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# Journal of EAHIL

Theme Issue

## E-readers and libraries: competition or integration

EAHIL Workshop
Stockholm 12-14 June 2013
"Trends for the future - creating strategies to meet challenges"
Registration opens: 1st February 2013
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# Journal of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries

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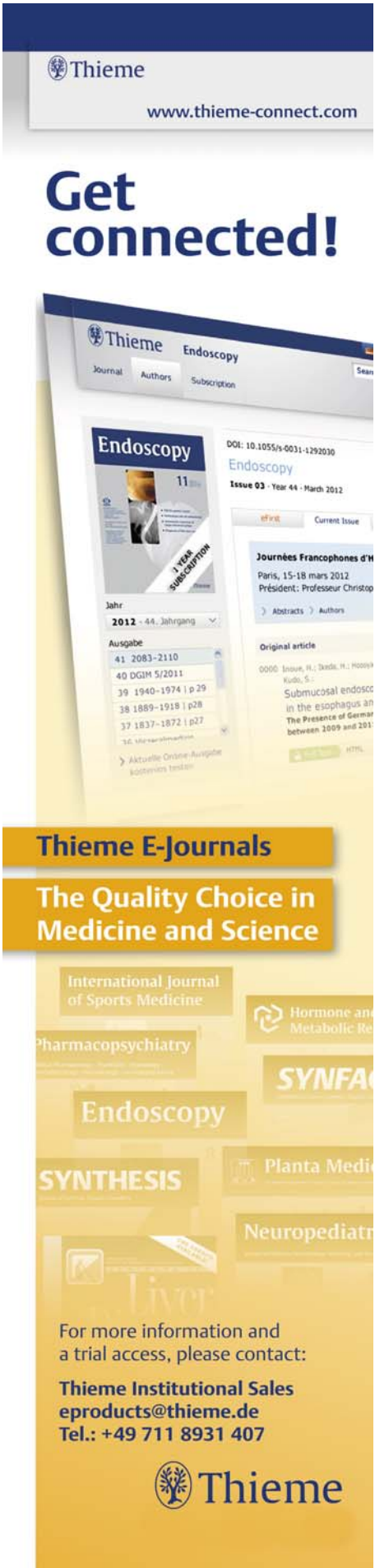

# Editorial

**Sally Wood-Lamont**
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Hello Everyone,

2012 ends marking 25 years of EAHIL. 2013 promises to be a new era of the annual conference taking shape as a highly interactive workshop in Stockholm, Sweden. There will be regular information regarding this workshop in this and the following issues of *JEAHIL*.

I would like to thank again all the members of the *Journal of EAHIL* Editorial Board and also list all of them below as a tribute to their hard work to attract articles and also their personal work to make the Journal not only attractive but an essential tool of EAHIL.


| Sally Wood-Lamont, Romania (Chief Editor) |
|---|
| Federica Napolitani Cheyne, Italy (Assistant Editor) |
| Giovanna Miranda, Italy |
| Oliver Obst, Germany |
| Tuulevi Ovaska, Finland |
| Fiona Brown, Scotland |
| Linda Lisgarten, England |
| Petra Wallgren Björk, Sweden |
| Manuela Schulz, Germany |


We welcome a new member to the Editorial Board, Manuela Schulz from Germany and she already has started working for us by translating the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Medizinisches Bibliothekswesen e.V (AGMB) Electronic Book Guidelines: *The Aachen Declaration: six recommendations for the acquisition of electronic books*.

The theme for this issue is very relevant today – *E-readers and libraries: competition or integration* and I am sure everyone will find the articles on this subject very interesting. Oliver Obst's column deals with a rising problem – plagiarism – and offers insight into the current situation.

The next year's themes and deadline dates for the *Journal of EAHIL* are listed below. The *Journal of EAHIL* Editorial Board chose the theme issues in Istanbul and I hope we shall have a good response from EAHIL members.

| 2013 ISSUE | THEME | DEADLINE |
|---|---|---|
| March | No theme: any subject | 5th February |
| June | International cooperation and networking | 5th May |
| September | Memories from Stockholm Workshop | 5th August |
| December | Outreach: go to customer! | 5th November |

By the time you receive this issue Christmas will be near and we will be ready to welcome another new year. To all EAHIL members, readers and friends

**Happy 2013**
**from the Editorial Board of JEAHIL!**

# E-readers, e-books and libraries

**Annarita Barbaro**
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**Abstract**
*It is well established that whenever new information delivery technologies appear on the market, librarians are drawn to investigate them for their potential interest to their users. Digital lending appears to be a natural evolution of library services, and it is destined to find a place in libraries' reading offerings in the next few years. Although portable e-readers have been on the market since 2004, it was only in 2010 that the huge increase in the consumers' purchasing e-readers and tablets suddenly led to an increase in the demand for e-books in libraries. In one way or another e-books are becoming part of the services libraries are offering, even if at the moment there are still many issues to be addressed. This study examines the recent initiatives taken at international level on this matter and what has been done in Italy.*

*Key words:* libraries, digital; Italy; books; communications media.

**Introduction**
E-readers are portable devices specifically designed to display digital versions of written material from various printed sources such as books, journals, and newspapers. Most e-readers offer black-and-white resizable text presented on what it is called e-ink, a display technology designed to simulate printed paper, rather than an LCD screen, and allow users to store a library of titles in a single device, make annotations, highlight text, and bookmark pages. Although portable e-readers have been on the market since 2004, only in the past few years they have been widely accepted by consumers. In 2010 the huge increase in the consumers' purchasing e-readers and tablets, and the corresponding increase in the commercial availability of downloadable consumer trade e-books, led to an increase in the demand for downloadable e-books in public libraries. Accordingly to a study published on April 2012 by The Pew Internet & American Life Project, an initiative of the Pew Research Center, a fifth of American adults have read an e-book in the past year, a number that is regularly increasing in the past years. The survey findings underline also that there are four times more people reading e-books now than was the case less than two years ago (1).

It is well established that whenever new information delivery technologies appear on the market, librarians are being drawn to investigate them for their potential interest to their users. In this case, librarians have been confronted with a new way to spread information: books are becoming very different from what they have traditionally been, newspapers draw bigger audiences online than they do in print and digital databases can be accessed now anywhere from smartphones and tablets.

Digital lending appears to be the natural evolution of library services, and it is destined to integrate libraries' reading in the next few years. According to a study conducted by the American Library Association (ALA) regarding American public libraries' technologies, and published in summer 2012, in the last year online resources with the highest public profile have been e-books and e-readers. As demand for e-books increases, libraries of all sizes have added e-books to their collections: 76% of American libraries offer e-books to their patrons, up 9% from the year before, and 39% of them lend e-readers as well. One thing that must be underlined is that libraries without e-book collections report that the cost was prohibitive, particularly in light of cuts made to their collections budget (2).

There is a lack of literature in Italy concerning this issue, as it is a relatively new development, unlike in North America and other English language countries where the digital market is most active and, subsequently, these concerns are already arising. It is interesting that this is already starting to change with the growing use of e-books in countries such as China and above all South Korea, whose reported e-book sales place it as the second largest global market for e-books after the USA (3).

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**Methods**

In Italy we are still in a first stage in which, on one hand libraries have begun to experiment in this new way of conveying texts to their readers; on the other hand, librarians are aware that there are a variety of technical, legal and strategic issues which arise from the addition of e-books to library collections. One of the largest challenges they need to face today, as an example, is the shift from content ownership to content licensing that the move from print to digital has brought. In this study the recent initiatives taken at international level on this matter and what has been done in Italy are introduced.

**Discussion**

Two of the most representative international librarians' organizations, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) have issued background papers relating to e-book availability in libraries to assist librarians in the formulation of a policy on the matter. IFLA, within the scope of its Key Initiative 1: Digital Content Program for 2011 – 2012, has created a working group to draft a background paper on digital lending. Among other issues, the paper attempts to provide an overview of the issues relating to e-books in libraries summarizing the current positions of publishers in both the scholarly publishing and trade publishing sectors (a very important distinction, as they have different positions regarding the methodology for the provision of digital content) and addressing the legal context for e-lending that must be upheld in any suitable models (3). IFLA states that it will continue to collaborate with EBLIDA, the ALA and others important institutions to understand the implications for the delivery of high quality library services in the 21st century. EBLIDA has launched the first step of its European Campaign for e-books in Libraries in May 2012, aiming to draw the attention of politicians and citizens of the European Union both to the risks and threats at stake for libraries and their patrons with the current situation in the market of e-books in which libraries presently have very few rights. The Association has so far published a memorandum of understanding on fair licensing models with the publishers (4) and an information paper with all the questions still at stake (5).

As stated before, there is a huge gap between what happens in the US and Italy: according to an analysis of the *Library Journal*, 82% of the American public libraries (and the 94% of the academic) offer e-books to their patrons whilst in Italy there are still few concrete initiatives in this direction (6). Several libraries in Italy are, however, starting to experiment with the use of e-readers and digital lending. One of the most notably initiatives is the MediaLibraryOnline network (http://www.medialibrary.it/), the first Italian network of public libraries for digital lending, which is constantly expanding. The project was started in March 2009 and, after two years, in March 2012, 2300 libraries from 10 Italian regions had signed up, serving a population of over 10 million. The MediaLibraryOnLine has a huge number and a variety of resources both purchased and open: Italian and international newspapers, audio books, e-books, MP3 files, e-learning platforms, and databases. Thanks to a special agreement, the audio books are free from DRM (Digital Rights Management, the technology protecting the copyright of digital works) protection and can be moved freely from one device to another. As for the e-books, they are protected by Adobe DRM or by Social DRM, depending on the publisher.

Most of the initiatives regarding the integration of e-books in library holdings are in public libraries, mostly because scholarly and trade publishing have fundamentally different business models and take very different approaches to digital sales to libraries. One important difference between academic/research and public libraries is that the academic/research libraries, with a long standing tradition of contracting with the publishers on digital distribution and already established protocols on the use of the content, almost exclusively provide digital content to their users via a live Internet connection, which is technically incompatible with use on e-readers. It is a long established rule that academic/research publishers in most of cases, allow library users to download their e-books only through a web browser and, in some cases, to download a printout-formatted PDF of one page, chapter, or article at a time. Referring to the academic and research sector, according to a report by the Primary Research Group, *Survey of Medical and other Scientific Libraries*, which examines the spending, staffing, and collection habits of over 40 medical and scientific libraries from all over the world, only 15.56 percent of the libraries analyzed have purchased e-book readers, tablets, or other sorts of devices for their patrons (7).

In Italy, one of the reasons the libraries are not acquiring e-readers are the financial restrictions that they have faced in recent years. Academic and research libraries are facing relevant budget cuts that are creating many problems in maintaining anything outside of their core collections. Related to this, on the Italian librarians discussion list AIB-CUR there was a discussion on the feasibility of the acquisition of e-readers vs. digital lending, in which one of the conclusions was that e-readers have a limited capacity for use (average of 12 users per year per device) in relation to their relatively high administrative costs (acquisition, maintenance, and replacement) (8). It seems that, at the moment, this is the most widespread point of view: lending might not be

sustainable in the long term, the legal issues remain unclear, and readers can easily be broken or stolen or became obsolete and their replacement is likely to add a significant financial burden to libraries. It seems that libraries are focusing more on providing content rather than a physical medium (9). Moreover, the variety of e-reader devices (Amazon Kindle, Apple devices, Barnes & Noble Nook, Sony…) and the number of e-book formats (at the moment the two main formats are EPUB and PDF) create great confusion when it comes to the decision of which instruments should be made available to library users. The companies that develop the readers often develop their own format. There is a diverse range of e-book platforms and standards in the market which are often not compatible and, in the case of library applications, not user friendly or accessible, and future support of specific formats is often uncertain.

It also seems that publishers have not yet decided on contractual models for e-book lending, so that at the moment the majority of the "Big Six" trade publishers refuse to sell e-books to libraries (6).

One of the main obstacles to the diffusion of digital lending, at the moment, is the structure of copyright law. The digital lending cannot be compared to the lending of paper books. In Italy as in most other jurisdictions, e-books are distributed with a temporary concession of content by license, and in order to loan a certain e-book a library must be granted specific permission from the copyright holder (usually the publisher). Under these arrangements electronic books are not always owned when purchased by libraries; they are only leased for a certain period of time.

**Conclusions**

Sooner or later e-books will be a part of the services libraries are offering, even if at the moment there are still many issues to be addressed: the variety of different licensing models, the copyright, the ownership, the adoption of a standardized format for e-books (although EPUB dominates, with EPUB3 likely to see widespread adoption), interoperability between e-book readers and platforms, among others. As IFLA states at the end of its e-lending background paper (3), it is inevitable that an international model for the inclusion of e-books in library collections will take time, especially in developing countries, but it is necessary as there are broad negative societal implications if digital content is withheld from library collections.

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# Feature Article

# E-readers as a study tool for university students

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**Abstract**
*How will emerging technology influence the studying processes of university students and where should libraries stand in relation to such changes? These are some of the questions we intended to investigate through the e-readers project allowing 40 University students to borrow e-readers and use them during their studying semester. We collected feedback on the use and effect the tablets had on their studying process and thus established an understanding of the users needs placing the students in the center of our attention and involving the teachers in the design of the project itself. The project was an effort to promote the digital resources of the library and at the same time to receive feedback from the users in order to evaluate the services students' wishes from the library.*

*Key words:* computers, handheld; curriculum; libraries; universities.

**Introduction**
The project of e-readers was initiated in 2009, by the University library of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim and its aim was to deliver digital reading lists on e-readers for studying purposes to university students. Our initial hypothesis was that there was a need to redesign library educational programs in order to incorporate teaching of multiple literacy skills and critical thinking. Through qualitative surveys and interviews the project collected feedback on the experience the participants had. The project was a collaboration between NTNU students and teachers and an effort to promote the digital resources of the library. Our findings supported the original hypothesis. This short description of the e-readers project is based on an article first published in the journal *Serials* 2011. Volume 24;3, supplement by Alexandra Angeletaki (http://dx.doi.org/10.1629/24S1) and was delivered as a talk by Katrine Aronsen at the EAHIL workshop 5-8 July 2011, Istanbul, Turkey

**Background**
The e-reader project was launched by the University Library in 2010. The project deviated from the traditional formats of studying based on printed articles in reading lists or digital lists and introduced e-readers or multipurpose tablets, as a study tool. Over the last decade the NTNU library has shifted its focus from increasing its collections of printed books and journals to purchasing more and more e-books and e-journals. The use though of such resources by the NTNU staff was not as expected, as providing increased access to digital resources for the university users did not automatically lead to more use of them nor less consumption of printed articles. Both teachers and students tested, answered that they preferred a paper print to a digital print even though they were aware of the negative impact on paper consumption.

Efforts were made to promote and help the researchers, staff and students to become confident in the use of such resources and realise that the consumption of paper had to be minimized since it had reached very high levels. The e-reader project examined possible ways of delivering digital services for the learning communities of our University that would make the use of e-resources more attractive. The "libridgets" (library gadget) project established different collaborations with academic departments at NTNU, in order to make the University aware of the digital resources available and test such a deliverance of service. The project established a blog for communication purposes in 2009 and a network with other university libraries experimenting in the same subject in 2010 (1).

**Implementation plan.**
The project was financed by the NTNU strategy funds and the NTNU library and was implemented first as a pilot in 2009 in collaboration with teachers and students at the Institute of Archaeology and Religious Studies

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and then in 2010 with Program for Teacher's Education (PLU) at NTNU in Trondheim and had a duration of two years. For this purpose, the University Library acquired, 3 Irex, 2 Sony readers, 6 iPads and 8 Kindles. Eighteen students in total, with three Archaeology students, three from Process Engineering and twelve PLU students from NTNU, tested and read their assigned articles using these e-readers during two semesters 2009-2010.

**Fig. 1.** *Introducing Kindle DX for the archaeology students.* Photographer Tor H. Monsen, Universitetsavisa

In the second project involving PLU, 46 students were involved in a credit course of Didactics at a master level. They represented a varied spectre of ages and backgrounds with some being teachers with many years of didactic experience and others of none but longer study circles. We decided to use Kindle and iPads since they worked better on annotating and compatibility purposes. The students participating in the program had access to all of their curriculum in electronic format through the university learning platform "It`s learning" but only twelve chose to use multi tablets throughout the semester. In both cases the subject teachers were positive in presenting the tablets as a potential tool and working with the overall design of its use as a study tool.

**Results and feedback**

The project collected answers on the challenges the participants had to face using the multi-purpose tablet technology and collected feedback on the impact its use had on the particular learning situation. We saw early on using new gadgets had a marketing value and made the project very popular among our users especially in the case of the iPads that were bought at a time that Apple were not yet selling them in Norway. We also realized early that technological skills and personal interests of using the e-readers and fully exploiting their possibilities among users was very varied and thus possibly influential on the learning outcomes of the participants. Even those who were very interested and skilled commented that "synchronising across different standards and platforms can be just as frustrating as a twisted copy machine"(2). During the second project five different questionnaires were developed for the students to answer. Some of the surveys were given to all the students attending the course, and some just to those who had borrowed reading devices. A total of 72 responses were collected by both pre- and post-tests. Students who have borrowed reading devices in both projects gave positive feedback on the cost savings and the practical advantages of using e-readers instead of buying books and journals.

Ida, a master's student from the 2010 project commented in an article published in the University newspaper "I'm going to the University for a writing task and what I carry with me is what I need. It is no longer five books and a compendium as it was when I began to study five years ago. The heavy bag is replaced with a small bag, and in that there are two digital tools: My iPad and my Mac (computer). The bus ride allows me to use the iPad easily and read. No thousand sheets to be kept track of, because I read on a black thin screen" (3).

Most of the participants have commented on the advantage of having an easy access through multiple media similar to their reading lists at anytime from anywhere. The fact that the Kindle and iPad had very good readability and longer battery life than the PC or Mac was also very important to the students. Irex and Sony did not seem to satisfy the users for many reasons as screen quality, annotation tools and compatibility problems. Costs and technical limitations of Apple's application systems though, has been a problem for the iPad users. The absence of annotating tools on the pdf files has been a negative feedback from Kindle users.

In pre-tests, 93% preferred the print out on paper instead of reading on screen or read on the e-readers and 12 out of 46 declared an interest in borrowing an e-reader. That seemed to change at the post-tests where out of the 10 that used the e-readers during the whole semester 80% preferred to read through the digital readers than to print the articles.

Only 30% of the students who had an e-reader had previously read a whole book on such a device. However, all of them used the e-reader to read documents that was not part of the curriculum; that is documents from the internet, scanned documents and curriculum in other subjects. Many also found it useful to be able to search in the text and use dictionaries and other searches on the internet while reading.Another interesting observation is that the students with e-readers actually read more of the curriculum that the rest. Some students stress the difference between the compulsory curriculum and the recommended/suggested curriculum. There is an increasing need for a broad approach in the reading to get an overview and a foundation for deeper understanding. The e-reader is useful in this context.

The most important outcome in the whole process was the close contact with both students and their teachers along the way. After the experience of two e-reading projects from 2009 and 2010 we have seen that "availability" and "easy access" are the services everyone expects and appreciates. They are willing to both use the digital resources and reduce paper consumption as long as it is easy to do it on their PC / Mac / e-reader, by one click.

**Conclusion and future proposals**

The main goal of the "e-curriculum project" was to investigate how library staff can help university researchers and students to easily access up-to-date, electronic resources and assure quality service. Library staff has had many courses on the use of electronic resources for staff and students, and still does, but the use of such resources varies among the different subjects. The e-curriculum project investigated the possibility of reaching new groups of university staff and students and adopted new technology to market its digital resources. "The shift from the traditional instruction course to a collaborative teaching- studying environment with the use of new technology seems to contribute to a user-oriented library service"(4)**.** Students even seemed willing to gradually reduce paper consumption by using e-readers. The greatest challenge though is the evolving technology and the skills required to be able to follow change. That is a great demand and difficult to face, but an infra-structure that works in providing easy solutions to the library user no matter what her digital skills are becomes an ongoing battle. The overall result was that the project stimulated collaboration with the subject teachers and experimented on new ways to integrate educational programs of digital literacy in the university curriculum so that students could meet the challenges of the current emerging technologies for their studying needs. The library has thus expanded its professional network and attracted positive attention and publicity.

Our experience from the e-readers project lead to a decision to plan a new project in 2013 by the NTNU Medical library for the students of the Faculty of Medicine. As there is an increasing amount of e-books we believe that applications and multi-tablets will allow students to access easily their assigned reading lists and can thus become more effective in their studies.

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**Acknowledgment**

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# E-books: what interest(s) in 2012 for life sciences' library users at the University of Liège, Belgium?

**Vandenput Sandrine, Detroz Pascal, Brouwir Christine, Durieux Nancy, Pasleau Françoise.**

**Abstract**
*Currently more than 60,000 electronic books are available in the University of Liege (Belgium) but surprisingly, recent usage statistics of e-books purchased demonstrated relatively poor consultation rates. An online user survey was conducted in March 2012 to analyse the reasons for this. The results convinced the librarians that they were in a position to remove most of the barriers and drawbacks reported by users and make a dramatic rise in e-book usage.*

*Key words:* book selection; library collection development; library surveys; information literacy.

**Introduction**
For about 10 years, print journals have been progressively replaced by electronic journals in academic libraries and this change has been readily embraced by users. Indeed, e-book supply is becoming increasingly important and currently more than 60,000 electronic books are available in the University of Liege (Belgium), with more than 13,000 for the disciplines covered by the Life Sciences Library. Surprisingly, recent usage statistics of e-books purchased showed relatively poor consultation rates. The aim was to analyse this situation by performing a survey whose main objectives were:

- to investigate usage and attitudes towards e-books;
- to identify what were the obstacles perceived by users;
- to identify how the library could facilitate e-books usage.

**Survey methods**
An online user survey was conducted in March 2012. About 8000 members of the faculties of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Psychology and Science Education received an invitation to participate by mail. A unique reminder was sent after 2 weeks. Participation was anonymous and voluntary and no incentive for completing the survey was offered to the participants. The questionnaire consisted of two parts. The first one was the same for all participants and comprised 13 questions in order to characterize the respondent (gender, age, degree and faculty...), and to know their information-seeking behavior and comfort level regarding computer use. The second part contained different questions depending on whether or not the user consulted books or e-books. Answering all of the survey took 10 minutes maximum. The questionnaire was built so that some questions did not necessarily require a response while other questions sought several answers.

**Results**
1140 questionnaires were returned (14% participation rate). Respondents were from the following users'categories: bachelor or master students (75%), PhD students (6%) and university staff members (19%).

*General profile of respondents*
Questions were asked in order to know the habits of scientific information needs:

- the large majority of respondents declared they had searched for scientific information regularly: 32%, every day and 49%, at least once a week;
- however, their perceptions about their skill level to search for pertinent information were mitigated : 6.5 on a scale ranging from 1 to 10;
- only 68% of respondents used bibliographic databases to look for scientific information while 87% of them turned to generalist search engines such as Google. 57% referred to their personal library and 41% used books from the academic library;
- preference for the electronic version of scientific journals was high (78%).

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The comfort level of the respondents regarding the use of computers is high:

- all of them had access to a computer and internet;
- one third owned a smart phone;
- it is interesting to observe that dedicated devices such as tablets or e-readers were not so successful yet;
- respondents spend an average of two and a half hours on a computer every day.

Two sub-populations were considered for the following analysis according to whether people were using or not using scientific e-books.

*Characteristics of the non-user population (14%)*
Three main reasons were advanced for not consulting e-books: discomfort of reading on the screen (82%); preference for paper (59%); ignorance of e-books' availability (40%).

These barriers reflect the poor advertising by the library of the available e-books in the institution (51%), and the difficulties encountered in using the library catalog (47%). The fact of not having a computer or Internet connection at their disposal was not mentioned as a barrier. Suggested measures to facilitate the use of e-books were to provide a better description of e-books content (44%) and to inform users about the potentialities of this type of electronic resources (56%). The possession of a tablet or an e-reader enabling a more comfortable reading would also be of interest for 42% the respondents. Nevertheless, they were aware of advantages such as the "anywhere anytime" access (60%) or the power of full-text search (58%).

*Characteristics of e-books users (86%)*
Overall average usage was in the order of one or two consultations a month. When the choice was possible between print or electronic versions, the preference was for the electronic one (77%). However, importantly, the choice of a book depended on its content and not the format in which it was proposed (73%). Satisfaction in using scientific e-books was nevertheless mitigated (5.8 on a scale ranging from 1 to 10). Restricted consultation was the major reported criticism (64%). Other frequently cited drawbacks were: the eyestrain generated by reading on a screen (61%) and the difficulty of finding an e-book corresponding to one's needs (46%). Respondents reported also rather frequent difficulties in using the catalog to find e-books of interest.

The survey ended by common questions addressing users' perception of the future. 60% of them believed that e-books will never completely replace print versions, and that both types will continue to coexist. Nevertheless, the remaining 40% of participants are convinced that the electronic version will definitively replace print version in short- to middle-term (5 to 15 years). Only 9% considered the shift from paper to electronic as totally positive; 27% were clearly against. The others (64%) report mixed feelings on the matter.

**Discussion**
The survey launched in March 2012 at the University of Liège with the users of the Life Sciences Library indicates that they were well informed of the existence of scientific e-books. The majority of the respondents (75%) were bachelor's and master's students in the fields of medicine, veterinary medicine, psychology and education sciences. The other participants (25%) were PHD students, researchers and other faculty members. A general and reassuring observation was that it did not seem to be any insuperable obstacle for any of the surveyed groups to access e-books. Almost 100% of the respondents had a computer at their disposal, not only on the campus but also at home. Tablets, smart phones and other e-readers were still infrequent in this population, but decreasing costs will quickly make these devices affordable for a majority of customers. As in the populations studied by Dewan (1), the participants of this present survey appreciated consulting documents online without any spatial or temporal constraints and escaping the stress related to loan procedures (bringing books back in time or incurring fines). In spite of these positive considerations, users' satisfaction about e-books remained mitigated (5.8/10).

The moderate success of e-books might be explained by physical, technical and personal reasons that were expected and have already been described by others. If the survey did not reveal any new data, it offered the avantage of characterising precisely the population of the Liège library users. Moreover, the measures and observations corroborated the recent analysis carried out at the University of Pittsburgh (2). At this stage of analysis, the librarians are convinced that they are in a position to remove most of the barriers and drawbacks reported by users. Several actions could easily be undertaken to facilitate e-books usage which rely on user education and training on matters such as catalog searching or understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the different strategies that are commonly adopted to access scientific information. In particular, users should be aware that the majority of e-books are

not free, but only available if purchased by academic institutions. As a consequence, they should learn how to use a library catalog efficiently to locate books of interest instead of turning to Google Scholar or any kind of generalist search engines. The Life Sciences Library has a long experience of user education and their staff are confident that they can easily do what is necessary at this level. Furthermore, in order to increase awareness about e-books availability for users coming in the library, it is possible that QR codes allowing direct access to the online catalog would be useful. QR codes could lead users directly to records of all available books (print and/or electronic) for a specific classification (Figure 1). Then gradually users will become familiar with the coexistence of the two options.

**Fig. 1.** *QR code offers access to notices of available books in the institution's catalog, for the NLM classification "cardiology".*

Unfortunately, all the means to enhance e-books usage are not as easy to implement. The librarians have encountered other obstacles that are related to both acquisition policies at the university level and commercial practices of the editors. A major pitfall is the acquisition by local managers of large bulk packages of e-books offered by e-editors at reduced prices. Two problems arise from these practices: the impossibility for the librarians to process thousands of e-books in a reasonable period of time and the risk of purchasing resources unsuited to users' needs.

We all know that the efficacy and the precision of catalog searching depend on the quality of the indexing of the recorded documents. It is technically easy to import a large batch of bibliographic references into a catalog but the indexing that should be performed next by librarians is a time-consuming process that requires time, knowledge, skills and careful analysis of e-books scientific contents. An alternative approach would be to entrust the indexing task to the editors themselves but experience has shown that the results are very poor quality.

Price is the first argument used at present to guide e-books acquisition. The content of the packages is decided on the editors' part only and cannot be customized by the librarians according to users' needs. On the one hand, the librarians feel that the textbooks that are necessary for bachelor and master students are underrepresented in the special packages, or lost among the highly specialized books. On the other hand, many of these specialized books are not directly useful for the researchers, even if their interest and their scientific quality are not in doubt. Simply, they cover research fields that are not developed in our university.

For all these reasons, the recommendation is to apply to e-books the same selection criteria as those that have been used until now for print monographs. Limited and targeted choices should prevail over quantity. Reduced bulk prices should not interfere in the decision making. Instead, the acquisitions should be tailored to the exact needs of all the categories of end users. If the number of books is limited, the librarians will be able to process them carefully at the catalog level and the end-users will be given good working conditions to exploit this wealth of information.

A side effect of the disappearance of printed books will be the release of space inside the libraries. Then, another challenge for the librarians will be to preserve the physical identity of the library while promoting the learning activities and the scientific thinking. We believe that if we can put all these measures in place, the e-books will soon be a tool of choice in Life Sciences libraries. As always, user education and dialogue among all the stakeholders will be the keys to success.

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1. Dewan P. Are books becoming extinct in academic libraries? N. Libr. World. 2012; 113: 27-37.
2. Fold BL, Wessel CB, Czechowski LJ. Clinical and academic use of electronic and print books: the Health Sciences Library system e-book study at the University of Pittsburgh. J. Med. Libr. Assoc. 2011; 99:218-28.

## Feature Article

# The Aachen Declaration: six recommendations for the acquisition of electronic books, 26 September 2012, Aachen, Germany[1]

**AGMB - Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Medizinisches Bibliothekswesen e.V.**

**Abstract**

*On the 26 September 2012, at the annual conference of the AGMB* (the German Medical Libraries Association), the "so called" Aachen declaration on the acquisition of electronic books was penned by its members. The declaration targets six areas of concern, reaching from digital rights management to open educational resources, financial issues, usage statistics, copyright, and privacy. The AGMB urged publishers to address these issues for the benefit of a successful transition from printed to electronic books and business models.*

*Key words:* e-books; acquisition; digital rights management; privacy; copyright.

**Introduction**

From Gutenberg´s era to the digital era, from the unavoidable transition of the printed book to the electronic book within the publishing sector and the different efforts of publishers to create competitive and profit-oriented business models, the AGMB has closely watched these various developments. As a result, the AGMB is deeply concerned with recent moves of publishers, which could hurt the publishing eco system, especially the market of academic text books as well as the prosperous cooperation of lecturers, libraries, publishers and users.

**1. Limited Use/ Digital Rights Management (DRM)**

The supply of electronic text books in proprietary and/or flash based software formats, lead to massive limitations for their usage, which is regarded unfavourably by the AGMB. Students do not welcome flash or other constraining technologies, but prefer free, flexible and unimpeded access to text books. In this context the Springer publishing house can be named as a positive example for offering electronic textbooks as DRM-free PDFs. Impediments by mechanisms caused by DRM are seen critically and are as well principally disapproved for textbooks supplied via campus licenses. The AGMB encourages its members to insist on free-DRM media in contract negotiations. Furthermore, electronic textbooks need to fulfill the following demands:

- unlimited, modifiable, unsecured files on section and book level (currently PDF is preferred);
- unlimited printing;
- no obligatory registration;
- unlimited saving (for offline usage);
- no "single limited access" offering, but extended license models;
- not only offering electronic books as an online license, but offline usage for mobile devices (e.g. iPads) ;
- single title choice;
- the possibility to annotate, modify and share content with other users;
- accessibility with mobile and other devices;
- no special technical requirements (e.g. particular browser, Java, Flash, Plugins and so on);
- full text indexing, comprehensive search within all available electronic books;
- compliance and text mining;
- MARC data delivery;
- consistent URLs at least on book title level.

**2. Open Access / Open Educational Resources**

The idea of Open Access is becoming more popular in the book sector as well. In view of this fact the AGMB recommends that the political institutions (particularly the universities and academic ministries of the federal

* The AGMB represents 460 medical librarians from 370 libraries in five countries: the libraries of these medical faculties in Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland represent a budget with approx. fifty million Euros.

states as well as the institutions of other agencies) support Open Access to electronic text books (Open Educational Resources) beside Open Access to electronic journal articles, following the California Free Digital Textbook Initiative, too.

**3. Price**

The AGMB encourages its members to examine the proposals in detail. Prices have to be put in relation to the offered services (PDF or HTML-only, offline or only online usage, IP authentication or registration, unlimited access or DRM, mobile usage or only special devices and so on) as well as actual usage (price per page view). Additionally, usage statistics (see below) should be demanded. Libraries should not support overpriced offers even if the related faculty or institution insists on them. Mini-monopolies may exist for some standard works. These, however, do not legitimize the conclusion of contracts based on prices and conditions that, because of their blatant inefficiency, will result in inspections by the finance departments in the long run. Apart from this, such business models hinder the desired transition towards e-publications instead of facilitating it.

Instead of the generally rather overpriced current offers, publishers should offer distinct licence models without permission for archiving with a lower price and licence models with the permission for archiving that are more expensive. The AGMB points out that the competition arising from self-publishing of lecturers via Amazon, Apple or Open Educational Resources clearly influences the customary market prices for text books.

**4. Usage Statistics**

Regarding usage statistics the AGMB insistently appeals to all involved publishers to provide standardized usage statistics immediately, which are transparent in terms of how and which data have been analyzed. Those statistics have to follow a unified approach regarding all important publishers. Unfortunately, the current COUNTER Book Report 2 is ambiguous in its definition of what is counted as usage. With respect to the amount of money involved, incorrect and/or intransparent statistics are a criterion for exclusion. Usage statistics have to be provided in common file formats (e.g. xls).

**5. Further Usage**

The AGMB supports the rights of reusing content in online collections and/ or publications in e-learning environments with access for dedicated user groups. Therefore, copyright has to be made clear in detail by determining e.g. *second publication rights* by transparent contract terms and acquisition of reusage rights. Particularly, publishing of text and pictures for lecture groups relating to electronic "Semester apparate" (reserved reading books) is a central issue.

**6. Privacy**

One of the biggest cultural assets and achievements of the modern age is free access to information, which is basically built on the opportunities for anonymous reading supported by the libraries. Modern tracking methods and techniques such as *Hiptype* as well as obligatory registrations can monitor the individual usage and reading behaviour of PDF files. The AGMB states that such practices are either illegal or have to be declared illegal and objectionable. The AGMB will scrutinize contract terms in order to find out which publishers try to include such control measures and which publishers do not.

[1] Translation of the original document Aachener Erklärung: Sechs Thesen zum Erwerb von elektronischenBüchern by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Medizinisches Bibliothekswesene.V., available at: http://www.agmb.de/papoopro/index.php?menuid=12

EAHIL Workshop Stockholm, Sweden, 12-14 June 2013

**Trends for the future**

- Creating Strategies to Meet Challenges

# EAHIL WORKSHOP June 12-14 2013

Want to know more about what future trends and challenges face health libraries? Want to help come up with strategies to assist your library in meeting these challenges? Then the EAHIL 2013 workshop is for you!

## We thank all of you who contributed!

Now when the call for contributions is closed, the next step is putting a detailed workshop program together.

## When will the program be published?

The full workshop program will be published on the EAHIL WORKSHOP 2013 website **eahil2013.kib.ki.se** in December.

## What happens now?

- 1st of February registration opens
- 1st of March early bird registrations ends
- 7th of April registration closes

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EAHIL Workshop Stockholm, Sweden, 12-14 June 2013

# Trends for the future

- Creating Strategies to Meet Challenges

## Come and visit scenic Vår Gård in June 2013!

The Workshop will be hosted at Vår Gård in Saltsjöbaden, a suburb east of central Stockholm. All sessions will be located at Vår Gård, and all participants will be staying there for the duration of the workshop. Vår Gård is situated in a lovely setting on the shore of the Baltic sea. It's famous for its art collection and for its excellent kitchen and bakery.

## Call for submissions

The number of participants is limited to 200, and registrations will be handled on a "first come, first serve" basis. Don't miss the opportunity to take part in an interactive workshop in the archipelago of Stockholm during a beautiful time of year in Sweden, the summer.

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# Take a look!

## [Collected during August to October, 2012]

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

**Free full text**

1. Mager A. **Health information politics: reconsidering the democratic ideal of the Web as a source of medical knowledge**
   First Monday 2012 [cited 2012 November 2];17(10)
   *This paper challenges the democratic ideal of the Web as a new public sphere in the medical context. Drawing on a mix of methods it investigates how different Web site providers configure and position their diabetes sites in the multitude of online health information, search engine results in particular. Building on insights gained from critical new media studies and medical sociology, it shows that a range of power relations and information politics are involved in these practices, triggering information visibility hierarchies and a commercialisation of online health information, partly overlapping with off-line contexts. To conclude, it argues for reconsidering the democratic ideal of the Web and focusing on market dynamics involved in the production of medical Web information co-produced by Web site providers and search engine algorithms.*
   Available from: http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3895

2. Elichko SL. **Triage, treat, release: finding medical information using MedlinePlus and PubMed**
   Online: Exploring Technology & Resources for Information Professionals 2012 [cited 2012 October 25]; July/August 2012
   *Hospital emergency rooms around the US have instituted a protocol called Triage, Treat, Release to efficiently care for patients presenting with minor injuries. It is also an apt metaphor for librarians helping patrons to find information, whether the reference desk is physical or virtual. Medical questions can be challenging due to terminology, unfamiliarity with relevant resources, and concern about inadvertently providing medical advice rather than simple information. This article offers tips for connecting people with relevant information at an appropriate level for their needs. The basic process involves assessing the level of detail your user needs (Triage), selecting and searching appropriate resources (Treat), and encouraging your patron to discuss the information with their healthcare provider (Release).*
   Available from: http://www.infotoday.com/online/jul12/Elichko--Triage-Treat-Release--Finding-Medical-Information-Using-MedlinePlus-and-PubMed.shtml

3. Chauhan K. **Selected free e-journals in library and information science in Directory of Open Access Journals**
DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology 2012 [cited 2012 September 7];32(4):339-46
Purpose of this study is to evaluate open access e-journals in LIS available on Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The DOAJ provides access to quality controlled open access journals. DOAJ is an effective source of information for the present day. There is no alternative and substitute to its abundance, utility, and value. This paper is an effort to guide students, researchers, scholars about free, full-text, quality-controlled scientific and scholarly journals in library and information science available on DOAJ.
Available from: http://publications.drdo.gov.in/ojs/index.php/djlit/article/view/2529

4. Gray JE. **Scholarish: Google Scholar and its value to the sciences**
Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship 2012 [cited 2012 August 14];Issue 70, Summer
*In scientific and academic circles, the value of Google Scholar as an information resource has received much scrutiny. Numerous articles have examined its search ability, but few have asked whether it has the accuracy, authority and currency to be trustworthy enough for scholars. This article takes a look at reliability factors that go into Google Scholar citation counts, selection of resources, and its commercial partnerships. Research data culled from correspondence with Google Scholar, analysis of citation metrics, metadata and search processes, and an appraisal of its strengths and weaknesses compared to other science-specific indexes led to the conclusion that Google Scholar may be useful for initial and supplemental information gathering, but lacks a deeper reliability than other existing services currently provide scholars. Advice is offered to science librarians about how to regard Google Scholar as a research tool.*
Available from: http://www.istl.org/12-summer/article1.html

5. Wharf Higgins J *et al.* **Exploring the borderlands between media and health: conceptualizing "Critical Media Health Literacy"**
The Journal of Media Literacy Education 2012 [cited 2012 August 3];4(2):136-48
*In Canada, as elsewhere, there is considerable concern about adolescents' health. Much of the blame is thought to lie in the social context for today's adolescents and their interaction with and dependence on various media. Yet, it is not clear whether and how adolescents learn to engage critically with media messages about health. Emerging from the authors' previous work in conceptualizing and measuring adolescent health literacy, this article presents the results of a conceptual analysis process using the terms health literacy, critical health literacy, media literacy, critical media literacy, media activism, and critical viewing among others – to arrive at the unique construct of critical media health literacy (CMHL)*
Available from: http://www.jmle.org/index.php/JMLE/article/view/235

6. De Groote SL. **Promoting health sciences journal content with Web 2.0: a snapshot in time**
First Monday 2012 [cited 2012 August 7];17(8)
*This study examined if health sciences journals incorporate Web 2.0 technologies that can be used to disseminate journal content using tools such as RSS feeds, Facebook, Twitter, and other social bookmarking tools. The study also examined if open access journals used Web 2.0 technologies more than traditional journals. Most journals offer RSS feeds and over half allowed readers to share journal content through social bookmarking tools. Approximately one quarter of journals had Facebook or Twitter accounts promoting journal content. Traditional journals were more likely to use Web 2.0 technology than open access journals.*
Available from: http://firstmonday.org/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/4103

**Abstracts only**

1. Boukacem-Zeghmouri C. **Online article searching on publisher platforms by STM French scholars: findings and analysis**
Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science 2012 [cited 2012 November 2];36(3-4):88-105
*This article seeks to understand the e-journal search patterns of STM (science, technology, and medicine) researchers from the French academic network by studying how researchers seek, read, and use articles on the*

*ScienceDirect platform. The methodology combines two approaches. The first approach is quantitative and is based on statistical data concerning search activities on ScienceDirect between January 2008 and April 2009. The second approach is qualitative and is based on semi-directed interviews of researchers authorized to access ScienceDirect. The researchers' information-seeking activities on ScienceDirect follow two complementary usage logics. On the one hand, they follow search and discovery itineraries, and, on the other hand, they implement continuous and recurrent access mechanisms. In both cases, the researchers' searching behaviours on ScienceDirect are similar to their behaviours on the Web. This study concerns a previously unpublished large-scale analysis of STM searching behaviours. Furthermore, the mixed methodology used allows the results to be compared and, thus, the clearest and most objective interpretation to be obtained.*
Available from: http://muse.jhu.edu/login?auth=0&type=summary&url=/journals/canadian_journal_of_information_and_library_science/v036/36.3-4.boukacem-zeghmouri.html

2. Medina P. **The role of interactivity between the hospital and the patient through the homepage: the case of oncological hospitals in the United States**
Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science 2012 [cited 2012 November 2];36(3-4):106-121
*The purpose of this paper is to assess the level of interactivity offered to patients in the homepages of US hospitals specializing in cancer treatment. To do this, we conducted a literature review on the question of pedagogical Internet access, role of the physician, interactive tools on the homepage, and context of cancer in the United States. Next, we analyzed the home page of 49 US hospitals using 13 indicators. The conclusion of the article indicates that the homepage is a tool for health education that should be geared to meeting the communication and experience needs of the patient.*
Available from: http://muse.jhu.edu/login?auth=0&type=summary&url=/journals/canadian_journal_of_information_and_library_science/v036/36.3-4.medina.html

3. Graham J. **Clinical evidence**
The Charleston Advisor 2012 [cited 2012 November 2];14(2):15-17
*Clinical evidence is a point-of-care tool crafted on the principals of evidence-based medicine (EBM). This tool is appropriate for use at the bedside and is of likely interest to general practitioners and hospitalists. Entries follow a systematic development protocol and can be searched in a number of ways.*
Available from: http://dx.doi.org/10.5260/chara.14.2.15

4. Williams S *et al.* **A Warm Reception: Mobile technology in medical libraries and beyond**
The Reference Librarian 2012 [cited 2012 November 2];53(4):424-432
*The proliferation of cellphones and mobile technology has generated myriad new ways of disseminating information in our society. Through this technology, a generation of itinerant information organizers set a social agenda for what's important simply by adding a hashtag or an "at" symbol. This article will explore how mobile technology affects society through the democratization of content creation and access and how librarians and archivists can use mobile technologies to better serve their users.*
Available from: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02763877.2012.707449

5. Leydesdorff L *et al.* **Bibliometric perspectives on medical innovation using the medical subject Headings of PubMed**
Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 2012 [cited 2012 October 16] Article first published online: 15 OCT 2012 | DOI: 10.1002/asi.22715
*Multiple perspectives on the nonlinear processes of medical innovations can be distinguished and combined using the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) of the MEDLINE database. Focusing on three main branches – diseases" "drugs and chemicals," and "techniques and equipment – we use base maps and overlay techniques to investigate the translations and interactions and thus to gain a bibliometric perspective on the dynamics of medical innovations. To this end, we first analyze the MEDLINE database, the MeSH index tree, and the various options for a static mapping from different perspectives and at different levels of aggregation. Following a specific innovation (RNA interference) over time, the notion of a trajectory which leaves a signature in the database is elaborated. Can the detailed index terms describing the dynamics of research be used to predict the*

*diffusion dynamics of research results? Possibilities are specified for further integration between the MEDLINE database on one hand, and the Science Citation Index and Scopus (containing citation information) on the other.*
Available from: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asi.22715/abstract

6. Serrano A. **Information retrieval educational goals in library and information science and in health sciences**
Information Services and Use 2012 [cited 2012 August 7];31(3-4):131-8
*This paper is intended to compare information retrieval (IR) educational goals in different academic and professional areas such as Library and Information Science (LIS) and Health Sciences (HS), analysing and identifying a shift on user seeking goals in the digital era and, eventually, on educational goals as well. It starts with a section on information literacy where several aspects are specified, such as user goals, IR systems, IR skills, information seeking strategies (queries) and user perception of search success. Another section focuses on teaching IR aspects, like IR educational goals, assessment and feedback, and e-resources in LIS and in HS. Teaching in an academic environment for academic audiences is somehow different from teaching for professional audiences even though these are located in an academic environment as well. Those are the issues and particularities that throughout the analysis of information literacy and teaching IR aspects will be explained along the full paper.*
Available from: http://iospress.metapress.com/content/w74430xg44r2mx51/

7. Lykke M *et al*. **How doctors search: a study of query behaviour and the impact on search results**
Information Processing & Management 2012 [cited 2012 August 31];48(6):1151-70
*Professional, workplace searching is different from general searching, because it is typically limited to specific facets and targeted to a single answer. We have developed the semantic component (SC) model, which is a search feature that allows searchers to structure and specify the search to context-specific aspects of the main topic of the documents. We have tested the model in an interactive searching study with family doctors with the purpose to explore doctors' querying behaviour, how they applied the means for specifying a search, and how these features contributed to the search outcome. In general, the doctors were capable of exploiting system features and search tactics during the searching. Most searchers produced well-structured queries that contained appropriate search facets. When searches failed it was not due to query structure or query length. Failures were mostly caused by the well-known vocabulary problem. The problem was exacerbated by using certain filters as Boolean filters. The best working queries were structured into 2-3 main facets out of 3–5 possible search facets, and expressed with terms reflecting the focal view of the search task. The findings at the same time support and extend previous results about query structure and exhaustivity showing the importance of selecting central search facets and express them from the perspective of search task. The SC model was applied in the highest performing queries except one. The findings suggest that the model might be a helpful feature to structure queries into central, appropriate facets, and in returning highly relevant documents.*
Available from: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S030645731200026X

8. Zuo-qi Ding *et al.* **Strategies for expanding the international influences of academic journals: an example from Chinese pharmaceutical journals**
Serials Review 2012 [cited 2012 August 3];38(2):80-5
*Internationalization is the major aim of most Chinese academic journals in their development frameworks to attract a sufficient amount of high quality contributions. This study used Scopus to conduct a bibliometrics analysis of the present international influence of Chinese pharmaceutical journals using multiple indicators including SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) scores, the number of foreign contributions, and the number of citations by foreign author, affiliation, and journal. Five representative titles were selected including Acta Pharmacologica Sinica, Yaoxue Xuebao, Chinese Pharmaceutical Journal, Zhongguo Zhongyao Zazhi, and Chinese Journal of Natural Medicines. Results show that the present international influence of most Chinese pharmaceutical journals still remains unsatisfactory and is characterized by few foreign manuscript contributions, low SJR scores, and narrow international citations. The Chinese government has been making great efforts to boost pharmaceutical development, which provides an unprecedented chance for Chinese pharmaceutical journals to promote their international influence and reputations. Multiple approaches have been proposed based on the successful experiences of some Chinese journals with well established*

*international reputations including constructing an international editorial board, cooperating with international and prestigious publishing groups, creating an international peer review process, and expanding international readerships.*
Available from: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0098791312000342

9. Bonsteel S. **APA PsycNET**
The Charleston Advisor 2012 [cited 2012 August 1];14(1):16-9
*PsycNET is the online platform from the American Psychological Association offering access to the most comprehensive collection of high-quality information available in psychology, psychiatry, the behavioral sciences, and related fields. Of special note is the variety of media and document types that make up the collections. The seven databases and two e-book collections are integrated into the search interface, allowing for simultaneous or separate searches. The interface works well for undergraduate and advanced research, providing specialized searching and filtering options. Institutional pricing is reasonable, and several options allow individual access for those with limited needs.*
Available from: http://dx.doi.org/10.5260/chara.14.1.16

10. Vanopstal K *et al.* **PubMed searches by Dutch-speaking nursing students: the impact of language and system experience**
Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 2012 [cited 2012 August 1];63(8):1538-52
*This study analyzes the search behavior of Dutch-speaking nursing students with a nonnative knowledge of English who searched for information in MEDLINE/PubMed about a specific theme in nursing. We examine whether and to what extent their search efficiency is affected by their language skills. Our task-oriented approach focuses on three stages of the information retrieval process: need articulation, query formulation, and relevance judgment. The test participants completed a pretest questionnaire, which gave us information about their overall experience with the search system and their self-reported computer and language skills. The students were briefly introduced to the use of PubMed and MeSH (medical subject headings) before they conducted their keyword-driven subject search. We assessed the search results in terms of recall and precision, and also analyzed the search process. After the search task, a satisfaction survey and a language test were completed. We conclude that language skills have an impact on the search results. We hypothesize that language support might improve the efficiency of searches conducted by Dutch-speaking users of PubMed.*
Available from: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asi.22694/abstract

11. Genuis SK. **Constructing "sense" from evolving health information: a qualitative investigation of information seeking and sense making across sources**
Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 2012 [cited 2012 August 1;63(8):1553-66
*Focusing on information behavior in a context where medical evidence is explicitly evolving (management of the menopause transition), this investigation explored how women interact with and make sense of uncertain health information mediated by formal and informal sources. Based on interviews with 28 information seekers and 12 health professionals (HPs), findings demonstrate that participants accessed and valued a wide range of information sources, moved fluidly between formal and informal sources, and trust was strengthened through interaction and referral between sources. Participants were motivated to seek information to prepare for formal encounters with HPs, evaluate and/or supplement information already gathered, establish that they were "normal," understand and address the physical embodiment of their experiences, and prepare for future information needs. Findings revealed four strategies used to construct sense from health information mediated by the many information sources encountered and accessed on an everyday basis: women assumed analytic and experiential "postures"; they valued social contexts for learning and knowledge construction; information consistency was used as a heuristic representing accuracy and credibility; and an important feature of sense making was source complementarity. Implications for health information literacy and patient education are discussed.*
Available from http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asi.22691/abstract

# Researchers under general suspicion: submissions automatically rejected by plagiarism software

**Oliver Obst**

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Steve Gardner*, a renowned researcher at the University of Glasgow is rather upset: his pioneering research on avian lung viruses has been rejected by the *Journal of Airway Obstruction* because it has been given a "similarity score" of 38% meaning that it is under severe suspicion of plagiarism.

**Renaissance for plagiarism**

At the moment, plagiarism is experiencing a renaissance, as an investigation in Science [1] proved. By using plagiarism detection software such as eTBLAST and Déjà vu, the authors found 212 papers with suspected plagiarism, which were previously undetected. Plagiarism seems ubiquitous and dangerous: not only to science itself, but to journals too. Journals fear their reputation will be damaged and therefore closely examine all submitted manuscripts – not for fraud (this is very difficult because it needs a lot of expert hours) but for plagiarism (this can be done automatically and gives you at least a good feeling). A look behind the scenes reveals that with the latter often the baby is thrown out with the bathwater.

**Fear paralyzes**

In our all-digital world, it has become easier to produce copies, but it has also become easier to look it up. Some plagiarism detection services are available to the public such as the above mentioned tools, but recently a number of commercial products have popped up too. To support their business they make claims such as they act "to ensure the originality of written work ... [and to] help editors, authors and researchers to prevent misconduct". As in the free tools, these commercial software products are based on huge data collections of journal articles, books and websites. And here it becomes really interesting, because – as we will see later – obviously not every product knows how to manage such heterogeneous collections. Maybe they should have hired a librarian…

**How to COPE?**

Numerous journals and entire publishing groups such as Nature, Wiley and Elsevier make use of these commercial services – driven by the fear of plagiarism and COPE. COPE is short for *Committee on Publication Ethics*. COPE has 7000 members worldwide and provides advice to editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics and how to handle cases of misconduct. For this goal, COPE publishes the *Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors* [2], which recommends best practices to editors, such as "to having systems in place to detect plagiarized text either for routine use or when suspicions are raised". As a result, more and more journals set automatic routines in place, checking each and any manuscript when submitted.

**Obvious defectiveness**

How do we know that this system is working properly? To be frank: we do not know. We simply cannot know, because no journal will tell us anything about this delicate task. If the journal detects plagiarism, it is an embarrassment for both the author as well as for the journal. So every journal will blurt out their rejection rates but no one will tell how many of its authors are suspected of plagiarism. Despite this ignorance, we have learnt from Steve Gardner. His painful experience of being rejected for nothing made him look for support at … surprise, surprise... the library. A closer look into the result sheets of the similiarity check *iThenticate* [3] of his paper, the plagiarism detection tool used by the *Journal of Airway Obstruction*, revealed three serious flaws in the librarian's eye. First, *iThenticate* screened Gardner's manuscript against databases of conference proceedings and found a suspiciously similar abstract: plagiarism alarm! Unfortunately the database was not properly indexed, so they totally missed the point: the abstract was from the very Steve Gardner himself, presenting the preliminary findings to his colleagues. Furthermore expletives and standard phrases were regarded as plagiarismsuch as P <0.01, high-dose, ml/kg, etc. Even references to studies such as "data from the Avian Virus Outbreak Study (AVOS) show" or manufacturer's name such as "Fresenius Germany GmbH, Bad Homburg, Germany" elevated the plagiarism score. The third failure must be conferred to the journal's editorial board, who based their rejection solely on the comparison of a piece of dull, hypersensitive software and did not control its output manually.

**The system is at fault**

All three faults are somewhat unforgivable. Everybody should have read the Science paper mentioned above and know that plagiarism detection software fails: in 98% of all cases the results are false positive. And in between, the author is bestowed the awful suspicion of plagiarism. Nobody from the journal will tell him how to overcome this accusation. It is a serious indictment of the scientific publishing system, when its main pillar, the author, is left standing out in the rain so much. Once, researcher and publisher shared common goals and values. This close relationship has been eaten away at; it has become interdependent on careers, profits, and suspicions.

**The authors are cash cows ****

Scientific journals are paralyzed by the fear of the fall from grace in the science world through fraud and plagiarism in their articles and thereby damaging their reputation. As a consequence, they put all authors under suspicion and treat them as a kind of presumably guilty petitioners. Fear is a bad counselor; the researchers will remember any bad treatment and will look for ways out of the vicious circle of commercial publishing. The once symbiotic alliance between researchers and publishers is a discontinued model. Personally I doubt very much if any kind of publishing system has a future, where researchers are only regarded as a means to make money, as a cash cow.

**References**

1. Long TC, Errami E, George AC, Sun Z, Garner HR. Scientific Integrity: Responding to Possible Plagiarism. Science. 2009 March 6;323:1293-1294
2. http://publicationethics.org/files/Code_of_conduct_for_journal_editors_Mar11.pdf
3. www.ithenticate.com

***** The name of the author and the journal was changed because the author asked to be incognito, which in itself throws an interesting light on the (im)balance of power in the publishing system.

****** *In business, a* ***cash cow*** *is a product or a business unit that generates unusually high profit margins: so high that it is responsible for a large amount of a company's operating profit.* Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

# Letter from the President

**Peter Morgan**

Medical Library
Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, UK
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Dear Colleagues,

As I write the 2012 elections for EAHIL Councillors are in progress. These are part of the continual process of self-renewal that helps to ensure new voices and new ideas are involved in guiding future EAHIL policy-making. Our profession is under increasing pressure from a variety of sources: economic constraints have become a way of life for all of us; our users, encouraged by the realisation that technology has opened up new more mobile and more sophisticated ways of obtaining information, have different expectations of how we should develop our services to meet their needs; and we in turn need to acquire new skills - and maybe to dispense with some of the older, more traditional but now less relevant librarian skills - in order to respond to those expectations. It is thus more important than ever that as many members as possible can contribute practical assistance, either through direct participation or via representatives on the Board and Council, to share in determining future EAHIL policy.

The need to find better ways of facilitating participation - a recurring issue in some of my earlier Letters - was one of the key topics at the recent SpotOn London 2012 conference (1). (I wrote about last year's meeting, known then as Science Online, in my December 2011 Letter). Several sessions looked at how various social media - Twitter, video-streaming, live blogging, and so on - could be harnessed to allow an external audience both to follow and, ideally, to contribute interactively to the conference discussion. It now seems clear to me that all future EAHIL conferences should include the use of interactive social media technologies as a formal part of the conference experience, taking responsibility from the outset for ensuring that the technical infrastructure is in place (with reliable wi-fi and good quality video and audio); that suitably-skilled participants are given the task of leading these activities (for example by monitoring and reporting on the Twitter stream; and that the results are captured and archived as a formal conference output rather than being left randomly to the initiative of enthusiastic individuals.

Of course, there are potential problems in adopting this approach to our future meetings. EAHIL's highly successful business model derives its income principally from the fees paid by conference participants. The last two annual meetings, in Istanbul and Brussels, both attracted lower attendance levels than we might have expected in previous years, doubtless because of the pressures on libraries' travel budgets, and there is a risk that the ability to participate virtually in our meetings will encourage more members to stay at home, leading to reduced live attendances and therefore to reduced income. In the US, the Medical Library Association has already recognised and addressed this problem by charging a reduced registration fee for “e-participation”. There is also the possibility that a significant level of virtual participation in a conference session might result in a loss of focus and make for a less satisfying discussion. And, as politicians and others have already found to their cost, speakers need to be more careful in judging what they say, as an innocuous remark or spontaneous joke made in front of a live audience can, once relayed immediately to the wider world via the filter of a tweet, easily be misinterpreted and cause offence. But I don't believe

any of these potential problems should deter us from trying to broaden the reach of our meetings and thus foster greater participation.

The SpotOn conference also devoted considerable attention to the way in which science is reported - and often misreported - in the popular media. Stories about developments in medical research and health care are an area of particular concern for EAHIL members since the public has an insatiable demand for news, whether it's “eat this and you'll get cancer” or “eat this for a miracle cancer cure”, and science journalists (or more likely their editors) often appear more interested in a sensational headline than in accurately conveying the details. The UK's National Health Service has recognised this problem for some time, and set up its *Behind the headlines* service (2) to provide the public with a way of monitoring and, where necessary, amplifying or correcting health-related media reports. While this is an exemplary service in many respects, the sad reality is that it will only come to the attention of a small fraction of those who read and were possibly misled by the relevant newspaper report. A better solution would be to improve the quality of journalistic coverage, or at the very least to provide the public with the ability to investigate the source of the story in more detail. There was a well-supported call (by no means the first, and doubtless not the last) for all newspaper stories to provide a citation to the original full-text paper on which the story was based.

This leads to the likelihood that many such papers are still located behind paywalls and not freely accessible to the general public. It is, of course, one of the primary arguments in favour of Open Access (another of the recurrent themes in my earlier Letters). No EAHIL member, I'm sure, can be unaware of the high profile OA has gained internationally in the last few months, as research funders, universities, and - crucially - politicians have endorsed the principles of OA with an enthusiasm not previously seen.There is a growing recognition that access to the literature is not simply an issue for the closed research community, but that society as whole, including those characterised as “the scholarly poor”, will benefit if OA becomes the norm. OA is now firmly on the agenda of the European Commission (3), with a central role in the EU's forthcoming *Horizon 2020* research programme, and will therefore impact on national OA policies across Europe, and the implications for the dissemination of scientific information, and thus for our role, are both far-reaching and increasingly imminent.

As this is my last President's Letter in the Journal, I must not allow the occasion to pass without expressing my humble thanks to colleagues for their all help during my two years in office. The Executive Board have given me their total support throughout, and it has been gratifying to note the willingness with which they have shared the work of managing the Association's affairs. In particular my thanks are due to the officers - Manuela Colombi as Treasurer and Marshall Dozier as Secretary -and to Sally Wood-Lamont as *JEAHIL* Editor, all of whom have carried out their responsibilities with impressive efficiency. A special word of thanks must go to the outgoing Past President, Suzanne Bakker, both for giving me the benefit of her own extensive experience when I succeeded her, and for the outstanding job she has done (and continues to do) as the EAHIL Secretariat Supervisor. Our Secretariat office in the Netherlands is, to most members, perhaps the least visible part of our activities, but it is vital to the smooth running of the organisation, and Suzanne's guidance has been instrumental in ensuring that it runs smoothly. Indeed, its *invisibility* is a good indicator of how efficient it is. It's a measure of its importance, and of the Supervisor's role in overseeing its work, that the Board resolved this year that the Secretariat Supervisor should in future attend Board meetings ex officio as a non-voting member. A similar resolution was passed giving the same *ex officio* status to the *JEAHIL* Editor, since this too is a post that needs to have a direct line of communication with the Board.

So 2013 approaches, and with it we shall bid farewell to four outgoing Board members: Suzanne Bakker steps down as Past President (though she will continue to attend Board meetings as the Secretariat Supervisor), Manuela Colombi as Treasurer (and formerly President), together with Helena Bouzková and Ivana Truccolo. On behalf of all members I thank them all for their contributions to EAHIL's success. I also extend my best wishes to the newly-elected President, Lotta Haglund, and look forward to working with her and the new Board.

**References**

1. SpotOn London 2012 [cited 2012 November]; http://www.nature.com/spoton/
2. NHS Choices. Behind the headlines [cited 2012 November] http://www.nhs.uk/news/Pages/NewsIndex.aspx
3. European Commission: Research & Innovation: Press Release, 25 September 2012 [cited 2012 November];http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&lg=en&year=2012&na=na-250912

# Important news from the association regarding the discussion lists

The well appreciated services of MailTalk to host our discussion lists will stop on December 31. The EAHIL discussion lists are important for communication, information distribution and cooperation among members of the association. The EAHIL Board has decided to move the lists and all their archives to a service in the Netherlands. We plan to transfer the data in the first half of December. All subscribers will receive a message announcing the exact date of closure and opening of the new ListServ platform. Interruption in the service will be as short as possible, most probably not longer than 1 hour in the evening of the day of the actual transfer.

| Old List Name | New name on new domain | Same list name on new domain | In use by |
|---|---|---|---|
| EAHIL@MailTalk.ac.uk | EAHIL-Secr@list.ecompass.nl | | EAHIL secretariat for all incoming mail for the association |
| EAHIL-BOARD@MailTalk.ac.uk | | EAHIL-BOARD@List.ecompass.nl | EAHIL Executive Board |
| EAHIL-C@MailTalk.ac.uk | EAHIL-Council@list.ecompass.nl | | EAHIL Council members (including Board members and chairs of SIG's) |
| EAHIL-CAM@MailTalk.ac.uk | | EAHIL-CAM@List.ecompass.nl | SIG Complementary and Alternative Medicine |
| EAHIL-L@MailTalk.ac.uk | EAHIL-List@list.ecompass.nl | | EAHIL members (who signed up for it) |
| EAHIL-MAILING@MailTalk.ac.uk | | EAHIL-MAILING@List.ecompass.nl | All EAHIL members (only in use for outgoing mail from the Board to all members) |
| EAHIL-MESH@MailTalk.ac.uk | | EAHIL-MESH@List.ecompass.nl | SIG Medical subject indexing (MeSH and NLM-classification) |
| EAHIL-P@MailTalk.ac.uk | EAHIL-Pharma@list.ecompass.nl | | SIG Pharmaceutical Information |
| EAHIL-PUBH@MailTalk.ac.uk | | EAHIL-PUBH@List.ecompass.nl | SIG Public Health |
| EAHIL-REG@MailTalk.ac.uk | | EAHIL-REG@List.ecompass.nl | Taskforce EAHIL registry |
| EVLG-L@MailTalk.ac.uk | | EVLG-L@List.ecompass.nl | SIG European veterinary libraries group |
| JEAHIL-EDBOARD@MailTalk.ac.uk | | JEAHIL-EDBOARD@List.ecompass.nl | Editorial Board of the Journal of EAHIL |

Suzanne Bakker,
Supervisor EAHIL Secretariat

# News from EAHIL

## My mind flowers for gratitude

**Päivi Pekkarinen**, Librarian Emerita
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**Fig. 1.** *Larmo handing the EAHIL Award 2011 over to Päivi Pekkarinen in the Terkko Library*

I greatly regret I was not able to attend the EAHIL 25th Anniversary Conference in Brussels in July - due to my busy IFLA summer. Yet, I was able to convey my joy and gratitude for the EAHIL Award 2011 to the EAHIL Board and to all EAHIL colleagues and friends at the Closing Ceremony with my brief note of thanks with a special poem by a special Finnish Poet Lassi Nummi. The poem, in particular, read so beautifully by EAHIL President Peter Morgan, moved many in the audience my Finnish colleague and friend Katri Larmo told me afterwards when she handed the award over to me in the Terkko Library. Therefore, colleagues in Finland and in other countries have asked me if the poem could be published in JEAHIL to be more widely shared.

The poem "Impromptu" was written *impromptu*, indeed, by the poet for his chief nurse wife when she was looking for a poem to conclude her health care lecture for her health care students in the late 1970s. The National Library of Health Sciences, currently Helsinki University Library, Meilahti Campus Library Terkko, had the honour to invite the poet to read the original Finnish version of the poem at the concluding session *Why medicine needs poetry* of the Library's 40th Anniversary Seminar 16th November 2006.

Poet Lassi Nummi (1928-2012), many times and in many ways awarded for his literary works, has been described as a central lyricist in Finnish modernism and a literary world citizen – according to his own words "a prose-writer who has strayed into poetry". His literary career spans nearly sixty years and thirty books, poems as well as prose. He also worked as a journalist and a cultural reporter. As chairman of the Finnish Writers' Union and the Finnish PEN Club, he participated in defending the writers' rights and freedom of speech. Also, he was a long-standing member of the Finnish Bible Translation Committee. The musical elements and rich imagery of his poems have inspired many composers. His poems have been translated into several languages, including Swedish, English, German, Norwegian, Hungarian, Romanian, Russian, and Polish.

**Fig. 1.** *Poet Lassi Nummi reading* Impromptu *in the Terkko Library*

**More Reading**

Books from Finland 1998, 1 http://www.finlit.fi/booksfromfinland/bff/198/nummi.htm.
Helsingin Sanomat http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Lassi+Nummi+1928-2012+/1329103614775

# I m p r o m p t u

My answer to your question:
“Is there any idea in teaching?”

If you bring me a sweet smile, a gift, a flower,
That’s good:
You sow into my mind, it will flower.

If you bring me a seed and soil,
you give more:
I myself may sow. My mind will bear fruit.

If you do me a service,
do it with the art of your hands and your mind and your heart,
that’s a gift. My mind will flower for gratitude.

If you teach me to serve,
teach me the art of your hands and your mind,
Your gift will grow, reverberate.
A thousand times your hands will work through my hands,
A thousand times I shall flower. A thousand times you will bear fruit.

**Lassi Nummi**
(Translated into English by Päivi Pekkarinen)

“Impromptu” is an unpublished poem and is published in JEAHIL by courtesy of the poet Lassi Nummi’s family.

# MeSH-related activities – The MeSH Special Interest Group 2011-2012

**GunBrit Knutssön**
Karolinska Institutet University Library (KIB)
Co-chair

**Maurella della Seta**
Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS)
Co-chair

**MeSH-SIG Brussels July 3, 2012**
The MeSH-SIG meeting of 2012 took place on Tuesday July 3 in the Centre Faculté 3 at the Bibliothéque building. This year there were only three participants in the meeting, from Italy, Norway and Sweden.

Italy – Maurella della Seta, Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS)
Norway – Sigrun Espelien Aasen, The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (NOKC)
Sweden – GunBrit Knutssön, Karolinska Institute University Library (KIB)

We assume that the two main reasons for the low number of participants this year were - the meeting was held before the real EAHIL-conference started and we are a limited group indexing with MeSH and working with MeSH translations to national languages on a daily basis.However, the MeSH-SIG has had inquiries on cooperation from The MeSH - ECH Homeopathic Thesaurusproject through Susanne Rehm and The Finnish Veterinary Terminology project through Raisa Livonen. We hope to extend the cooperation in the near future.

**Topics discussed in the 2012 MeSH-SIGmeeting**
*Should the MeSH-SIG support the national MeSHes in becoming the standardized medical terminology for indexing and literature retrieval within the countries?*
Standardized terminologies make storage and retrieval of literature easier. There is no standardized medical terminology in Norway at the moment and NOKC is working hard on MeSH-translation, today approximately 7000 MeSH-terms are translated to Norwegian. In September NOKC will have a meeting with the Norwegian Directory of Health to discuss the possibility of making the Norwegian MeSH a standardized medical terminology within the country. The Italian and Swedish MeSHes have been translated for many years and are yearly updated.The Italian MeSH is used for indexing and literature retrieval within the majority of the medical libraries in Italy thanks to a close collaboration between the medical libraries. The Swedish MeSH is used for searching in SveMed+, a database covering 100 biomedical Scandinavian journals as well as a reference service for finding English MeSH-term including definitions of the term before searching in international databases. It is also consulted in connection with classification and indexing of literature, both at KIB as well as in other medical libraries in Sweden.

*Is there a need for retranslation of the national MeSH to English to secure the quality of the translation?* The question has been raised in Norway, and Italy and Sweden do not find retranslation necessary. Translation flow within the MeSH Translation Maintenance System (MTMS) – grey terms (new terms of the year) becoming red (accepted terms of the year) means time for translation to ensure update and inclusion in the national MeSH of the year.

*The importance of and how to influence/teach scientists and students to index their articles, essays and projects with MeSH-terms, both with the English and the national terms for storage and retrieval of the work.*
The Italian and Swedish MeSHes are open for comments, suggestions for synonyms and change of preferred term from users.

**MeSH-SIG activities 2011-2012**
During the year which has passed since the EAHILworkshop at Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey the MeSH-SIG has published the following articles in the *Journal of EAHIL* under *News from the Special Interest Groups* section: "Report from the 3rdMeSH-SIG meeting in Istanbul, Turkey" (nr 3, 2011), "MeSH 2012 – new and modified terms" (nr 1, 2012), "Swedish MeSH goes mobile" (nr 1, 2012) and "Attitude and practice of ISS Italian researchers towards indexing their publications with MeSH" (nr 2, 2012). The activity on the MeSH-SIG email-list could have been more

dedicated during the year which has passed, however we know that communication between colleagues within the different countries and across borders on MeSH topics is alive.The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services in Norway(NOKC) and the Karolinska Institute University Library (KIB) in Sweden are frequently in contact discussing MeSH related topics. On the Italian side, MeSH terms listed under Dentistry [E06] have all been revised, thanks to collaboration between The Technology and Health Department, Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) and The Department of Odonto-stomatological and Maxillofacial Science, Sapienza University of Rome. Other MeSH areas related to dentistry are considered for revision such as biomaterials, oral anatomy and pathologies.

Mails between the Library at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and the MeSH-SIG have been exchanged in connection with suggestions of new MeSH-terms to the MeSH section.WHO has successfully been suggesting new MeSH- term via the MeSH vocabulary box on the MeSH sections homepage: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/

In October every year NLM releases the new MeSH-terms for the following year. The 2012 update presented 454 new terms, 42 replacements and 15 deleted making the current number of descriptors 26 582. An important task for the MeSH-SIG members is the translation of the new terms into the different languages to update and improve the national MeSHes.

During the spring of 2012 a group at KIB has been looking at the possibility to give each Swedish MeSH-term a unique code (URI) for further linking between current information sources. A report about the "Swedish MeSH as linked data" will be ready soon and the experience and findings will be disseminated within the MeSH-SIG. The next phase of the project is actually to decide which programs/tools to be used giving each term a unique code.

A significant event for members of the group is the yearly get together at the EAHIL conferences and workshops where current MeSH topics are discussed. The MeSH-SIG's intention continues to be to improve collaboration among international translators and other stakeholders.

# News from EAHIL

## Medical Library Association report for EAHIL

**Carol Lefebvre**

MLA Representative to EAHIL
Independent Information Consultant
Lefebvre Associates Ltd, Oxford, UK
Contact: Carol@LefebvreAssociates.org

**New MLA Representative to EAHIL**

After many years of devoted service as the MLA Representative to EAHIL, Bruce Madge has stood down and I was asked if I would take his place. As a long-standing and enthusiastic member of both EAHIL and MLA I was delighted to be invited, so for the foreseeable future you will be hearing from me instead of Bruce in this regular column. I should like to start by thanking Bruce for his many contributions to JEAHIL. I personally always found the columns useful, even though I was a member of MLA myself. I do not intend to make major changes to the format for now but would welcome any suggestions, from both MLA members and non-members, as to what you would find useful and interesting in this column.

**MLA 2013, ICML, ICAHIS, ICLC: Boston, Massachusetts, 3-8 May 2013**

As you will be aware, MLA 2013 will be held in conjunction with the 11th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML), the 7th International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists (ICAHIS) and the 6th International Clinical Librarian Conference (ICLC). The theme of the meeting is 'One Health: information in an interdependent world'. General meeting topics include trustworthy and authoritative publicly available information, new methods of publishing, global data sharing to advance science and environmental aspects of global health. There will be a vast range of international papers and posters on a wide range of aspects of health care information together with various networking opportunities and options for library visits and other tours. http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2013/index.html#

There will also be an extensive continuing education programme, typical of MLA annual meetings. These will take place on Friday 3 May, Saturday 4 May and Wednesday 8 May. In addition, three web-based continuing education courses will be held during the conference for those that cannot attend in person.

Friday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (eastern time): Data Curation for Information Professionals

Friday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. (eastern time): Veterinary and Comparative Medicine: Literature, Resources, and Services

Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (eastern time): Business Communications: Library Style

There are suites of continuing education courses on popular topics allowing delegates to sign up for a number of related courses and these are marked by a special icon in the programme:

Consumer Health Information Specialization Program
These courses present the latest resources and ideas in the consumer health information field and are approved for MLA's Consumer Health Information Specialization Program.

Disaster Information Specialization Program
These courses provide the latest information and resources in the field of disaster information.

Information Specialist in Context
These courses provide training and demonstrate knowledge in regard to the role of the information specialist in context.

Evidenced-based Practice
These courses emphasize the librarians' role in the practices of evidence-based health care.

http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2013/ce/index.html
Registration is open at the link below this paragraph. There is a discount of 255 US dollars off the full package registration for EAHIL members (through EAHIL's association with MLA) and a discount of 175 US dollars off the conference-only package. For those of you for whom, even with these discounts, the travel costs remain prohibitive, there is an 'e-conference' rate of just 120 US dollars. All these rates apply until 3 May 2012, after which higher rates apply. http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2013/pdf/mla13_regform.pdf

**Fig. 1.** *Carla Funk (Executive Director of MLA) and Carol Lefebvre (MLA Representative to EAHIL) promoting MLA 2013/11th ICML etc at the EAHIL conference in Brussels, July 2012.*

**Future MLA annual meetings**
MLA Chicago, Illinois, May 2014. As you may be aware, the lead-in time for the planning of continuing education courses to take place at the MLA annual meetings is quite extensive, so MLA is already accepting ideas for courses and symposia to offer at MLA 2014 in Chicago. Courses and symposia will be held on Friday May 16, Saturday May 17 and Wednesday May 21, 2014. The deadline for submitting suggestions for courses is **Friday December 14, 2012**, for consideration by the MLA Continuing Education Committee at its midwinter meeting in January 2013. http://www.mlanet.org/education/callcourses2014.html

MLA Austin, Texas, May 2015. For those of you who like to plan even further ahead, especially with respect to submitting funding applications to support attendance or planning research projects to submit for presentation at the meeting, the dates and venue for the 2015 meeting have already been announced as May 15-20 2015, Austin, Texas.

**Membership of MLA**
MLA offers International Membership to individuals at a reduced rate for those health information professionals who live outside the United States or Canada. The current annual subscription rate for International Membership is 130 US dollars. For details of what this includes, see the link below.
http://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/intern.html

**News and publications from MLA**
The July issue of the Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA) is now available (open access) at:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/issues/212731/
Open access to back issues is available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/93/

Preprints of the October issue of the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* (JMLA) are now available (for members only) at: http://www.mlanet.org/access_control/login.php

MLA News Online (October issue) and the current edition of MLA-FOCUS (the fortnightly electronic newsletter (both for members only) are also available at: http://www.mlanet.org/access_control/login.php

# Publications and new products

**Giovanna F. Miranda**

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Dear Colleagues,

Two interesting articles on academic and scholarly publishing and one on libraries have been recently published.

Over the intervening centuries, academic publishing has morphed into a sprawling international industry that, on the one hand, rakes in revenues of more than $19 billion in its scientific, technical, and medical segment alone, according to one 2008 analysis open access and other newer publishing modalities are still dwarfed by the traditional subscription-based model (B. Grant. The Scientist 2012; August 1).

Many academic librarians and other open-access advocates have promoted open-access scholarly publishing across the board, without limiting their promotion to the few worthy open-access publishers, thus creating a more fertile ground for predatory publishers (J. Beall. The Scientist 2012; August 1).

An analysis of 72 academic health sciences libraries' Facebook pages showed positive correlations between the number of library fans and the number of tabs, photos, events, and wall posts on Facebook (R.G. Milian. Medical Reference Services Quarterly 2012;31(2):171).

**Giovanna F. Miranda**

## Journal issues

Since the Journal of September 2012, the following journal issue of *Health Information and Libraries Journal* has been received:

**Volume 29 Issue 3**

**GMurphy J, Grant MJ. Key messages are essential tools in communicating your topic.** Editorial p.159-160

**Harrison J. 'Talking about my generation': a state-of-the-art review of health information for men in the andropause.** p.161-170.
The focus of this article is the availability and use of information in the UK about the male menopause. The review considers the provision and use of information available for men in the andropause in the public domain, examining both NHS and condition specific sources.

**Andretta S. Evaluating information literacy educators' practices before and after the course facilitating information literacy education: from tutor to learner-centred.** p.171-178.
The article gives an account of a study on the impact of facilitating information literacy education (FILE) on its participants, health librarians who have attended this course between 2007 and 2010.

**Chamberlain D, Brook R. Focus groups for allied health professionals and professions allied to technical services in the NHS – marketing opportunities, lessons learnt and recommendations.** p. 179-187.
This article aims to discover why there was a low usage of the library services using qualitative techniques and to use focus groups as a marketing opportunity. It also aims to outline the processes involved in delivering focus groups, the results gained, and the actions taken in response to the results.

**Kim H, Park SY, Bozeman I. Online health information search and evaluation: observations and semi-structured interviews with college students and maternal health experts.** p. 188-199.
The study examines health information search and appraisal behaviours among young, heavy users of the Internet.

**Ek S, Heinström J. Monitoring or avoiding health information – the relation to inner inclination and health status.** p. 200-209.
The objective of the paper was to shed light on mechanisms through which personal characteristics (locus of control) and world views (sense of coherence) influence health information interest and health information seeking in relation to health status.

**Pienaar E, Grobler L, Busgeeth K, Eisinga A, Siegfried N. Developing a geographic search filter to identify randomised controlled trials in Africa: finding the optimal balance between sensitivity and precision.** p. 210-215.
The study tests the sensitivity and precision of a filter to identify African randomised controlled trials (RCTs).

**Zainal H, Ngah Zainab A. Biomedical and health sciences publication productivity from Malaysia.** p. 216-225.
The aim of this study was to examine Malaysian contributions in the field of biomedical and health sciences.

**Volume 29 Issue 4**

**Grant MJ. Writing academic papers: lost in translation?** Editorial p. 247-248.

**Sutton A, Grant MJ. Cost-effective ways of delivering enquiry services: a rapid review.** p. 249-255.
The review aims to examine the evidence for the most cost-effective ways of delivering enquiry services.

**Steele R. A review and rationalisation of journal subscriptions undertaken by a library and information service in a Mental Health Trust in North-East England in 2009.** p. 256-263.
The objective of the study is to describe the methods and processes used in an evaluation of local journal subscriptions in a mental health trust and to suggest possible further areas of investigation were similar exercises to be undertaken again.

**Boruff JT, Thomas A. Integrating evidence-based practice and information literacy skills in teaching physical and occupational therapy students.** p. 264-272.
This article describes the collaborative process and outcome of integrating EBP and information literacy early in a professional physical therapy and occupational therapy programme.

**Gardois P, Calabrese R, Colombi N, Deplano A, Lingua C, Longo F, Villanacci MC, Miniero R, Piga A. Effectiveness of bibliographic searches performed by paediatric residents and interns assisted by librarians. A randomised controlled trial.** p. 273-284.
The aim of the study is to verify whether the assistance of biomedical librarians significantly improves the outcomes of searches performed by paediatricians in biomedical databases using real-life clinical scenarios.

**Davies K. Evidence-based medicine: is the evidence out there for primary care clinicians?** p. 285-293.
The objective of the study is to determine the highest level of evidence per question; to ascertain the number of questions unanswered because of a lack of evidence; to establish the frequency with which guidelines answered questions; and to determine the domain of websites used to answer questions.

**Guardiola-Wanden-Berghe R, Gil-Pérez JD, Sanz-Valero J, Wanden-Berghe C.**
**Evaluating the quality of websites relating to diet and eating disorders.** p. 294-301.
The aim of the study is to verify whether the Credibility Indicator is able to evaluate the quality of websites relating to diet and eating disorders.

**Kostagiolas PA, Aggelopoulou VA, Niakas D. A study of the information seeking behaviour of hospital pharmacists: empirical evidence from Greece.** p. 302-312.
This study investigates the information-seeking behaviour of public hospital pharmacists providing evidence from Greece that could be used to encourage the development of effective information hospital services and study the links between the information seeking behaviour of hospital pharmacists and their modern scientific and professional role.

**Shabi IN, Shabi OM, Akewukereke MA, Udofia EP. Physicians utilisation of internet medical databases at the tertiary health institutions in Osun State, South West, Nigeria.** p. 313-320.
The objective of the study is to determine the extent, purpose, determinants and the impact of the utilization of Internet medical databases among the respondents.

## Book reviews

**Digital Libraries and Information Access. Research perspectives.** Eds. G. G. Chowdhury, S. Foo. Facet Publishing, London UK, 2012; ISBN: 978-1-85604-821-7; paperback £49.95 (£39.96 to CILIP members), pp. 256.
Internationally-renowned academics discuss what has been achieved with digital libraries and what we can expect in the future through the prism of research. This book is also a useful introduction to developments for those developing, managing or just starting out with digital libraries.

**The Librarian's Legal Companion for Licensing Information Resources and Services.** Ed. T. A. Lipinski. Neal-Schuman Publishers, Chicago, IL, USA, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-1-5557-0610-4; softcover $130.00, pp. 760.
A sourcebook for information licensing in libraries, including copyright and contract matters, general contract law concepts, developments in online and information contracting; and the advantages and disadvantages of licensing.

## Papers review

**Whither science publishing?**
Grant B. The Scientist 2012; August 1
http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/32378/title/Whither-Science-Publishing-/

**Predatory publishing**
Beall J. The Scientist 2012; August 1
http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/32426/title/Predatory-Publishing/

**The presence of Academic Health Sciences Libraries on Facebook: the relationship between content and library popularity**
Milian RG. Medical Reference Services Quarterly 2012; 31(2):171

**Improving information retrieval using Medical Subject Headings Concepts: a test case on rare and chronic diseases**
Darmoni SJ *et al.* J Med Libr Assoc. 2012;100(3):176

**Combining history of medicine and library instruction: an innovative approach to teaching database searching to medical students.**
Timm DF *et al.* Medical Reference Services Quarterly 2012;31(3):258

## News

**Open Access 1.** The European Commission on 17 July 2012 has adopted two key documents: *Towards better access to scientific information: Boosting the benefits of public investments in research and Commission Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information.* The European Commission intends to improve access to scientific information and to boost the benefits of public investment in research.
http://www.orpha.net/actor/EuropaNews/2012/120921.html#30512
http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1301

**Open Access 2.** Fondazione Cariplo, a funder of Scientific Research in a variety of disciplines for the common good, operates a policy for Open Access (OA) to scientific literature effective from the date of publication of this statement. The Foundation believes Open Access to scientific literature is the key, in the *knowledge society*, to promote the dissemination of knowledge, quality research and democracy.
http://www.fondazionecariplo.it/portal/upload/ent3/1/policy_ing_2.pdf

**Cancer Journal.** A special issue on genetic counselling for cancer has been published (Volume 18 - July/August 2012). The journal features articles on genetic testing by specific cancer site (skin, ovary, etc.)

**Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.** The Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology has published a special free-access supplement which provides recommendations for the management of several rare cancers in children and young adults.
http://journals.lww.com/jpho-online/toc/2012/05001

## Information sources... web based

**ClinicalTrials.gov**. On September 19, 2012 the new ClinicalTrials.gov user interface was launched. The new site interface will run in parallel with the previous version for approximately four weeks after launch. After appropriate testing and additional minor changes it will permanently replace the previous interface. Visitors will have access to new and reorganized written content about clinical research, background information about the site, searching for studies, and maintaining study records. However, core functions of the site – including the basic and advanced search, search results options, and the study record data – will remain the same. The new interface enhances site functionality and navigation significantly, search terms and synonyms are now highlighted and bolded in study records.
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/so07/so07_clinical_trials.html
http://ClinicalTrials.gov

**EUCERD.** The European Union Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases (Eucerd) has redesigned its website, to allow users easier access to the recommendations, documents and reports on its activities.
http://www.eucerd.eu/

## News from publishers

**Thieme** titles are winners at the 2012 BMA Medical Book Awards: First Prize in the Radiology category and Highly Commended in the Internal Medicine and Surgical Specialties categories. The titles of the books are: *Teaching Atlas of Mammography, Fourth Edition,* (first prize), *Endoscopic Ultrasound, Second Edition* (highly commended in the Internal Medicine category), *Handbook of Spine Surgery* and *Salivary Gland Disorders and Diseases: Diagnosis and Management* (highly commended in the Surgical Specialties category). The BMA is a doctors' professional organization created to look after the professional and personal needs of its members. Moreover Thieme's *Handbook of Otolaryngology* – Head and Neck Surgery has won first place in the Professional/Technical category of the 2012 Benjamin Franklin Awards from the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), the largest not-for-profit trade association representing independent book publishers in the United States.
www.thieme.com

**Elsevier** is offering its entire collection of books and journals on its online platform ScienceDirect, as well as access to its abstracts and citation database Scopus to innovators in 105 countries for free or little cost through the ARDI (Access to Research for Development and Innovation) program. ARDI is coordinated by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as part of the Research4Life program, a public-private partnership that includes United Nations agencies WIPO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers (STM), leading academic libraries, and technology partner Microsoft.
www.elsevier.com

**Nature Publishing Group.** A new agreement on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation has been signed with Nature Publishing Group enabling researchers, students and citizens across the country to access the Nature archives from 1869 to 2011. The agreement could provide site license access to up to 800 academic and not-for-profit institutions, including public libraries, in more than 100 cities throughout Russia.
www.nature.com

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