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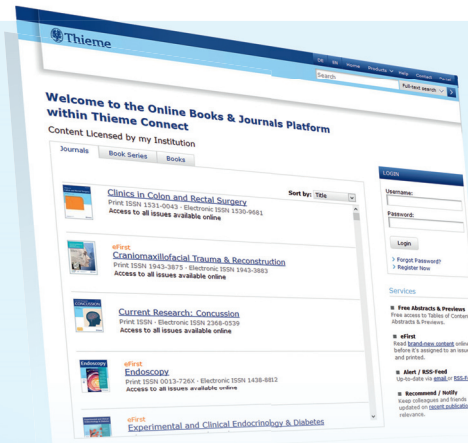


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# Editorial

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Dear EAHIL friends

The *JEAHIL* Editorial Board hope you enjoy this exciting *JEAHIL* issue, which includes papers and memories from the excellent EAHIL Workshop, held in Trondheim on 12-16 June 2023. The theme of the Workshop was *Radical Positive Change Agents*, and the International Programme Committee and Local Organising Committee certainly delivered on this!

The colleagues we spoke to during, and after the workshop, agreed that this was an inspiring and engaging workshop. We recommend that you visit the conference website where you can watch recordings of the keynote speakers (https://eahil2023.org/programme/).

We are delighted to include papers by some of the EAHIL Workshop award winners in this issue.

The winner of the Best First Time attendee presentation: Oral Presentation was Floor Ruiter, from Maastricht University, The Netherlands, with "Authorship position as a proxy for contextual knowledge: a preliminary case study." Floor described research carried out looking at geographic authorship positions in published papers in health literature.

The winner of the Best Interactive Workshop overall, was Mala Mann, from Cardiff University on the UK, with her workshop "How to develop a focused research question for a rapid evidence review". Mala's paper discusses the importance of a focused research question to help develop a robust search strategy.

Kjell Erik Johnsen and Malene Wøhlk Gundersen (from Østfold University College and OsloMet, Norway) were the winners of the Best Teachmeet presentation overall, with
"BISON: We're in this together! Building a community of practice for librarians involved in work related to review articles". The authors describe the benefits and challenges in such a project.

Regina Kufner led a workshop on competencies. The paper "Competency building in a busy working day for librarians and for libraries" reports on the results of this workshop, where they and the workshop participants compiled a list of suggestions for competency building.

Francesca Gualtieri and co-authors' paper "Same search, different results: algorithm bias in various discovery tools in library search" reports on a trial to test the functionalities of different discovery tools.

This issue also includes lots of memories from the EAHIL Workshop in Trondheim. There are excellent reports

from the EAHIL Scholarship recipients, as well as memories from EAHIL Workshop participants and first-timers.

Please take time to complete the project survey which Emma Farrow, from IFLA Evidence for Global and Disaster Health SIG, reports on. This project supports a global consultation on how to accelerate progress towards universal access to reliable healthcare information.

Have a look at Annarita Barbaro's column on "Publications and new products" for suggestions and recommendations.

Please remember to check the important things Lotta is reminding us about in her letter from the President: the Riga 2024 Conference, scholarships and the coming EAHIL Elections, among other things.

We would like to thank Federica Napolitani for her excellent work on *JEAHIL*, and would like to remind EAHIL members that we are looking for a new Editor-in-Chief and also for new Editorial Board members – please consider joining us!

Please also consider writing for *JEAHIL* – the table below gives the themes of future *JEAHIL* issues, and the deadline.

**Future JEAHIL issues**

| Issue | Theme | Deadline |
|---|---|---|
| **2023** | | |
| 4 (December) | No-theme issue | 5 November 2023 |
| **2024** | | |
| 1 (March) | Evidence synthesis | 5 February 2024 |
| 2 (June) | AI and Libraries | 5 May 2024 |

# Authorship position as a proxy for contextual knowledge: a preliminary case study

**Floor A.A. Ruiter (a), Anja Krumeich (b) and Gonnie Klabbers (b)**
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**Abstract**
*Current health sciences literature is predominantly disseminated by, through and for Western scholars, resulting in underrepresentation of contextual knowledge in health policies worldwide. Commonly, this literature is evidence-based, build on principles of universality, neglecting and disregarding the importance of contextual and local expertise. Using a global health research question applied to three countries, Maastricht University Library's collection was evaluated to explore the extent of contextual knowledge by authorship positions. Preliminary results showed that while Dutch articles had more local authors on first and/or last authorship positions compared to Bangladesh and Tanzania, they had no Dutch authors in middle positions, as opposed to Bangladesh and Tanzania (23% and 16%). This indicates a need for further understanding of geographic authorship position customs.*

**Key words:** *global health; information dissemination; information sources; health information exchange; diversity, equity, inclusion.*

## Introduction

Based on positivist paradigms, health policies worldwide apply principles of universality that are often criticised for having strong colonial roots (1, 2). In general, knowledge from Western evidence-based methods, distributed through western-based peer-reviewed journals are assumed to be of higher value than local knowledge disseminated in local journals and other informational exchange (News, WhatsApp, local blogs, story-telling etc.) (3). The emphasis on Western knowledge disregards valuable local or contextual knowledge, which, in turn can lead to ineffective interventions. Misinterpretation occurs when non-local experts publish in peer-reviewed scientific journals, as their understanding and assessment of local conditions differ and are less accurate than local experts' understanding (3-5). Yet it appears that the majority of publications on lower- (LIC) and middle-income (MIC) countries are disseminated by Western authors (6-9). Abimbola (2019) emphasises the experts' "gaze" and "pose" ("gaze": write for and "pose": position/standpoint of the writer) play a crucial role in the knowledge production (3). While a "foreign gaze to foreign pose" can be seen as universal, a "foreign gaze to local pose" as consequential; as it is written from a foreign perspective, a "local gaze and foreign pose" may even become corruptible; as the local writers standpoint is clouded by the foreign standpoint (3). Opposed to a "local gaze to local pose", which can be seen as ideal and contextual (3). Current culture of the dominant foreign author publications can therefore be seen as a culture of colonial/supremacy dissemination of knowledge.

This culture of colonial/supremacy dissemination of medical and health knowledge is also visible in current medical and health sciences curricula; such as global health. While students' are advised to be aware of the value of and need to incorporate contextual knowledge, this needs to be improved, when searching literature, as actual locally relevant knowledge is hardly available. Therefore, it is time to decolonise the universities curricula and its libraries (1). University libraries and their librarians play a crucial role in making this contextual knowledge accessible, as well as in teaching the students search strategies to find these sources of contextual knowledge. Which results in a students' understanding of what true local/contextual knowledge

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and practice entails from the point of view of a "local gaze to a local pose" as opposed to a "foreign gaze to a local/foreign pose" (3).

The aim of this project is to identify current sources of local/contextual knowledge (by author affiliation and position) in the current information databases (academic literature) provided by an academic library such as the Maastricht University Library. Moreover, information literacy techniques to develop guidelines/analysis tools to discover local/contextual knowledge, both academic and non-academic, will be developed for our universities' students, researchers and clinicians. Here we present our preliminary findings on the analysis of current local/contextual knowledge practices for an example research question; what impact does climate change have on neonatal and maternal health? Literature was collected for three separate countries; Bangladesh, Tanzania and the Netherlands. Our authorship affiliation criteria include: 1) first/last author from the discussed country ("local gaze to local pose"), 2) all authors from the country ("local gaze to local pose"), 3) local authors in middle positions ("local gaze to foreign pose"), or 4) no authors from the discussed country ("foreign gaze to foreign pose").

## Methods

PsycINFO (EBSCO), CINAHL (EBSCO), Scopus, Embase (Ovid), Medline (OvidSP), Web of Science (WoS) and Pubmed were used to select papers on the following research question: what impact does climate change have on neonatal and maternal health? Exemplary countries were Bangladesh, Tanzania and the Netherlands. The following search concept were used to build a systematic search strategy; Neonatal Health, maternal health, climate change and the country of interest (Bangladesh, Tanzania and the Netherlands). Full search strategy information can be found in the supplementary materials (*Table S1-S18, available online as supplementary material*). Literature was collected on 10-5-2023. Paper references from the individual database were exported to EndNote 20.6 software. These full references with author affiliation and position data were then exported from EndNote 20.6 to Excel 2016 software. Articles were assessed to which degree sources contained contributions by local experts (criteria only authors' local affiliation, first and/or last authors' local affiliation; middle authors' local affiliation, no local affiliation). This assessment was conducted for all mentioned databases separately and collectively (*Figure S1-3, available online as supplementary material*). Data processing and statistical analyses were performed in Excel 2016 software.

## Results

### *Bangladesh*

For Bangladesh, we found 3 in PsycINFO (EBSCO), 6 in CINAHL (EBSCO), 65 in Scopus, 35 in Embase (Ovid), 26 in Medline (OvidSP), 49 in WoS, and 32 papers in PubMed (*Figure 1A*). When these articles were assessed on the degree of involved contributions by authors of local affiliation, we found percentage of local authorship only ranging from 0 to 9% and percentage of first and/or last local authorships ranged from 17 to 67%. When looking at local affiliation on middle authorship position, we found percentages ranging from 0 to 34%. While, 33 to 71% of the papers had no local affiliation authors. When combining the papers of the different databases, after deduplication, this results in 9, 25, 23 and 43% of all articles found for only, first and/or last, middle or no local affiliation (*Figure 1D and S1 available online as supplementary material*), respectively. Full list of references can be found in supplementary information.

### *Tanzania*

For Tanzania, we found 2 in PsycINFO (EBSCO), 28 in Scopus, 18 in Embase (Ovid), 13 in Medline (OvidSP), 17 in WoS and 15 papers in Pubmed (*Figure 1B*). No articles were found in CINAHL (EBSCO). When these articles were assessed on the degree of involved contributions by authors of local affiliation, we found percentage of local authorship only ranging from 0 to 15% and percentage of first and/or last local authorships ranged from 0 to 46%. When looking at local affiliation on middle authorship position, we found percentages ranging from 8 to 50%. While, 38 to 50% of the papers had no local affiliation authors. When combining the papers of the different databases after deduplication this results in 9, 31, 16 and 44% of all articles found for only, first and/or last, middle or no local affiliation (*Figure 1D and S2 available online as supplementary material respectively*). Full list of references can be found in supplementary information.

### *The Netherlands*

For the Netherlands, we found 11 in Scopus, 4 in Embase (Ovid), 5 in Medline (OvidSP), and 5 in WoS, and 4 papers in Pubmed (*Figure 1C*). No articles were

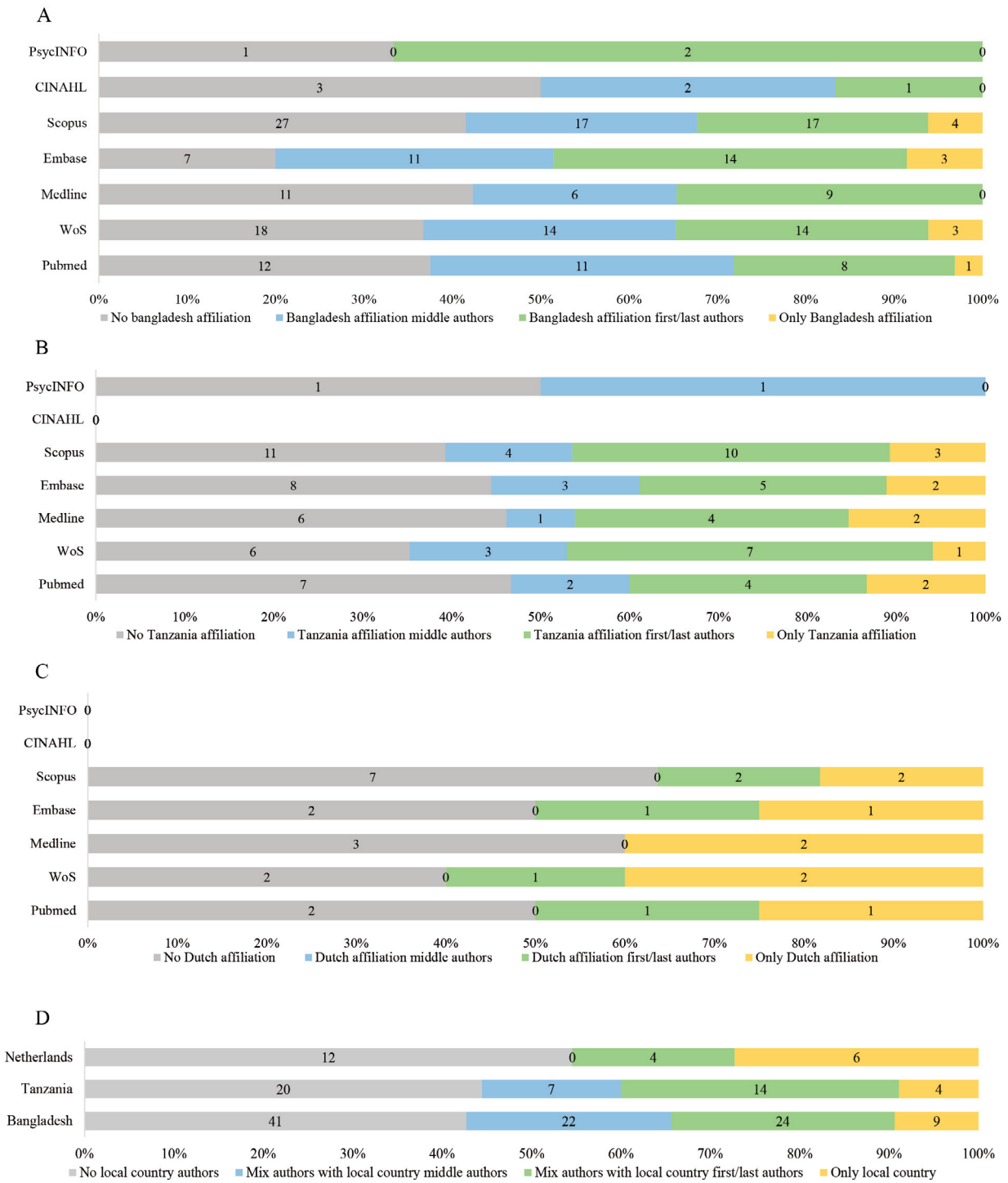


**Fig. 1.** *Number of articles per database (PsycINFO (EBSCO), CINAHL (EBSCO), Scopus, Embase (Ovid), Medline (OvidSP), Web of Science (WoS) and Pubmed) found for the three different countries, A) Bangladesh, B) Tanzania and C) the Netherlands. Number of articles are defined in the four different author affiliation criteria; only local author affiliation (in yellow), first and/or last local author affiliation (in green), middle local author affiliation (in blue) and no local authors (in grey). D) Articles from different database were combined and de-duplicated. This dataset was again defined into the four different author affiliation criteria.*

found in CINAHL (EBSCO) and PsycINFO (EBSCO). When these articles were assessed on the degree of involved contributions by authors of local affiliation, we found 18 to 40% had only local authors. 0 to 33% of the articles had authors of local affiliation on the first and/or last position. When looking at local affiliation on middle authorship position no articles were found that suit this criteria. This leaves 40 to 66% of the articles with no local affiliation authors. When combining the papers of the different databases after de-duplication this results in 27, 18, 0 and 55% of all articles found for only, first and/or last, middle or no local affiliation (*Figure 1D and S3 available online as supplementary material)*, respectively. Full list of references can be found in supplementary information.

## Discussion

Decolonisation is an increasing topic in the health literacy. Underrepresentation of local/contextual authors has been found in evidence-based articles in western journals (2, 9-11). When applying the above mentioned authorship order as proxy (expression of) for local or foreign gaze/pose, our case study also suggests underrepresentation of the literature obtained in the available databases. Bangladesh and Tanzania articles on the effect of climate change on maternal and neonatal health showed a low number of only local authors and a higher number of articles with shared authorships in both the first and/or last and middle position in the authorship list. Which goes in line with previously published works on authorship positions within the community health workers (12), infectious diseases (8), statistics and epidemiology (11) and African health research (7). When we compare our results to the literature of the high-income country (HIC) the Netherlands, the number of only local affiliation is significantly higher (27%), compared to 9% for both Tanzania and Bangladesh. Interesting, when we look at the percentage of no local authors' affiliation, the Netherlands has 55%, compared to 44 and 43% for Tanzania and Bangladesh, respectively. The practice of writing from a foreign gaze seems therefore not exclusive for LIC and MIC countries, as may be the common perception. However, if we look at the percentage of contextual knowledge combined (only and first and/or last local authors' affiliations), the Netherlands still has a higher percentage (45%) of contextual knowledge compared to Tanzania (40%) and Bangladesh (34%). Moreover, no middle author positions of local authors' affiliation were found when looking at literature discussing the country the Netherlands. While, both Bangladesh and Tanzania showed publications with authors of local affiliation in the middle position. This may indicate an authorship assignment practice of placing MIC countries authors within authorships list when research is mainly conducted by foreign funding and experts (7, 12, 13), which demonstrates a shift in the academic health research towards a more collaborative culture. However, when local experts work closely from a foreign gaze their own sense of reality and writing can be clouded; while their contextual viewpoint is silenced (3). We can therefore argue that middle authorship positions cannot be seen as contextual knowledge, but a "local pose with a foreign gaze" and therefore consequential (3). It is important to note, that this study is exploratory by nature, based on a narrow research question employing small datasets, therefore, these findings need to be substantiated with bigger datasets. Moreover, here we used authorships affiliation and position as indications (proxies) for contextual knowledge. However, literature suggest that the income of the country will greatly affect the collaboration, geographical funding and research output; and therefore different author position results (5, 12). Moreover, in the Netherlands, as in many other HICs, last authorship position typically is reserved for the head of the research department with the research fellow or PhD candidate as first author. In contrast, in some LICs and MICs, first authorship positions are taken up by the head of the research department (6). Research authorship assignment customs are therefore also contextual to the country in question. The criteria set to determine contextual knowledge in this study are based on the western-based custom of authorship affiliation. More clarity on geographic authorship assignment customs needs to be provided first in order to further evaluate the criteria of authorship position on determining contextual knowledge.

## Conclusion/Future work

As librarians, we strive to make our library collection as inclusive as possible by providing a variety of academic databases and other informational resources. Here we discussed a possible analysis to define contextual knowledge by author affiliation and position in the author list when screening databases within library collections or possible purchases. The initial results sug-

gest a difference in database collection and access to local/contextual knowledge depending on the country of choice. However, bigger datasets need to be included, and diverse authorship customs and research conventions need to be further explored before criteria to define contextual knowledge can be established, and before training modules for students and search technologies can be developed. Here at the Maastricht University Library, we will take up the challenge of developing a context sensitive way to identify contextual knowledge as basis for an open access tool for other librarians to use to analyse and diversify their collection.

## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the FHML Quality Agreements (Maastricht University) and Maastricht University Library. We would like to thank dr. Nicolette Siep for her critical view on the projects progress in the early stages of the project design. Additionally, we would like to thank dr. Marieke Schor for the useful discussions and suggestions on the projects methods and data analysis.
The authors of this paper received the award for best oral presentation by a first time attendee at the EAHIL 2023 Workshop, "Radical positive change agent", The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, 12-16 June 2023.

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# How to develop a focused research question for a rapid evidence review

**Mala K. Mann**
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**Abstract**
*Rapid reviews are emerging as an alternative to systematic reviews, and they are now widely used to inform decision-making in healthcare. During COVID-19 pandemic, rapid reviews became more widespread. Some teams prepare reviews in a matter of days, instead of several weeks using streamlined systematic review methods. There are multiple roles for librarians within the evidence review process. As an expert searcher, the librarian must interact with the researchers, clinicians, and decision makers. A well-defined research question needs extreme specificity and preciseness which guides rest of the review. Developing a focused question workshop provided an overview of rapid review methods. Discussion and activities on developing a focused research question. How to start with broad topic and narrow it down to a question that is clear, relevant and answerable.*

**Key words:** *systematic review; rapid review; research question; evidence-based medicine.*

## Introduction

At the centre of the systematic review process is the concept of evidence-based medicine (EBM), which Sackett defines as "the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients" (1). Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) have expanded the role of the librarian beyond identification of the literature to be involved in other stages of the systematic review process. Systematic reviews are considered to be the "gold standard" research design, they attempt to identify, appraise, and synthesise all empirical evidence that meets an explicit eligibility criterion to answer a highly focused research question. However, conducting a systematic review can be time consuming and resource intensive. Healthcare organizations, clinicians, and policy makers require high-quality evidence in a timely manner to support decisions about healthcare policy and interventions. Therefore, rapid reviews are becoming increasingly commissioned and used within health and social care. Since librarians have been conducting systematic reviews for many decades, it is expected of librarians to be involved in the rapid review process. This paper will describe important issues discussed in the workshop on "How to develop a focused research question for a rapid evidence review" held at the EAHIL 2023 conference in Trondheim, Norway and reiterate the importance of developing a well structed question.

## Background to rapid review methods

Rapid reviews have emerged as a streamlined approach to synthesizing evidence. There is no formal methodology to perform rapid reviews. There are other challenges including no clear definition for a rapid review, and even the term "rapid" varies amongst the research community. During COVID-19 pandemic, rapid reviews have become more widespread. Number of rapid review teams prepare reviews in a matter of days, instead of in several weeks (2). In recent years there have been a number of publications on numerous rapid review approaches (3).

Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group whose scope is to inform rapid reviews in general, both within the Cochrane Collaboration and beyond, have developed provisional rapid review methods recommendations (4). In 2017, the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tool published a rapid review guidebook

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(5). The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the process of conducting rapid reviews. The process is outlined, and it is implied that the timeline for preparing reviews may vary from a few days to several weeks due to the scope of the rapid review. The Palliative Care Evidence Review Service (PaCERS) review methods were published in 2019 and describe the stages of the rapid review process. The paper mentions the importance of engaging with the stakeholders throughout the review process, particularly developing and refining the review question.

In recent years there has been an attempt to identify a definition for a rapid review. In the EAHIL workshop, we discussed a variety of definitions. A widely used definition for a rapid review is "a rapid review is a type of knowledge synthesis in which components of the systematic review process are simplified or omitted to produce information in a short period of time" (6). *Also*, "a form of knowledge synthesis that accelerates the process of conducting a traditional systematic review through streamlining or omitting specific methods to produce evidence for stakeholders in a resource-efficient manner" (7). The PaCERS definition which clarifies the streamlined process and the time involved in conducting the review "a review conducted within 8-10 weeks using highly refined research question and search carried out within limited set of databases and other sources and increasing the transparency of our methodology and explicitly summarising it for each review" (8). This definition also refers to a "highly refined research question" which is a key component of a rapid review.

## The EAHIL workshop

The overall workshop objective was to give participants experience of developing a focused research question for a rapid review.

The first stage in the review process is formulating the research question. The process of translating a general research aim or purpose into a research question can be challenging. The research question must be clear and answerable. It is possible to use a broad topic of interest and importance, then to narrow the topic to focus on a different component to develop the review question (*Figure 1*). An advantage of a broad question is the ability to assess generalizability of findings across types of participants. An advantage of a narrow scope is the manageability for review team and the ease of reading of the review (9). For a rapid review it is essential to ensure the question is clearly articulated and narrow in its structure.

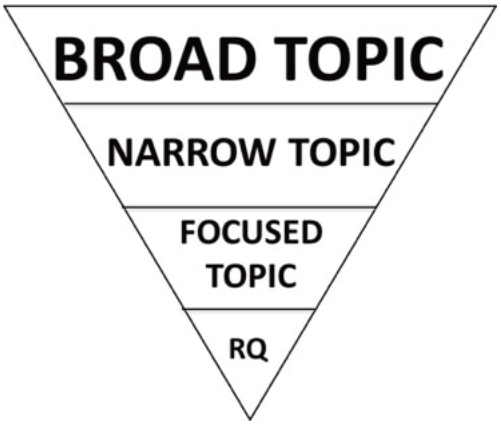


**Fig. 1.** *From a broad topic to a research question.*

A poorly structured research question may create problems that affect all subsequent stages and impact on the timeliness of the review (10). A well-defined research question needs specificity and preciseness which facilitates rest of the review process. It determines eligibility criteria; informs the development of the search strategy and the data extraction forms. In addition, the review synthesis depends on the type of review question.

## Using frameworks to develop research questions

A good rapid review question should be clear and focused, consider using a research framework. FINER criteria (11) help reviewers to formulate an answerable research question, by highlighting useful concepts. For example, could the research be:

- feasible;
- interesting;
- novel;
- ethical;
- relevant.

When developing questions for policy makers and clinicians, it is crucial to understand the feasibility of the research question. Though the FINER criteria outline the important aspects of the question in general, it is helpful to use a framework to develop the question. There are a vast range of formats that can be utilised when developing research questions.

The most used format is the PICO/PECO format for clinical and healthcare related questions, frequently used for searching for quantitively designed studies (12, 13) (*Table 1*).

| | |
|---|---|
| **Population** | Population/problem/disease (i.e., age, gender, ethnicity, with a certain disorder) |
| **Intervention/ Exposure** | Intervention or variable of interest (exposure to a disease, risk behaviour, prognostic factor) |
| **Comparison** | Comparison could be a placebo or "business as usual" as in no disease, absence of risk factor |
| **Outcome** | Outcome: risk of disease, accuracy of a diagnosis, change in lifestyle |
| **Types of studies** | Types of studies (RCT's, CCT's, Case Control etc.) |

**Table 1.** *PICO/PECO Framework.*

Whereas for a qualitative question the SPIDER tool adapted from the PICO format and is designed to structure qualitative and mixed-methods research (14) (*Table 2*).

| | |
|---|---|
| **S: Sample** | The sample you are focusing on |
| **PI: Phenomenon of Interest** | The behaviour or experience your research is examining |
| **D: Design** | How the research will be carried out? |
| **E: Evaluation** | What are the outcomes (experiences and views) |
| **R: Research type** | What is the research type you are undertaking? |

**Table 2.** *SPIDER tool.*

The SPICE format is useful for social sciences topics, or qualitative research questions that require subjective evaluation (15) (*Table 3*).

| | |
|---|---|
| **Setting** | Where? In what context? |
| **Perspective** | From whose perspective will the research be conducted for/from |
| **Intervention / Phenomenon of interest** | What? |
| **Comparison** | What else? |
| **Evaluation** | How well? What results? |

**Table 3.** *SPICE framework.*

Framing the question helps to identify key concepts, which would provide the focus for developing the search strategy. Question formats are helpful tools researchers can use to structure a question that will facilitate a focused search. However, if it is not feasible to use a conceptual structure, it is important to break your research question into separate parts and identify the main components.

## Conclusion

One cannot argue that a search strategy underpins any well-conducted evidence synthesis. However, a clearly defined review question and inclusion criteria provide the foundation for a well-constructed search strategy (16). To develop a robust search strategy, the review question needs to be well defined. Formulating a focused research question for a rapid review can be a lengthy process. While you may have an idea about the topic you want to explore, your specific research question is what will drive your review and requires some consideration.

A strong research question will accurately and succinctly demonstrate up the review's line of inquiry.

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# BISON: we're in this together – building a Norwegian community of practice for librarians involved in work related to review articles

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**Abstract**
*Librarians involved in assisting researchers with planning, execution and documentation of systematic literature searches are well aware of the considerable amount of practice required to conduct reliable, transparent, and reproducible literature searches. In addition to building the necessary skills and knowledge, factors such as changes in databases, updates in standards or methodologies, and development of new tools makes it difficult to keep up to date. In response an online community of practice has been established in Norway to serve as a platform for facilitating knowledge sharing in these areas. However, building and maintaining an active community is not an easy task. This article describes the development, the activities, the challenges, and the possible future for the community.*

**Key words:** *review literature as topic; community networks; online social networking; learning; Norway; librarians.*

## What it is

BISON is a Norwegian, online, open community of practice for librarians interested in systematic literature searching. The main purpose for the community is to support knowledge sharing and networking in the context of systematic literature searching and information management related to systematic reviews and other evidence synthesis.

The name BISON is an acronym formed from the Norwegian phrase for *Librarians Involved in Systematic Reviews in Norway (*in Norwegian*: Bibliotekarer Involvert i Systematiske Oversikter i Norge).* In addition to being a short and snappy acronym to make life easier when we talk about the community, the name BISON of course also refers to the actual animal bison, which we think is appropriate as bison live in herds.

The concept of *community of practice* comes from a theory that focuses on learning as a social process (1). BISON facilitates for that kind of learning, especially for librarians who work at smaller libraries.

BISON started in 2017 as a spin-off from a workshop given by Andrew Booth, professor in Evidence Synthesis at University of Sheffield. The title of the workshop was *Novel Opportunities in ReViews and Evidence Generation (NORVEGE)*. So, both inspired by the fact that librarians at different institutions face the same challenges, and by Professor Booths talent for acronym making, BISON was created.

## Who we are

When librarians attend conferences or engage in groups online, it is often in relation to their professional specialisation, such as librarians in the health sciences, or on a broader scale, various library associations. From the onset BISON aimed to be a broad and inclusive community for librarians from all disciplines and subject areas, with the aspiration of fostering multidisciplinary cooperation and research. Equally significant was the aim to create a setting where both experienced as well as newly qualified librarians could find a sense of belonging. That being said, this inclusivity extends beyond librarians of profession. The community welcomes anyone interested in topics related to the development or use of review articles of all kinds, e.g., systematic reviews, scoping reviews, integrative reviews. So, while the BISON acronym in itself focuses

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on librarians, there are no actual requirements demanding any specific sort of training to become a member.

BISON has yet to formulate a mission statement describing an explicit purpose, method of operation or strategy. While this might happen in the future, the community has during the past six years been defined by a set of non-established guiding principles to which the members readily adhere, e.g., that no question is too basic or odd when it comes to literature searches or work related to the development of review articles, all questions asked in the community will be answered if possible. Keeping the language in the community to Norwegian also helps lowering the barriers to post questions.

From the start, the community had a focus on creating a feeling of inclusion and accept and thereby ensuring that the expert looking for recommendations on new methods articles would feel just as home as the novice wondering what a proximity operator is. That way, by promoting a safe and open community, BISON aims to be a resource for both the employees at the one-person library at a small research institution as well as the information specialists at large university libraries. In this regard we see it as an especially important feature of the community that more experienced librarians can be a resource for the less experienced librarians in becoming more familiar with the parts of library practice related to review work.

We recognize that many librarians have limited resources to be actively involved in networks by e.g., presenting in webinars, but wish that BISON can be a community for learning and support in their work activities. That is why there are no requirements dictating that the members have to participate actively in the community, even though active participation is the basis of the community.

## What is happening

The community is completely dependent on member initiative. The members arrange different sorts of webinars with the goal of sharing knowledge, creating network connections, and supporting each other.

A list of themes that previous webinars have been about includes:

- systematic literature searching in the social sciences and in the humanities;
- grey literature;
- Nvivo in the context of evidence synthesis;
- journal-driven reviews;
- member experience exchange;
- systematic literature searching for beginners;
- deduplication;
- co-authorship;
- the use of Oria (the ExLibris discovery system for Norway) in systematic literature searching.

These webinars have gathered a varied number of participants. According to anecdotal evidence the record is about 220 participants (for the webinar on systematic searching in the social sciences and in the humanities).

Previously, several of the webinars have been arranged to last a few hours. Recently the webinars have taken a new and shorter format, inspired by a similar network for librarians working with systematic literature searching in Sweden, called SSIVK. In the Norwegian language the new format is called *Kaffeslabberas*, which could be translated to the English language with the phrase Coffee meeting. This kind of meeting is usually held in the time frame of 45 minutes, divided into three parts: a 15 minutes long introduction, followed up by 15 minutes of discussion in small groups, and finally a 15 minutes long summary. This format has proved successful, presumably because its short timeframe is calendar friendly and because the group discussions lower the bar for networking in the online environment.

At the time of writing, three coffee meetings are planned for the autumn of 2023. The themes will be:

- systematic literature search guidance for PhD candidates;
- webpages promoting systematic literature search services;
- deduplication.

## Where we were and where we're going

When BISON was launched initially it coincided with the launch of a new digital platform by the Norwegian National Library. The platform offered groups the chance to establish their own forums, plan activities, create wikis, and so on. It seemed like a perfect place to host an online community. To get members to sign up we arranged a free webinar on searching in social sciences and the humanities, spread the word through a number of mailing lists, and only made the Zoom-link available in the community. It was a successful strategy and soon BISON had over 200 members.

Through following forum discussions, question board activities and several webinars given by the members, BISON reached 350 members in a couple of years. Unfortunately, changes in the National Library's prioritization of technical development made it necessary to find a new home for BISON. The goal was to find a new platform that included the lacking features, such as file sharing, retrieval of previous posts and e-mail notifications of new posts or events.

Easy access to the digital platform hosting the community and making it accessible to as many members as possible was a clear objective when searching for a new platform. Several platforms were considered, and the choice finally landed on Microsoft Teams. Due to institutional safety policies some former members are not able to access the community from their computers at work. While this is obviously regrettable, Teams requires no technical maintenance and facilitates among others both file sharing, searching posts on the discussion boards, and e-mail notifications.

As might be expected, the platform transition resulted in a drop in the number of members, but almost 200 members has joined in Teams. Now the challenge is keeping the community alive, reminding the members to stop by and join the discussions, spreading the word to even more potential members and remembering that "sharing is caring".

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# Competency building in a busy working day for librarians and for libraries

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**Abstract**
*Medical librarians know very well that they must build new competencies to offer relevant services and develop new library services. In a workshop at the EAHIL event 2023, suggestions for competency building, and how libraries can build competency, were discussed. Positive and enthusiastic participants came up with many ideas: different types of clubs, webinars and courses, knowledge sharing with colleagues, regularly block out time, or just solve your tasks in a new way. The experiences showed that competency building in a busy work schedule is possible. The initiatives have in common that they portray an attitude to learn more, but also the willingness to organise activities and share competency with colleagues.*

**Key words:** *librarians; professional competence; libraries, medical; learning.*

## Introduction

Due to continuous technological development and changed research policy requirements, libraries have to adapt their services and develop new services. In medical libraries new services have emerged within open science, systematic reviews, user experiences, clinical librarianship, and research data (1-5). Librarians are well aware of areas of expertise where they need to build or update competencies. There is a great need for competency building and specialisation, and therefore, recruitment in the sector can be a challenge (6, 7).

Library organisations have developed competency frameworks and offer continuing education courses and certifications for librarians (1-3). However, many countries have no framework nor certification, and librarians have to rely on occasional offers for continuing education.

Building competencies requires extra effort, initiative and motivation by the individual librarian. In a Norwegian survey from 2022, medical librarians reported that time, financial situation and internal organisation of the library influenced on their possibility to build competencies through continuing education and courses (5). The survey showed further that workplace learning, self-studies and learning from colleagues were often used to develop skills and knowledge to offer new library services. On the other hand, librarians reported a great interest in sharing knowledge with colleagues and patrons, they participate in committees and organisations, and they perform own research (5).

In a workshop at the annual EAHIL (European Association for Health Information and Libraries) event 2023 (5), we elaborated on how individual librarians can enhance their competencies and how knowledge building activities for employees can be organised in libraries. Finally, we discussed how librarians can fit competency building into a busy working schedule.

In this article we want to share the ideas and suggestions from the workshop. Several of these suggestions have been successfully implemented at some libraries.

## Methods

25 librarians participated at the workshop titled "Ready to take on new roles - How can librarians build new skills?". After a brief introduction (5), they discussed one of three questions in groups. Each group made notes anonymously on a common digital platform, padlet.com. They also commented on other groups'

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contributions. Finally, in plenary, the groups presented the main points of their discussions. All notes were shared with the participants after the workshop.

## Results

The three questions and ideas and suggestions discussed in the workshop are shown in *Table 1*. Some activities, which already are in use and found beneficial by the participants, are further described in the following.

| Questions | Suggestions |
|---|---|
| How can individual employees enhance their competencies? | Participate in journal clubs, survival clubs, search clubs, training clubs |
| | Participate in workshops, webinars, conferences, courses |
| | Use material from institutional learning portals |
| | Shadow users or colleagues |
| | Pick up ideas from other libraries |
| How can knowledge building activities for employees be organised in libraries? | Knowledge sharing during internal meetings |
| | Invite experts for internal seminars |
| | Organise a journal club, survival club, search club, training club |
| | National networks |
| How can librarians fit competency building into a busy work schedule? | Small changes to practice |
| | Prioritising of tasks |
| | Time management |
| | Leader's support |

**Table 1.** *Ideas and suggestions discussed in the workshop on the three questions.*

### *Join a Club*

Several participants mentioned that they participate in different clubs: Journal Clubs, Survival Clubs, Training Clubs and Search Clubs. A Journal Club aims to read an article and critically appraise or discuss content and implications for own practice. A Survival Club aims at learning about and testing tools and discussing experiences. A Search Club performs and discusses literature searches often for systematic reviews. A Training Club focuses on developing pedagogical skills.

The participants talked about their experiences of organising clubs. The club meetings are held from one hour per week to four times a year. Different techniques are used for choosing topics: SWOT-analysis or asking for colleagues' ideas. Clubs can benefit from introductions from an experienced colleague or an expert from another field, i.e., a statistician. Participants mentioned possible obstacles such as lack of confidence, time and money. Further, you need a core of motivated people to sustain a club.

### *Shadowing*

Another method mentioned was shadowing which means following another person at work. You gain insights into how other people use different tools or perform tasks. One hospital library shadowed clinicians when they used UpToDate and Lexicomp, and gained different insights compared to their anticipations. Shadowing a colleague might be another possibility. Participants experienced that even if the role didn't seem to overlap or be relevant, the connections might become visible, or at least the insight or empathy might increase. It is also possible to shadow internationally, where you can be part of a session or appointment digitally.

### *Workshops, webinars, conferences, courses*

Since the COVID pandemic many webinars and conferences are offered digitally and free of charge. Thus, more than one librarian from the same institution can attend events.

Besides external courses, many institutions have their own learning portals with courses and webinars. Such courses may vary from personal development courses to more subject-specific introductory courses. Participation in institutional courses is important as the librarians will meet researchers and colleagues from other departments. Thus, the librarians will gain knowledge about their own organisation, about researchers' needs, besides the possibility of marketing library services.

One library talked about their 20-minute morning sessions for researchers, once a week. Librarians used the opportunity when preparing these short sessions to read and learn about something new, and thus increase their knowledge and skills.

***Share knowledge with your colleagues***

Knowledge sharing and learning from colleagues was mentioned by several participants.

Topics to share were resources, tools, experiences, new things learned this week, top tips for using software, or highlights from relevant conferences, courses, mailing lists, blogs, networks etc.

The participants mentioned several ways of organising sessions, i.e., internal meetings, case & practice zoom discussions, problem-solving meetings, short presentations by a person or a team, this week's FAQ, short discussions like a weekly stand-up, or contributions in a survival club. Some organise weekly 30-minute meetings before the library opens, others hold 30-minute presentations once a month. Discussion lists, blogs or channels in Teams are also used. When one colleague has attended a course or event, he/she share brief notes of the highlights. Colleagues then can pick up new ideas or tools efficiently at their own pace. One librarian said that they took turns checking mailing lists or blogs, thus, not everyone has to read up on everything. Another emphasised the importance of time and format for sharing sessions. Be creative, and open to schedule hybrid meetings for allowing more colleagues to join.

***Networking and international cooperation***

Participating and using networks was mentioned by several groups. This could help build knowledge across libraries especially for the smaller institutions with fewer librarians. Some clubs are organised as a network, i.e., the German survival club (www.agmb.de/de_DE/ag-evidenzbasierte-medizin); one of the organisers participated at the workshop and invited to join as guest, if you're comfortable in German.

***Find time in a busy schedule***

Competency building in a busy work schedule is a challenge. However, the workshop participants had several important thoughts and practical adaptations related to librarians' attitudes and organisational culture, management support and time management. First of all - start small. Small incremental changes to current practice are a good way to incorporate new practices. One group suggested proactively blocking out time in your schedule for competency building activities.

Another piece of advice from a participant was to give up or at least pause or minimise other tasks. How urgent is it to perform ALL your tasks before you engage in competency building activities, can some of your tasks wait just a little bit? Stop putting such pressure on yourself. Take an hour to read a paper, or experiment with that new software. The day-to-day tasks can wait till tomorrow.

One participant claimed that there are two opposing ideas that might require a cultural change in mindset. Librarians are not so important that their team cannot survive without them while they go on a course or learn a skill. Plus - librarians are valuable, if someone needs to wait a day for a reply, because librarians are on a course, they can wait. How often do librarians not get a reply from an academic! Is it a competency to say "no"? A technique that needs practice.

***Get your leader's support***

The need for competence building requires support from the leaders as well, they need to help you prioritise what's most important right now. You should make it clear for your leaders that you need to build competency, not just for your own sake, it's beneficial for your workplace. You can negotiate work time for learning and development by demonstrating value to the workplace and service. Examples mentioned were new tools or techniques that users or library services will benefit from, or new publisher products that are of interest to users.

Leaders are usually positive about projects, courses or ideas. Colleagues may take over your tasks for a while. However, the workshop participants consider it important that everyone in a team gets the chance to build competency or participate in projects or similar activities.

## Concluding remarks

We have described some initiatives from the workshop. The suggestions vary from actions one librarian can do, to national or international collaboration. There are many opportunities to participate in and organise competence-building activities. The beliefs and experiences of the participants showed further that competency building in a busy work schedule is possible.

The initiatives have in common that they portray an attitude to learn more, but also the willingness to organise activities and share competency with colleagues. Hopefully, the results from this workshop can be of inspiration to other librarians.

## Acknowledgements

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# Same search, different results: algorithm bias in various discovery tools in library search

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**Abstract**

*GIDIF-RBM (Italian Association of Health Librarians) in collaboration with TDNet Group performed a trial to test different discovery tools (DTs) functionalities. DTs represent the effect of that long digital revolution which has upset the library universe as it was known up to that moment. Aim of the trial was to test two search queries: "cystic fibrosis", "osteoarthritis" AND "chondrocyte" AND "cell therapy" using PubMed, Google Scholar, Ebsco EDS, Ex Libris Summon, and TDNet discover tools. The working group examined the first twenty-five results for each query to determine the quality of the results in each tool, using PubMed as a benchmark. The search analysis included an evaluation of quality of the journals ranking via Shimago SJR, the number of citations for each paper, the years of publication, and how many of the first 25 results were open access. Research findings indicate that DTs are powerful tools when managed consistently and holistically under team supervision. To make the best use of them, students and teachers must have information literacy skills, such as the ability to identify, evaluate, organize, use, and communicate information.*

## Introduction

GIDIF-RBM (Italian Association of Health Librarians) in collaboration with TDNet Group performed a trial to test different discovery tools (DTs) functionality. Results of this special experience and collaboration were presented during the annual meeting in Milan, Italy (Bibliostar) and in Trondheim at the TDNet group booth.

Discovery tools (DTs) represent the effect of that long digital revolution which, starting in the 1980s, has upset the library universe as it was known up to that moment. It was 1993, a few years after the advent of the World Wide Web.

The discovery tools, present in the online portals of libraries, especially academic ones, are tools that allow access with a single search to all the bibliographic resources present in the OPAC, whether they are books, articles, or entire periodicals both in paper and electronic format. Aim of the trial was to test two search queries: "cystic fibrosis", and "osteoarthritis AND "chondrocyte" AND "cell therapy" using PubMed, Google Scholar, Ebsco EDS, Ex Libris Summon, and TDNet Discover tools.

## Same search, different results

The working group examined the first twenty-five results for each query in all the listed platforms to determine the quality of the results using PubMed as a benchmark.

The search analysis included an evaluation of the journals, the quality of the journals ranking via Shimago SJR, the number of citations for each paper, the years of publication, and how many of the first 25 results were open access. Additionally, the overlap of articles found on more than one list of twenty-five was analysed. Two searches were conducted to effectively compare search results for a specific topic across multiple tools, with each search limited to the first 25 results.

The first search was: [sub] "Cystic Fibrosis" AND [sub] "Therapy" OR "Therapeutic Use" [key] "Systematic Reviews", limits from 2018, and the second one was: [sub] "Chondrocyte AND cell therapy AND osteoarthritis". In Google Scholar, free text was used since subject fields were unavailable. In PubMed, the correct Mesh terms [MeSH] were used.

All results from all platforms were imported into the TDNet to enable an analysis with the same metrics.

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The key metrics to evaluate the results were: Dates, Journals, Citations, Journal Ranking, OA, and Overlap (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HmyRxmUQi-pqc5gZN4_BdN3wGeZS9pJP/view?usp=sharing).

## The results from the cystic fibrosis search

PubMed results were filtered for "Systematic Review" and the first 25 items were consider as high calibre. However, upon closer examination, it can't be overlooked that PubMed would benefit from additional tools to assess the value of search results quickly. Cochrane published half of the articles, and 14 out of the top 25 articles were open access.

Other discovery tools such as Summon, EDS, TDNet, and Google Scholar use various methods to evaluate search results, with Summon and TDNet providing a more balanced set of results. Google Scholar relies on an algorithm that prioritises referenced material, which can be dated and limited to a narrow set of journals. EDS prioritises currency over referenced content, while PubMed prioritises sources, with Cochrane dominating the results.

Searching for subjects and keywords in abstracts yielded relevant results, further refined using a custom filter managed by a librarian for systematic reviews. However, it's important to understand what determines an optimal set of results. There isn't an optimal search strategy to fit all the possible criteria. One researcher will prioritise sources, another currency and another how well it has been referenced; this is in addition to the relevance bias of each platform. Many articles are published without Subject metadata, and this research shows up a sizeable amount of peer review articles with that field not provided upon publication. Therefore, a search strategy with a subject potentially limits the amount of valuable content. It's worth mentioning that 47 papers out of 125 were found on two or more platforms, with one paper appearing in four and one in three. Overall, it's clear that each discovery tool has its strengths and weaknesses, and it's essential to use multiple tools to ensure a comprehensive search.

## The results from the chondrocyte search

After conducting a Chondrocyte search on PubMed, the top 25 articles were retrieved, spanning 20 years with an average publication date of 2010. These articles were referenced heavily, although a significant number of them had poor or no SJR classification.

Google Scholar also offered several articles, although many were outdated and had suboptimal SJR rankings, focusing on referenced content. EDS prioritised currency over referenced material, resulting in several journals with low SJR rankings.

Summon balanced currency and referencing well, with journals featuring strong SJR rankings. TDNet had the strongest date currency, with a good SJR ranking, although the referenced content in the first 25 articles was not as good as other tools.

Interestingly, this search strategy yielded fewer overlaps in the top 25 results, with only about ten articles appearing in two tools and no tools having three overlapping titles. This is surprising, given that the total number of valid results across all tools was around 200.

## Discussion and conclusion

The comprehensive list of results is determined by the indexes and content that each platform uses. What determines the differences in the first 25 are deduplication tools and the relevance algorithms. Each platform, as the study has flagged, uses a different algorithm.

The referenced material, currency, quality sources, and metadata-matching search terms are weighed. This study has been valuable in furthering the TDNet platform development towards providing solutions that support researchers' workflow, collecting scholarly material from various sources and enabling selection and evaluation.

Research findings indicate that DTs are powerful tools when managed consistently and holistically under team supervision. To make the best use of them, students and teachers must possess information literacy skills, such as the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, organize, use, and communicate information.

The role of the librarian, cultural mediator, is clearly necessary above all in the evaluation of the answers that these systems provide (ranking) and not only, in fact, through the use of ad hoc ontologies, will it be possible to understand the relationships between the information and coordinate this ability to understand with the specific requests of the user, linking the information present in the web pages to abstract concepts organized hierarchically (ontology).

The team will continue the research also exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ChatGPT.

## Acknowledgments

This paper is a further development of an oral presentation introduced at Stelline 2023 conference held in Milan "Next Generation Library", and at the EAHIL Conference 2023 (Trondheim, Norway) at the TDNet booth as a slide-show.

*Submitted on invitation.*
*Accepted on 4 September 2023.*

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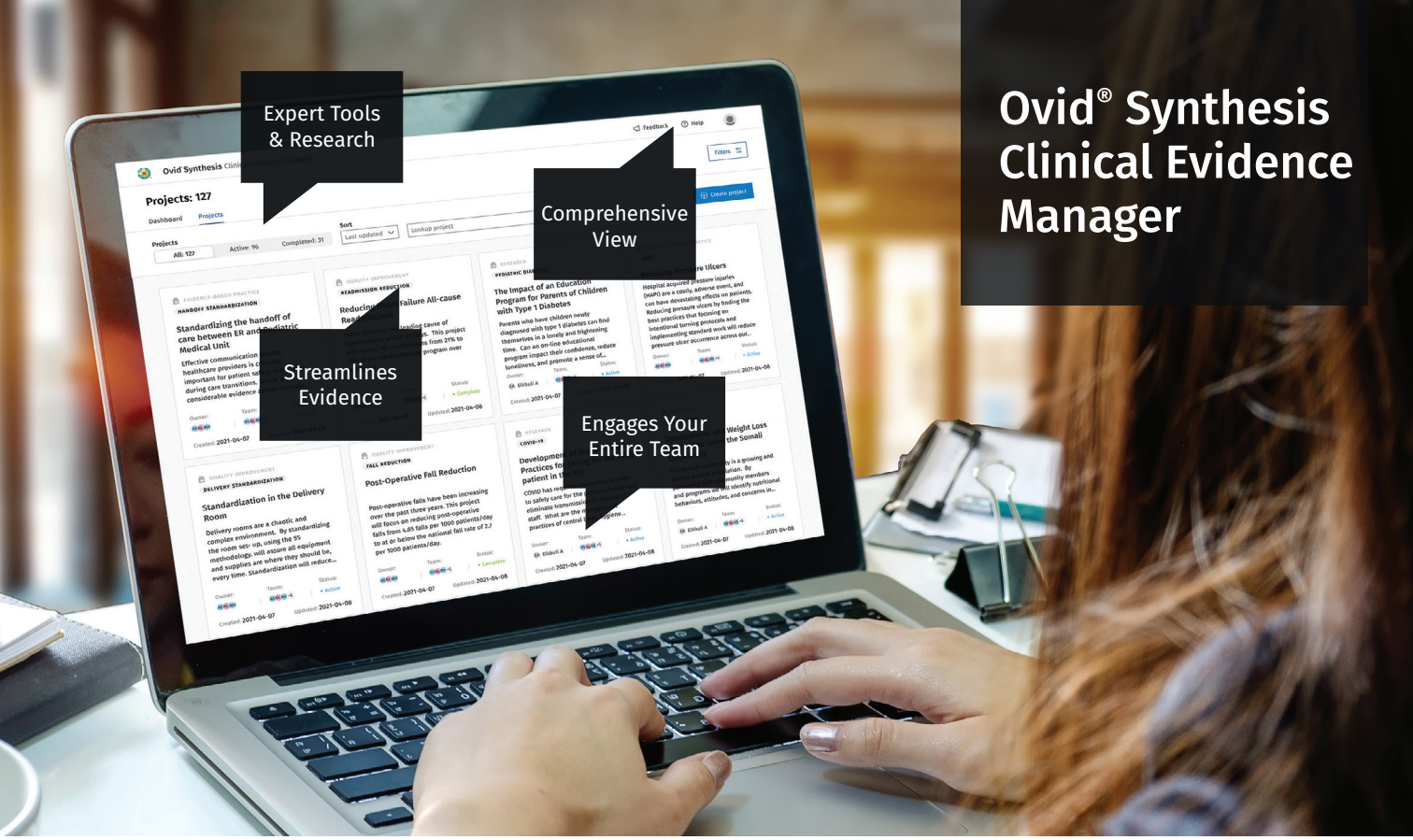


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# Letter from the President

**Lotta Haglund**

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Dear EAHIL member,

When this issue is published, September is here, and most of us have returned to our office after what I hope has been a relaxing summer with time for reflection and recuperation. As we're starting up at work again, it's also time to think about next year's EAHIL event, the conference in Riga, Latvia. The conference theme, "Small Step and a Giant Leap: Reorienting Towards a New Environment", captures the need for libraries to adapt and thrive in an ever-evolving landscape and is very inspiring. But no program without a submission from you, the EAHIL members. To help you out when planning your submission, the International Program Committee has formulated five subthemes:

- Shaping the Educational Environment
- Research & Open Science
- Libraries as change agents
- Visibility & Strategic presence
- Technology & Tools

Please check the conference website (https://eahil2024.rsu.lv/) for more information on important dates and the theme.

As in previous years, the EAHIL Board will announce the possibility of applying for a scholarship to cover the conference fee in Riga. Don't forget to watch the EAHIL website, e-mail, and social media if you plan to apply.

The above reminds me that we need to secure locations for the EAHIL events from 2025 onwards. Since our yearly events are our Association's main activities, and the planning timeline for an event is approximately two years, time is running short. I invite 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 other Board members or me for discussion and support.

Talking about social media and communication, I encourage you to help our Communications Officer Mala Mann by sending her news and updates from your local health library community that you think would be of interest to the EAHIL membership. For EAHIL to thrive, we need active members!

Looking ahead, I want to remind you that next year is an election year for the EAHIL Executive Board and the Council. Who would you like to see contributing to shaping our association in 2025-2026? If not yourself, perhaps you have a colleague that would be perfect for a Board or Council member role. More information about the election process will follow in early 2024.

# Reflections from the IPC chair of EAHIL 2023 Workshop in Trondheim, Norway, 12-16 June 2023

**Karen Marie Øvern**
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"We know what we are, but not what we may be", said Ophelia in Shakespeare's Hamlet. The same might be said for librarians. The uncertainty that has been prominent in our lives, particularly since the pandemic, has been felt by many librarians, too. In uncertain times, we can easily become engrossed in the nitty-gritty of everyday business and forget to look up and catch the big picture. This was the background for the theme of our workshop.

## The EAHIL 2023 bid

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) sent an expression of interest to EAHIL in early 2020, before the pandemic. The bid was for a workshop, to be held in Trondheim in 2023, and it outlined the conference venue and suggested social events as well as a presentation of the city of Trondheim. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was successful in their bid, and the dates were set for our workshop.
I was recruited to lead the International Programme Committee (IPC) in March of 2021, and I immediately started to put together the IPC team. I was given a free rein, and I was able to secure a wonderful group of people to participate in the IPC. I am very grateful to them all for their input and time, and for sharing their considerable EAHIL experience with me.

## The theme

The theme of our workshop was "Radical positive change agents", a title inspired by the quote by R. David Lankes: "To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question. It is to be a radical positive change agent within your community".
The IPC found the quote above an inspiration and a way of broadly approaching changing roles, new dynamics, power relations in academia, sustainable practice, visibility and impact of libraries and new ways of making valuable contributions to knowledge creation, learning and teaching. The six subthemes of the workshop were meant to reflect some of these issues. Most libraries are facing a continual lack of resources, and in such situations, it is easy to get a little short-sighted. It is easy to get stuck in the details and the everyday operations, and to forget to look at the big picture. How can we be the change we want to see in our libraries? Is it possible to come together for more sustainable development practices? How can we be more visible and have more impact? How can we be more inclusive and diverse? We wanted to use our workshop to take a step back and try to get a glimpse of the big picture.

## The keynotes

We were able to secure three keynote speakers to address the theme from their various viewpoints. The first keynote speaker was none other than R. David Lankes himself, joining us on the screen from the US. His keynote was concerned with the libraries' roles in a polarized society. Lankes talked about censorship and the difficult position that librarians find themselves in. He amended his original quote with this: "To be a radical positive agent is to fight for your whole community, your values, and for democracy itself".

Our second keynote was Mia Høj Mathiasson. Her topic was the library as a proactive agent in sustainability practices. She talked specifically about her research in the UPSCALE project and work with the Ballerup public library. Sustainability work is a process rather than a goal, Mathiasson said.
Our third keynote was from the Norwegian National librarian, Aslak Sira Myhre. Myhre talked about the National Library's role in digitalization processes and making the national heritage digital. The National library team learned, however, that providing access does not mean that people use the information, and that information is not the same as knowledge. Digitalization has not been a problem for the library, but it challenged the role of the librarian, Myhre said. We should be agents for free access to information, but also agents against piracy, he concluded.
The three keynote speakers approached the new roles of libraries and librarians in different ways and from their various viewpoints. Personally, I liked that we heard the stories from different sectors. The speakers included examples from school libraries and public libraries as well as from academic and health libraries. It is important to include them all if we are to see the big picture of our present and future. As several of the keynote speakers mentioned: collaboration is important.

### Workshops, oral presentations, teachmeets and CECs

The IPC were very happy with the number of submissions we received. When the extended deadline was met, we had received 80 submissions. There were more oral presentation submissions, and fewer workshop submissions than expected, but we were excited to see that many had embraced the teachmeet format. After review, we were left with 63 accepted submissions. A couple of authors had to withdraw at a later stage due to unforeseen circumstances, but all in all, we ended up with 6 CECs, 17 workshops, 27 oral presentations and 10 teachmeets. We had eliminated poster presentations from our event, and we opened for teachmeets instead. The evaluations we have received indicate that people found the teachmeets useful and entertaining.

### The social events

In all, 250 people attended EAHIL 2023, and we had a record number of first-timers this year. The first-timers were invited to attend a separate event on Tuesday, 13 June. They met at the Trondheim Academy of Fine Arts, where they were treated to a bit of food, and some entertainment to get to know each other. On Wednesday, everyone was invited to an Organ recital at Nidaros Cathedral, Norway's only medieval cathedral. One of our own delegates, Wichor Bramer, even contributed with a piece before the recital began. After the recital, there was a reception at the Archbishop's palace with food, drink and a short talk on the restoration work of the cathedral. Our conference dinner was held at Scandic Nidelven hotel, and we were served lovely food before we were entertained by The Peer Reviews, who gave us three highly entertaining songs on the life in academia. The delegates also proved that they could sing when they sang the birthday song for me. Thank you all again for that! I had a lovely birthday celebration with you!

### Things we have learned

Never underestimate the EAHIL gang's wish to dance! We missed the mark there. We had to be out of the event room at midnight, and we hadn't reserved a dancing space. Sorry, guys! If we ever host the EAHIL again, we will make sure to have a fabulous space for dancing after dinner.

Workshops fill up fast. Some authors were generous enough to give their workshop twice, and therefore, we were able to get more people in to good workshops. Some people were asking why we didn't have more workshops. The answer was that we didn't get more submissions in that category. We also chose quality over quantity, so we had not made the programme first and then filled it up. We made the programme after we had done the review. We figured that the quality was more important than filling a pre-set set of slots.

The "hygge corner" with knitting needles, yarn and books was appreciated, and so was our gaming room where people competed in Mario Kart, Mario Party, Tennis, Just dance and more. Being at a conference is hard work, and sometimes people need a little break to process information.

The LOC is an important key to success. We had a wonderful team that took care of everything from room bookings to social events planning, catering, website, social media, sponsor contacts, rigging and technical support. Our lovely conference managers, Tiffany and Monica at NTNU Videre, made a huge effort to make our event professional. Thank you again to all our sponsors, who made such a good contribution to the workshop!

Hosting an EAHIL event is a lot of work, but so much fun, too! We highly recommend taking on an event if you have staff to deal with it. The EAHIL community is so generous, friendly, fun-loving and engaged, and people were happy to be together and to learn from each other.

Thank you all so much for attending our EAHIL 2023 Workshop in Trondheim! We hope to see you again in Riga next year.

# Memories from EAHIL Scholarship recipients

**Van Meel Chayenne**
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I am very happy that I was able to attend the EAHIL 2023 Workshop in the beautiful city of Trondheim, and I am truly grateful to be a recipient of the EAHIL Scholarship this year. My colleagues have been very positive about previous EAHIL events, and now I can confidently say that all the good things I had heard are definitely true.

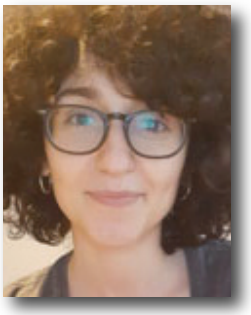
As I am still relatively new to the profession of medical information specialist, this EAHIL Workshop was one of the first opportunities for me to meet face-to-face with international colleagues. It was lovely to make so many new connections, and share experiences with colleagues from all over Europe (and even all over the world).

The EAHIL 2023 Workshop provided a well-filled scientific program, with very informative Continuing Education Courses, outstanding keynotes, stimulating workshop sessions and teachmeets, and inspiring oral presentations. Over the course of the Workshop, I improved my searching competency in the "Effectiveness and efficiency in systematic searching" CEC, learned how to teach skills in a fun way using educational games, and discovered many new tools and resources to take home and apply in the library.

Together with Claudia Kapp and Marshall Dozier, I hosted the workshop "Fantastic R packages and where to find them". This workshop was organized by a project group of the Evidence Based Information SIG. Unfortunately, the other members of our project group could not attend. Claudia did a wonderful job giving a small introduction into R and presenting the goal and preliminary results of the project, in which we aim to systematically search for R packages that are relevant to librarians and information specialists. This was followed by a fishbowl discussion about the expected outputs and future direction of the project. The workshop participants engaged in fruitful discussions and this has provided us with a clearer view of how to continue the project and how to best present the results to the community.

The scientific program was complemented by a lively social program. The first timers' reception included a fun activity to break the ice, and offered plenty opportunity to socialize. We were treated to a beautiful organ recital in the Nidaros Cathedral (with surprise appearance from Wichor Bramer), and enjoyed a delicious conference dinner with live entertainment from the Peer Reviews.

I would like to thank the Organizing Committee for arranging such a wonderful conference, and hope to attend EAHIL conferences and workshops again in the future.



**Laura Chierico**
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I am Laura and I have been working as a biomedical librarian at IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria in Bologna (Italy). My research institute was born in 2020, so we started from scratch to build the administration structure. We are defining frameworks, roles, and sometimes we make mistakes. However, in the end we (luckily!) find solutions.

I am new to this profession. I am trying to take any opportunity to learn more about the health field and the chance to discuss with more experienced colleagues. For this reason, I really thank the EAHIL Board for awarding me the scholarship because I've had the occasion to participate to my first international conference. It was informative, and above all truly enjoyable, listening to similar experiences from different points of view, speaking with colleagues from all over the world and sharing with them opinions about our job, our life-styles and our countries.

This year, the annual EAHIL conference took place in the amazing city of Trondheim, in Norway. The theme "Radical positive change agents" also involved biomedical libraries in the debate on sustainability, inclusiveness, visibility and impact on research. Through the exchange and comparison of stories, the aim was to urge the implementation of new and good practices in our libraries to meet the challenges of this decade. Listening to the oral presentations and keynotes of the speakers about social and environmental issues was inspiring and I felt proud to be part of this community.

I appreciated, indeed, the debate about the reproducibility and the "decolonisation" of research strategies that must be pursued. As specialists in information literacy, we can actively contribute to refresh the skills for proper research and the evaluation of information, favoring the decolonisation of research, archives, study materials, and supporting inclusive recruitment processes in our institutions.

In light of this, the words of Professor David Lankes in his keynote speech take on new meaning and reshape the challenges of the coming years, which see us defending scientific knowledge, often threatened and under indictment.

**Tarquin Mittermayr**
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I felt equally delighted and honoured to be awarded an EAHIL scholarship for attending this year's workshop in Trondheim.

Upon arrival by train, I was immediately met by the friendliness of the city's inhabitants and its unique Scandinavian architecture (which is perfectly reflected on the workshop's subtle logo).

After participating in the very informative CEC on documenting search strategies, which for me also served as a hands-on introduction to the Miro board in action, and some time spent on exploring Trondheim, I attended the opening keynote lecture by Professor R. David Lankes. In his captivating video presentation, Prof. Lankes illustrated the challenges of being a librarian in today's world, especially in US communities with an increasing lack of understanding for a librarian's professional role.

As an example of this sceptical approach, he mentioned the disconcerting trend of "book banning" in – predominantly Texan – libraries, on the ground of stocking books on subjects such as LGBT(QIA+), which hold the alleged potential of influencing children's minds and their sexual orientation. The information given by Prof. Lankes that librarians not only face an angry mob in their workplace but potentially up to six years in prison for providing "sexually explicit, obscene or other 'harmful' literature" is concerning at the least (no wonder that – on several occasions during the presentation – he showed images of cute kittens to lighten the mood). This keynote speech certainly lent the motto of this year's workshop "Radical Positive Change Agents" a particularly weighty meaning in relation to the role of librarians as providers of objective information.

In general, I was very impressed by this workshop's high number of oral presentations on not just their professional role, but addressing what it actually feels like being a librarian nowadays, to perform the everyday balancing act trying to satisfy the expectations of readers and academics on the one hand and an ever-increasing workload on the other.

Other interesting presentations and hands-on workshops focused – amongst others – on practical tips for systematic searching and the use of newly introduced databases and tools, such as Deduklick for deduplicating search results. As a user of the latter, I was happy to meet a Deduklick representative in person and to exchange my experiences with this new tool.

The social events of this year's EAHIL Workshop offered not only excellent opportunities for networking, but provided unforgettable and moving experiences, such as the organ recital in Trondheim's stunning cathedral.

I am very grateful for having been given the opportunity to participate in this conference. I will remember it for all the stimulating presentations and lively discussions with colleagues (some newly acquainted) and the friendly and welcoming Norwegian hosts.

After this rewarding experience I am looking forward to attending further EAHIL conferences in the near future.

**Karin Sandqvist**
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Professor R. David Lankes' quote on the neccessity for librarians to be "radical positive change agents" served as the inspirational theme for EAHIL 2023 in Trondheim and sparked a variety of intriguing discussions throughout the workshop. I feel immensely honored and grateful to be one of the recipients of the EAHIL scholarship, and as a first timer I felt so empowered by listening to and meeting so many dedicated colleagues exploring new and expanding roles for librarians. This was my first international event since I changed careers from journalism to library and information science and I found the collective competence gathered at NTNU in Trondheim truly impressive.

The keynote speakers shared valuable insights on the role of librarians as catalysts for positive transformation within our communities – whether discussing the threats to our democracy and book banning, sustainable library development, or the existential crisis of librarians in times of rapid change and digitization.

Given my background as a journalist I found subtheme 5, Visibility and impact (of the health library), particularly interesting. The workshops and oral presentations provided useful ideas on how librarians can acquire new skills, and embrace novel tasks, collaborations and methods of outreach. Other significant takeaways included innovative approaches to improving systematic searching skills and enhancing library services through User Experience (UX).

One of the most enriching aspects of the conference was the opportunity to connect with colleagues from not only Europe but also Australia and the United States. Meeting with professionals from different types of libraries broadened my perspective and understanding of library practices. Additionally, talking with the sponsors offered insights into the latest services and technologies, including the use of AI, which I look forward to exploring further.

The only cloud in the otherwise so blue Trondheim sky was that the wide range of interesting topics covered during the presentations, workshops and teachmeets made it hard to choose. I wish I could have attended at least twice as many sessions.

Beyond the educational aspect, the social events during the conference, and the food, were fantastic! Particularly the organ recital in the beautiful Nidaros Cathedral, with the setting sun casting its light through the rose window, left a lasting impact on my heart.

Lastly, I want to express my warmest gratitude to the Local Organising Committee, the program committee and everyone else contributing to making the 2023 EAHIL workshop an unforgettable experience that by far exceeded my expectations. I am deeply grateful for the scholarship that made my participation possible, and I will encourage my colleagues to consider joining EAHIL. The workshop has motivated me to seek new opportunities to broaden my skillset and I look forward to using the newfound knowledge and ideas in my work at Skåne University Hospital.

**Louise Stenholt**
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My warmest thanks to EAHIL and EBSCO for granting me an EAHIL-EBSCO scholarship for this year's conference in Trondheim. I was very fortunate to get the possibility of attending the EAHIL 2023 workshop in beautiful Trondheim and meet fellow librarians and information professionals from all around the world.

The EAHIL 2023 workshop was my first-ever EAHIL conference and it was all that I could have wished for and more. Unfortunately, I missed out on the first-timers event due to delays and cancelled flights. Hence, I was very excited about the small orange stickers to wear on my badge to signal I was a first timer. It was a very clever way to go about being a first timer participant, and I really feel that it made it a lot easier for me to engage in conversations and meet new people. I met a lot of amazing people at the conference.

The keynote speakers were immensely inspiring. I truly felt as a radical positive change agent afterwards and took it to heart that we as librarians don't need to legitimise the library as an institution in any way, shape or form! In fact, we have an important professional role to play and need to embrace it.

In all workshops and plenary sessions that I took part in, I learned new things and best practices that I can use, share with my colleagues and embed in our library. The teachmeet session where I had the opportunity to hear several presentations was a fun and engaging way to connect and learn from multiple people in a short period of time.

Apart from the scientific program, I was so amazed by the stunning Nidaros Cathedral and enjoyed every minute of the beautiful music at the organ concert. I enjoyed walking in the beautiful historic streets of Trondheim not to mention the clear blue sky and sunny weather throughout the entire conference.

I really would like to thank the Organising Committee for their tireless work and outstanding job arranging the EAHIL 2023 Workshop. Hopefully, I will be able to attend future EAHIL conferences and meet some of all the wonderful people again that I met this year.

# EAHIL 2023 Workshop, Trondheim, Norway

**Julia Walz**
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After attending EAHIL 2021 Istanbul and EAHIL 2022 Rotterdam only virtually I was delighted and most grateful for being awarded this year's EAHIL scholarship by the Board! The scholarship made it possible for me to attend an EAHIL event in person for the first time and it gave me the opportunity to talk to and connect with colleagues from around the world and to visit the truly beautiful city of Trondheim.

It was reassuring for me to see, that we, as medical librarians, all are facing similar challenges. The oral presentations I attended gave me new ideas and helped me with thinking outside the box. I also participated in several workshops. At each event I learned something new to take home with me. The insights I gathered in those few days will surely benefit our whole team. Of course, the hardest thing for me in Trondheim was which event listed in the scientific programme to attend. Just everything in the programme seemed to be so interesting!

I was very impressed by this year's key note speaker R. David Lankes' statement "To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question". It is so true! I was very pleased to discuss this important topic with the "EAHIL family".

Speaking about "EAHIL family": I really appreciate the comparatively small but well-networked professional community I belong to. It enables such close and fruitful exchange from which everyone can ultimately benefit. It was awesome to meet all the amazing people I have only met online before! Especially the social events were great opportunities to get in touch and to have longer talks with international colleagues.

All in all, I had a wonderful time in beautiful Trondheim! Therefore a big THANK YOU to the Local Organizing Committee who did a great job hosting the EAHIL-Workshop 2023 and to all those who shared their experience in a presentation or workshop. Last but not least, I would like to thank the sponsors who made the EAHIL-Workshop 2023 possible. I hope that I will be able to attend future EAHIL events to continue this beneficial exchange.

**Karolina Wójcikowska**
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I am immensely grateful for the financial assistance provided by EAHIL, which enabled me to participate in the EAHIL 2023 Workshop held in the captivating town of Trondheim. This experience marked my first international conference attendance and introduced me to the beautiful country of Norway, making it a truly remarkable and memorable journey.

Before the Workshop, I had heard from colleagues that EAHIL conferences are extraordinary events and renowned as one of the top conferences in the field of medical librarianship. The level of organization and the quality of workshops surpassed my expectations. The workshops I had the privilege of attending were engaging, interactive, and highly inspiring. What's more, the atmosphere at the workshops was incredibly supportive, and I felt comfortable asking questions, sharing my experiences, and collaborating with other participants. With numerous interesting topics on offer, it was challenging to select which workshops to participate in. I only wish I could have attended more, but unfortunately, some sessions coincided with each other.

During the workshops, I acquired valuable insights into the process of conducting systematic reviews - I acquired practical tips and techniques for formulating research questions accurately, including the importance of collaborating with researchers. Furthermore, I familiarized myself with novel methods for conducting literature searches and identifying studies relevant to systematic reviews. In general, the workshops equipped me with extensive knowledge and skills essential for proficiently developing search strategies, framing research questions, and carrying out systematic reviews using innovative methodologies.

The EAHIL Workshop in Trondheim also offered abundant opportunities for personal growth. Constantly speaking English, sharing work experience and interacting with people from around the world boosted my self-confidence and I feel equipped with numerous tools to enhance my skills as a medical librarian. Moreover, the kindness and support of the organizing committee and board members truly made a significant impact and exemplified the spirit of the conference.

I am sincerely grateful for the incredible time I spent in Trondheim and I wholeheartedly hope to have the opportunity to attend future EAHIL conferences. Once again, I extend my deepest appreciation to EAHIL for invaluable support and for making this experience possible.

# EAHIL 2023 Workshop, Trondheim, Norway

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I had the privilege of attending the EAHIL conference in Trondheim this year, and I am grateful for the EAHIL scholarship that made this possible. Receiving confirmation of being granted the scholarship was a wonderful moment, and I want to express my gratitude to EAHIL for this opportunity and the organising committee's exceptional work in organising the conference.

The theme of this year's conference, "Radical positive change agents," sparked my curiosity from the start. I was eager to explore how we, as librarians, could actively contribute to positive change within our communities. The words of R. David Lankes, "To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question. It is to be a radical positive change agent within your community," resonated with me throughout the event, setting the tone for meaningful discussions and engagements.

The keynotes were carefully selected and were truly interesting and inspiring. Furthermore, I participated in a series of enlightening workshops that addressed various aspects of our roles. These workshops introduced innovative approaches to enhance our digital capabilities and shared strategies for improving efficiency in systematic searching, which is a crucial aspect of my work. The oral presentations were equally enriching, with notable talks on research impact evaluation, literature reviews for students, and collaborative efforts for evidence-based clinical guidelines. These presentations provided valuable insights and inspired new ideas to elevate my professional practices.

A personal highlight for me was being part of the team presenting the Library of Search Strategy Resources (LSSR) website during a teachmeet session. As an initiative of the Evidence Based Information Special Interest Group (EBI-SIG), the LSSR website received positive feedback, enabling us to gather valuable impressions and suggestions for further improving our website. The interactive discussions allowed us to connect with other professionals and exchange ideas. I hope this teachmeet format, which was introduced instead of posters, stays as it was a beneficial format. Remarkably, our team's work on another EBI-SIG project earned the award for best oral presentation. Although I accepted the honour on behalf of my colleague who presented the talk: "What do journals' author instructions state on search methods for systematic reviews?", it was a testament to our collective effort and dedication on this project.

Beyond the educational aspects, also the social events provided opportunities to network and connect with fellow professionals. Meeting remarkable individuals who shared their experiences and perspectives enriched my understanding of the challenges and opportunities in our work.

The 2023 EAHIL Conference in Trondheim proved to be an exceptional experience. The theme encouraged us to reflect on our role and inspires us to initiate transformative actions within our communities. All the sessions and networking opportunities enabled us to broaden our horizons, address challenges, and gain practical insights that can be implemented in our respective libraries. I am truly grateful for the knowledge, connections, and inspiration that I gained during this event.

# Memories from EAHIL participants and first timers

***Exploring the horizons of library innovation: EAHIL 2023 Workshop insights***

We decided to attend EAHIL this year because of the great content. As library professionals, we constantly seek opportunities to expand our knowledge, enhance our skills, and connect with fellow enthusiasts. Colleagues are always willing to share their expertise – making the conference a great place to learn and connect.

This year's focus on current events was inspiring and put the conference theme – radical positive change agents – in perspective. Our presentations on advocacy, leadership, and organizational resiliency dovetailed nicely with several themes highlighted in the keynotes. Libraries have always been reflections of our communities, and our roles in research, education, patient care, and access to information, along with our physical spaces, will remain vital to the constituents we serve. Preparing, planning, and messaging for impact were key themes in our work this year, skills applicable across library roles and services.

The interactive nature of the sessions we attended also allowed for fruitful discussions, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities. Each session was thoughtfully designed to provide valuable insights and foster innovative thinking by participants, making the EAHIL workshop an enriching experience. R. David Lankes called for each of us to "be a radical positive change agent within your community," and this call resonated in many of the inspiring talks we attended: Eva Hessman and Helen Sjoblom inspired us to think about library services evolution; Mia Høj Mathiasson shared visions about the transformative and creative potential of librarians concerning sustainable development; Mala Mann shared clear tips for focusing evidence synthesis questions; and so many others gave us great ideas to bring back and implement at our own institutions.

One key takeaway from this year's EAHIL was thinking about how we reframe our work. An example was the workshop by Irma Klerings and Alicia Fatima Gomez-Sanchez. How do we rethink the conversation on predatory publishing? What differences make something "predatory" versus a potential quality improvement issue? Joey Nicholson challenged us to reimagine what it means to measure student learning. How do we move from assessing students' knowledge to assessing competency in real-world practice? Gaining fresh perspectives to think about the challenges we face as health information professionals on problems such as these is part of what keeps us coming back to EAHIL.

Lastly, the dedication of fellow EAHIL participants to advancing health information services is palpable, creating an atmosphere of motivation and encouragement. Witnessing the inspiring work and sharing our ideas with others ignited renewed purpose, reminding us of the crucial role of health information professionals to embrace new challenges and continue to act as catalysts for radical, positive change. Many thanks to our wonderful collaborators and colleagues for an outstanding conference. We look forward to continuing the conversation at future EAHIL gatherings!

**Jamie Gray (a) and Nicole Capdarest-Arest (b)**

(a)Director of the Health Sciences Library, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, Doha, Qatar

(b)Associate University Librarian for Research & Learning, UC Davis Library, University of California, Davis, USA

***Feelings and memories from a first timer***

Excitement, anticipation, enthusiasm, but also a little bit of fear and stress! The roller coaster of feelings that an EAHIL first timer goes through while attending the workshop in Trondheim, Norway. Fortunately, the first timers also feel very welcome because EAHIL organizes an event for the newbies on the first night of the workshop where you can meet not also others in same situation but also the experienced board members. Amazing how inspirational it can be to hear the stories on what had happened in EAHIL congresses during the past years. Not to mention to get to know all the other first timers and have fruitful discussions with them. We were joking about the fact that will we be able to praise, let's say in 20 years from now, that we had our first EAHIL in Trondheim and we had really warm feelings and memories in order to mentor and welcome the new comers then, wherever the EAHIL will then be. What about the feelings afterwards? I feel inspired, satisfied, full of ideas, happy but also physically tired (but mentally rested). So, turning on the positive side definitely. This workshop brought some positive, radical changes to my work absolutely! And what even more amazing, I heard that we broke the record on number of first timers in Trondheim! Perhaps a new record in Riga next year?

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***My first time at the EAHIL Workshop***

Although it wasn't actually my first EAHIL event (in 2020 I performed an oral presentation during the online event that was held in Łódź), this kind of meeting in person is something completely different – after pandemic I guess we can all agree on this.

Local Organizing Comittee stated on the workshop's website that Trondheim is either a small city or a big village, and now I can completely agree with this. During these few days it was so easy (and lovely) to walk around the city, where you can reach all the spots in less than half an hour. Ideal for this kind of events. Trondheim is great. Period. But about the workshop itself. Over the past few years, I have been to several conferences, and I have to admit that not much of them were as well prepared as this one. From the conference venue with excellent technical backline, through spectacular social events, to the Conference App, everything was set up down to the last detail. I participated in many interesting workshops and oral presentations, but I have to say that teachmeet sessions were my favourite and that was a great surprise. Amazing, sublime organ concert in the Nidaros Cathedral and on the other hand funny, yet sophisticated concert by The Peer Reviews during conference dinner made the cherry on top and satisfied every taste. But the most important, as always, are people. Numerous discussions with fellow librarians from all around the world helped me to better understand the library's landscape, but also confirmed that professionally my library is moving in the right direction. And one last thing – cheerful, smiling attitude of all the participants is what really made this event great – EAHIL workshop is friendly, bias-free environment, where everyone can feel safe. Good job LOC and keep up the good work, and if anyone is still hesitating, I can strongly recommend EAHIL events.

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***EAHIL social events***

To me the social events of EAHIL are more than just extra highlights of the conferences, they really are integral to the events, and I must take my hat off to the local organising committee for arranging such wonderful activities for us to enjoy as a community. One activity that especially stuck with me this time around was the visit to the Nidaros cathedral. After listening to the most wonderful organ music, we went over to the Archbishop's Palace where we mingled and made new friends. We then got to hear master stone mason Chris Pennock speak with infectious passion about his and other's work restoring the King's Entrance of the cathedral. And although stone masonry and heritage architecture might seem a far cry from medical librarianship, I thought that it nicely illustrated that even ancient things that we sometimes take for granted will be available for coming generations very much are a matter for the present. As I am sure much discussion, debate and tacit knowledge went into the disassembling and reassembling of the Nidaros cathedral, so must we librarians mingle, meet, discuss, argue, laugh and learn from each other to make sure that the knowledge of the past and present is made available and may live on to shape the future.

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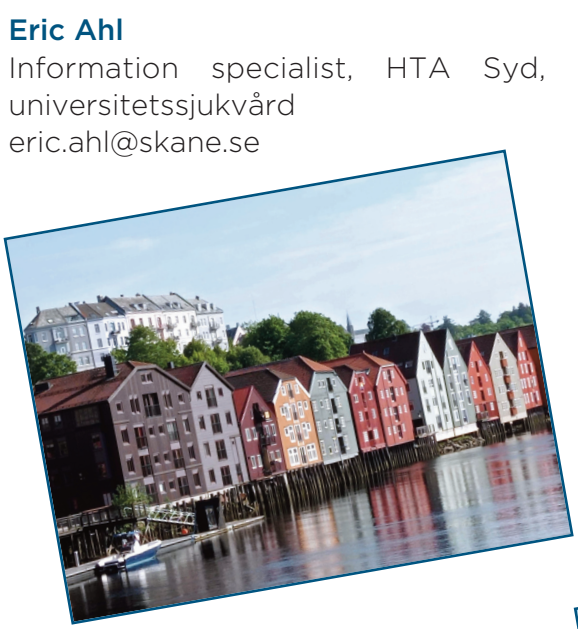

*Photos by Jakub Rusakow and Taisa Maria Sallinen*

# Global equity in access to healthcare information: a call to action

**Emma Farrow**
IFLA Evidence for Global and Disaster Health Special Interest Group (E4GDH SIG). Convenor (01/2022 - 08/2023)
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The COVID pandemic highlighted existing inequities in the global evidence ecosystem. As recorded in the Cochrane Convenes report, "the evidence response has… been unequal – across sectors, countries, regions and populations" (1). Cochrane issued a Call to Action (2) to improve evidence-informed decision-making in preparation for future health crises.

Our IFLA E4GDH SIG session during the 88th IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) World Library and Information Congress in Rotterdam last month took this further, discussing equitable access to reliable healthcare information as part of human rights. The panel discussion brought together some key organisations striving to remove existing barriers to universal healthcare information - Healthcare Information For All (HIFA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Research4Life, alongside initiatives undertaken by IFLA Headquarters.

"Global equity in access to health information is an ambitious goal but it can be achieved if all stakeholders work together." Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh

Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh, coordinator of HIFA, argued that universal access can only be achieved if all stakeholders work together to better understand and strengthen the global evidence ecosystem. HIFA is now in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) (3). The first step is a global consultation to accelerate progress towards universal access to reliable healthcare information. It is no coincidence that this survey was officially launched on 21st August 2023, the opening day of this year's IFLA congress. The goal is to demonstrate massive public support for universal access, and to gather inputs from all stakeholders on how to accelerate progress and what more WHO can do. Librarians and information professionals are an important voice.

## How can EAHIL support this work?

We invite EAHIL colleagues to take 5 minutes to complete the survey (available in multiple languages), and to promote it within their organisations.

***Complete the survey:*** www.hifa.org/survey2023 (available until 30 September)

***Further information:*** https://www.hifa.org/projects/hifa-who-global-consultation-2023

this includes a communication brief and promotional materials.

***Financial support for the survey is also welcome:*** https://hifa.online-donation.co.uk/consultation

IFLA E4GDH SIG works to promote and strengthen the roles that librarians play in times of disaster and in response to global health challenges. This is achieved through our advocacy work, skills development, and signposting of high-quality resources in support of evidence-based practice. Do get in touch to find out more about our work. We also welcome volunteers to join our advisory team and contribute to various projects. Our email: E4GDHteam@gmail.com. Our webpages: https://www.ifla.org/units/e4gdh/.

## REFERENCES

1. Cochrane. Cochrane Convenes: Preparing for and responding to global health emergencies. What have we learnt from COVID-19? Reflections and recommendations from the evidence synthesis community. London: Cochrane; 2022. p. 2. https://convenes.cochrane.org/sites/convenes.cochrane.org/files/uploads/Cochrane_LP_23Jan.pdf
2. Cochrane. Cochrane Convenes: Call to Action. 2022. https://convenes.cochrane.org/call-action
3. Healthcare Information for All. HIFA-WHO Global Consultation 2023. https://www.hifa.org/projects/hifa-who-global-consultation-2023

# Publications and new products

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*Dear colleagues,*

*hope you all enjoyed this summer and had the chance to rest up and recharge for the upcoming fall!*

## JOURNAL ISSUES

*Health Information and Libraries Journal: Contents of September 2023 (40:3)*

### Editorial

- **College and university libraries and user responses to COVID-19 health information needs.**
  Maria J Grant

### Review

- **Criteria for the selection, evaluation and application of traditional knowledge in contemporary health practice, education, research and policy: a systematic review.**
  Hope Foley, Andrea Bugarcic, Jon Adams, Jon Wardle, Matthew Leach and Amie Steel

### Original Articles

- **Students' increased time spent on social media, and their level of coronavirus anxiety during the pandemic predict increased social media addiction.**
  Hilal Parlak and Hatice Baskale
- **A ten-year follow-up survey of US academic libraries highlights the COVID-19 experience and greater interest in health information outreach.**
  Jodi Jameson and Lucy Duhon
- **Community, risk assessment, prevention and control: Black American college student's information seeking on COVID-19.**
  J. Brenton Stewart
- **The effect of COVID-19 vaccine literacy on attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccine among university students.**
  Mahinur Durmuş İskender, Handen Eren and Ayşenur Durmuş

## Regular Features

*Dissertations into Practice*

- **Identifying knowledge practices in an infodemic era: Rediscovering the professional identities of LIS professionals in an infodiverse environment.**
  Joseph M. Yap, Agnes Hajdu Barat and Peter Kiszl

*International Perspectives and Initiatives*

- **Technological trends in Swedish medical libraries.**
  Malin Ekstrand and Love Strandberg

*Teaching and Learning in Action*

- **Integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into instruction: Case studies from the University of Florida's Health Science Center Libraries.**
  Hannah F. Norton, Jane Morgan-Daniel, Mary Edwards and Lauren Adkins

## FROM THE WEB

- **Transformative Journals: analysis from the 2022 reports**
  The Transformative Journal (TJ) model was one of the strategies cOAlition S developed to help subscription publishers transition to full and immediate Open Access (OA) in a defined timeframe. This report looks at the data provided by the participating publishers for the calendar year 2022. The results aren't very encouraging as the analysis of these data shows that of the 2326 titles in the TJ programme only 26 titles (1%) flipped to full OA from 1st January 2023, 695 titles (30%) met or exceeded their OA growth targets and remain in the TJ programme, 1589 titles (68%) failed to meet their OA growth targets and will be removed from the TJ programme, 16 other titles (1%) were removed from the programme for other reasons (e.g. the publisher no longer holding that title, having ceased publication of a title, etc.). To read the full Report click here: https://www.coalition-s.org/blog/transformative-journals-analysis-from-the-2022-reports/

- **Open Access Journals Toolkit**
  The Open Access Journals Toolkit (https://www.oajournals-toolkit.org/), developed and updated by the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA), aims to help the scholarly community start and manage open access journals. It is arranged into 6 sections, according to the typical lifecycle of developing and managing an open access journal: getting started, running a journal, indexing, staffing, policies and infrastructure.

- **OpenAIRE podcasts**
  OpenAIRE, established in 2018 to ensure a permanent open scholarly communication infrastructure to support European research, has recently made a series of interesting podcasts available to researchers and everyone involved in scientific research and communication. These podcasts are aimed to cover all the aspects related to Open Science and, among the ones just published, it is possible to find podcasts on the legal aspects of open data, on how to make a Data Management Plan, on the advantages of open repositories. Each podcast lasts 30 minutes or less and is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts. This is the OpenAIRE webpage that collects all the available podcasts: https://www.openaire.eu/podcasts

- **Webinar "Scholarly Communication in Crisis: Research Integrity and Open Scholarship"**
  This webinar, organized by the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA), tries to address the complex and interconnected problem of the significant rise in unethical research and publication

practices (among these, paper mills and peer review rings), fuelled by academic incentive structures heavily skewed toward certain types of publication metrics. The experts brought together in this webinar try to explore the question of whether open scholarship practices and tools can help detect malpractices and be part of the solution. It is possible to watch the webinar at this link: https://oaspa.org/scholarly-communication-in-crisis-research-integrity-and-open-scholarship/

## SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**8th European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL)**
**October 9-12, Krakow, Poland**
More info at: https://ecil2023.ilconf.org/

**28th Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy (NWB2023)**
**October 11-13, Gothenburg, Sweden**
More info at: https://nwb2023.lib.chalmers.se/

**Global Summit on Diamond Open Access**
**October 23-27, Toluca, Mexico**
More info at: https://globaldiamantoa.org/en/home-2/
As a part of this Global Summit will be also held, on 25 and 26 October, the II Diamond Open Access Conference. Program and registration info at: https://globaldiamantoa.org/diamond-open-access-conference/en/home-2/

**International Clinical Librarian Conference**
**November 2-3, Leicester UK**
you can register your place here: https://uhl-clinicaleducation.org/events/international-clinical-librarian-conference/

Please feel free to contact me (annarita.barbaro@iss.it) if you have any further suggestion about initiatives or events you would like to promote

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