraries were published in Portugal (1). This document was updated in 2020 (2), presenting four lines of action, converted into 12 recommendations. In both versions, there was a focus on the development of skills, for the librarians to act, aiming at forms of cooperation between professionals and libraries, generating knowledge transfer, and improving their contribution and their social relevance. In the area of support for research, three key ideas stand out: training for Open Science, enabling editorial and scientific and academic publication initiatives, and consolidating strategic partnerships to support research.

In 2017 the APPsyCI (Applied Psychology Research Center Capabilities & Inclusion, <https://appsyci.ispa.pt/>) research center was born in a private university of applied psychology (ISPA - Instituto Universitário). The APPsyCI decided to incorporate, in all its areas of activity, a line of research within Open Science articulated with IL. For its pursuit, it invited three librarians to join the research center from the very beginning in a mission of collaboration with the other researchers: Carlos Lopes, Ph.D., integrated researcher, library director, and assistant professor in psychology; Tatiana

Sanches, Ph.D., collaborator researcher, a head librarian who works at the University of Lisbon; and Maria Luz Antunes, a Ph.D. student in information science, integrated researcher and head librarian at the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon.

The scope of Open Science at APPsyCI has translated into a collaborative and transparent process of dissemination, creation, and transfer of knowledge, access to research, and based on the principles of open access. Equipped with a set of IL skills, in a digital information environment, and based on their own critical and reflective thinking, the different agents of the research process were enabled to transform information into new knowledge.

The inclusion of librarians in the APPsyCI made it possible to identify their area of expertise and what the research center expected from them, that is: their specialization in the association between Open Science and innovation in research; civic involvement and educational development; and increased IL in higher education.

This study aims to demonstrate the relevance of the integrated work of librarians, highlighting strategies and practices that link Open Science to IL in a research context.

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**Methods**

The case study methodology was used to describe and explain the formative practices and collaborative strategies put into action between librarians and researchers. Case studies allow us to analyze concrete contemporary situations and to consider their contextual influences (3). Their main advantage is that they provide the analysis of reality, allowing reflection and decision-making about future perspectives.

The application of this method presents a qualitative analysis of the APPsyCI research center, divided into two stages: a) the organization of the research center; and b) according to the needs of researchers, the answers found by librarians.

**Results**

**Characterization of the research center**

The APPsyCI is composed of 32 integrated PIs, 17 collaborators, and 12 integrated non-doctors, of which 10 are Ph.D. students. The overall aim is to strengthen the capacity of individuals, groups, families, organizations, and institutions to develop solutions to concrete societal and complex problems across the lifespan, promoting collaborations amongst the public, private, and non-profit sectors. It was structured to: a) (in)form innovative social policies at the national and European levels through effective and evidence-based social community interventions on contemporary societal challenges; and b) provide opportunities to explore internationalization and cross-fertilization of innovation potentials and interactions among research, intervention and teaching/learning in Psychology and other Social Sciences (Figure 1).

Topics as migrations, homelessness, mental health, children and youth well-being promotion, institutionalization and integration programs, or active aging are amongst the selected topics for research and intervention. For example: people, groups, or communities who experience singular or cumulative harmful, life-threatening, or isolating experiences such as physical and mental health, disabilities, extreme poverty, forced migration, violence and abuse, persistent educational failure, having gender and age as a transversal concern.

The APPsyCI also consider the pertinent in-depth study of the protective effects of psychological well-being on physical health outcomes, and the effectiveness of Psychotherapy including in-vivo and on-line evaluation tools and platforms; and also the increase multi-sectoral collaboration research and intervention on educational development from early stages to higher education through broad-based ecological and multi-cultural approaches, civic engagement, IL, and social development to promote the development and interrupt intergenerational poverty cycles.

All these aims and specific purposes are to be operationalized within Open and Citizen Science principles, and translated into collaborative, transparent dissemination strategies, potentiating the creation and transfer of knowledge, made accessible to stimulate the practical uses of scientific outputs to benefit people and social contexts. The connections and university-community partnerships at the national and international levels ensure the dissemination of the APPsyCI production in the academia and the broader societal spheres and publics, guaranteeing the aim of producing socially relevant and useful science.

The research center intends to be actively engaged and emerged in the contemporary societal challenges, contributing to change and development following and potentiating a path that is already started.

**The librarians' response**

The most significant issues gathered by librarians in relation to the needs expressed by APPsyCI researchers are listed below:

- How to select journals to publish according to the scope of the study, funding criteria, and impact factor?
- How to identify predatory journals?
- Where can I check the impact factor of a journal?
- What is the difference between the green and gold roads in open access?

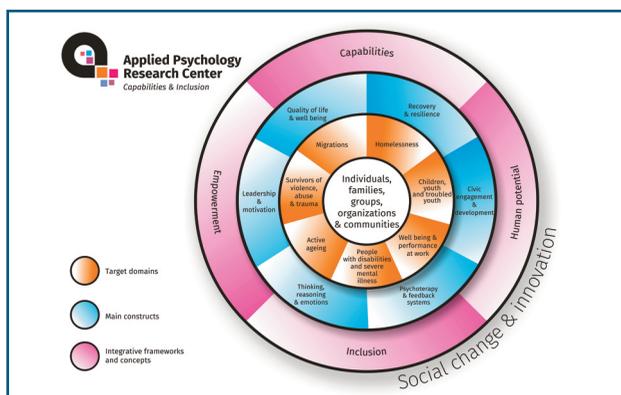


Fig. 1. Explanatory model of the research center.

- What is APC?
- How to manage references?
- How to disseminate scientific data in Zenodo?
- How to disseminate a recently published article?
- How to place an article in the institutional repository?
- What is the difference between the institutional repository and ResearchGate?
- How to manage and integrate information in ORCID?
- What is the difference between the impact factor and the impact of research?

In addition, the APPsyCI itself had objectives for measuring scientific activity, so it was necessary to ensure, with the support of librarians: the creation of ORCID profiles and others; standardization of criteria for validation of scientific production; and the standardization of the citation forms.

The APPsyCI has implemented the assumptions of Open Science through several actions: management of repositories, training of teachers and researchers, support in choosing the journals to publish, dissemination, and promotion of scientific knowledge under the FAIR principles. According to their premises, librarians have organized their work in several areas, namely:

1. promoting, through training and dissemination, the knowledge and practice of open access, open data, and open sources among APPsyCI members;
2. monitoring the scientific production, evaluating, and ensuring the implementation of Open Access institutional policies;
3. disseminating and facilitating the implementation of policies of science funding agencies;
4. supporting and cooperating with the services and projects of the APPsyCI, promoting the curatorship of scientific data (in development);
5. linking the information of funded projects to published results (using OpenAIRE repositories and guidelines);
6. promoting the digital identity of APPsyCI members and promoting their communication, dissemination, and impacts;
7. promoting IL and its contributions to Open Science.

As part of this work, librarians have written a set of reference documents for researchers, for their academic

communities, but also for other librarians, as an incentive for their active and effective participation in research groups. The first e-book on IL in higher education was written at the end of 2016 (4), two chapters in a book in 2018 (5, 6) and another book edited in the summer of 2019 (7). A glossary on Open Science (8) was prepared, a practical project and work in-progress, and which was made available on the Portuguese government website for science and technology. Some oral communications were presented at ECIL 2017, EDICIC 2017, and APDIS 2018, evoking IL as one of the steps towards Open Science. Three articles were also published on the same theme, in Portuguese, Spanish, and English (9-11). Some workshops, seminars, and webinars on the theme were held. Librarians also participated in the translation into Portuguese of the *Open Science Training Handbook* (12) and joined several scientific committees of national (APBAD, APDIS) and international (ConfOA, ECIL, IATUL, TEEM) events. Also, the transversal nature of IL associated with Open Science led to the active participation of the three librarians in some national networks and working groups, as well as in the development of a continuous training course (24 hours) subordinated to research resources in an Open Science field and a post-graduation in health literacy (<http://fa.ispa.pt/cursos/literacia-em-saude-na-pratica-modelos-estrategias-e-intervencao-3-edicao-formacao-online>), in 2018, a pioneer in Portugal.

In summary, the investment of librarians in APPsyCI focused on areas such as Open Science and innovation in research; civic engagement and educational development; IL in higher education, where the study and application of academic and information skills based on Open Science principles translate into a strategy of collaborative and transparent dissemination; and the strengthening of knowledge transfer and its practical use for the benefit of people and society.

## Discussion

The social impact of the APPsyCI research line is a process under construction.

The three librarians have studied the creation and adaptation of information assessment tools in higher education and incorporated Open Science as the best practice in the use and management of information. All the research developed depends on the possibilities of researchers to access and share scientific informa-

tion. In this context, research strongly supports open access and reuse of research data.

Science and societal change must respond to the increasing interactions between research and innovation (e.g., Citizen Science, peer review in funding agencies, co-creation of public policies, agenda-setting, co-production, and co-evaluation of research and innovation programs and content). APPsyCI's actions aim to implement citizen involvement in science, formal and informal science education, ethics and integrity of research, and open access to research results. The work of librarians in close collaboration with researchers has contributed to the projection of the group's research at national and international levels, to enhance FAIR data in the research process, promote scientific capital and critical mass around Open Science, encourages its researchers to adopt Open Science and its principles, but also helps to incorporate new skills courses in doctoral programs.

Curiously, the collaborative work developed with researchers follows the recommendations for higher education libraries, which were revised and published in May 2020, within the scope of the Portuguese association of librarians (2). The second axis of the new recommendations is aimed at supporting research and defines that it is necessary to train librarians for Open Science and that strategic partnerships between librarians and researchers should be consolidated in a permanent culture of collaboration. In the search for more strategies for libraries to remain relevant, it is necessary to reposition and incorporate librarian knowledge into teaching, learning, but also research initiatives; one possible way to achieve this is for librarian professionals to collaborate on research projects (13).

In the near future, the line of research on IL associated with Open Science created by APPsyCI is intended to:

- encourage researchers to join the Open Science movement;
- increase effective partnerships among researchers, librarians, scientific managers, institutions, and funding agencies;
- invest in the development of librarians' skills;
- develop a post-graduate course in IL in Open Science;
- devote special attention to specific projects that deal with IL, digital, and Open Science.

It is, therefore, necessary to value information (and for what it represents in terms of rights and the exercise of

citizenship) and to understand that its mastery, i.e., literacy, is an essential investment in the context of science because it is a significant mechanism for lifelong learning. The mastery of these skills will enable researchers to become more critical and able to intervene in society.

### Conclusion

The creation of this line of research within the APPsyCI demonstrates that the association of IL with Open Science can be considered as the path and the objective (middle and end) of applied research. It is therefore a civic and scientific commitment to education and research development, which encompasses the challenges that have reconfigured teaching/learning and scientific dynamics in higher education.

The study and application of scientific and information skills in higher education, operationalized within the principles of Open Science, translated into collaborative and transparent dissemination strategies, enhances the transfer of knowledge, and enhances the impact of scientific results.

What are the practical implications of this interface for librarians in the research center? For APPsyCI researchers the advantages are: compliance with funding requirements; greater visibility and impact of research; the possibility of funding and support; possibility of new collaborations; greater transparency; the possibility of debate; potential reuse of data; citation of created data; and the preservation of scientific data. For APPsyCI the advantages are: greater visibility of the work of its researchers; greater transparency; the alignment with the recommendations of the largest national research funding agency; and the alignment with good international practice. The present case study, although limited in observation, as it is circumstantial to a very concrete reality, allows other professionals to glimpse the potential for collaboration between librarians and researchers, with benefits for both.

### Acknowledgements

The authors of this paper received the award for best oral presentation overall at the EAHIL Virtual Conference "Be Open, Act Together", 16-18 November 2020, Łódź, Poland.

*Submitted on invitation.  
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# Collaborating to plan efficient public health guideline evidence reviews: understanding which sources retrieve evidence

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## Abstract

*The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) produces public health guidelines. Information specialists collaborate with technical analysts to perform systematic searches for evidence reviews (ERs). Public health ERs require searches from multiple disciplines across a range of sources leading to high volumes of results. The purpose of the project was to provide evidence to support the choice of sources for new topics. It aimed to retrospectively analyse a sample of NICE public health ERs by examining which sources retrieved publications. Medical databases found the highest proportion of publications, but smaller subject focussed databases and search techniques also contributed. These findings justify use of a range of sources for public health reviews and help the planning of ERs.*

**Key words:** public health; databases, bibliographic; evidence-based practice; information storage and retrieval.

## Introduction

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is an independent organisation based in England that produces a range of guidelines. NICE public health guidelines aim to promote healthy living and prevent ill health.

Information specialists (IS) have a key role in both the scoping and development of all new guidance at NICE. They collaborate closely with technical analysts and advisers to perform systematic searches for the evidence reviews that support the recommendations for NICE guidance.

The search process for any topic is lengthy. It starts with searches for guidance (from NICE and other organisations) and systematic reviews on the topic in question. This helps the analysts to gain an insight into what is already published on the topic and to discover what the gaps in evidence are.

During the guideline development phase the IS develops a strategy in MEDLINE which is run and translated into other databases e.g. Embase and Cochrane Library. Additional search techniques may be used to find further results. The process includes writing the search protocol and keeping records of methods and search dates to aid the transparency.

## Public Health evidence reviews

Public health topics can be more challenging to search than clinical topics. There are a number of reasons for this but key factors are the type of evidence needed to answer these questions and the volume of results that can be found.

The evidence for public health guidelines may be found in medical databases like MEDLINE and Embase. However, searches may also need to be undertaken in databases with a different disciplinary focus. For example, a recent NICE guideline “Alcohol intervention in secondary and further education NG135” required searches in education focussed databases as well as medical. There may also be useful evidence in websites or unpublished reports. Locating this evidence requires additional searching.

Searching itself can contribute to the large volume of results because the terminology used to describe public health interventions is complex. The concepts can be difficult to define. For example, a search on a behaviour change technique would require search terms covering behaviour change as a term with various iterations as well as terms covering the behaviour that was being changed, for example stopping smoking.

For clinical topics, it is often appropriate to limit

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searches by study type to reduce the number of results. For example, if the research question is answerable by randomised controlled trials (RCTs) this would be a suitable study limit. However, for public health guidelines, it may not be possible to limit results in this way. RCTs may not be the most or only appropriate study type to find the evidence, meaning that other study types should be included.

Consequently, the volume of results for public health topics is usually high. This results in more time needed for searching additional sources, uploading results and de-duplicating results.

With this challenge in mind, NICE began an investigation into where the evidence came from for a sample of NICE public health guidelines. The aim of the project was to discover if databases and search techniques used in public health topics were essential for identifying all the included publications in the evidence reviews.

## Methods

The project was initiated in 2016 and covered ten guidelines in total (*Figure 1*). Most of the guidelines had more than one evidence review which resulted in analyses of 29 evidence reviews.

Drugs misuse prevention (DMP) (2)	Community pharmacy (4)
Transport related air pollution (TRAP) (3)	HIV (3)
Sexual health (SH)	Physical activity & environment
Stop smoking interventions & services (SSIS)	Workplace health
Suicide Prevention (SP) (9)	Flu vaccination (4)

**Fig. 1.** Project topics (number of reviews in brackets)

## Search summary table

Bethel and Rogers (1) presented their search summary table at the Cochrane Colloquium in 2016 and this was adapted to the requirements of the NICE project. *Table 1*

Included references - list each one on a new row	Database searches (June 2015)						Supplementary searches	
	Embase	HMIC	Medline	MIP	Psy-cINFO	SPP	Call for Evidence	Websites
<b>Add a column (in alphabetical order) for each database or source that was used. Delete any columns that are not required.</b>								
1. Adedimeji, Adebola A., Asibon, Aba, O'Connor, Gerard, Carson, Richard, Cowan, Ethan, McKinley, Philip, Leider, Jason, Mallon, Patrick, Calderon, Yvette, Increasing HIV testing among African immigrants in Ireland: challenges and opportunities, <i>Journal of immigrant and minority health / Center for Minority Public Health</i> , 17, 89-95, 2015				X	X			
2. Dowson, Lucy, Kober, Catherine, Perry, Nicky, Fisher, Martin, Richardson, Daniel, Why some MSM present late for HIV testing: a qualitative analysis, <i>AIDS care</i> , 24, 204-209, 2011	X		X		X			X
3. Glew, Simon, Pollard, Alex, Hughes, Leila, Llewellyn, Carrie, Public attitudes towards opt-out testing for HIV in primary care: a qualitative study, <i>The British journal of general practice : the journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners</i> , 64, e60-6,	X		X	X				

**Table 1.** Adapted version of Search Summary Table developed by information specialists at Exeter University.

illustrates an example of the search summary table used to collect data from each search. For each search, an un-deduplicated Endnote Library was retained. The publications included in the evidence reviews were found and inserted into the table. The un-deduplicated Endnote library was searched to check which database or source had found each included publication. The unique sources for each review were established by checking which included publications had been retrieved by a single source.

**Results**

**Which sources retrieved publications included in the evidence review?**

*Which databases did we need?* Across the reviews, 28 databases were used (Figure 2). Seven of the 28 databases are routinely searched for all public health reviews. These are CDSR, CENTRAL, DARE, Embase, MEDLINE, MiP and SPP.

AMED	Econlit	MEDLINE
ASSIA	EconPapers	MEDLINE in Process (MiP)
BNI	Embase	PsycINFO
CINAHL	EPPI Bibliomap	Social Care Online
Cochrane CDSR	EPPI Doppher	Social Welfare
Cochrane CENTRAL	EPPI Trophi	Sociological Abstracts
Cochrane Dare	ERIC	Social Policy & Practice (SPP)
Cochrane HTA	Greenfile	Transport
Cochrane NHS EED	Health Evidence	
Community Pharmacy Future	HMIC	

**Fig. 2.** Twenty-eight databases used in the guidelines

MEDLINE, Embase, CDSR and PsycINFO (when searched) found over two thirds of the included publications in many reviews. In some cases the figure was much higher. For example, Embase found 86% of included publications for SH. However, for some reviews it was the smaller, subject focussed databases that found a large percentage of the included publications. For example, for TRAP (Evidence review 1) Greenfile found 52% of included publications. Five databases did not retrieve any included publications at all. These were Cochrane HTA, Community Pharmacy Future, Health Evidence, Social Welfare and Sociological Abstracts.

*What other search techniques did we need?* Across the reviews, eight techniques were applied (Figure 3). In-

cluded publications were found this way for some reviews. SP (Evidence Review 1) found 91% of included publications via citation searching. DMP (Evidence Review 1) found 31% of included publications from citation searching and 60% from reference harvesting. However, for some reviews, no included publications or very few, were found by using additional techniques. For example, handsearching did not produce any included publications for any review.

Analyst Actions	Handsearching
Call for Evidence	Reference Harvesting
Citation searching	Websites - search
Contact Exports	Websites - browse

**Fig. 3.** Techniques used in the 10 evidence reviews

**Which included publications were retrieved by a single source?**

*Databases.* Sixteen of the 28 databases found at least one included publication that was not found anywhere else. Medical databases (CDSR, MEDLINE, Embase) accounted for high proportions of unique included publications for some reviews. For example, CDSR found 81% of unique included publications for SSIS and MEDLINE found 67% of unique included publications for SP (Evidence Review 8). Smaller databases also found included publications that were not found anywhere else. SPP found the only unique included publication for SP (Evidence Review 2).

*Search techniques.* Five of the eight techniques used retrieved unique included publications. The highest proportion was in DMP (Evidence Review 1), where 83% of the unique included publications were due to one of these techniques. This included 50% from reference harvesting and 33% from citation searching. This was followed by SP (Evidence Review 7) where 25% were found from citation searching. Website searching led to a unique included publication seven of the 28 times that it was used.

**Reflections**

The results illustrate that both commonly searched medical databases and smaller subject-focused databases have a place in public health search strategies. Additional search techniques can also provide included publications for some topics. Five databases did not contribute any included publications and so it

would be possible to reduce the sources for individual topics without losing relevant publications. However, the knowledge of which sources find relevant results and which don't only comes after searching and screening are complete. Therefore, given the range of topic areas within the public health discipline, dropping any one source globally could compromise future guidelines. The results suggest that NICE is justified in using a wide range of sources to support public health guidelines. A benefit of the work was the development of a robust methodology that can be applied in other settings. For example, the methods used in the project were applied to recent work undertaken for COVID-19 guidance and used to pinpoint which sources were finding useful evidence.

**Developments: database selection**

The project results have helped NICE to make decisions about which sources to search for future topics and to supply data for scoping searches. For example, the project findings from HIV and SH were used by an IS for a new topic "Reducing sexually transmitted infections" to define which sources to search. The IS looked at which sources had returned included publications for HIV and SH and, after performing some tests, was able to make the decision not to search the databases that had not previously been productive. There was a large body of evidence for this topic so being able to use the project findings to pinpoint which resources were most useful made it possible to focus the search.

Study	Coding	Discovery Method	Manually added?	Added after main search	De-duplicate group?	No. of duplicates	Date of search
Lee, PH; Wu, DM; Lai, HR; Chu, NF; The impacts of a school-wide no smoking strategy and classroom-based smoking prevention curriculum on the smoking behavior of junior high school students; <i>Addictive behaviors</i> ; 2007; vol. 32 (no. 10); 2099-2107	Include	CENTRAL (PsycINFO)	N	N	Y	1	14/01/21
Effects of a life-skills-based prevention program on self-esteem and risk behaviors in adolescents: a pilot study; <i>BMC psychology</i> ; 2019; vol. 7 (no. 1); 82	Include	CENTRAL	N	N	N		14/01/21
Vidrine, DJ; Arduino, RC; Gritz, ER; Impact of a cell phone intervention on mediating mechanisms of smoking cessation in individuals living with HIV/AIDS; <i>Nicotine &amp; tobacco research</i> ; 2006; vol. 8(suppl1); S103-8	Include	CENTRAL (Medline; PsycINFO)	N	N	Y	2	14/01/21
Moshhammer, H.; Neuberger, M.; Long term success of short smoking cessation seminars supported by occupational health care; <i>Addictive Behaviors</i> ; 2007; vol. 32 (no. 7); 1486-1493	Include	Embase (Web of Science; PsycINFO)	N	N	Y	3	14/01/21
Sapir, T.; Moreo, K.; Carter, J.D.; Greene, L.; Patel, B.; Higgins, P.D.R.; Continuing Medical Education Improves Gastroenterologists' Compliance with Inflammatory Bowel Disease Quality Measures; <i>Digestive Diseases and Sciences</i> ; 2016; vol. 61 (no. 7); 1862-1869	Include	Embase	N	N	N		14/01/21
Jung, M.E.; Fitzgeorge, L.; Prapavessis, H.; Faulkner, G.; Maddison, R.; The getting physical on cigarettes trial: Rationale and methods; <i>Mental Health and Physical Activity</i> ; 2010; vol. 3 (no. 1); 35-44	Include	Embase (CENTRAL; PsycINFO)	N	N	Y	2	14/01/21
Strauss, S.M.; Jensen, A.E.; Bennett, K.; Skursky, N.; Sherman, S.E.; Schwartz, M.D.; Clinicians' panel management self-efficacy to support their patients' smoking cessation and hypertension control needs; <i>Translational Behavioral Medicine</i> ; 2015; vol. 5 (no. 1); 68-76	Include	Embase (CENTRAL; PsycINFO)	N	N	Y	2	14/01/21
Han, M.K.; Martinez, C.H.; Au, D.H.; Bourbeau, J.; Boyd, C.M.; Branson, R.; Criner, G.J.; Kalhan, R.; Kallstrom, T.J.; King, A.; Krishnan, J.A.; Lareau, S.C.; Lee, T.A.; Lindell, K.; Mannino, D.M.; Martinez, F.J.; Meldrum, C.; Press, V.G.; Thomashow, B.; Tycon, L.; Sullivan, J.L.; Walsh, J.; Wilson, K.C.; Wright, J.; Yawn, B.; Zueger, P.M.; Bhatt, S.P.; Dransfield, M.T.; Meeting the challenge of COPD care delivery in the USA: A multiprovider perspective; <i>The Lancet Respiratory Medicine</i> ; 2016; vol. 4 (no. 6); 473-526	Include	Embase	N	N	N		14/01/21
Kahl, K.G.; Winter, L.; Schweiger, U.; The third wave of cognitive behavioural therapies: What is new and what is effective? <i>Current Opinion in Psychiatry</i> ; 2012; vol. 25 (no. 6); 522-528	Include	Embase	N	N	N		14/01/21
Schumann, A.; Stein, J.A.; Ullman, J.B.; John, U.; Rumpf, H.-J.; Meyer, C.; Patterns and Predictors of Change in a Smoking Intervention Study: Latent Growth Analysis of a Multivariate Outcome Model; <i>Health Psychology</i> ; 2008; vol. 27 (no. 3(suppl)); 233-s242	Include	Embase (Medline; CENTRAL; PsycINFO)	N	N	Y	3	14/01/21
Free, C.; Phillips, G.; Galli, L.; Watson, L.; Felix, L.; Edwards, P.; Pat V.; Haines, A.; The Effectiveness of Mobile-Health Technology-Based Health Behaviour Change or Disease Management Interventions for Health Care Consumers: A Systematic Review; <i>PLoS Medicine</i> ; 2013; vol. 10 (no. 1); e1001362	Include	Embase	N	N	N		14/01/21
Oka, Roberta K; Katapodi, Maria C; Lim, Jessica W; Bacchetti, Peter; Froelicher, Erika Sivarajan; Quantifying smoking cessation outcomes: from The Women's Initiative for Nonsmoking Study (X): methodological implications.; <i>Nursing research</i> ; 2006; vol. 55 (no. 4); 292-7	Include	Medline (CENTRAL; PsycINFO)	N	N	Y	3	14/01/21

Fig. 4. EPPI Reviewer included studies report.

The project methodology has also been useful for searches for publications to inform the decision to update a guideline and the evidence reviews that inform the update of guidelines. This is because it helps to target which sources should be searched. For example, sources could be dropped if they have been unproductive in the original search.

### **Collaboration**

Information specialists collaborated with two internal teams during the project. Public health analysts had been aware of the project since its inception as it would directly affect their work. The protocols for new or update topics can be evidence based, as the IS can review which sources were useful for similar topics and use this information in discussions with analysts about choosing the right sources to search. For example, website searching can be time consuming but ISs have been able to demonstrate when it has been able to provide evidence that would not have been found anywhere else.

This information also helps to plan resources for the development of a new or updated guideline. Knowing which sources are likely to yield useful results and factoring in the time needed to develop a strategy, search and then sift helps to plan a realistic timescale.

The project illustrated the benefits of continually evaluating which sources are most useful. However, the original data collection method via Excel spreadsheet could be time consuming. As a manual process, mistakes were more likely to occur due to spelling discrepancies or other manual errors. Consequently, ISs collaborated with the Digital, Information and Technology (DIT) team at NICE to develop the functionality to support the continued surveillance of sources by automating the process. Since the project was initiated, NICE has moved from using Endnote to EPPI Reviewer for evidence management. The DIT team has made it possible to view an automatically generated report that includes some of the features of the search

summary table (*Figure 4*).

### **Conclusions**

Research into which sources found included results in a list of ten public health guidelines found that most sources are useful for finding included publications. For some topics, smaller, more focussed databases and search techniques retrieved included publications that were not found elsewhere. The results indicate that NICE information specialists have been making the right decisions about which sources to search. Additionally, the results have been useful in planning searches for new and update topics. They also aid collaboration with the Public Health team by offering evidence to support decisions. Collaboration with the DIT team resulted in an automated method to collect data for this beneficial methodology.

The next stage in this work is to devise and report on scenarios that describe in more detail the implications of this research.

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# Discussing the future of open peer-review: a survey of journals in the JCR Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category

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### Abstract

*The journals listed in the JCR Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category are examined by the authors in order to check how many of them practice some kind of Open Peer-Review (OPR). An overview of the different OPR methods identified is given: a variety of practices considered as OPR even though the number of journals using them is very small. Furthermore, the possible future evolution of OPR is examined.*

**Key words:** *Peer-review; open peer-review; publications; open science.*

### Introduction

Open Peer-Review (OPR) is an “umbrella” term for a number of innovations in the peer-review process that aim to make traditional peer-review more transparent, inclusive, accountable and reliable.

Although for almost 30 years there has been a lot of discussion in the academic community about the need of some form of openness in the peer-review procedure (1), OPR has started to expand more recently, generally encouraged by the Open Science movement that promotes increasing transparency and participation in scientific practices (2).

OPR aims to open up a system traditionally closed in many ways: the identities of both author and reviewer can be revealed to each other; the manuscripts can be made immediately available online, before any official peer-review procedure; the reviewer reports can be published together with the articles; experts and the general public can be allowed to comment and contribute to the review process; the reviewers may be algorithmically determined and requests sent out automatically and so on (3).

Many journals already run some form of OPR, though this is implemented differently and in different stages of the peer-review process. OPR can be pre- or post- publication, in fact, both pre-prints and

published papers can be commented on; it can be “de-coupled”, when reviews are performed by different peer-review services, such as [Peerage of Science](#), on request by authors before submission (4) and it can be “portable”, when peer-review comments about papers are passed from one journal to another, in journals of the same publisher (5).

The debate on OPR application is growing faster, boosted by new technologies, open access models and new circumstances, like the COVID-19 pandemic. Today the reception of OPR is changing as the concepts of open interaction, open discussion and participation are perceived positively by a new generation of authors, editors and reviewers (6). And yet the attitudes in its regard can vary widely: despite the need for a change, the paper findings suggest that the debate on the future of peer-review is still ongoing.

In this article the authors, who are members of the Editorial team of the *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità* (the official Journal of the Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy), analyse the different forms of OPR practiced by scholarly journals included in the JCR Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category. This is followed by a discussion of the implications of our findings for the future of OPR.

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### Methods

The study examines the 193 journals listed in the Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category in the 2019 edition of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR, published by Clarivate Analytics) in order to check how many of them practice some kind of OPR and of what type. This category was chosen because it is the category in which the journal *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità* is listed.

In order to obtain information on journals' peer-review processes, the sections Information for authors and About of each journal website were checked. The analysis was carried out with the version of these pages as accessed on September 9, 2020. The authors would like to underline that journal policies and practices may have changed in the meantime. These sections were examined to find any statements related to peer-review, more precisely any with a specific open or non-traditional peer-review practice. Given the small number of cases involved a systematic categorization was not adopted.

### Results

Most of the journals listed in the JCR Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category still use tra-

ditional peer-review. As of September 9, 2020, it was found that, out of 193 journals in that category, only 9 journals (4.8%) practice some kind of OPR.

None of the publishers of these journals have implemented OPR in the same manner. *Table 1* offers a list of the journals that declare themselves to implement different OPR practices, and the exact terminology used for the description of the adopted OPR method is reported in the last column.

The majority (six) of the journals listed in *Table 1* are Open Access titles published by a born open access publisher (MDPI, BMC, Frontiers).

However, the remaining three journals are not Open Access titles from a diverse group of publishers, suggesting that experiments with peer-review models are in large part independent of the Open Access model.

Every publisher explains its OPR policy with a detailed statement, reflecting the diversity of practices and the consequent lack of a widely shared terminology. This is well illustrated by comparing the introductory statements of the various policies:

- “*Environmental Health* operates an open peer-review system, where the reviewers' names are included on the peer-review reports for authors. In addition, if the

TITLE	PUBLISHER	DESCRIPTION
<i>Environmental Health</i>	BioMed Central (BMC)	Open peer-review
<i>BMC Public Health</i>	BioMed Central (BMC)	Open peer-review
<i>Reproductive Health</i>	BioMed Central (BMC)	Open peer-review
<i>Archives of Public Health</i>	BioMed Central (BMC)	Open peer-review
<i>European Journal of Public Health</i>	Oxford University Press (OUP)	Open peer-review
<i>Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine</i>	South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS), European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS)	Open peer-review
<i>Indoor Air</i>	Wiley	Transparent peer-review
<i>International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health</i>	MDPI	Optional open peer-review
<i>Frontiers in Public Health</i>	Frontiers	Collaborative review process

**Table 1.** List of journals with some form of open peer-review, listed in the JCR Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category, 2019 edition. The column on the right shows the type of OPR as reported by the publisher of the journal.

article is published, the named reviewer reports are published online alongside the article under a Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0." (BMC. [Peer-review policy](#));

- "The *European Journal of Public Health* is working towards a system of open peer-review. Manuscripts are not blinded to reviewers. Reviewers are encouraged to sign their reviews." (European Journal of Public Health, Oxford University Press. [Instructions to authors](#));
- "DHM believes that a transparent review process is indicated in such a small specialty; reviewers are often able to identify the origin of manuscripts and, in the interests of fairness, the authors are, therefore, generally provided the names of their reviewers" (Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine. [Instructions for authors](#));
- "Transparent peer-review: This journal is participating in a pilot on Peer-review Transparency. By submitting to this journal, authors agree that the reviewer reports, their responses, and the editor's decision letter will be linked from the published article to where they appear on Publons in the case that the article is accepted. Authors have the opportunity to opt out during submission, and reviewers may remain anonymous unless they would like to sign their report." (Indoor Air, Wiley. [Author Guidelines](#));
- "MDPI journals operate an open peer-review option, meaning that the authors have the option to publish the review reports and author responses with the published paper (often referred to as open reports). In addition, reviewers may choose to sign their reports if the review is published, in which case the reviewer name appears on the review report (referred to as open identity)." ([The MDPI Editorial Process](#));
- "Collaborative Review: Our Collaborative Review Forum unites authors, reviewers and the handling Editor (called the Associate Editor for editorial board members, or Topic Editor for Research Topics) – and if need be the Specialty Chief Editor – in a direct online dialogue, enabling quick iterations and facilitating consensus. Editors and reviewers work with the authors to improve their manuscript". ([Frontiers Collaborative Peer-review](#)).

The most common type of OPR, defined simply as Open Peer-review, usually, but not always, means that both the reviewer and the author are known to each other during the peer-review process. Nevertheless,

some publishers use this term to refer to the practice of publishing reviewers' names on the article page, or peer-review reports (signed or anonymous) alongside the article or on [Publons](#), a specific platform born as a place to help researchers get recognition for their often-hidden peer-review contributions (7).

## Discussion

OPR was first mentioned as a possible alternative method to classic peer-reviewing at the end of the 80s. Nowadays, about thirty years later, it has become an increasingly emerging practice in scholarly publishing. Many are the factors leading to these changes, among them: the general tendency towards a greater openness in all fields including science, the many faults and bias of traditional peer-review which has been under scrutiny in the last decades, and certainly the availability of new technologically advanced platforms for science journals. Even the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (8) is timidly supporting some new forms of post-publication OPR. In the *Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (Updated December 2019)* we read "Some people believe that true scientific peer-review begins only on the date a paper is published. In that spirit, medical journals should have a mechanism for readers to submit comments, questions, or criticisms about published articles, and authors have a responsibility to respond appropriately and cooperate with any requests from the journal for data or additional information should questions about the paper arise after publication".

Different forms of OPR implementation co-exist at present (9), but OPR in any form is still adopted by a minority of scholarly journals, as shown by the results of this study which are in line with those by Kwee et al. (10) who investigated the peer-review practices of journals included in another category of the 2018 JCR Radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging, where only two (1.7%) out 119 journals used an OPR process. Further investigation is needed on the implementation of OPR procedures in other JCR categories, and in open access vs non open access journals, but the lack of clear definitions makes these investigations more difficult to conduct and to evaluate.

The question arising spontaneously is why so few publications are experimenting with OPR. Several reasons might help explaining it: among them, the permanence

of a cultural reluctance and concern by reviewers in exposing themselves and in being identified while possibly criticizing the work of more experienced and qualified authors (4). Another reason might be more practical: the setting up of a new peer-review system can be money and time consuming, and therefore it is, at the moment, attempted mainly by big publishers.

Moreover, finding qualified and dedicated reviewers becomes harder and it is likely that the fear of an impact of policy changes on an editor's ability to recruit them could contribute to the low implementation of OPR policies (11).

### Conclusion

In conclusion, it is foreseeable that OPR will continue to expand its reach in the coming years. However, in order for scholarly journals to fully adopt new forms of OPR, its pros and cons should be further addressed and studied, taking into consideration issues like: trust in the peer-review system, transparency vs accuracy of the comments, conflicts of interest, acknowledgment of reviewers, reviewer's motivation and feelings. To ensure a sound OPR, a consensus should be reached on:

- a clear and accurate definition of the different OPR methods;
- guidelines agreed at international level;
- standardised assessment criteria;
- ethical issues and best practice recommendations.

In the meantime, whichever OPR practice is approved by the Editors, this should be clearly reported in the peer-review process description page of each journal, as recommended by the ICMJE.

The dissemination of scientific knowledge should be accelerated, as the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly shown, but trust and fairness need to be guaranteed in the whole publication process. Perhaps, in the future of scholarly publications, open peer-review will find the way to become a better peer-review.

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# Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence: usability for SBU Evidence maps

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### Abstract

*This article presents an evaluation of the two databases Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence, in the context of conducting evidence maps at the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU). Thirty-six systematic reviews included in published SBU Evidence Maps were used as a gold standard records (GSR). Title searches, as well as subject searches, were performed. Title searches showed that Epistemonikos covers 97% of the GSR, and KSR Evidence covers 94%. Structured subject searches retrieved a part of the references, 58% from KSR Evidence and 48% from Epistemonikos. Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence are valuable resources for identifying systematic reviews, but not sufficient to replace any of the databases usually used for SBU Evidence Maps.*

**Key words:** *databases, bibliographic; information storage and retrieval; review literature as topic; evidence-based medicine.*

### Introduction

The Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU) produces evidence maps of systematic reviews on topics relevant to health care and social services. SBU evidence maps aim at identifying reliable evidence as well as gaps in the scientific knowledge. The literature is identified by structured and exhaustive searches in various bibliographic databases. Literature searching for SBU Evidence maps follow the same method as literature searching for SBU's HTA-reports. A description of the method can be found in SBU's handbook (1).

Over the last years new databases that register systematic reviews have been introduced, for example Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence. Epistemonikos is produced by the Epistemonikos foundation in Chile and the database can be used free of charge. Besides systematic reviews, the database also contains original articles and often links to the original articles included in the systematic reviews. KSR Evidence is a licensed database produced by Kleijnen Systematic Reviews Ltd in Great Britain. It contains systematic reviews, many of them assessed for risk of bias by

using the appraisal tool ROBIS (2).

The information specialists at SBU normally search 5-15 different databases when conducting a SBU Evidence Map. Not all databases have indexing terms for the study design systematic review and this can lead to a large number of records that will need to be screened.

If Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence cover the scientific literature within SBU's fields of interest and offer the possibility to do structured and exhaustive searches, they might replace other more comprehensive databases, potentially making searching and screening more effective, without the risk of missing relevant literature. This is particularly important since many of our projects have short timeframes.

We wanted to investigate whether searching these two databases could be useful for SBU Evidence Maps. To answer this, we asked whether the systematic reviews included in the last six SBU Evidence Maps:

- were registered in Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence;
- could be identified with structured subject searches.

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**Methods**

Thirty-six systematic reviews included in the six latest published SBU Evidence Maps were used as gold standard records (GSR) for this evaluation. We hypothesized that a database contained material relevant for SBU if the GSR could be identified in its collection.

The reviews cover a wide range of topics in both health care and social service interventions from a broad perspective, reflecting wide range of subjects that are relevant for SBU.

We also tested whether structured subject searches could be used to identify the GSR.

The evidence maps were published 2016-2019 and covered the following topics:

- substance abuse disorders (3);
- social assistance (4);
- collaborative care for persons with mental illness (5);
- assistive technology for elderly (6);
- methods used in forensic psychiatry (7);
- drug treatment for children with respiratory tract infections (8).

**Methods for evaluating database coverage**

For each of the 36 GSR, a title search was performed in both databases. The aim was to see if the GSR were registered in each respective database. The searches were performed during spring 2019.

**Methods for evaluating search functionality**

A structured subject search per evidence map/research question was performed in both databases. All searches were based on the original search strategy but adapted to the search options available for each of the databases. The databases could not process some of the more comprehensive and complex search strategies, so the strategies needed to be simplified (see Supplementary Material available online). All hits were exported into EndNote, one library per database, and grouped by the evidence map in question. Finally, title searches for all systematic reviews were performed in EndNote. This showed if each systematic review was found by the performed structured subject search in one of the databases or in both.

**Results**

**Results of database coverage**

Of the 36 systematic reviews in our GSR, 34 were registered in KSR Evidence (9-41) and 35 GSR (9-42) were

registered in Epistemonikos. Thus, Epistemonikos covers 97% of the GSR while KSR Evidence covers 94%. Neither Epistemonikos nor KSR Evidence covered one of the reviews (43). One other article (42) was not found in the KSR Evidence database. Both articles (42, 43) are in the field of social assistance.

**Results of structured searches**

Our structured subject search retrieved slightly more of the 36 GSR from KSR Evidence than from Epistemonikos. A subject search in KSR Evidence retrieved 21 (58%) of the GSR (9, 10, 13, 15, 17-19, 21, 23-25) (27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35-38, 41). The structured search of Epistemonikos retrieved 16 (44%) of the GSR (9, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23-25, 27, 32, 35-38). All 16 of the reviews found with structured subject searches in Epistemonikos were also found by searches in KRS Evidence: 7 references answering the question about substance abuse disorder, 5 about collaborative care, 3 references about assistive technology for elderly and 1 about forensic psychiatry.

The results of the structured subject searches are presented in detail in *Table 1*.

Evidence map	Included references	Number gold standard record	Number of gold standard record found by structured searches in KSR Evidence	Number of gold standard record found by structured searches in Epistemonikos	Total number of gold standard record found by structured searches in both databases
Substance abuse disorder	(9), (10), (13), (17), (22), (26), (29), (36), (38)	9	8	7	8
Social assistance	(14), (44)	2	0	0	0
Collaborative care for persons with mental illness	(25), (28), (32), (33), (37), (39), (40)	7	5	5	5
Assistive technology for elderly	(12), (16), (19), (20)	4	3	3	3
Methods used in forensic psychiatry	(24), (34)	2	2	1	2
Drug treatment for children with respiratory tract infections	(11), (15), (18), (21), (23), (27), (30), (31), (35), (41), (42), (43)	12	3	0	3
<b>Total number of references</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>

**Table 1.** Number of gold standard (GSR) identified by structures subject searches in KSR Evidence and Epistemonikos.

**Conclusions and discussion**

Although Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence mainly cover topics in health care, we found that almost all of

the GSR, even those more relevant to social services, were registered in both databases as identified by title searches.

Structured subject searches, however, only retrieved a fraction of the relevant reviews, 58% from KSR Evidence and 48% from Epistemonikos. The simplified search strategies and the heterogenous vocabulary of the social services area might be part of the explanation. More unexpectedly, only a small number of the systematic reviews on respiratory tract infections- a medical topic- were identified. This implies that either the search strings were not comprehensive enough, or that the databases are not suited for exhaustive searches. It is worth noting that our structured searches identified a higher number of references from our gold standard in KSR Evidence compared to Epistemonikos. A deeper analysis is needed to determine if this difference is due to the capacity of the search engines, stability of the databases or if the search strategy needs further refinement.

We find Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence to be valuable resources for identifying systematic reviews. Both databases have unique features that could be valuable for SBU Evidence Maps and deserves further evaluation.

However, neither database has sufficient coverage and retrieval features to allow it to replace any of the databases usually used for SBUs Evidence Maps.

### **Limitations**

There are a number of limitations to our investigation that need to be taken into account when considering our results.

The searches were in some cases performed by an information specialist other than the one that worked out the original search strategies. This could have had an impact on the quality of the search strategies that were adapted for the two new databases.

The search strategies for Epistemonikos and KSR Evidence were designed to be as similar to each other as possible, but in some cases the strategies needed to be adjusted to accommodate the different options and limitations specific for each of the databases. Thus, a complete comparison between the search options for each database is not possible.

The searches in KSR Evidence were carried out during a trial period of five working days. A longer trial period would have allowed for more testing and may have al-

lowed us to more thoroughly explore whether the KSR search interface can handle more elaborate search strategies than the ones we had time to develop.

Our investigation is based on a relatively small number of evidence maps, some of which only contributed a small number of reviews to our set of GSR. Increasing the number of evidence maps so that our set of gold standard records was larger could affect the results and make them more generalizable.

A deeper analysis of why some of the references were not identified by the structured subject searches was not done within this project. Neither did we assess the number needed to read (NNR) which could have provided a more in-depth understanding of how useful the two databases might be to the process of creating a SBU Evidence Map.

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# The role of Spanish health libraries in scientific publication

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## Abstract

*Health libraries have been established as publication support services. Despite its importance, there is currently no study about the services that these centers offer. The aim of this work is to understand the role that libraries play in institutional scientific publishing policies. The sample was taken from the National Catalogue of Hospitals, the list of libraries of the Catalogue of Periodicals in Spanish Health Sciences Libraries (c17) and the National Catalogue of Health Sciences Publications (CNCS). Subsequently, virtual health libraries have also been incorporated. From this list, a questionnaire about library staff and activities related to publication process was sent. We obtained a participation rate of 61.21%. The average number of technical personnel was 1.15 in virtual libraries and 0.81 in hospital libraries. The activities carried out have been: training activities (82.2%), counselling (90.1%), dissemination (30.7%) and evaluation (50.5%). The staff in libraries are insufficient. In many cases technicians assume an overwork of serving in both (virtual and hospital libraries). Most libraries offer training and research support services although there are differences between virtual and hospital ones. There is a relationship between the number of technicians and the publication support services.*

**Key words:** hospital libraries; virtual libraries; research support; health sciences; surveys.

## Introduction

In addition to their own functions, clinicians carry out research activities. Scientific research is an opportunity for progress and continuing education, insofar as it promotes understanding, questions the meaning of things and helps to solve problems.

Such is the importance of scientific publications in the curriculum of researchers that publications have become the tool for assessing their quality (1). Therefore, the clinician is required to have a thorough and rigorous knowledge of the research and publication process.

## The role of libraries

Since their inception, most Spanish hospital libraries (HLs) have been considered one of the 7 basic services of any hospital aspiring to be accredited (2). Among

the tasks they usually perform (3-6) are: search and location of information (7, 8), training services (9, 10), counselling, dissemination, and assessment services (3, 11-14).

However, one of the limitations that clinicians have had in terms of scientific publication is the access to these services. Only those hospitals with a library had documentary support services available. As a result of this lack, in recent years we have witnessed the creation of Virtual Health Libraries (VHLs) (15), which provide resources and services to all healthcare professionals regardless of their place of work. There are currently 15 VHLs in Spain in the different autonomous communities. In the cases of Comunidad Valenciana and La Rioja, they did not have a VHL at the time of the study.

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Thus, and despite the importance of libraries in the development of publishing, the few located studies are to be found in university libraries, and in different geographical and/or cultural contexts. However, there is no study in Spain that reflects the services that these centres offer in their institutions, or the consequences of the creation of VHLs on the workload of librarians. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to find out the role played by health libraries in the scientific publication of their users and institutions. That is, to quantify the number of staff assigned to libraries, the services they offer and the visibility/recognition that their work has in the institution.

### Material and methods

In order to carry out our work, we have conducted a survey. The process of preparation is as follows:

- a. selection of the sample: the 2018 National Catalogue of Hospitals (16) was taken as a reference, completed with the list of libraries from the c17 (17) and the CNCS (18). We obtained a total of 165 libraries. Official mail and contact telephone numbers were collected. Subsequently, VHLs were also incorporated (a total of 15);
- b. creation of a questionnaire: the surveys were carried

out using the Google Forms tool. The questionnaire was structured in two blocks: 1) library staff (number of technical and administrative staff); and 2) activities related to the publication process, training activities (counselling, dissemination), and evaluation and/or measuring.

Once the questionnaire was developed, an email was sent to all identified libraries, with the link to the survey and the explanation of this study to both HLs and VHLs (both available at <https://runa.sergas.gal/xmlui/handle/20.500.11940/14281>). The mailing was reinforced by telephone calls to the libraries.

The data obtained were downloaded into Excel for further analysis.

### Results

A total of 165 libraries were identified (15 virtual libraries and 150 hospital libraries), of which 101 responded (participation rate 61.2%). Of these, 11 corresponded to VHLs and 90 to HLs. The main results obtained are presented below.

*Library staff:* the results of our study show significant differences, both between VHLs and HLs and among the different autonomous communities (Table 1).

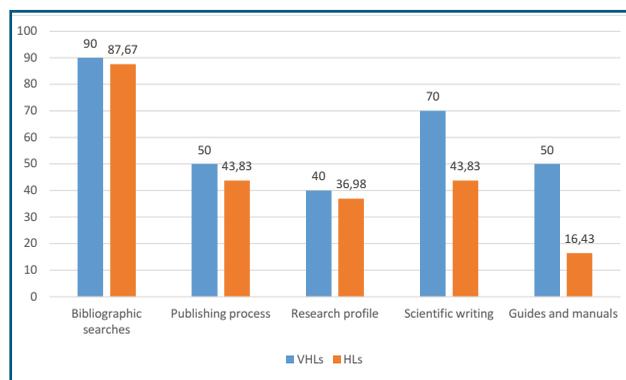
	No. of libraries		In-house technical staff		In-house administrative staff	
	VHL	HL	VHL	HL	VHL	HL
Andalucía	1	8	4	8	1	1
Aragón	1	3	*	2	0	2
Canarias	1	3	0	1	1	3
Cantabria	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Castilla La Mancha	1	6	*	5	0	4
Castilla y León	1	7	1	3	1	4
Cataluña	NR	6	NR	6	NR	2
Comunidad Valenciana	0	10	NR	7	NR	7
Extremadura	1	6	*	3	0	6
Galicia	1	6	*	6	*	9
Islas Baleares	1	1	3,5	1	3	0
La Rioja	0	1	NR	0	NR	1
Comunidad de Madrid	1	20	2	18	1	18
Murcia	NR	1	NR	1	NR	1
Navarra	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
País Vasco	1	4	1	5	1	5
Principado de Asturias	1	8	*	4	0	10

**Table 1.** Summary table of staff data for VHLs and HLs, by autonomous community.

\* Shared staff NR: No reply 0: No virtual library

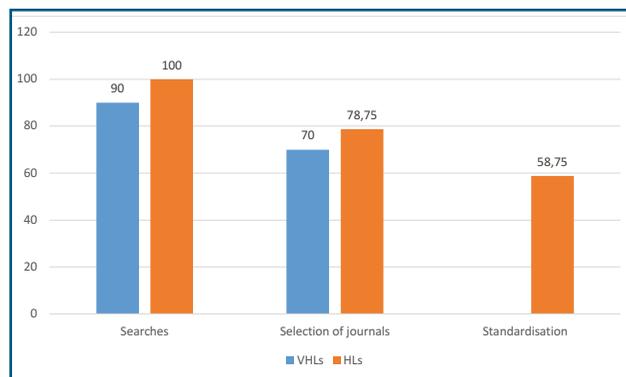
## The role of Spanish health libraries in scientific publication

**Training activities:** 82.2% of the libraries state that they have some kind of training activity in the field of publishing (10 VHLs and 73 HLs). When asked open questions, libraries state that they carry out other types of activities, such as publicizing the VHL and its services, or specific training in search tools (Figure 1).



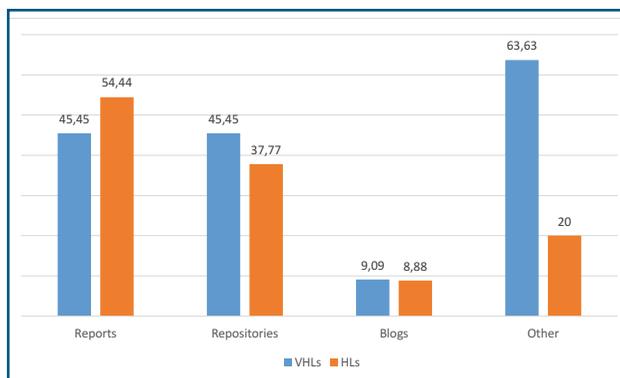
**Fig. 1.** Training activities carried out in virtual and in-person libraries (%).

**Counselling activities:** 90.1% of the libraries state that they provide some kind of supporting on scientific publication process (in the case of VHLs, all of them; in the case of HLs, 80) (Figure 2). Of the 90 libraries offering publishing counselling, 50 include this function in their portfolio of services.



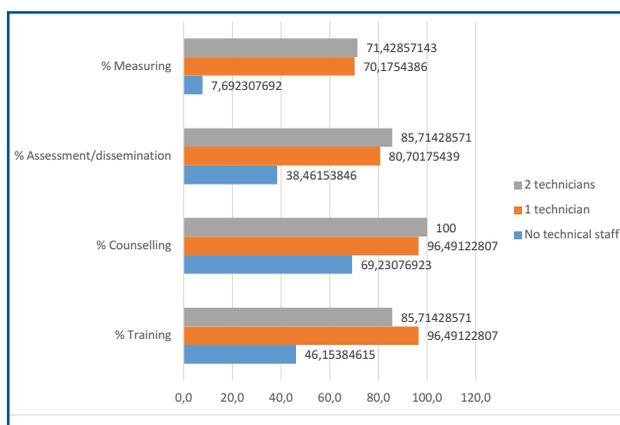
**Fig. 2.** Counselling activities carried out by libraries.

**Dissemination activities:** 30.7% of the libraries are part of their institution's research plan (2 VHLs and 29 HLs). However, 70.3% of them carry out dissemination activities of their institution's scientific activity (9 VHLs and 62 HLs) (Figure 3).



**Fig. 3** Main dissemination activities carried out by the libraries.

**Assessment and/or measuring of scientific output:** of the 101 libraries included, 50.5% (4 VHLs and 47 HLs) declared that they regularly measure the scientific production of their institution. On the other hand, we have assessed the support given to scientific publications by the HLs in terms of availability of technical staff. We found a clear relationship between the availability of staff and the increase in such support (Figure 4).



**Fig. 4.** Publication support activities according to the number of technical staff available in the HLs.

All VHLs (except for the Canary Islands) are supported by technical staff. However, we cannot quantify the number and time of dedication in the 5 using staff from the HLs. In any case, they all provide support services, with greater or lesser diversity.

## Discussion

*On libraries:* despite the requirement for a library service in hospitals with certain characteristics, many libraries have disappeared or have been deprived of staff (technical and/or administrative). This situation has been aggravated by the pandemic of recent months. In addition to non-compliance with regulations, this has led to an impoverishment of the scientific productivity and visibility of hospitals.

*On staff:* according to our survey, the number of technicians is relatively unsatisfactory. There are three elements to highlight:

- HLs. The average number of technical staff is 0.81. Although this figure is insufficient, it should be added that 26 HLs in 12 autonomous communities declare that they have no technical staff;
- VHLs. This is a service that is generally offered to an entire health system of an autonomous community, so that 1.8 technicians per VHL are insufficient. To this must be added the fact that 5 VHLs are equipped with library staff from their corresponding community, which implies a workload for the technical staff that is rarely visible and even less often recognised;
- furthermore, in addition to the more technical tasks (information search, counselling or training services), libraries have more administrative tasks associated with them, which are equally relevant (document retrieval services, etc.). These tasks were traditionally carried out by administrative staff. The data offered are much lower than desired. The fact that a library is not equipped with administrative staff means that these rather routine tasks must be carried out by technical staff, overburdening them and underutilising the human resources of the institution.

*On scientific publication support activities, training:* libraries have always assumed training to be necessary for researchers and the institutions to which they belong (9, 10). 82.2% of libraries carry out some training activity on a regular basis. As might be expected, bibliographic search courses are the most popular. We understand that this is due both to the need of researchers to carry out their work, and to the library tradition in this type of training activities. To a lesser extent, libraries perform essential tasks for scientific publication (publication process of scientific journals, researcher profiling, scientific writing, etc.). However,

we found some significant differences between VHLs and HLs, as regards courses on scientific writing and preparation of guides and manuals. Although we do not know the reasons for this difference, we understand that this could be due to three reasons: a) the absence of technicians trained in these activities and/or subjects, b) the work overload preventing training activities from being carried out, c) the distribution of training tasks between VHLs and HLs. *Counselling:* librarians are a key support in the preparation and publication of papers. 92.1% of libraries claim to support users in literature searches, 70.3% in journal selection and, to a lesser extent, in the standardisation of the scientific signature. This decrease could be due to the fact that clinicians are not always aware of the functions performed by the library. We therefore consider it essential to reinforce the dissemination of the service portfolios.

The dissemination of results, both of scientific production and of research results, is also the task of the scientific information expert for the promotion, visibility and positioning of their institution. However, very few libraries are part of their institution's research plan (30.7%). Reports seem to be the main tool for dissemination. However, at present, they are merely a historical record of the activity carried out. Repositories, of great relevance due to the possibilities of disseminating the activity carried out, do not reach 50% (45.4% in VHLs and 37.8% in HLs). We understand that, in many cases, the affirmative answer is due to the fact that they collaborate with the repository of their VHL. This situation would confirm that the work overload is much greater than initially appears: librarians in hospital environments are working for the repositories of the VHLs.

*Assessment and measuring of scientific activity:* the reputation and funding of an institution is partly determined by its scientific output. The fact that there is no institutional policy in this respect (two services carry out the same activity, with different policies and systems), given that librarians and documentalists are the experts in scientific publication and measuring of science, we consider 50% to be particularly low. Many respondents stated that this activity was shared by research units and/or foundations. In our opinion, having two units producing and publishing the same activity implies inappropriate duplication of efforts and lack of coordination.

Despite the support provided in institutional scientific production, only 30.7% of libraries are part of their institution's research plan, which is far below the expected figure. We believe that in order for an institution to promote research at its centre and improve its visibility, it is necessary for it to have experts in the field, i.e. library professionals.

### Conclusions

- There is non-compliance in terms of the existence of a library in many hospitals.
- Staffing is clearly insufficient, especially in the case of technicians, as many provide services in a HL and in the VHL, which leads to an overload of work.
- There is a clear relationship between the existence of technicians and the increase in publication support services. Following this line, it would be interesting to assess the relationship between the scientific production generated by hospitals and the presence or absence of libraries, but above all of specialised staff.
- Despite the importance shown, there is still little participation of libraries in the research plans of their institution.

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### EAHIL 2020 Conference “Be Open, Act Together” from the organizers’ perspective

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*The Authors are part of the EAHIL 2020 Local Organizing Committee*

#### **If it seems you have it all planned out, it’s true – it only seems so**

In June 2019 no one yet knew what global changes the next year would bring. After we came back from the EAHIL 2019 Workshop in Basel, Switzerland, we set about organizing the next EAHIL event. On the one hand, it seemed like a huge challenge, but on the other hand, we eagerly anticipated it.

Before the EAHIL Workshop in Basel, we had already been meeting on a regular basis as the EAHIL 2020 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) carefully planning our next activities. When COVID-19 was conquering more and more countries, we already had a lot of issues planned: the conference venue, the city tours of Lodz (Łódź) and two other Polish cities, the conference gifts. The registration process had already started and the authors had been sending us their posters. To put it simply, the machinery was put into motion.

Everything changed when the pandemic struck; at first, we did not know if that was just a temporary situation or how serious it was and was going to be. Yet a time came when we could not wait any longer – we made the difficult decision to make the next EAHIL conference an online event and move it from June 2020 to November 2020. The experiences that we gained during the preparation of the event are invaluable, and the new knowledge and skills that we acquired will undoubtedly prove useful in the future. We would like to share our knowledge and experience by providing a few tips on the issues that, in our opinion as organizers, are essential for the organization of an online conference, especially an international one.

#### **Plan A: preparing the on-site conference**

In 2018 a gap appeared in the annual EAHIL event schedule after the event that was supposed to be held in Italy in 2020 was cancelled. The team at the Medical University of Lodz decided to take advantage of this opportunity – we submitted a proposal to organize the 2020 event in Lodz, Poland. During the EAHIL 2018 conference in Cardiff the EAHIL Board informed us - the future EAHIL 2020 Local Organizing Committee - that our proposal had been accepted. During the EAHIL Basel workshop we promoted the 2020 EAHIL event at a stand (you might remember the fudge sweets we were giving out) and by the end of July 2019 the preparations for this great and prestigious event were in full swing.

It is worth noting that the proposal submitted to the EAHIL Board contained a detailed concept of the organization of the EAHIL conference in Lodz, including the budget and also the suggestions for the conference venues and the side events. All those plans were supposed to be implemented in June 2020, however, in March 2020 it turned out that the conference was at risk. At that time, the preparations for the event were quite advanced: we were ready for the 300+ participants who had started to register for the conference, the conference venues had been reserved, the sponsors had chosen their sponsorship offers and the conference programme (including the presentations, the posters and the side events) was almost complete.

## Memories from the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference

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### The pandemic

For some time, we hoped that the EAHIL 2020 conference could take place as planned and that the threat would pass and the national and international restrictions would soon be removed. When we realised that the conference in June was unrealistic, we began thinking to postpone it until autumn, still as an on-site event. Unfortunately, the situation did not improve with time: more and more countries were closing their borders and universities were restricting business trips. The number of people infected with COVID-19 was also continuously growing.

Since the restrictions applied to the whole world, an international conference suddenly seemed irrational. We started to fear that even if the situation in Poland in autumn would be better so that we could hold the event as planned we simply might not have any participants. With both safety and financial considerations in mind we decided to organize the EAHIL 2020 conference as an online event in November 2020.

The total cancellation of the event was not an option for us as it would mean that all the time and effort put into the preparations by the International Programme Committee (IPC), the LOC team and also the authors of the abstracts, posters, workshops and Continuing Education Courses (CECs) would have been wasted. After receiving the EAHIL Board's approval we set about implementing changes to the original plan in order to deliver the conference as a virtual event. The situation was unprecedented. We were to organize the first ever EAHIL event held in the virtual world with no previous experience in that matter whatsoever.

### Plan B: preparing the online conference

Thus, the organization process began once again. What we needed to do first was to cancel all reservations regarding the on-site conference or to change them into a virtual format. Cancelling the reservation for the conference venues proved the most difficult. The second major step was revising the conference programme and communicating with over 60 authors who had presentations, posters, workshops and courses submitted and accepted. Fortunately, most authors took up the challenge and decided to take part in the online conference.

Not only did we carry on preparing the virtual event, but we also moved our discussions and meetings into the virtual world. We took advantage of the online communication resources more than ever. Through emails and virtual meetings, we designed the shape of the EAHIL 2020 online conference – the sessions and the meetings, the poster exhibition, the side events and the tours were all going to be held online. Once again, we prepared sponsorship offers, designed conference gifts and planned city tours – all in a new virtual format. The hotel halls and rooms were replaced by virtual rooms on the ZOOM platform, the tours were made into video recordings and the sponsors and exhibitors' stands transformed into a webpage on the EAHIL 2020 conference website.



## Memories from the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference

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Having decided on the new shape of the event, we proceeded to redesign the registration form, the guidelines for the authors of presentations and posters and the conference programme. Then our focus shifted to the online platform which we had never used before – ZOOM. Firstly, we needed to test it ourselves and then let the authors, sponsors and registered participants try it out before the conference so that we could avoid as many technical problems as possible. However, ZOOM was just the beginning of the list of applications we were going to use. Normally, during on-site conferences and workshops all the talks and discussions in between the sessions are as important as the sessions themselves so we realised that we also had to provide the conference participants with some means of communication during the event. We considered several options and finally decided to set up the virtual coffee rooms on the Discord platform. For the conference programme, all the instructions and guidelines as well as the place for the participants to leave comments and opinions we chose Padlet.

### **Build your team**

People are the foundation of any activity – their knowledge and skills as well as their willingness to get involved. The EAHIL 2020 LOC team consisted of 14 people from 4 Polish medical institutions: the Library of the Medical University of Lodz; Fumed - the Foundation for the Medical University of Lodz; the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine in Lodz; and the Main Library of Wroclaw Medical University. With the benefit of hindsight, we can easily identify the personal qualities that were the most important in our team and proved pivotal for the success of the event.

The most essential qualities are flexibility and multitasking. There were a few situations when we had to respond in the last minute and adjust to the needs of the moment – both our own as organizers and of the conference participants and, especially, the authors. The whole team had to be constantly ready for making any kinds of decisions in an instant in order to adapt to emergencies and unexpected circumstances concerning both the organizational and technical issues. Multitasking was crucial during the conference – each team member was operating a number of different devices (e.g., two computers) and a number of various applications simultaneously (ZOOM, Discord, Excel files with essential information, Padlet with all the links, e-mails).

The distribution of tasks played a key role – it was crucial to know who is responsible for a given issue or task as it enabled effective task management as well as allowed us not to interfere with each other's tasks and not to duplicate the work. At all times, additional people were engaged to provide support when necessary, especially with the larger tasks such as running particular sessions. A number of people were given the ZOOM co-host roles so that we could run the sessions even if unexpected difficulties occurred and a number of people were given access to the conference e-mail box so that all the many questions and requests of the conference participants and sponsors were answered smoothly.

One of the most invaluable aspects of conference organization is the presence of IT specialists on the team. The EAHIL 2020 LOC team was lucky to have two of them and they contributed greatly to our success by sharing their knowledge and skills as well as engaging in the whole process, learning new tools and searching for solutions to problems. It is definitely worthwhile to have such people on your team even if in your everyday work you do not seem to have problems with operating applications such as ZOOM platform or instant messaging technologies. The geek-like curiosity of our IT specialists saved us many times when they searched for hidden options in the software and checked various settings; and also, when a computer of one of the main hosts crashed while a presenter was waiting for the screen-sharing option to be activated... In such stressful situations the IT support is of critical importance. Our IT colleagues also designed the EAHIL 2020 conference website.

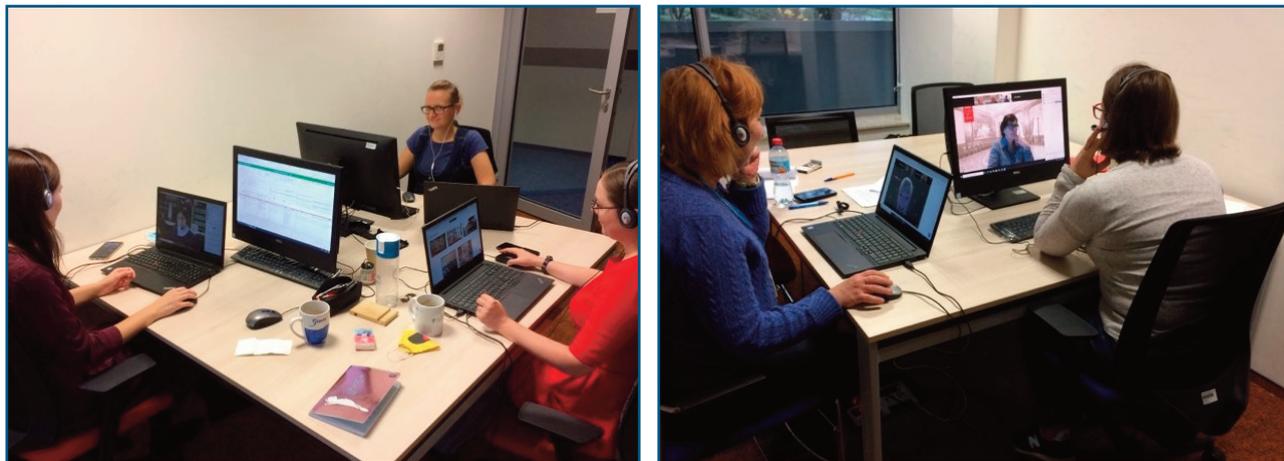
The personal traits that were also essential for the effective organization of the conference were creativity and openness of the LOC team members, as well as their ability to make good use of their individual qualities in the virtual world. People of various personal qualities and skills adapted very well to the new reality; especially the librarians with good administrative and organizational skills as well as the communication and linguistic

## Memories from the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference

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ones (we worked a lot in English). Some of our team had previous experience in organizing on-site conferences, however, due to the ongoing situation we all entered the learning-by-doing mode. We acquired new knowledge, tested new solutions and learned from both achievements and failures.

A person whose role was also essential was our graphic designer. His work made the conference visually consistent - in our opinion, it was even more important in the virtual world than in reality. In addition, we collaborated with a number of people from outside of IPC and LOC who carried out various tasks during various stages of conference organization – for example creating the call-for-abstract and registration forms, preparing legal documentation and GDPR consulting.



### **Communicate effectively**

Effective teamwork was the foundation of our activities, however, with our team dispersed due to the pandemic it was necessary to change the attitude – we opted for several communication channels and working both collectively and in smaller task teams. We made use of Office 365 tools for e-mails, task management and for creating, storing and sharing files. It was also crucial to hold online meetings which took place on MS Teams and ZOOM platforms where we met both as the whole LOC team and as separate task teams. As the preparations for the conference were being finalized, we communicated swiftly by Discord and phone.

### **Manage the process effectively**

A considerable emphasis was put on the planning and work organization which was the main task of the LOC Chair. This role required a vision of the whole endeavour, setting goals to achieve and knowing the team members well. The LOC Chair divided the tasks into consecutive stages and delegated them to particular LOC members; she also monitored the progress and indicated the best ways to reach the goals. Yet, we also took many decisions together as a team and many ideas occurred through brainstorming during LOC meetings. Cooperation was crucial and each team member contributed to the final shape of the event.

Another significant aspect of the conference organization was the testing of ideas and chosen solutions. When we decided to use the ZOOM platform for the conference, we replaced MS Teams with ZOOM for our regular LOC meetings in order to get to know it before the actual conference. Similarly, we implemented Discord into our daily communication so that we knew how it works before we introduced it to the conference participants. The testing of the tools allowed us to predict potential problems that might have occurred during the event. The testing approach included conference rehearsals during which we simulated the real-time conference sessions and other conference events such as sponsors' virtual booths. Such simulated conferences enabled us to identify potential technical problems and verify our plans. The tests resulted in checklists which enumerated particular steps to be taken by designated LOC team members during the real conference sessions, from their

## Memories from the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference

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beginning to the end.

We held both internal platform tests and the external ones – we invited all interested participants, authors, moderators, trainers and sponsors to test the ZOOM platform before the conference. There were several such test sessions at different times so that everyone could learn how to use ZOOM. Additionally, during the conference we allowed the authors and moderators to join the session rooms in advance so that they could make some last-minute checks of the platform and its functions. Consequently, the repeated testing approach proved very useful and effective as there were no major technical problems during the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference. Some of the troubles that we experienced came from the situations beyond our control such as poor internet connection of some conference participants and presenters.

It is vital to be open to new technologies (applications, tools and technical approaches) when organizing such a huge and engaging event as the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference undoubtedly was. Such attitude was very convenient when occasionally the conference participants submitted some unusual requests or we faced unusual challenges. Knowing the various tools and applications and being open to tackling problems proved very helpful and necessary in such situations.

To sum up our thoughts on the planning, informing and testing, we would like to point to a few concepts. First of all, do not fear new tools – they will be very useful. On the other hand, do not underestimate the participants' comfort – the more tools you use the more stressful it gets for the presenters and the moderators. Surprising ourselves and others with exciting innovations is definitely worthwhile, nevertheless, it must be done sensibly. Secondly, test and check if everything is working properly, as often as possible. You may not predict every trouble, but you will be ready for the unpredictable. Thirdly, plan ahead and take arising opportunities to achieve goals before the deadline. The last few weeks before the event are so hectic and stressful that it is better to have fewer tasks left to deal with. Lastly, inform - both your team members (team communication) and the participants. Do not hesitate to disseminate the same information or give the same instruction multiple times – it will help you avoid unexpected problems. In our case, we failed to provide exact information to the presenters to register as conference participants as it seemed obvious to us. We were wrong.

### **The zero hour**

The time immediately before the conference involves a lot of tension and anticipation which can ease with the thought that all the necessary preparations have been made. Yet, what is the most important at this stage is the time discipline. From the very beginning of the first EAHIL 2020 session to the last, we put particular emphasis on proper timing and informed the presenters about the exact time allocated for their presentations. Each announcement involved repeated requests for time discipline so that the conference could run uninterrupted. As LOC members, we strived to make sure that each conference session started and finished on time. It was essential since we had to open the next one early enough to allow the presenters and the moderators a last-minute platform check and to be able to check the list of participants eligible for the session. Also, the moderators were informed that their role involved supervising the time limits for the presentations. As LOC we were present all the time during the EAHIL 2020 event in order to react whenever necessary, yet it was the moderators who, apart from keeping the time discipline, also kept record of the participants' questions to the presenters, announced and thanked the presenters and invited for the following sessions. We are extremely happy that everything worked out well and everybody complied with the time discipline; if not, we took matters into our own hands. This only shows that a LOC team not only prepares the event but also takes part in it, actively addressing the arising needs and problems.

### **The benefits**

The organization of a big international conference is a complex undertaking but also a great adventure, especially when you organize it twice in two different formats: on-site and virtual. The benefits that accrue are invaluable; despite the huge amount of work, stress and facing the unknown, it is an opportunity to extend

## Memories from the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference

your knowledge, sharpen your skills and develop new ones. Generally in the modern world, as well as in the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, it is highly advantageous and also crucial to learn new technologies and electronic work and communication tools. Despite the double effort, our LOC team gained twice as much as well – we learned a lot in various areas of expertise and we learned it twice in two different realities.

Preparing the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference was like an accelerated course in new technologies and interactive educational tools, in interpersonal skills and teamwork, in crisis management and staying cool, and also in creativity and visualization skills. The EAHIL 2020 adventure strengthened the relations between the members of the organizational team and provided opportunity to collaborate and share experience between librarians from various institutions both locally (LOC) and internationally (IPC). The positive feedback that we received during and after the conference was very satisfactory, increased our confidence and reassured us that the effort paid off. The EAHIL 2020 Online Conference will definitely stay in our memory for a long time.



### EAHIL 2020 in numbers

We were **O**pen for 4 days and **A**cted **T**ogether for 30+ hours of sessions



#### 4 days

- 250+** participants
- 34** countries
- 14** LOC Members
- 3** LOC Members' locations in Poland
- 18** IPC Members
- 13** IPC Members' locations



#### 30+ hours of sessions

- 7** themes
- 14** sessions
- 2** keynote speakers
- 27** presentations
- 28** posters
- 4** Interactive Workshops
- 2** sponsor workshops
- 2** CEC's



#### Countless smiles

- 131** EAHIL 2020 Discord users
- 2** virtual tours
- 2** online social events
- 1** quiz with 3 winners
- 1** lecture about Lodz
- 1** piano concert
- 9** sponsors
- 6** Sponsor Virtual Booths

And also: **91** Zoom rooms **22** Padlets **∞** Countless coffees and teas drunk by participants

Online conference  
**16–18 November 2020**  
**Łódź–Poland**



*The photographs in this paper are by Tomasz Przybył*

### Be Open, Act Together: the message of EAHIL 2020 Online Conference I learned from a friend



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The last days of October 2019, I received an email from my friend, Vicki Croft, a retired head of WSU<sup>1</sup>'s Animal Health Library who I first met at ICAHIS<sup>2</sup>. I think I have had the good fortune to become Vicki's friend for a variety of reasons. Here I am going to write about my recent experience related to one of these reasons.

In the email, she told me about the abstract submission for the **EAHIL2020 Conference: Be Open, Act Together** that was related to my research interests. The European Association for Health Information and Libraries organizes conferences or workshops annually for librarians and information professionals working in all health sectors around Europe and other continents. The 17th EAHIL Conference was going to take place in Lodz, Poland, on 22-26 June 2020. Although there were only three days left for the deadline of the first call, I wrote and sent a proposal on one of the conference themes: "Open Health Information". I think it was because of Vicki that I did it so quickly and took this opportunity to not only attend the conference but also present there. I remembered that once I asked Vicki to send a voice message for a meeting that I organized for LIS<sup>3</sup> students in my previous university in Iran. She told us: "*Become professionally active; collaborate with your own library, libraries in your community, your country, or internationally; work outside your immediate discipline; learn new skills and about new resources; dare to be bold and try something new; lastly, think and act globally!*" (personal communication, Vicki Croft, in Doctor Reza Naghshineh Memorial Lecture: Information Services for Veterinary Practice. University of Tehran. Iran, December 22, 2018).

Two months after the submission, in December 20, 2019, I received an email from the International Programme Committee of the conference that my proposal has been accepted as an oral presentation for the EAHIL conference. I was excited because I was going to travel to Poland for the first time, present my ideas and experiences for the whole new peers, meet a few old friends and lots of new health information specialist across the world.

Many things changed from that day until the day I participated at the conference. The Coronavirus pandemic occurred, my PhD research at the VUW<sup>4</sup> started by distance rather than on campus, and the conference was postponed to Autumn 2020 and took place as a virtual event rather than in Lodz, Poland. I felt I would miss many personal and professional opportunities which could bring me a lifelong benefits and memorable events, but I also think "I was bold and tried something new".

The Online EAHIL2020 was a large multi-session online event from 16-18 November with a virtual lobby,

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<sup>1</sup> Washington State University

<sup>2</sup> 9th International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialist. Budapest, Hungary, June 14-17, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Library and Information Science

<sup>4</sup> Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

## Memories from the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference participants

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Zoom meetings, Discord chat rooms and voice chat channels, a poster website, YouTube pre-record tours, Google forms, sponsors virtual exhibition, a live stream concert, and game-based learning platforms. We could also share information tidbits from the online event on our platforms like Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram Stories. The Local Organising Committee in Lodz was mostly successful in making it highly interactive and giving the conference a similar look and feel to a physical event, however the experience was competently different from previous conferences I had attended: something new and unique in its own way.

I participated under my PhD affiliation and the VUW's School of Information Management covered the fees. Every day I sat in my own home office (in my home country, Iran) rather than conference centre for hours until the end. The conference started every day at 9 am (CET). So, I needed to be so careful with converting the time of each session to my current time zone. Usually the whole day programme ended at 11.30 pm (in my time zone) and I got really tired. I had to contend with distractions during the virtual event that aren't necessarily there for in-person conferences (e.g. emails that pop-up on my screen, or house distractions). Attendees viewed the event from many different locations and I think the scale was larger than any previous EAHIL conferences (more than 250 participants). During the greetings in virtual conferences it is common to say "Hello from [a country]". I was representing for my university in NZ; however, I was actually presenting from Iran! The coronavirus era really puts us in new situations and we need to decide and act differently according to our new norms.

This was the first time that I presented at the EAHIL conference. I was presenting on the third day of the conference in the "Open Health Information" session with Lydia Rignace from Ministry of Health of Seychelles, and Artemis Chalepioglou from Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens. Lydia was going to demonstrate the importance of health literacy at the population level; however, unfortunately she could not join us during the online session. Artemis looked at the applicability of semantic web ontologies in the consumption of Open Science biomedical data. And my presentation was about health literacy interventions in veterinary services. My main objective was to show the impact of human-animal, and client veterinarian bonds on the outcomes of vets' prescribed information to support eHealth literacy among different groups of pet owners. My three conclusions were:

- the bond between owners and their pets has a significant influence on their behaviors to use high quality and the best available sources to seek animal health information;
- vets should make clients aware of options to find reliable sources and improve their information evaluation skills via learning opportunities (e.g. information prescriptions, or guided internet searches);
- information specialists should collaborate with animal health sectors to develop a unique animal-related health literacy measurement tool, and design interventions to improve health literacy among pet owners.

During the Q&A I received positive comments and thought-provoking questions. Heather Moberly, coordinator of veterinary information services at the Texas A&M University, and Fiona Brown, academic support librarian for veterinary medicine at the University of Edinburgh, wanted to know more about the engagement of veterinary practitioners in this study. I briefly talked about how vets were engaged in designing client handouts and prescribing online sources. We really need to think about possible ways of collaboration with animal health organisations and veterinary centres. After my presentation in the virtual coffee rooms, Jessica Langenhoff, owner of XXs2info<sup>5</sup>, commented about the importance of giving people an information prescription before being allowed to have a companion animal. She also provided me with a good example of the education of pet owners in the Netherlands via an initiative called the National Center for Information on Companion Animals<sup>6</sup> (LCIG).

There were also some questions about reliable, up-to-date- and easy-to-understand websites for pet owners. Specially, I think we need online platforms to help pet owners navigate the stressful pandemic environment.

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<sup>5</sup> XXs2info (access to info) established in 2020 for providing communication and information services for healthcare sector in the Netherlands

<sup>6</sup> www.licg.nl

## Memories from the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference participants

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Some good links and practices were shared on the Zoom chat box and Discord chat rooms. For instance, [Pet Health Pal](#), launched by Mars Petcare Science Institute, is a free digital education tool powered by Facebook (FB) Messenger about information related to pet health and ownership during COVID-19. Or [Pandemic Puppies](#) a research at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) seeking to improve the lives of dogs, by understanding problems experienced during the purchase of a puppy. Also, on Facebook there's another initiative called "Dog during pandemic" where people offer their help with walking the dog of someone who has to stay at home because of quarantine. More general online information sources for pet owners is [LifeLearn ClientEd](#), by which the University of Tennessee provides a subscription database of 1300 articles in English and Spanish curated by veterinarians as an information supplement. And finally, the [Veterinary Partner](#), an accurate pet health information website for client education provided by the Veterinary Information Network, Inc.

It is clear that the Open Health Information session of EAHIL conference was informative both for human and animal health. It was also great to meet and learn from health librarians from across the world. But I really felt the lack of more informal networking opportunities. While I was presenting from home, there were few opportunities for attendees to engage with me and my content, and even fewer to interact with one another. They could only use the chat window in the Zoom meeting to respond with support or questions or refer to an article or a shared document. The chat window is a unique opportunity in virtual meetings but there aren't any ways to interact with other attendees offline or after each session. Only a few participants joined virtual coffee breaks on the Discord platform. This conference also lacked photography and official group photos the way we used to have them; however, we all tried to capture our moments with screenshots. Although I could not feel the presence of my attendees from all over the world, it was a memorable session because I had my whole family physically in my home office listening to my presentation and giving positive energy!

In the EAHIL 2020 Online Conference I became professionally active by joining and participating in a professional association and in a EVLG<sup>7</sup> special interest group meeting. I learned new skills and about new resources. In an online interactive workshop Tuulevi Ovaska from University of Eastern Finland Library and her colleagues considered online fun tools for remote professional collaboration (e.g. AnswerGarden, Padlet, and Kahoot). I was offered some collaborations outside my immediate discipline (e.g. to work on a COVID-19 research study in Iran). I thought and acted globally. I became familiar with ALIA HLA<sup>8</sup> and decided to build network with Australian colleagues. All these experiences are exactly what Vicki told me although her absence was felt during the EAHIL2020. Therefore, I want to thank her for valuable suggestions and her lasting friendship. Vicki Croft, a founder of the International Conference of Animal Health Specialists (ICAHIS), and the "queen of networking" according to Sarah McCord, has made my life different!

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<sup>7</sup> European Veterinary Libraries Group

<sup>8</sup> Australian Library and Information Association: Health Libraries Australia

## My memories from the EAHIL Conference "Be Open Act Together" from 16-18 November 2020 in Łódź, Poland



**Latifa Bouanzi**

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BouanziL@iarc.fr

2020 was the year in which we had been, as always, looking to organize trips and attend weddings, family parties, meetings, conferences, etc. Last year, March was just wonderful, and we were looking forward to enjoying the sun and sharing barbecues and lunches with family and friends after a very long winter. Unfortunately, we all have been choked by the very bad news about the Covid-19 pandemic and the compulsory lockdowns in European countries.

It is possible to try to forget 2020, but the evidence is that we'll never be able to make it unforgettable! We learned how to make compatible our teleworking and E-daily meetings, with both housekeeping and home-schooling, and even better, find a suitable time slot to share a coffee break with friends.

The EAHIL big family had still been hoping to be able to pack luggage to get on the boat (one of the meanings of Łódź), to attend the 2020 Conference "Be Open Act Together" from 16-18 November 2020 in Łódź, Poland. Thus, all our plans to meet friends and to network, and even the conference, switched to an online format because of the pandemic.

Despite, these difficult circumstances, the EAHIL family stayed united and the conference gathered hundreds of participants, thanks to the organization team's efforts. We surely missed the coffee breaks, socializing and the fun we usually have during lunch times. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the conference and were able to share experiences and learn from others, as we always did.

Additionally, the organizers offered us a wonderful concert and a virtual dinner, which we enjoyed very much and of course we had our funny chats and shared our news. We enjoyed the virtual tours in the beautiful surroundings of Łódź, which gave us an impressive historical and cultural overview of the city.

Now we cannot wait to meet again. I hope, In Turkey in July 2021.

### Letter from the President



**Lotta Haglund**

Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences, GIH  
Stockholm, Sweden  
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Dear EAHIL colleagues,

With this first issue for 2021, I send you wishes for a new year hopefully with the return to a more normal life, with the help of vaccines. Many of you have worked hard, and are still working hard, to support the work of health care professionals and of researchers to fight the virus. Some of you have probably also contributed to the incomparably speedy development of several efficient vaccines currently being distributed.

For the Association, as for all of us, the pandemic has changed many aspects of how we usually work. In early March 2020, the EAHIL Executive Board held its winter meeting in Stockholm, only two weeks before most of Europe closed down. We've all increased our skills in different online tools during the year and in having Board meetings online. A recurring topic for discussion in past years has been the future of our annual events, both in terms of finding locations and organisers who are willing to take on the task of organising an event on top of their day job, but also about the financial difficulties making it increasingly difficult for some members to travel to an EAHIL event. We've talked about the possibility of streaming the event, and about what that would involve in terms of technology, expertise and costs, but we've never really got around to try any of the ideas. And then the brave team in Łódź, Poland, suddenly didn't have a choice if there was going to be an event at all. And what an event they managed to organise, in what must be considered a very short time to do a 180° turn on all their plans! Not only did the scientific content match our expectations, but they had also come up with ways of making us feel the same EAHIL spirit as we usually do when meeting in person. An awe-inspiring accomplishment indeed.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 uncertainties, the EAHIL 2021 Workshop team in Istanbul, Turkey has now decided to change the planned hybrid workshop in July to an online-only event and drawing on the experiences from Łódź. I'm sure the Local Organising Committee, chaired by Güssün Güneş, will make the workshop as inviting and engaging as last year's event. The theme of the Istanbul workshop is *Crossing the bridge: new challenges, new opportunities*, with sub-themes: Physical and virtual, Education and literacy, Communication and publication, Data and research, Evidence and resources, Innovation and services. The call for abstracts was extended an additional three weeks, which means that the International Programme Committee will be hard at work selecting the most interesting abstracts when you read this. Follow EAHIL in social media for updates on the event.

In my new role as EAHIL President, I am looking forward to collaborating with all the Board colleagues, and at the time of writing this Letter, we're planning the Executive Board's winter meeting. I wish to welcome our new Board members: Alicia Fatima Gomez Sanchez (Spain), Aoife Lawton (Ireland), Petra Wallgren Björk (Sweden) and Astrid Kilvik (Norway). I'm also delighted that Marion Heymans from the Netherlands has agreed to act as the liaison with the Dutch authorities and the bank on behalf of EAHIL.

To make the transition of the work on the Board more manageable, we've made Board officers' election by email. For the 2021-2022 term, the Executive Board will be as follows: Maurella Della Seta will be the Past

President and Tiina Heino our new Vice President; Witold Kozakiewicz, who has been Deputy Treasurer for the past years, will now take up Treasurer's role and Aoife Lawton the Deputy Treasurer; the Honorary Secretary will be Astrid Kilvik, and Petra Wallgren Björk will handle the EAHIL website and social media as Communications Officer. A focus area for the Board during 2021 will be updating our different systems, e.g. membership database and file storage, and Francesca Gualtieri has agreed to act as our Systems Administrator, with the help of Tiina Heino. To arrange events and support the *Journal of EAHIL*, close contact with sponsors are needed, and this will be the task of Alicia Fatima Gomez Sanchez. As the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of EAHIL* Federica Napolitani participates in Board meetings, in her advisory role to the Board.

I am sure that the year ahead will be very busy for all of us and for our Association as well, but we also have to plan for the future. I'm happy to remind you that we have secured locations for EAHIL events in the next two years, the EAHIL Conference 2022 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and the EAHIL Workshop 2023 in Trondheim, Norway. Events from 2024 onward are still to be decided, and I invite all of you to send expressions of interest or proposals to EAHIL-SECR@LIST.ECOMPASS.NL.

Please refer to <http://eahil.eu/events/arrange-conference/> for event guidelines and feel free to contact me or other Board members for discussion and support.

Looking forward to hearing from you with proposals and suggestions,

*Lotta*

*The photograph of the Author is by Louise Ekström*



MARMARA  
UNIVERSITY



**EAHIL**  
Virtual Workshop **20** **21**  
**5** **8** July

**İstanbul, TURKEY**

**Crossing the Bridge**

**New Challenges, New Opportunities**





### *Dear EAHIL Colleagues and Community,*

Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and with the safety of our community as a top priority the Local Organising Committee and International Program Committee for the 18th EAHIL Workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, have decided to deliver the Workshop as an online event. EAHIL 2021 Virtual Workshop will take place on 5-8 July 2021 on Zoom platform.

On behalf of the Marmara University Rectorate and International Program Committee & the Local Organizing Committee it is a great pleasure for us to invite you to the EAHIL2021 Virtual Workshop in Istanbul. We are working hard to ensure that the online workshop takes place in the most efficient, very interactive and dynamic ways.

The main theme of the virtual workshop is “Crossing the Bridge: New Challenges, New Opportunities” The Bridge is connecting Europe and Asia and it’s a symbol of İstanbul. The idea of a bridge crossing the Bosphorus dates back to antiquity and its a link between the continents. Let’s meet where the continents meet!

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Deadline for Abstract final versions of accepted submissions: April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
- Deadline for Registration of Presenters: April 15<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Early Registration begins: April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
- Regular Registration begins: June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021



# EAHIL2021

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## PRICES

- 110 EUR [Registration fee - Before 2 June 2021]
- 125 EUR [Late registration fee - After 2 June 2021]
- 55 EUR [On-line CEC - All Day]
- 25 EUR [On-line CEC - Half A Day]

The detailed workshop schedule is available for you at our website: <https://etkinlik.marmara.edu.tr/eahil2021>

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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## Report from the Special Interest Group TrEDMIL online meeting Łódź, November 16th 2020



**Sabine Buroh**

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November 2020 saw the fourth meeting of TrEDMIL, the SIG that works to identify and provide training and education opportunities for our profession, both for new entrants to the profession, and for practitioners who need to update and develop their skills and knowledge. The meeting was held via Zoom in the afternoon of a rather busy first day of EAHIL 2020.

### **Increase in membership**

Fourteen participants from 10 countries were welcomed by Co-Chair Gerhard Bissels and Secretary Sabine Buroh. The remit of the SIG seems to be of general interest. The number of subscribers to the mailing list increased again, from 176 in 2019 to 258 from 42 countries in 2020, but, as in other EAHIL SIGs, the numbers of active users of the mailing list and participation in TrEDMIL SIG meetings are much lower than the number of subscribers. Therefore a meeting of the EAHIL SIG chairs to discuss and improve the overall organization and efficiency of the SIGs will be initiated. All SIG members present agreed that invitations to future SIG meetings should clearly state that the meetings are open for non-members of the SIG and that conference or workshop attendance is not a prerequisite for attending. The option to attend remotely should be offered for TrEDMIL SIG meetings to come.

### **New Co-Chair**

Since one of the Co-Chairs of the SIG had to step down for personal reasons in 2020, volunteers or suggestions for candidates are sought via the TrEDMIL list. The possibility of three co-chairs (three subgroups being already in existence: Post-graduate Education, Continuing Professional Development, and Competencies Frameworks) was also discussed during the meeting. Volunteers willing to fill the vacancy are most welcome and asked to contact Gerhard Bissels (Gerhard.Bissels@fhgr.ch).

### **Re-launch of the TrEDMIL website**

Following the last meeting in Basel, the TrEDMIL website was re-structured to improve the presentation of information on new competencies for medical information and library professionals, training requirements and opportunities (<http://eahil.eu/sig-2/training-education-development-group/>). Known links to learning opportunities, to the EAHIL webinars of the CPD Pilot project phase 1 and to competencies frameworks were listed. The help of volunteers with proficiency in Wordpress regarding future developments and maintenance of the website would be very much appreciated by the secretary.

## NEWS FROM EAHIL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### The centralised events calendar

In early 2020 a discussion was initiated by a proposal to advertise a course on systematic searching in *JEAHIL*. It was felt that publishing such courses in the journal was not the best way forward (too infrequent, too slow to show changes (e.g. waiting lists, course fully booked etc.)). TrEDMIL came up with a proposal to set up a diary of training events on the website. All who participated in the discussion agreed to explore this further. Two volunteers were found who looked into the technically set up and gathering of content for that new training events diary which will be integrated in the SIGs website. The project has been worked on but is on hold at the moment. Additional volunteers to help with planning and most of all regular upkeep of such an events diary are very welcome. Please contact Igor Brbre (igor.brbre@nhs.net).

### Post-graduate training

Unfortunately the new post-grad programme could not be realized as initially planned within the framework of an English-only online graduate school. The new post-grad programme in medical and health librarianship that the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons is planning, will start within their existing MAS programme as a CAS (15 ECTS) on Systematic Searching in 2021. Modules to follow could be on Clinical Librarianship and International and Disaster Health.

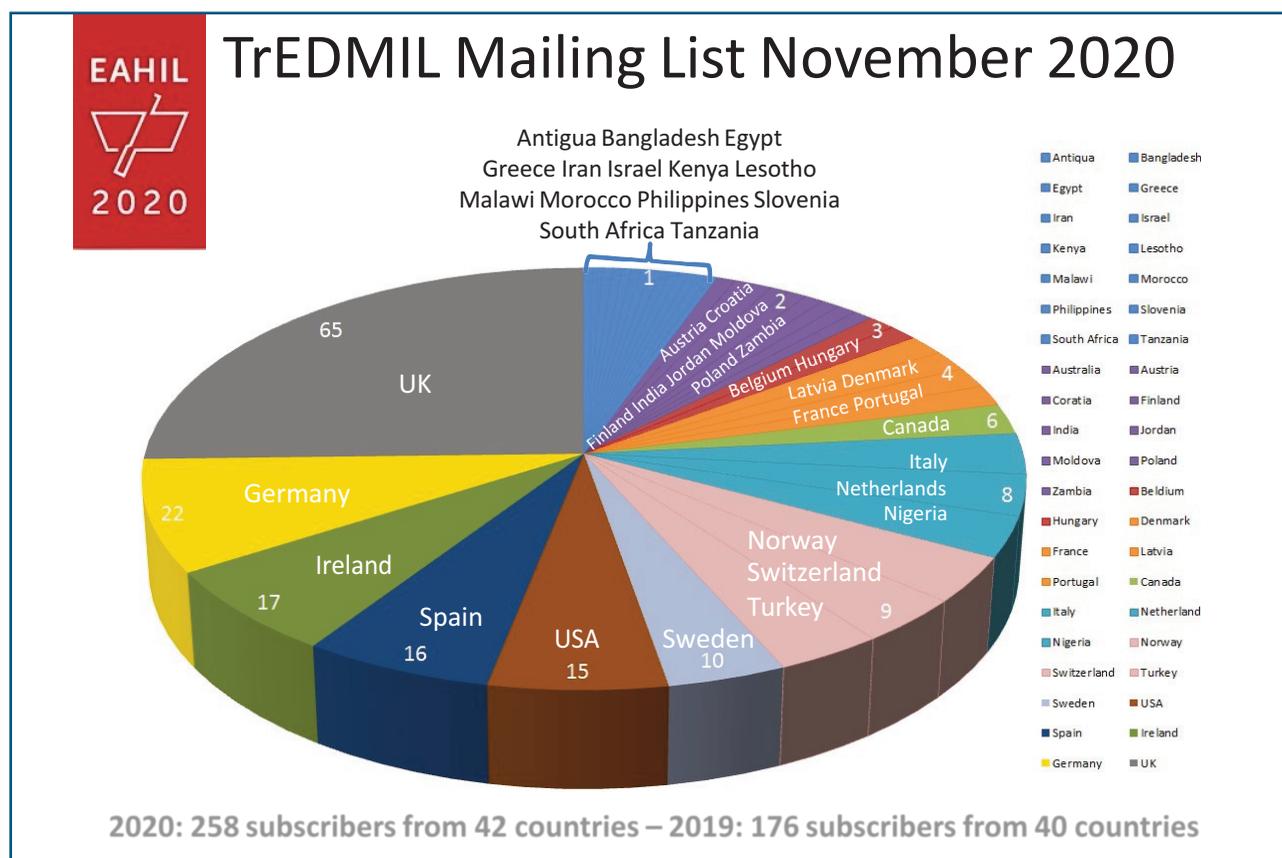


Fig. 1. TrEDMIL mailing List November 2020 pie chart.

## Report on Special Interest Group on MeSH EAHIL 2020 Online Conference Łódź , Poland, November 17th, 2020



**Maurella Della Seta**

EAHIL Past President, Chair SIG MeSH

Contact: [maurella.dellaseta@iss.it](mailto:maurella.dellaseta@iss.it);

The Special Interest Group (SIG) on Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) met on November 17th, 2020 from 16:00 to 17:00, in a virtual room, made available by our Polish colleagues. I take this opportunity to thank, once more, the Lodz Conference Local Organizing Committee for their kindness and efficiency.

Seven delegates, from the Netherlands, Ireland, UK, Poland, and Italy, attended it. Participants in the meeting were information specialists and librarians interested in medical terminologies, or willing to implement MeSH translation in their country.

I must say that, although the technological means provided by the organizers were perfectly up to the situation, it was a bit difficult to conduct an online discussion. It must be considered that it was the first time that the SIG met online, and it took some time to get used to the new situation.

Once the ice broke, the participants were able to talk about various topics, including:

- difficulties met by translators after the dismissal of the MTMS (MeSH Translation Maintenance System) by the NLM at the end of 2019;
- implementation of MeSH in local indexing systems;
- information on how to contact the NLM in order to start a MeSH translation in one's country;
- differences in searching the new PubMed interface, with special regard to subject approach and to MeSH Browser.

Although there were fewer participants with respect to last years, the topic of MeSH is still interesting for the medical librarians community.

Greater participation throughout the year and not just at EAHIL events would be advisable, and should be considered in the future.



### Publications and new products

**Letizia Sampaolo**

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*The [On Being Project](#) is a non-profit media and public life initiative, whose story is engaging and enthralling. They make a public radio show, podcasts, and tools for the art of living by exploring the intersection of spiritual inquiry, science, social healing, community, poetry, and the arts. They offer continuing unique content for this moment, conversations about race and healing, "care packages" for caregivers and uncertainty times, and a new approach to experience poetry.*

*That said, I would like to open this new year's first issue by sharing their [latest newsletter's](#) opening lines just as they are, suggesting an exciting take on stories:*

*"We do not tell stories as they are, Anaïs Nin wrote, we tell stories as we are.*

*So, for instance, when I tell stories about birds, I tend to tell other stories too: 2020; pandemic; more time at home than I've had in years; sunrises at 5am; birdsong. And, even more, I think of phone calls to one particular friend to talk about the birds we'd noticed, their colors and habits and antics. Then that friend died, so the phone calls were no more. So now I think of him when I see birds.*

*You see how it works. We do not tell stories as they are; we tell them as we are. In fact, there's a long debate as to where Anaïs Nin even got that phrase, but that's another story."*

*We tell stories as we are, as we live, as we think... quite deep and dazzling. So, why not take a look at the [full newsletter](#), which The On Being Project invites to spread? Please, enjoy the full read!*

### JOURNAL ISSUES

*Health Information and Libraries Journal: Contents of December 2020 (37:1)*

#### Original Articles

- **Shane Gobolt 1943-2019**  
Nicky Whitsed, Cheryl Twomey, Richard Osborn, H el ene Gorring (Chair), Beatrice Doran
- **Shaping a librarian; the impact of Shane Godbolt as manager, mentor and more**  
Jones L
- **Standing on the shoulders of giants: Shane Godbolt in the beginning and at the ending**  
Whitsed N
- **Shane Godbolt: the Charing Cross years (1970–1991)**  
Hague H

## PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

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- **Fashioning the future: Shane Godbolt's leadership of the NHS regional library and information service in North Thames and London 1992-2003**  
Osborn RM
- **'journal with ambitions': Health Libraries Review and Shane Godbolt**  
Morgan P
- **The international collaborations of Shane Godbolt: EAHIL, ICML and irish health science libraries**  
Doran B, Law D
- **Shane Godbolt – A North American perspective**  
Flake D, Haines M, Crawford S, Henderson J, Lopez M
- **Working in partnership to strengthen health librarianship – Shane Godbolt's legacy**  
Farrow E, Zubeldia MC
- **The strong bridge between African librarians and international partnerships**  
Musoke MGN
- **Strengthening health information librarianship in Africa through associations and partnerships: personal reflections in memory of Shane Godbolt**  
Gathoni N, Ajuwon G
- **Partnership working in Africa: Shane Godbolt providing the links to the tapestry**  
Msengezi C, Mawire B
- **Growing together with African health libraries: partnerships in Health Information's impact and lessons for future partnerships**  
Phillips R, Twomey C
- **CILIP's Health Libraries Group—Shane Godbolt, lifelong member and supporter**  
Gorring H
- **Moving Forward': how health librarians can continue supporting the legacy of Shane Godbolt**  
Atiogbe P, Fricker A, Reid L
- **African Hospital Libraries: How Shane Godbolt inspired and shaped a seedling**  
Blacklock C

### Issue Information Covers

- **Publications, Obituaries & Tributes of Shane Godbolt**  
**Shane Godbolt: Honours and awards**

## PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

### FROM THE WEB

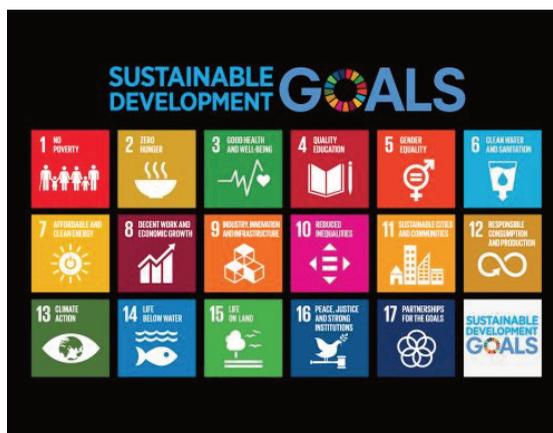
- **How to know the impact that the resources stored on the European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) can have on your library.**

However the libraries or library associations are big or small, the resources stored on the EBLIDA website can have an immediate impact on them, and help to advance their projects.

Through a series of itineraries, EBLIDA provides a guided tour of its website aimed at supporting European libraries in reaping the benefits of joining the Bureau. After having consulted it, the libraries will be enabled to process information, statistics and resources to be applied to the projects or the policies libraries or library associations are pursuing.

These itineraries are:

- o Fundraising, both at national and international level – The ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027) way;
  - o Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development in libraries – SDGs and surroundings;
  - o Library legislation and information law – the library policy-making square;
  - o EBLIDA approach to libraries – the strategic communication highway
- Check the monthly [EBLIDA's Newsletter](#) out to learn more.

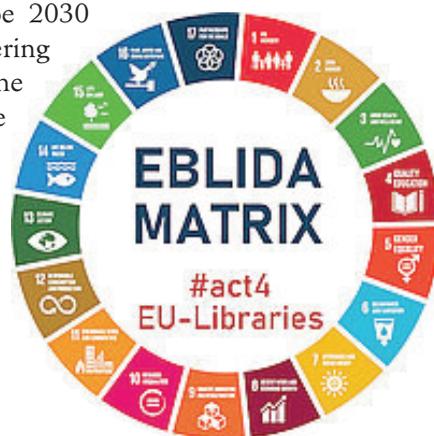


- **What is EBLIDA Matrix?**

The EBLIDA Matrix is the EBLIDA contribution to the Europe 2030 Agenda. As European Bureau of Library Associations, they are offering this service to European libraries – how to be involved in the implementation of the Europe 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. EBLIDA Matrix provides a bird's eye view of all European programmes and funding opportunities, which may be relevant for libraries. When clicking on each Goal you will be forwarded to the following sections:

- o A selection of EU programmes likely to be relevant for libraries;
- o Library policies
- o Opportunities for library Funding
- o Main indicators
- o Library indicators

To check how it works, see the [EBLIDA Matrix website](#)



- **Upcoming Think the unthinkable Workshops**

EBLIDA is organising a series of online national Think *The Unthinkable Workshops*. They will focus mainly on seeking funding opportunities for libraries within the European Structural and Investment Funds. National workshops are now being prepared with a series of kick-off meetings / preliminary workshops which are being held in national languages and will engage a community of libraries larger than that of EBLIDA Members. Please use [this page](#) to keep informed of upcoming meetings, events, and webinars that EBLIDA plans to host.

- **Do you have an idea for a book on leadership?**

The MLA Books Panel is seeking author(s) or editor(s) for a monograph that provides guidance to health sciences librarians interested in the field of leadership and management. The monograph could include, but is not limited to, many topics such as:

- Trends in leadership in health science libraries, including leading multiple branches at once
- Leading with diversity, equity and inclusion
- Leading and valuing all library employees, including non-librarian staff
- Differences between leadership and management
- Becoming an accidental manager
- Reasons to take on a leadership role
- Finding a path to leadership

and many others. However, if you have an idea for a book on a topic other than leadership, the Books Panel welcomes proposals on any topic likely to be of interest to health sciences librarians. If you are interested, please visit the [MLA dedicated website](#).

- **The Internet Archive**

We have already had the occasion to talk about [the Internet Archive](#). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as a library, they are paying special attention to books. Therefore, last spring they have launched the temporary National Emergency Library. In the middle of a massive public health crisis, they have provided digital access to essential books for students, teachers, library patrons, and quarantined citizens who were cut off from their libraries and schools. Educational professionals everywhere relied on the Internet Archive for access to digital materials, and the National Library of Aruba utilized their resources to provide study resources for thousands of students preparing to take high school graduation exams while their library was shut down. If you want to learn more about the stories they tell, please check their blog *Teachers & the National Emergency Library: Stories from the Frontlines of Online Schooling*



### SOME INTERESTING FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

#### **ICML+AHILA 2021**

**June 21-25, 2021, Pretoria, South Africa**

Info: <https://icml2021.org/>

#### **July 5-8, 2021, Istanbul, Turkey**

**EAHIL 2021 Online Workshop**

Info: <https://etkinlik.marmara.edu.tr/eahil2021>

**.... and we hope, many more to come!**

*Please feel free to contact me ([letizia.sampaolo@iss.it](mailto:letizia.sampaolo@iss.it)) if you have any further suggestion about events you would like to promote.*

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