



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**13-18 August 2000, Jerusalem, Israel**  
**66th IFLA General Conference: "Information for co-operation: creating the global library of the future"**

For further information: <http://sites.huji.ac.il/IFLA2000>

**16-18 August, Göteborg, Sweden**  
**ISIC 2000. Information Seeking in Context: The third international conference on information needs, seeking and use in different contexts**

For further information: <http://www.hb.se/bhs/bibvet/isic/>

**18-23 October, Frankfurt, Germany**  
**52nd Frankfurt Book Fair**

For further information: <http://www.frankfurter-buchmesse.de/bookfair/navigation-e.html>

**22-25 October 2000, Annecy, France**  
**The 2000 International Chemical Information Conference & Exhibition**

For further information: <http://www.infonortics.com>

**5-7 December 2000, London, UK**  
**Online Information 2000**

For further information: <http://www.online-information.co.uk>

**7-9 June 2001, Alghero (Sardinia), Italy**  
**EAHIL WORKSHOP - 2001: Cyberspace Odyssey**  
**Abstracts of presentations to be submitted before 31 October 2000, preferentially via the workshop website,**

**<http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm>,  
or by e-mail to: Manuela Colombi [mcolombi@jacit.jnj.com](mailto:mcolombi@jacit.jnj.com)  
or Vanna Pistotti [bib@irfmm.mnegri.it](mailto:bib@irfmm.mnegri.it)**

For further information:

<http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm>

**16-21 September 2002, Cologne, Germany**  
**EAHIL CONFERENCE 8th ECMHL: Thinking globally - Acting locally**

As soon as more information is available, this will be linked to the EAHIL website <http://www.eahil.org>

**25-29 June 2003, Oslo, Norway**  
**Nordic - Baltic- EAHIL Workshop: Cross boundaries - Join forces!**

As soon as more information is available, this will be linked to the EAHIL website <http://www.eahil.org>

**Giovanna F. Miranda**

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## OBITUARY - David W C Stewart 1941 - 2000

David Stewart, Librarian of the Royal Society of Medicine between 1977 and 1995, died recently following a fall at his home just north of London.

It is the measure of the man, that when David Stewart retired from the RSM and dropped out of professional life, he left a gap in the professional and social fabric of UK medical librarianship that many of us still find apparent more than four years later.

A man who combined scholarly grace with an extraordinary charm, David's untimely death has left friends and former colleagues all over the world mourning the death of a good man. David was born in Athlone, in the geographic centre of Ireland in 1941 and, the first of many distinctions, won a scholarship to Galway Grammar School at the age of eleven.

Following school he took his degree in English, history and economics at Trinity College Dublin. At some point during his time at university he made up his mind to make a career as a librarian and on leaving Trinity in 1963 he took up a post as a Library Assistant at the Royal Society of Medicine in London with a view to studying part-time for his professional qualifications. He completed the Library Association examinations and was admitted as an Associate of the Library Association in 1971.

The whole of David's career was spent at the RSM, whose members he served with distinction for 32 years. On becoming a professional librarian he was promoted to Assistant Librarian at the beginning of 1964 and then successively Chief Assistant Librarian (1966), Library Research Assistant

(1973) and then Deputy Librarian in 1973. He served as deputy to Philip Wade for four years — a period of intensive professional development that he would speak fondly of long after, particularly of an extended visit to North America. If this was what would now be called "succession planning" by the RSM, it succeeded admirably, and David duly succeeded to the post of Librarian in 1977.

A man of undoubted professional abilities, which led to *inter alia* his being elected a Fellow of the Medical Library Association, David also exemplified the personal qualities necessary to survive and thrive as librarian of a scholarly society with many famous and active members. For most members, the RSM's library has traditionally been its most important asset and during David's tenure it managed to embrace the emergence of the electronic world without losing touch with its important curatorial heritage and its notable historical collections. David would lean effortlessly against his public persona of the genial, cultured Irish scholar and smooth over difficulties that would have had a more explosive person tearing his hair out.

At conferences and meetings he would chair sessions with wit and efficiency, make elegant presentations and, above all, be at the heart of one of the happiest groups at each social event. There was a lot of the real David in that persona, but it was by no means the whole man.

From the strong foundation of his happy family and strong Christian belief, he worked with intelligence and commitment against

poverty in the developing world and for the Labour Party in the UK.

In the opinion of this writer, the circumstances of David's early retirement from the RSM are such as to bring shame on those who precipitated it. Under a very great deal of pressure he chose, typically, to go with quiet dignity rather than fight his corner and risk damaging the institution to which he had devoted his whole professional life.

In retirement he gave his energies both to his good causes and to the running of his local Anglican church, where he was active in parish affairs and where he found comfort and satisfaction in using his talents to ensure that the everyday management of the church went like clockwork.

David's broad range of interests and the affection and respect in which he was held was illustrated by the large congregation that attended his funeral and by the warmth with which he was remembered. At the closing ceremony of the 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, his contribution to bringing the congress to London was marked by a special presentation.

David is survived by his wife, Audrey and his daughter Catherine, of whom he often spoke with uncharacteristic pride — and by a host of friends who would give a great deal to see again his quiet grin above his awful bow ties.

**Tony McSeán**  
BMA Library  
Chair of the 8ICML Organizing  
Committee