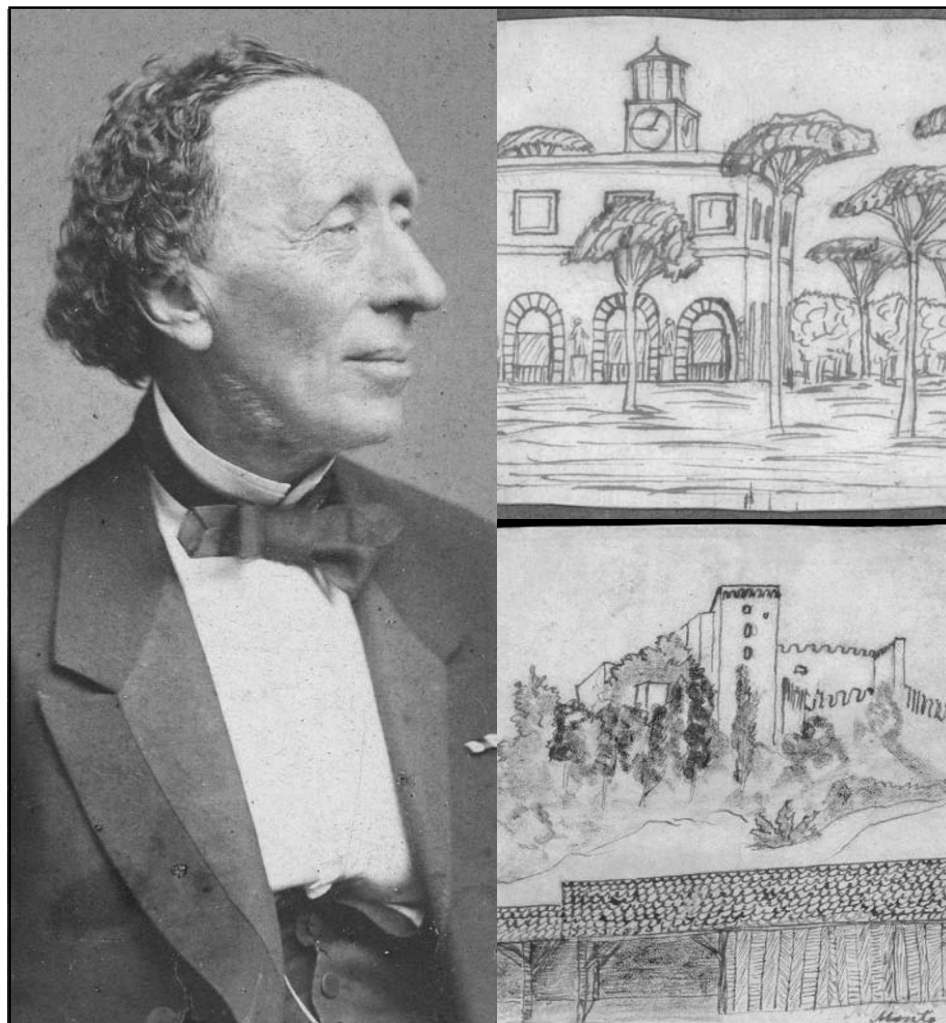


European Association for Health Information and Libraries



May 2003 • N° 63



Hans Christian Andersen, well known for his fairy tales, was a multifaceted artist who also travelled in many European countries. He made many drawings and sketches from his travels, like the two above. A very special technique he mastered very well was paper cutting; examples are inside illustrating the articles from Denmark. In 2005, 2nd April, it is 200 years since HCA was born and celebrations are being planned.

© Odense City Museums

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Newsletter

to European Health Librarians



Dear colleagues,

I saw 3 storks this weekend, a sure sign that spring has definitely arrived in Romania. It has been a long and very hard winter but now Easter is around the corner and then summer beckons, bringing a chance to meet you all again in Norway.

The Nordic Association for Medical and Health Information (NAMHI) and EAHIL have organized an excellent program for the workshop in Oslo: *Cross Boundaries-Join Forces*. One of the most important meetings there will be the Focus Groups session with EAHIL Councillors which will be the initial meeting to propose changes which will influence the future of EAHIL and bring it up to date with current needs. Our President is taking the first step to bring EAHIL into the 21st century and it is imperative that every member plays an active part in this transformation.

This issue has a wonderful Highlight on.....Denmark and my thanks go to Lise Cristensen and Conni Skrubbeltrang who made this possible in the first instance and of course the authors who wrote the four very interesting contributions. In addition Michelle Wake and Linda Lisgarten have provided an excellent article on drug nomenclature celebrating the relaunch of PHING, while the regular columnists maintain their high standards.

Newsletter 64, of course, will feature articles and reports of the Oslo workshop, while issue 65 will offer a Highlight on....The Netherlands, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Biomedical Section of the Dutch Library Association. Naturally all good things come to an end and though there are still a few countries left to "highlight", it is time to find other ideas. Beginning with Newsletter 66, February 2004 I hope to change the newsletter format. Linda Lisgarten has come up with an excellent idea: issues with a specific theme. Even better she has offered that PhIng members will do **issue 66** on Drug Information and related subjects in their field. Newsletter 67 will be a mixed variety of featured articles and issue 68 will be a "themed" issue also. Newsletter 69 will be a Highlight on Spain. I would of course welcome any other suggestions but just now 2003-2004 looks like this.

2003

Issue 64 - Highlight on the Oslo Workshop

Issue 65 - Highlight on The Netherlands

2004

Issue 66 - Theme Issue: Drug Information

Issue 67 - Feature articles: **Contributions welcome**

Issue 68 - Theme Issue: **Offers welcome**

Issue 69 - Highlight on the Santander Conference

All that remains now is to say I am looking forward to meeting you all again in Oslo. It will be a splendid opportunity to have daily contact with all EAHIL members.

Sally Wood-Lamont

Editor-in-chief

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Shaping the future of EAHIL

The present Aims and Objectives of EAHIL are:

- To improve co-operation amongst health care libraries throughout Europe
- To strengthen links with medical and health libraries in Eastern and Central Europe
- To raise standards of provision and practice in health care and medical research libraries
- To keep health librarians and information officers professionally informed
- To encourage mobility and continuing education, especially in regard to new technologies
- To represent health librarians at European level, in particular at European institutions and at WHO

Are these aims and objectives still relevant and are they focused enough? Perhaps EAHIL should set new priorities and define new aims/objectives?

At the Board meeting in February 2003, Board Members decided that we need to know more of what our members from different geographical regions think are the most important “burning issues” that we, as an association, should be focusing on. After discussion, the Board agreed as a first step to run a special Focus Groups session with EAHIL Councillors attending the Oslo workshop this June.

Proposed Agenda for Focus Group Session with Council Members

- Introduction and review of focus group goals (15 minutes)
- Identification of the important professional issues attendees are facing in their libraries (45 minutes)
- Identification of the possible strategies EAHIL can undertake as a European association to address the identified issues (45 minutes)
- Reporting back and discussion (30 minutes)

The focus group input will be one of many inputs used to shape the future of EAHIL and to finalize the content of a survey of all EAHIL members about the future of EAHIL. The survey will be published in EAHIL newsletter and also distributed by e-mail to members.

As an EAHIL member you are urged to contact your council member to present the issues you are facing in your library and to propose strategies for EAHIL. As an EAHIL member you will have a second chance to influence the future of EAHIL when we send out the survey. You can also send your ideas to the EAHIL-list.

You can find the name and e-mail address of your council member on EAHIL web page www.eahil.org. There you will also find information about EAHIL-L (eahil-l@listserv.kib.ki.se)

All Council members who are unable to attend, are if possible encouraged to nominate a replacement from their country to attend these Focus sessions - it would be very desirable to get a good cross-representation of views.

Please contribute your thoughts to this discussion. All ideas and comments will be very welcome.

Arne Jakobsson
p.a.jakobsson@ub.uio.no



Why Do We Have A General Assembly Every Year?

The General Assembly (GA) is EAHIL's governing body. It makes the important decisions, and when the President or other members of the board take any action we do so because we are acting on behalf of the GA. Until recently the GA met every two years, but since 2001 it has become an annual event.

Why? It is very simple - EAHIL's headquarters moved from Belgium to the Netherlands, and Dutch law requires membership organisations to have a general meeting every year. There is a problem, though, in turning this legal requirement into a practical reality: 80 members must be present for a GA to be legally valid. This is not usually a problem at the large EAHIL conferences held in even-numbered years, but for the smaller workshops it is an impossibility.

So how do we stay legal? The working assumption is this: (i) as Dutch law requires, we schedule a GA at each workshop and at the end of the working day; (ii) the GA has a brief agenda of oral reports from the president and treasurer; (iii) if the GA has a quorum it goes ahead in the normal way; (iv) if there is no quorum then an informal and open-ended discussion takes place between members and board. This worked well at the Sardinia workshop in 2001 and will happen again this year in Oslo.

Tony McSeán
tony.mcsean@bma.org.uk

From the EAHIL Secretariat:

Electronic Communication

The **EAHIL membership list 2003** will be published in PDF only and has been forwarded to you by e-mail in May (shortly before this newsletter was published). If you have not received the membership list, please send your request for a copy by e-mail to: eahil-secr@nic.surfnet.nl. Please notify the secretariat by fax (+31.30.231 1830) if you are unable to communicate by e-mail.

Council Members

After serving on the Council for many years, **Lise Christensen** from Denmark stepped down; Denmark is represented in the Council by **Conni Skrubbeltrang** (Aalborg Hospital, cs@aes.nja.dk).

Hélène Breul and **Armelle Martin** (from France) did not renew membership; **Benoit Thirion** has been invited to represent France in the Council from now on.

Bruce Madge has accepted to serve as an EAHIL Council member representing the UK, replacing **Maureen Forrest** (formerly of the Cairns Library, Oxford), who recently retired after many years of excellent service to both UK medical librarianship and EAHIL. Bruce is a very well-qualified and welcome replacement, well known to most EAHIL members, having attended our conferences and served on various committees and given papers on a variety of subjects. Bruce Madge is at present Assistant Director of the Patient Advice and Liaison Service, National Patient Safety Agency in London, bruce.madge@npsa.nhs.uk.

Anamarija Rozic has taken over from **Nada Trzan** representing Slovenia.

Vanna Pistotti has announced she is leaving the Council, unable to accept a second term; this vacancy for Italy is not yet filled.



Report of the Meeting of the EAHIL Board Amsterdam, 7 th February 2003

The new EAHIL Executive Board's meeting took place in Amsterdam, at Hotel Westropa, on February 7, 2003. Except Meile Kretaviciene, who was not able to attend, all board members were present. Arne Jakobsson, who had been elected President in Cologne, greeted those present and work started by reviewing and approving the minutes of the Cologne board meeting minutes. It was agreed also that the minutes would be signed by Tony McSeán (past president) and Linda Lisgarten (secretary). No matters for further discussion arose from the minutes.

In electing the new officers, the Board elected Tony McSeán Treasurer. Tony will serve both as past president and MLA representative. Linda Lisgarten will serve as secretary, Suzanne Bakker as first vice president and the secretary supervisor, Gabriella Poppi was elected second vice president, Marta Virágos will serve as second secretary. Meile had been elected full member in Cologne, and Ulrich Korwitz became a co-opted member representing the German-speaking countries. The Board had also to discuss the EAHIL representation. It was agreed that Gabriella Poppi and Meile Kretaviciene would represent EAHIL at WHO events.

Although no formal written text was submitted as a President's report on this occasion, new EAHIL President Arne Jakobsson gave a short report about updating EAHIL webpage. He also stated that the Secretary was working much better, so it was much easier for him to prepare the Treasurer's report. On presenting figures and tables pertaining to the balance 2001/02, Arne Jakobsson stated that this was only a preliminary report and the Board would have the final report by spring. Arne stated that EAHIL had achieved its aims of having one year's worth of expenses in hand at the bank. In concluding his report, he highlighted again the fragility of EAHIL's financial position. The main reasons for this are these: the account from memberships was still falling and the number of sponsors were also decreasing.

It was recognised that the general trend with mergers and company take-overs meant that the number of traditional advertisers was likely to decrease. Suzanne Bakker drew attention to the fact that the *Newsletter* advertisements are quite inexpensive, thus it was decided that the price for new advertisers would be raised by 10 percent. Potential advertisers and sponsors for the *Newsletter* were also discussed. As regards EAHIL's financial future, Arne emphasized the importance of finding new ways to attract and

retain members of EAHIL. Arne Jakobsson in his role of president will take action towards all EAHIL members to encourage renewal payment and to ask the Council members to be alert and proactive towards the EAHIL members in their respective countries.

Suzanne Bakker gave an oral report on the activity of the EAHIL Secretariat, where most of the work is accounting. The budget was more or less on track, but late membership paying is still a problem. The facility to pay by credit cards had led to some improvement. Suzanne urged everyone to check the membership list and let her know of possible inconsistencies. It was also decided that the Secretariat would send a report to the Board about membership paying and new members quarterly.

The Board agreed that membership payment through subscription agencies would be considered as institutional membership payment. Suzanne reported that the Secretariat would start work with the archives; for this function a new system of files is to be organized. As prescribed by law, archival material (regarding finances) must be kept for a period of seven years.

As for the *Newsletter*, Suzanne Bakker reported that it continued to be produced on schedule. Because it is essential, however, that the advertising revenue should be enhanced, Suzanne would extend contacts with companies and potential advertisers. The board members were also urged to seek new sponsors. As previously agreed, the cover of the *Newsletter* would be of a different colour each year. Gabriella Poppi proposed that a new section should be initiated in the *Newsletter* for the purposes of gaining a better insight into the status and number of professionals on a country by country basis. Such a register would make it possible to enlist experts for specific objectives more easily. The Board supported the idea of launching such a column.

News from our Association

As for EAHIL committees and subgroups, Linda reported that the Pharmaceutical Information Group (PhInG) had had an official meeting where Linda Listgarten and Giovanna Miranda were coopted as chairs. At the meeting, the group expressed their intention of expanding their activities, and Linda, as a native speaker of English, would be usefully involved in this programme. The group committed itself to setting up a programme to evaluate pharmaceutical data bases, revising the membership list, and preparing a good programme for the Santander conference.

Re the Veterinary Subgroup, the Board stated that its activity had been low, which is probably caused by the fact that the worldwide presence of the group is very strong and thus they are not focussing adequately on the European side. Tony McSeán promised that he would contact prominent officials of the subgroup to find out how the Board could rectify the situation.

One of the main items discussed by the Board was how to progress the Virtual EAHIL idea. It was decided that the Board needed more financial facts before it could sensibly proceed. It was agreed that Arne and Tony are going to evaluate the present figures for membership income, outgoings and costs, and prepare a paper on what might be changed if we became a virtual organisation.

In the matter of national elections of council representatives the issue was raised that it would be necessary to set up a well-regulated nomination system for the purposes of creating a well-functioning council representation.

Talking of "focus" Suzanne Bakker had circulated a paper published in *Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana*, Fall 2002, entitled "Talking the Measure of Ourselves: Part 1: CHLA/ABSC Focus Groups." The Board was very interested in this concept, as we too feel we need to know more of what could many widely-dispersed constituent members in different geographical regions think are the burning issues we should be focussing on. After discussion the Board agreed to adopt the focus group idea and as a first step the aim was to organize a special Focus Group session with the EAHIL Councillors who will attend the Oslo workshop next June. It was also decided to circulate a short questionnaire to all members to ask them for their opinions on what issues EAHIL should address.

Arrangements for IFLA Berlin 2003 were also discussed. Linda Listgarten was nominated as the lead person from EAHIL to liaise with MLA about

arrangements for the shared booth in the exhibition area. It was also decided to prepare some leaflets and brochures about the association to be distributed at the various conferences where EAHIL is represented.

It was also decided that Eva Alopaeus will represent EAHIL at the MLA Annual Meeting in San Francisco next May.

Reports on future EAHIL events:

2003: Oslo

Arne reported that plans were proceeding well. As the venue for the complete workshop will be in the Radisson SAS Park Hotel, where all the delegates will be accommodated, numbers will be limited and thus delegates will be advised to book as soon as the call is made public.

2004: Santander

The Board accepted the precise time frame of the conference: September 21-26, 2004. The Board also agreed that there should be a meeting in Oslo for the International Organizing Committee. It was also decided that the call for papers should be published in the August issue of the Newsletter. The Board offered their support wherever necessary, including a personal visit by the President. Fanny Ribes Cot was issued with a standing invitation to attend Board and Council meetings up until the conference, and submit any information or links for the EAHIL webpages and discussion lists.

2005: Palermo

The Board had received proposals both from Cracow (Poland) and Palermo (Sicily). After an extensive discussion, it was agreed to offer the 2005 workshop to Palermo, and Cracow will be offered the next workshop (2007), which was felt would be a better timescale for the necessary preparations and organisation by the Polish team.

2006: Cluj- Napoca

An outline bid had been received from Sally Wood-Lamont and Ioana Robu to hold the 2006 conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Board members agreed at Cologne Board meeting to support the proposal. Suzanne reported that preparations were going well and a new library building will be opened by the conference date. She also informed the Board that she will visit again the organisers.

Date of next meeting:

Possibly June 24 2003, in Oslo.

Marta Virágos
marta@clib.dote.hu



News from MLA

The MLA Board met late January and approved several new initiatives. I will highlight a few in this issue. In addition, in early April, MLA will launch a new Web site on scholarly publishing.

Task Force on Global Initiatives

To raise the awareness level of certain international activities and to make recommendations regarding future directions, MLA has created the Task Force on Global Initiatives. By May, 2004, the Task Force will

- Review MLA's current and prior international programs both at the Association level and within MLA's sections and units.
- Explore how MLA may restructure its current programs to give more visibility and focus to its international programs.
- Identify new and ongoing programs, partnerships and strategies that MLA should pursue now and in the future to strengthen its role in and commitment to global health information

The Informationist Conference Task Force

The MLA Board recently approved creation of a Task Force on Information Specialists in Context to coordinate implementation of the Informationist Action Agenda. The Task Force will operate from January 2003 - January 2005. During this period, the group will recruit a Consultant as the point person for the initiative, to work with the Board, MLA staff, and Task Force members further develop and seek funding for one or more model programs. There will be a program on The Informationist at the 2004 MLA Annual Meeting.

New Copyright Policy for JMLA

Effective July 2003, authors of articles published in the Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA) will own the copyright to their works. T. Scott Plutchak, Editor of JMLA, summarizes the background in a forthcoming editorial: "As is the case with most scholarly journals, the JMLA has routinely required authors to sign a form transferring all rights to the Association. Late last summer, that policy was challenged by several MLA members who pointed out that it was somewhat contradictory that at a time when

we, as a profession, were urging the scholars that we serve to pay more attention to preserving their own copyrights, we, as a professional society, were still demanding that our own authors give up those rights."

The following statement will appear in the issue of JMLA:

Copyright in all articles appearing in the Journal of the Medical Library Association is owned by their authors. Readers may copy articles without permission of the copyright owners, as long as the author and the Medical Library Association are acknowledged in the copy and the copy is used for educational, not-for-profit purposes. For any other use of articles, please contact the copyright owner.

The copyright will therefore remain with the author, however should the author republish the article, the author agrees to ensure that a notice is included indicating the article was first published in JMLA. MLA is given the right of first publication, and the right to republish the work in any form it chooses.

Eve-Marie Lacroix
lacroix@nlm.nih.gov

Catch the Wave - MLA '03

By the time you receive the April issue of the newsletter, my colleagues and I will be heading to San Diego, California for the annual meeting of the MLA May 2-7, 2003.

I hope to see many of you at the International Visitors Reception on Sunday evening.

If you cannot make it this year, why not plan to attend the next MLA meeting, which will be held here in Washington, DC May 21-26, 2004.



“Cross boundaries - Join forces” - Nordic-Baltic-EAHIL Workshop, Oslo 25-28 June 2003

The Local Organizing Committee welcomes you to Oslo in June, and we hope you have registered for the workshop! Oslo is situated a long way from the troubled part of the world, and we will do our best to make these days good and meaningful for each of you.

As we have said before, one of the main ideas of this workshop is to give the participants the opportunity to get to know each other better, and in this way, strengthen the European and international professional and personal network. This seems more important now than ever.

The Scientific Programme

The scientific programme focuses, among other topics, on the necessity of library cooperation and partnership and on the importance of information exchange.

Continuing Education Courses

Five different continuing education courses will be offered. More information on the content of the courses will be posted on the website.

We hope that our slogan “*Cross boundaries - Join forces*” will come true in a peaceful way!

Walk & Talk Sessions

Join your colleagues for a walk and informal discussions on a variety of hot topics in medical librarianship! The Walk & Talk sessions provide an opportunity to share experiences, discuss professional concerns and make new friends. We encourage all participants to share their ideas. Facilitators will initiate each discussion.

Oslo

Oslo is the oldest of the Scandinavian capitals, and its history goes back to 1000 years ago, when the first settlements were built at the inlet of the Oslo fjord. After the Great Fire that destroyed the city in 1624, the Danish King Christian IV, decided to rebuild the city in brick and stone, and named it Christiania. Three hundred years later, in 1925, the citizens decided to rename their city Oslo. Oslo is a pleasant city with over 500 000 inhabitants. The city is characterized by a mix of old and new architecture, parks, hills, museums, monuments, lakes, forests and the fjord. The Oslo City Hall was inaugurated in 1950, and decorated by the foremost Norwegian artists from the period 1900-1950 with motifs from Norwegian history, culture and working life.

Norwegian summer nights are fair and beautiful, but not always warm, so be sure to bring jeans and a warm sweater!
Average mean temperatures in Jun-Jul-Aug: 16 C

Practical Information

The conference fee will cover the entire arrangement, including all meals, hotel accommodation and the social programme.

Everyone is offered a single room. There is no difference in the price between single and double room, because we have a full board and lodging offer. We hope you all will appreciate having your own room. Participants with an accompanying person will of course have a double room.

Invoicing

After some requests from the participants, the registration fee and the hotel expenses will be specified on your invoice.

Special requests should be directed to TS-Forum: eahil@tsforum.no or to Elisabeth Husem: e.e.husem@psykiatri.uio.no

The *EAHIL Echo*, courtesy of Eve Hollis and Shane Godbolt, will reappear for the duration of the Oslo workshop providing up-to-minute daily news and interviews.

Information

On our website <http://www.namhi.org/oslo2003.htm> you will find all the information you need.

Welcome! We hope to see many of you in Oslo in June!

The Local Organizing Committee

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*Oslo Workshop Local Organizing Committee:
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Hilde Strømme, Elisabeth Husem (Chair)
in front from left to right: Signe Emilie Romuld,
Elisabeth Akre*

Advertentie Swets



Speaking the same language? Drug nomenclature can help us join forces.

Introduction

The theme of the Oslo workshop - Across Boundaries - Join Forces is a timely and apt subject for PHING (the Pharmaceutical Information Group of EAHIL). As reported by Linda Lisgarten in February's EAHIL Newsletter, the group's relaunch is underway and one of its aims is to set up a system for evaluating pharmaceutical databases. It is hoped that such a project will be of interest to all the members of EAHIL. When discussing the merits of a database, it's preferred method of drug nomenclature inevitably arises. A single drug carries many different names - chemical, CAS, laboratory code, generic and proprietary. To add to the confusion these names often vary from country to country and the result is that most drugs will have 5-6 different names, but well-used drugs can have over 100¹! This problem is further compounded by the fact that what is licenced for use in one country might not be in another.

Does all this mean that we cannot cross boundaries and join forces to exchange drug information? Of course not, indeed it highlights the need for training amongst medical professionals on the use of nomenclature in database searching to ensure that clinical effectiveness is maintained. Important data could be lost if a researcher is unaware of all the names of a medicinal substance and if they are not aware of the need for total accuracy when spelling drug nomenclature. Inevitably many compounds have similar names and transcribing errors have been known to cause deaths. An example being when a 70 year old patient was administered amiodarone instead of amrinone². As information professionals we can lead the way with PHING and EAHIL playing its part.

Different Names Through a Drug's Development

1. Chemical Name

As a drug is chemical substance it will, of course, start its life with at least one chemical name. But it is important to be aware that even chemical names can be written down in different ways and that even if a chemical name has been approved by a standardisation organisation, such as the American Chemical Society, that name can still change if the organisation makes the decision to do so. For example bretylium tosylate had the ACS name Ammonium, (0-bromobenzyl) ethyl dimethyl-, P-toluene-sulfonate from 1972 to 1976. Not an easy name to begin with! It then changed to Benzenemethanaminium, 2-bromo-n-ethyl-, n-dimethyl-, salt with 4-methylbenzen sulfonic acid³.

2. CAS Registry Number

The Chemical Abstracts Service also provides numeric codes (RNs) to chemicals to simplify the naming process, however because authors can describe the same compound differently it is not unheard of for a chemical to be accidentally given more than one CAS RN!

3. Laboratory Code

Developers of a drug will usually give a code to a substance they are studying for potential therapeutic use. This is to help prevent industrial espionage and to simplify a substance's name. These codes usually consist of letters representing the company / laboratory and a number. An example is Ro 4-3780 for isotretinoin from Roche. It's worth remembering that even these codes can be written down, and thus indexed, differently by databases! For example Ro 4-3780 could be indexed as Ro43780.

4. Nonproprietary / Generic Name

There is no one organisation for assigning nonproprietary names. In the UK a drug will be given a BAN (British Approved Name), in France a DCF (Denomination Commune Francaise), in Italy a DCI (Denominazione Comune Italiana) and in the USA a USAN (US Adopted Name). Generally this name is linked to the class of the drug, that is it's pharmacological action. Note that a generic name technically refers to a class of drugs, unlike a nonproprietary name which refers to just one substance.

5. Proprietary / Brand Name

Companies usually wish to brand their medicines to help differentiate their product from the competition, especially once any patent protection has expired. Unfortunately for the drug information researcher a drug can be sold under different brand names in different countries even if it is produced by a single company. For example the antidepressant Fluoxetine-hydrochloride is sold by Lilly as Prozac in most countries, but in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden as Fontex. So, you can see when you have multiple companies producing a drug how the number of names for a medicinal substance can explode!

Attempts at Standardising Names

There are attempts to standardise generic names internationally. In 1951 the World Health Organisation created International Nonproprietary Names (INNs), but it is no guarantee of international compliance. For example the UK's naming authority, the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, which assigns British Approved Names (BANs), would not accept the name Ribavirin as there already existed a product with the name Rybarvin, and so the name Tribavirin was used. However once Rybarvin was discontinued the INN was used in the UK⁴. This highlights another problem with drug names - they can change over time.

Since 1999, under the EEC Directive 92/27, European Community member states must label medicinal products with their Recommended International Nonproprietary Name (rINN). However this still does not mean consistency - not all drugs in the EU are labelled with their rINN. The most talked about substance is adrenaline, an extremely well-known name in Europe, but which has an INN of epinephrine, a name that is really only used in the USA and Japan. To overcome this the EU has suggested a system of dual labelling for those drugs where it is felt that just using the INN could lead to confusion. However, the UK has not yet adopted dual labelling and is continuing to use only BANs where it is felt that using the INN could pose a health risk.

Where to Look for Drug Nomenclature

There are many sources which provide the different names for a single drug. Some of these sources are designed only to provide nomenclature information, whilst others, although designed to provide physical, preparative, therapeutic and bibliographic information, also list some of the different names given to a medicinal substance.

Nomenclature Lists, For Example:

British Pharmacopoeia Commission. *British Approved Names 2002*. London: Stationery Office, 2002.

Chemical Abstracts Service Registry File. Columbus, OH: Chemical Abstracts Service.

This is available from several online vendors under different names, including CHEMSEARCH on Dialog and Chemical Registry Nomenclature from DataStar.

Fleeger, C.A. (Ed.) *USP Dictionary of USAN and International Drug Names*. Rockville, MD: United States Pharmacopoeial Convention.

The last print edition of this work was the 35th edition in 1998. Print updates to this volume are available in *US Dispensing Information and in Pharmacopoeial Forum*. An online version can be found on STN and Dialog.

Swiss Pharmaceutical Society. *Index nominum 2000: international drug directory*. 17th ed. Stuttgart: Medpharm Scientific Publishers, 2000.

World Health Organisation. *International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceutical Substances: cumulative list*. Geneva: WHO.

Drug Compendia / Handbooks, For Example:

Budavari, S. (Ed) *Merck Index*. 12th ed. Whitehouse, NJ: Merck & Co, 1996.

PJB Publications. *Pharmaprojects*. Richmond, England: PJB Publications.

Available via DataStar, Dialog, Ovid, STN and CD-ROM.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.
Martindale: the complete drug reference. 33rd ed.
London: Pharmaceutical Press, 2002.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has developed a very useful list of web sites for identifying medicines from a range of countries at <http://www.pharmj.com/noticeboard/info/pip/foreignmedicines.html>.

Inevitably the very brief list of sources is above is not exhaustive. If you are new to the world of drug nomenclature it is always worth contacting a pharmaceutical librarian in your home location to discover regional resources. Another tip is that old database searching classic, of which we are sure you are all aware! - that is undertake a bibliographic database search using the name that you do have and then make a note of the other terms that relevant articles are indexed under. Although, of course, this is not particularly thorough, it is a starting point if other sources of nomenclature are not available.

How This Affects Bibliographic Database Searching

Inevitably different bibliographic databases use different types of nomenclature to index drugs. For example MEDLINE will use USAN generic names rather than chemical names, if it can. Proprietary names can only be searched for if they are in the title or author's abstract. EMBASE on the other hand, prefers INNs and will index under proprietary names if they are mentioned in the original article.

Generally, if you are searching for information on a compound's **early development**, use its **lab code** rather than its chemical name or CAS registry number, as most databases prefer indexing under this.

The most **common access point** in databases for drugs is their **nonproprietary name**.

Conclusion

Every drug carries several names - names which can vary over time and between geographical locations. To undertake a thorough database search the researcher must be aware of the need to discover the different names assigned to a drug and be aware that different databases index medical substances under different types of nomenclature. PHING hopes to contribute to the information professional's arsenal by undertaking systematic in-depth evaluation of pharmaceutical databases. The use of drug nomenclature by these resources will be an important part of the process.

If you are interested in joining PHING or being a part of the database evaluation please do get in contact with: PHING Secretary: Michelle Wake at michelle.wake@ulsop.ac.uk

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Small Health Related Libraries in Denmark: development through networking and shared resources*

Present problems versus national strategy

This paper deals with the present conditions for development and networking in small health related libraries in Denmark. Denmark has about 5 million inhabitants. The small health related libraries are situated at hospitals, nursing schools, schools for allied health personnel, the pharmaceutical university, and in governmental institutions responsible for health and disease.

The characteristics of these libraries are:

- Very few employees, mostly 2-5 staff members - only a handful exceed a staff number of 8
- Isolation from similarly inclined colleagues as small health libraries are scattered around the country in many different institutions
- Most of the libraries receive little attention from top management, but much appreciation from users
- Growing activities - mostly due to users' demand for access to electronic resources
- Urgent need for updating staff's competencies in use, implementation and development of electronic services
- Bad economic conditions for libraries in hospitals and governmental institutions, due to the very restrictive economic policy carried out by a new "liberal" government, elected end of 2001

In the 1970's the librarians of the small hospitals libraries met once or twice a year as a kind of "tea party" where working conditions were discussed in an informal way. At the beginning of the 1980's the "tea party" was established as a special group under the Danish Union of Librarians. It still exists as The Group of Medical Information. At first it focused on matters concerning the medical libraries, but soon librarians from nursing libraries were integrated in the group, and now librarians from all kind of health related libraries are invited. Presently the group has 80 members. In 1983 the group was constituted with a board, which over the years has succeeded in making the group work professionally and efficiently alone and in connection with the rest of the library society.

All Danish libraries work together with the same vision, which is based on a model of the "hybrid" library with both traditional library resources and electronic collections. There is a strong tradition in the library environment for co-operation between all libraries - both public and research libraries, and

between small and larger research libraries. The Danish National Library Authority in many ways supports a decentralised development through a commonly known and commonly agreed national strategy for the implementation of a national electronic library infrastructure. This strategy combines co-operation between libraries by means of developing new electronic based services and collection building. Resource sharing is the basic element of cost-effectiveness, and we all know that electronic resources have a high price.

The national strategy is based on the so-called DEF project [Denmark's Electronic Research Library]. See article by A. Schneider. The national strategy was a big challenge to the small health libraries. Most of the opportunities in developing electronic services are based on Z39.50 facilities - and many libraries did not even have an automated library system, partly because of the expenses in buying a system, partly because a very small library neither has manpower, skills, nor money to handle system administration.

In 1998 The Group for Medical Information formed a working party that in less than half a year succeeded in streamlining the need and wishes of about 15 very different libraries into a specification. The working party even managed to evaluate and negotiate the conditions of the two realistic opportunities for automated library systems in Denmark. An application was sent to the DEF secretariat and the funding was soon a reality. The libraries chose the Aleph system and The Danish National Library of Science and Medicine was ready to act as a system host for these libraries. The libraries communicate on a list-server about problems and development within the system and meet once or twice a year to exchange advice and tips in handling the automated library system.

In 1999 access to electronic journals was the most wanted resource in all health libraries but it seemed a rather unrealistic wish due to the cost and the very complicated jurisprudence in the area. The group of small health libraries and a Danish pressure group: The Forum of Smaller Special and Research Libraries joined forces and addressed the National Library Authority about the problems. The Danish National Library Authority strongly supported the idea of making electronic resources accessible for all researchers in all parts of the country. The DEF-secretariat created an economic model that made it realistic for small libraries to buy both license packages and even to buy access to a gateway to these packages. Again the DEF-project came in handy and supported both financing and - not least - the DEF-secretariat took over all negotiations regarding Danish licenses and created a platform for different consortia dealing with databases, e-books, and electronic journals. Again the Danish National Library

of Science and Medicine acts as host for many small libraries situated at the hospitals all over Denmark. Through the DEF-funding other small health libraries have obtained access to electronic journals for a very fair price. Even purchase of gateways for the small libraries are

partly funded though the DEF-project.

Normally licenses to online journals are restricted to university campuses having a medical faculty. Some regional hospital libraries (Aalborg and Viborg) have, however, succeeded in negotiating licences via DEF for all the hospitals in their respective regions.

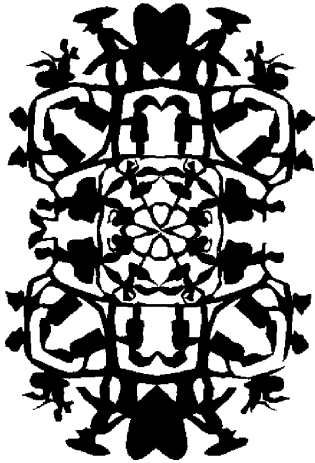


Another part of the DEF-project deals with development of subject portals. Again several small libraries from The Group of Medical Information took part in the design, development, and implementation of the gateway to medical clinical information aimed at practitioners and researchers in the clinical sector in Denmark You can explore the result on <http://www.klininfo.dk> - unfortunately at the moment only in Danish.

Additional results

Library staff require new skills in order to manage the electronic library. Courses organised by The Library School or other institutions are either too expensive or of too long duration. Both matters are crucial in the small library with limited funding and only a few people to manage the daily work. Consequently The Group for Medical Information has offered workshops or short seminars for their members three or four times a year. In the last three years these seminars have concentrated on e.g. presentation of problems related to "Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment", presentation of pharmaceutical information on the Internet, discussion of problems related to procurement of electronic journals, presentation of the new interface to the Danish National Online Catalogue, education of Danish Nurses, presentation of Danish gateways to health information: "Netdoktor" and "sundhed.dk", problems related to gender in health research, problems related to electronic libraries, and much more.





International relations

Networking and shared development are not restricted within the Danish borders. The group is part of both Nordic and European associations where group members actively participate in board and meetings inside the framework of Nordic Association for Medical and Health Information and EAHIL. The Nordic Association for Medical And Health Information takes a strong interest in co-operation with the Baltic Health Libraries.

In March 2000 and April 2002 two Danish members joined Norwegian and Swedish colleagues in arranging continuing education courses tailored to the needs expressed by our colleagues from the 3 Baltic states. "Transfer of Knowledge I - II" each gathered around 30 participants and the project was economically supported by The Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Electronic Research Library: <http://www.deff.dk>

Gateway to Clinical Information: <http://www.klininfo.dk>

Netdoktor (Internet practitioner): <http://www.netdoktor.dk>

Sundhed.dk (Health in Denmark): <http://www.sundhed.dk>

*This paper was first presented at the Meeting of the WHO Documentation Centres in October 2002 in Vienna

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Joyous Networking

Since 1998, the Danish National Library of Science and Medicine (DNLB) has been hosting smaller libraries all over Denmark and at present we have thirty-two libraries. Besides negotiating the contracts with the Danish distributor of the Aleph Library System, DNLB has installed, set up individual system tables and html-pages, supplied hot-line back-up, and provided server capacity and daily maintenance of the system. The yearly fee for this service amounts to approx. 3,500\$ US per library.

In order to optimise the mutual benefits DNLB hosts a yearly user-seminar. The purpose of this seminar is to discuss wishes and requests as well as providing information on future upgrades and new implementation plans. The Aleph-administration team also visits each library yearly during which smaller "on site" adjustments are made. Through this personal contact the Aleph-administration group has gained valuable knowledge of the individual library and its needs as well as getting to know the library staff on a more personal basis - a personal contact which makes problem solving easier!

Obviously there have been some slips-ups from our side but due to an open and honest dialogue the problems have been solved and a successful collaboration has been established

Besides the system management service with the libraries DNLB has established a database- consortia to which smaller libraries for a small fee can buy

access to relevant databases: thirty-eight libraries have joined the consortia.

Finally DNLB offers a home page service to libraries. Presently twenty-two libraries are using this service. Some smaller libraries neither have the time nor the expertise to design and maintain their own home pages. For a small fee DNLB designs a home page that can provide access to both individual data as well as relevant resources supplied by DNLB.

DNLB benefits from these various services - we become wiser and gain a greater understanding of the problems and wishes that different libraries might have. An understanding which consequently benefits our end-users as the problems tend to be the same as the ones we have solved with our partners.

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Danish National Library of Science and Medicine



Danish National Library with the Statue of Steno.

Highlight on... Denmark

When asked for a picture from Denmark for the EAHIL newsletter our choice was Hans Christian Andersen. Most people know his fairy tales, but HCA was a multifaceted artist who also travelled in many European countries.



Hans Christian Andersen

Did you know that HCA made several sketches from his travels? Some of his **drawings** can be seen at the homepage from the HCA museum in Odense
<http://www.odmus.dk/andersen/tegning/billedstart.asp?sprog=engelsk>

You can find more **paper cuts**
<http://www.odmus.dk/andersen/klip/billedstart.asp?sprog=engelsk>
but also from the collections of The Royal Library in Copenhagen

In 2005, 2nd April, it is 200 years since HCA was born and celebrations are being planned. You can get an idea of the planned celebrations and find many links from the special home page <http://www.hca2005.com/>

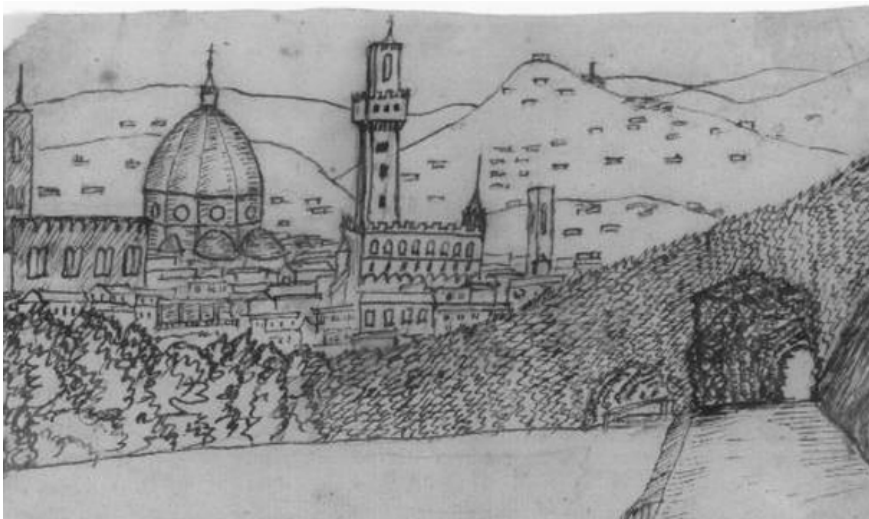
Homepages in English:

The Royal Library, Copenhagen, <http://www.kb.dk/index-en.htm>

The H.C. Andersen museum, Odense, <http://www.odmus.dk/db2/main.asp?kap=616>

Lise N. Christensen

Medical Library, Aalborg Hospital, Denmark



Drawing by Hans Christian Andersen



Papercut by Hans Christian Andersen



Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEF)

History

The DEF project was established by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Research and the Ministry of Education in 1997. Prior to the launching of the project, the three ministries had appointed an inter-ministerial IT working group in May 1996 with a view to conducting a study of the possibilities for developing a number of research libraries into electronic research libraries and thus appearing as one integrated research library. The report was published in 1997 and has served as the foundation for DEF's work as well as helping to place DEF on the agenda not only in the library sector, but certainly also as far as the three ministries involved were concerned. 200 million DKK over a period of five years was set aside for the realisation of DEF and this amount was entered into the national budget for 1998.

Initiation of the DEF-project

The DEF Steering Committee was appointed in January 1998 and to begin with the main tasks fell into three areas:

- Concept development, strategy, budget and action plan
- National licenses
- Library infrastructure, particularly three University-libraries

Vision

The vision was to establish Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEF) as a network of electronic libraries by using the most modern information technology. The information resources were to be made available to researchers, students, business, libraries and other users in a coherent and simple way.

Action plan

The DEF-project grew, and the action plan for the latter part of the project shows five major action lines:

1. Concept development

The DEF project includes a large number of initiatives. The activity area, Concept development, establishes the frames for the development work and ensures that all participants in the project co-operate within a common goal.

2. National infrastructure

The DEF portal www.deff.dk is established as the common access to the electronic research library. An

important prerequisite for flexible exploitation of all the information resources is the development of a common system for access management which gives the user - wherever he is placed - access to payable information resources. DEF also provides financial support for technical components that can be used in the individual library in the development of new services to the users.

3. Library infrastructure

The national infrastructure is based on the individual research libraries' IT systems. It is therefore essential for a well-functioning and modern national infrastructure that the local systems operate on an equal and technically advanced level. During its initial years the DEF project has helped to provide the 12 major Danish research libraries with new library systems that are able to handle the comprehensive volume of data in the co-operation. Plans for the participation of the 44 medium-sized research libraries have simultaneously been prepared. With a gradual extension of DEF, the 200+ small research libraries will be invited to take part in the co-operation, just as the public libraries will be given the opportunity of joining in due course.

4. Digital resources

DEF supports the idea of the hybrid library where electronic catalogues interact with physical collections. Under the action line Digital resources, focus is placed on support for the conversion of printed catalogues, digitisation, extension of the

Highlight on... Denmark

Danish Research Database and the purchase of electronic journals and databases in order to make a larger amount of information resources available via the Internet.

5. Projects and user facilities

DEF supports projects in the libraries by developing new tools and methods for the further development of user services as well as tools that support the end user's work with the information resources.

Licenses

From the budget of 200 million DKK, DEF has during the project period spent about 35 million DKK on licenses.

In 1997 the Conference of Directors of the Research Libraries appointed a license group consisting of a representative from each of the 12 major research libraries. The group was later extended with 1 representative from the small and medium-sized research libraries, 1 representative from the county libraries and 1 from the DEF-secretariat. This group still deals with all license issues under the DEF umbrella.

The primary target group for DEF is researchers, lecturers and students at the country's universities and research institutions. The secondary target group is the county libraries and private firms.

In 1997 the first consortium agreement in Denmark was signed. This was before DEF entered the scene, and the agreement was made with Academic Press and gave Aalborg University Library, Technical Knowledge Center of Denmark, University of Lund in Sweden and the State and University Library in Denmark access to all the journals from Academic Press. The first DEF license was for the database Crossfire.

By the end of 2002, 74 DEF licenses had been established, which together gave access to about 9,000 electronic full text journals, and to a large number of databases and reference works.

Initially it was mainly the 12 major research libraries which participated in the license agreements, but over

the project period the number has increased considerably, and at the moment 116 institutions are involved in the DEF licenses and also approx. 200 hospitals, university institutes etc. have gained access to electronic resources.

Access

Access to electronic resources takes place in a variety of ways, and so far DEF has not found the solution which would mean that all resources can be accessed from one interface. The DEF secretariat has prepared an alphabetical title list which enables you to search on all titles or on institution basis. From this list there is access to the full text, if the user is on campus. In September 2002 remote access was established for a number of institutions in Denmark. This means that wherever the student or researcher happens to be placed, he can, through his own institution's network, gain access to the electronic resources. At the moment work is going on to extend this access to many more institutions.

Co-operation

The DEF project proved definitely that co-operation is very valuable. Over the project period many co-operations have been created, and the majority of these will continue also in 2003, where DEF enters its operational phase. Over the past year, license agreements at county level have been signed in a number of places in Denmark. Co-operation at county level has helped secure access to the electronic resources for some smaller health institutions and we expect this co-operation to spread to many more areas, geographically as well as professionally.

The future

From 2003 DEF is no longer a project - it has entered its operational phase. At the moment it has not been finally decided which action lines will be prioritised, but a journals' directory is quite clearly on the cards.

Facts on DEF at 31 December 2002

- About 100 libraries have joined deff.dk which gives access to about 800 electronic net resources.
- Collections of journals, articles and reports
- Bibliographies
- DEF libraries

- DEF library catalogues
- Subject gateways
- Links collections and virtual libraries
- Special collections
- Reference works
- 7 subject gateways are operating and a further 4 are under development
- 122 libraries have had - or are about to have - their library systems updated through DEF in accordance with DEF's technical standards
- DEF gives access to 74 license products (journals, databases and reference works) containing about 9,000 journals in full text
- 116 libraries (sites) participate in the DEF licenses and these cover a further 194 institutes/institutions/hospitals
- Retro-conversion of about 2.5 million catalogue cards from 14 research libraries is in progress to the amount of about 20 million DKK
- 14 bibliographies/index works have been retro-converted and contain about 882,000 references
- 35 research libraries participate or have participated in 20 DEF development projects, which is a cover testing of systems, subject gateways, user instruction, user surveys, user satisfaction, digitisation, technology-supported teaching (e-learning) and web archiving
- 9 user-run projects are being prepared and one is 'in the bag'
- 3 libraries and 10 publishers participate in 5 digitisation projects, i.e.
- Weilbach Kunstner Leksikon, covering information on 37,500 works of art and 6,000 Danish and foreign artists in 55 museums
- Illustreret Tidende (Illustrated Chronicle), comprising 65 volumes, 58,000 pages and 4,000 pictures.
- Archive for Danish Literature, where the works of 70 major Danish authors are digitised (app. 150,000 pages) in full text, as well as author profiles with an introduction to the author and his/her works.

Further information:

DEF-project homepage: <http://deflink.dk>

DEF Portal (DEFF.dk): <http://deff.dk>

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Drawing by Hans Christian Andersen



10 years of psychiatric patient information. PsykInfo – Psychiatric Information Centre for Patients and Relatives.

Marianne Mulvad and Inger Vibeke Nielsen

The beginning

In 1992, based on inspiration from the USA and the United Kingdom, the Director and employees at *Psykiatrisk Videncenter*, Psychiatric Hospital in Aarhus, Denmark decided to do something about general information regarding psychiatric illnesses. A description of the project was elaborated in co-operation with a representative from nursing, and the medical team, and two representatives from *SIND* (an association of patients and relatives of the mentally ill). We applied for money for the project from established funds and the Psychiatric Hospital in Aarhus, and in 1993 *PsykiInfo* (Psychiatric Information Centre for Patients and Relatives) was initiated. The purpose was:

- To give general information about psychiatric illnesses to patients, relatives and other persons with a specific interest in the topic
- To spread knowledge about psychiatric illnesses in the community



PsykiInfo was established in connection with the patient library and, simultaneously, a group with representatives from *SIND* and different staff groups at the hospital was formed. This group supported *PsykiInfo* from the start. All were of the opinion that the target group had a great need for acquiring information independently concerning psychiatric illnesses, medicine, other treatments, social support providers etc. At the same time there was a great desire to explode some of the worst misunderstandings and myths such as - mentally ill are idiotic, mentally ill are dangerous, etc. – by providing general information to the citizens.

Materials

The centre has the same types of material as all other libraries, but our stock display according to our own in-house keyword system, makes it easier for the borrowers to find the materials. We attach importance to the fact that the collection can be used anonymously and without assistance from the staff, if necessary. Most of the stock can be borrowed free of charge. However, our 460 videos can only be borrowed for educational purposes, both in the official educational system (primary schools, high schools, colleges, and education within the health service), and

for more informal use for education in staff groups, or study groups. We often hear that the local libraries “do not have any videos on psychiatry at all” and therefore people are most willing to drive 50 kilometres to borrow from our library.

Theme nights

This year we arrange 12 – 16 theme nights. One or two professional persons talk about prevalence, symptoms, treatment, and prognosis. In most cases a psychiatrist is present, but we have also had many contributions from nursing staff, psychologists, occupational therapists, etc. In addition if the topic permits it, a patient and/or a relative speak about how it is to live with (or close to a person with) the mental illness in question. We gather ideas for the theme nights from the everyday life in *PsykiInfo* and in addition a group of professional people and relatives suggest topics from obvious needs.

The theme nights were initiated in Aarhus, but are now taking place in other large towns in the county. Right from the beginning there was great interest and the participants comprise patients, relatives, people undergoing education, and professional people with a non-psychiatric background who in their daily life meet the mentally ill plus citizens interested in the

topic. Originally, the theme nights were on offer for everybody interested but very soon they were so oversubscribed that there was not enough room in the lecture hall which only seats 200. After some very unpleasant incidents (often 300 – 400 people turned up) we decided to sell tickets at DKK 20 (Euro 2.7) after pre-reservation. This has resulted in quieter evenings and no further unpleasant episodes: the interest remained even though the entry fee had been introduced.

**Theme nights: 85 meetings in 9½ years
13,469 participants plus an estimated 2,000
who have called or showed up in vain**

Personal counselling

Once a week it is possible to have a personal talk with a nurse, or a relative from the local *SIND* relative group. Each counselling session can last 30 minutes, and the reasons for the approaches are very different ranging from pupils who want to know “why do you become schizophrenic” to acute ill patients who of course are submitted to the correct care immediately. A talk with a nurse is not meant as a treatment but is only regarded as additional general information, i.e. a supplement to the printed material in the centre and the information on the wards.

Library information

There are many visitors to the hospital, and they can, for a small fee, hear about the offers from *PsykInfo*, and are also given a presentation of the most important literature within psychiatry. Students within the health service sector principally use this service.

The publishing house

After a short period it was obvious that short easy-to-read texts about the various psychiatric illnesses were required. Consequently, in 1996 a non-profit publishing company, which published pamphlets aimed at patients and relatives, was established. Quite a number of pamphlets have appeared since then, the topics being the descriptions of the illnesses and their treatments. The pamphlets are presented at the theme nights, sold through *PsykInfo*, by mail order, or through the Internet. Besides our own pamphlets we

also sell information material from *PsykiatriFonden*, Denmark, and *PsykOpp*, Norway. The costs are met partly by profits from the sales, but principally from sponsorship from pharmaceutical companies, health funds, and grants from the Ministry of Social Affairs. After one year with our own publishing company we decided to initiate a periodical (*PsykInfo Nyt*) with short articles on mental illnesses, new items of interest, an agenda diary and advertisements for the pamphlets from the publishing company. Unfortunately, there was no money for PR for the periodical, so it was not possible to achieve enough subscribers to finance this publication, so after three years the publication ceased.

Statistics: The Publishing Company:

Own publications	24 titles
Psykiatrifonden	38
PsykOpp, Norway	16
Other	14
Total	76

Home pages

Of course it was upsetting that the publication of *PsykInfo Nyt* had to be halted, but as it occurred at the same time as the home pages of *Psykiatrisk Videncenter* were extended, much information from *PsykInfo Nyt* was transferred to the home pages. Besides information on arrangements, new publications, and services, the home pages contain information on mental illnesses. You can find short descriptions of the various illnesses and the different treatments. Moreover, you can find literature lists to all these pages making it possible for the citizens to go to any public library and borrow the literature, which has been evaluated by the centre staff. This is of great benefit to the general public as there no longer are endless queries necessary in every library, because a list of relevant literature is available. Furthermore, each page contains links to other pages dealing with the same illness/treatment. All links have been pre-evaluated to ensure their worth. Our web-adress is: www.aaa.dk/psyk-viden

Collaboration with the Psychiatric Research Library
Just before establishing *PsykInfo*, the patient library

Highlight on... Denmark

and Psychiatric Research Library administration were amalgamated. It has had a great impact on both their development. It has been a great advantage for both libraries that another library close by could supplement the collection. The two libraries, both in separate locations, have split the purchases: The Psychiatric Research Library purchase literature in both danish and english for research, treatment and development and *PsykiInfo* buy danish literature for care, patients and relatives. The implication being staff have access to both the easily written which they can use in their daily work in the wards, and the more specific which is used for developing treatments, etc. At the same time, this means that patients and relatives wanting to do further research in a specific topic more than the *PsykiInfo* material offers have had the chance to borrow the material at the Psychiatric Research Library.

The Patient library

The patient library has not been forgotten in connection with these new tasks. In the past couple of years one of the librarians has, in collaboration with each ward, tested new kinds of library services. At some wards the librarian participates in the patient meetings, e.g. presenting new exciting books.

Furthermore, reading sessions are offered at the library 4 times each spring and autumn, the three personal computers for patients are being used very much, not least for surfing on the Internet. In addition, art exhibitions by the patients are being held and it is possible to listen to music there too.

PsykiInfo in the entire country?

Over the years PsykiInfo centres have been established in the following counties: North Jutland (Aalborg), Viborg, Vejle, Ringkøbing (Herning) and Funen (Middelfart). The structure varies from place to place, and one of the centres has (unfortunately) no librarian. In 2001 Aarhus County established *HandiInfo* which is our counterpart within the subject area of disability. In connection with PsykiInfo's 10 years anniversary this autumn we intend to invite all the above and other patient information centres to a network meeting in Aarhus. All centres are characterized by a great deal of work and small grants and allowances, but there is no doubt that it is important to keep in touch so we can learn from each other. This excellent collaboration can only result in common product- updated, clear and valuable information to all who are affected by mental illnesses.

Highlight on... Denmark



Design - Visual Information Provision: the case of usability of library websites

Last year, a series of articles was published in the principal German libraries journal "Bibliotheksdienst" on the issue of Library Websites Interface Design featuring a round table in November 2001 on library Websites. This is an issue of major importance to all of us involved in library management or website / content support / management.

There is a steadily growing awareness also in the library field, that the design of easy to handle interfaces is the key to the usability of services provided through the net. The digital or virtual library will only have success in the long run, if librarians are not only able to bring their resources to the web - but are also able to find design solutions that make it possible for the lay-person, the student and the scientists to retrieve easily the desired material.

It has become commonplace to establish the bare "Google interface" as a golden standard for retrieval interfaces. Though insiders of internet and/or retrieval technology are aware of the limits of Google and the mightiness of many libraries/special subject online databases on the opposite, the Google interface may be a valued orientation mark.

The cited round table with 20 delegates from main German libraries and web agencies listed several deficiencies and issues for enhancement of libraries websites related to four groups: Function and Content // Design and Structure // Techniques and Software // Organization and Financies.

Some of the main deficiencies were highlighted in the area of:

profiling of library services // selection of Information // presentation of information // transparency of usage rules for offered services // presentation of the library and public relations // linking and cooperation with other libraries.

A main issue discussed concerned the dominance of library jargon with inconsistent support for orientation on library websites, principally based on the lack of design competence of librarians involved in website construction and content provision. The dominance of library jargon is contrasted with many different terminological approaches worldwide for comparable features and services. There is no widely accepted and implemented web-terminology for library services and features.

There is growing evidence as website creation and production develops rapidly, that the simple knowledge of html-coding is not enough for professional development of complex websites. While large libraries may have easier and better possibilities to develop or acquire such competencies it is also important for smaller entities within the libraries to gain access to these.

The spread and growing list of so called Content Management Systems are a sign of this development of growing demands on technology on one hand and necessity of easy access to content generation on the other. As in many companies also in the library field the organizational pattern of responsibilities for website management varies in many ways, reflecting the still young and little experience in finding settled and target-driven solutions within the staff. It is still too early to talk about the efficiency of organizational concepts. Though this round table mainly featured the German situation and emphasized the better situation in other countries, I think the question of usability is a highly important multidimensional and continuing issue for all library websites. It is the key to the window of our services and profession to the public.

The next column will contain a list of commented resources in this field. Readers who have detected highly recommended resources are invited to email these to Constantin Cazan 100016.2752@compuserve.com.

Bibliography: Deficiencies of Libraries Websites. Bibliotheksdienst 36 (2002) 1323-1357

Constantin Cazan

Public Services Quarterly 2002 Volume 1 Number 1

The first issue of Public Services Quarterly is described in its foreword as “the current incarnation of the less focused Public and Access Services Quarterly.” This new journal sets out its aims as being, “specifically addressing the provision of services in the changing library environment. It is not just concerned with services to the campus community, but also with service to students off campus and to the community at large.”

The journal’s first issue presents articles on a broad range of subjects including thin client technology (a thin client is defined as “an appliance that does little or none of its own data processing, [being] designed to access information and applications over a network”), a description of an inter library loan system for off campus users, high density remote storage and the service side of systems librarianship. Many of these articles have useful information for the health sciences librarian, despite the bias of the journal towards the academic sector. Some aspects of this issue of the journal are of less value to the non-American reader, the best example of this being an article entitled “Using the Web to answer legal reference questions”, which is quite evidently of use to transatlantic readers only.

Changing patterns of service provision, driven by the synergy of increased user expectation and technological developments require LIS professionals to be aware of solutions to problems brought about by the change in service provision. This new publication goes some way towards providing pointers which will enable librarians to enhance the service they offer to their users.

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Advertentie BioMed



Dear Colleagues,

A debate is raging on the change (past and future) of scientific and medical journals. The e-journals have become “*the journals*” with a host of implication for authors, readers, publishers, librarians and indexers (T. Delamothe. *BMJ*, 2002, 325, 1475). There is increasing resentment in the academic community that it is having to pay more than ever before for information that effectively produces itself and involves the appearance of new players such as HighWire Press, BioMed central and PubMed Central (K. Abbasi et al. *BMJ*, 2002, 325, 1472). Publishers have to increase the value they add to information through filtering, distilling and organising it better (K. Abbasi. *BMJ*, 2002, 325, 1472).

What about librarians in this environment? A study on position advertising in American Libraries trace the development of the “Electronic Resources Librarian” position and identify a set of characteristics needed to be successful in this type of position. Although the library landscape may shift a great deal, the electronic resources librarian position does not represent something new and revolutionary, but an evolutionary continuum of public service in libraries (W. Fisher. *Library Collection, Acquisitions and Technical Services*, 2003, 27 (1), 3). Science librarians are silent but indispensable partners in a broad range of research and development activity (B. Ham. *Chemistry*, 2003, Winter, 9).

Giovanna F. Miranda

JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of February 2003, the following journal issue of *Health Information and Libraries Journal* has been received: **vol. 20, 2003, no 1.**

B.A. Sen. Research governance: implications for health library and information professionals. p. 3 -14. This article reviews the Department of Health Research Governance Framework, discussing the implications of research governance for library and information professionals and recommending strategies for best practice within the information profession relating to research governance.

S. Martin. Using SERVQUAL in health libraries across Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. p. 15 - 21. This study provides the results of a survey. The aim of this project was to measure the service quality of each individual library and to provide an overall picture of the quality of library services within the southwest peninsula.

O. Obst. Patterns and costs of printed and online journal usage. p. 22 - 32. The article examines the correlation of usage of a

matched set of print and online titles, the validity of e-journals usage statistics and the impact of online on print journal usage.

A. Garg, K.M. Turtle. Effectiveness of training health professionals in literature search skills using electronic health databases - a critical appraisal. p. 33 - 41. The objective of this study was to assess the effect on health professionals’ skills of one to eight hours literature search and retrieval training from electronic health databases.

S. Martin. Impact of a graduate entry programme on a medical school library service. p. 42-49. The aim of this study was to compare the use of library facilities by first year undergraduate medical students and Graduate Entry Programme students and to determine which library services were more frequently used so that this could be taken into account in future Information Services planning.

Brief communications p. 50

A quest for questionnaires (A.Booth) p. 53

Learning and teaching p. 57

BOOKS REVIEW

E-Serials. Publishers, libraries, users, and standards. 2nd Edition. Ed. W. Jones. The Haworth Press, Inc, Binghamton, NY, USA, 2003. ISBN 0-7890-1229-4, \$59,95 (hard); ISBN 0-7890-1230-8, \$39.95 (soft), pp. 314.

This volume gives an overview of the world of e-serials from various perspectives, the publishers, the librarians and the users. The book is an update of the edition published in 1998 and reflects the current situation on publishing, pricing, copyright, acquisitions, cataloguing and metadata, preservation and archiving, indexing, etc.

Interlibrary loan and document delivery in the larger academic library. A guide for university, research and larger public libraries. Ed. L. A. Hilyer. The Haworth Press, Inc, Binghamton, NY, USA. 2002. ISBN 0-7890-1950-7, \$39.95 (hard cover); ISBN 0-7890-1951-5, \$24.95 (soft cover), pp.130.

This book has been co-published simultaneously as *Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery & Information Supply*, Vol. 13 (1/2), 2002.

Based upon the policies and procedures of the Interlibrary Loan Department at Rice University (Houston, Texas), the aim of these Guides is to provide a case-study of an actual ILL department and general suggestions for organizing and operating today's Interlibrary Loan department.

Implementing Digital Reference Services: setting standards and making it real. Eds. R. D. Lankes, C.R. McClure, M. Gross and J. Pomerantz. Facet Publishing, London (UK). 2002. ISBN 1-85604-462-9, £45.00, pp. 248.

The focus of the book is on the theoretical and practical issues of digital reference in libraries and information services. It explains the landscape of digital reference drawn from the expertise made available at the Third Annual Virtual Reference Desk Conference.

PAPERS REVIEW

Four futures for scientific and medical publishing.
K. Abbasi et al.. *BMJ*, 2002, 325, 1472

Is that it? How online articles have changed over the past five years.

T. Delamothe. *BMJ*, 2002, 325, 1475

The electronic resources librarian position: a public services phenomenon?

W. Fisher. *Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services*, 2003, 27 (1), 3

The future of journals.

D. Kaser. *Infotoday, Newslink*, 2003, Issue 41
<http://www.infotoday.com/it/mar03/kaser2.shtml>

Science librarians.

B. Ham. *Chemistry*, 2003, Winter, 9.

Strategies for consumer health reference training.

J. M. Benedetti. *Health Care on the Internet*, 2002, 6 (4), 63

INFORMATION SOURCES

..... Web-based

E-LIS is an electronic open access archive for scientific or technical documents, published or unpublished, in Librarianship, Information Science and Technology, and related application activities. E-LIS is an archive to deposit preprints, postprints and other LIS publications and a service for finding and downloading documents in electronic format, offered as a free service to the international LIS community. E-prints for LIS have been established as a community service by RCLIS (Research in Computing, Library and Information Science) to promote open access to papers on these fields.

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Publications & Products

It is delivered monthly by mail.

<http://www.infosourcespub.com/publications.cfm>

Information on herbs, botanicals & other products.
This web site provides free objective information for oncologists and healthcare professionals, including a clinical summary for each agent and details about constituents, adverse effects, interactions, and potential benefits or problems. Evaluations of alternative or unproved cancer therapies are also provided.
<http://www.mskcc.org/aboutherbs>

NEWS FROM PUBLISHERS

Bentham Science Publishers has announced that, in the year 2003, all of the Bentham Science's journals published in the year 2000, 2001 and the first 6 months of 2002 are available free on-line in full text PDF form in collaboration with INGENTA.
<http://www.bentham.org/info.html>

Ebsco has executed definitive agreements to acquire the European operation of RoweCom/divine Information Services This acquisition allows RoweCom/divine Information Services are to continue operations in Europe and particularly in France. Ebsco is asking publishers to continue to fulfill subscriptions to RoweCom/divine Information Services customers.

Ebsco has executed definitive agreement to acquire also the U.S. operations of RoweCom Inc., which include Dawson, Inc. Dawson Information Quest, Inc. The Faxon Company Inc, Turner Subscription Agency, Inc.
<http://www.ebsco.com>

Thomson ISI announces the addition of eFirst technology to ISI Current Contents Connect. eFirst provides access to the bibliographic information from peer reviewed articles in electronic form before the complete journal issue is published. Currently ISI has agreements with Blackwell, Karger, Springer, Thieme, Walter de Gruyter and HighWire. Additional publishers will be finalizing their participation.
<http://www.isinet.com>

NEWS

Since 2000 the **British Medical Association** and the **British Medical Journal** have set up a 30,000 GBP (47000 Euro) a year information fund to donate books and journals to medical centres and libraries in less developed countries and other areas of need. To ensure that the books and journals are available to as many people as possible, the fund considers applications from institutions only, not from individuals. The fund has provided books to Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Somaliland, Uganda, Nigeria, Iraq, Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
BMJ, 2003, 326, 298



Health Information & Libraries Journal



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Please send a message to: EAHIL-secr@nic.surfnet.nl (This offer is not valid for our members in the UK or in the USA).

26-30 May 2003, Dubrovnik/Mljet, Croatia

LIDA 2003 - Libraries in the Digital Age.

For further information: <http://knjiga.pedos.hr/lida/>

13-16 juin 2003, Aubagne (France)

Le Citoyen Européen et les Bibliothèques: Europe - Information - Libertés.

Congrès annuel de l'Association des bibliothécaires français (ABF)

For further information: <http://www.abf.asso.fr/congres/2003/index.html>

7-15 June 2003, Sudak, Ukraine

Libraries and Associations in the Transient World: New Technologies and New Forms of Cooperation.

Tenth International Conference "Crimea 2003"

For further information: <http://www.gpntb.ru/win/inter-events/crimea2003/eng/confer.htm>

17-21 June 2003, Rome, Italy

Extending the network: libraries and their partners.

32nd LIBER Annual General Conference 2003.

For further information: <http://www.bnrcrm.librari.beniculturali.it/ita/liberpro.htm>

26-29 June 2003, Oslo, Norway

Cross Boundaries - Join Forces.

Nordic-Baltic Eahil Workshop

For further information: <http://www.namhi.org/oslo2003.htm>

24-27 August 2003, Adelaide, South Australia

Celebrate the future.

10th Asia Pacific Special Health and Law Librarians Conference.

For further information: <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/shllc/2003/index.htm>

19-23 September 2003, Lesvos, Greece

Libraries Without Walls 5.

The Distributed Delivery of Library and Information Services

For further information: Email: LWW5@mmu.ac.uk

28-31 October 2003, Canberra, Australia

8th Interlending and Document Supply International Conference

For further information: <http://www.nla.gov.au/ilds/registration.htm>

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Manuscripts in English should be about 3-4 standard (1.50 space) typewritten pages and provided by e-mail or on a diskette. Informative title, short summary and keywords should be provided. References should be expressed in Vancouver style. Authors of submitted papers accept editing and re-use of published material by EAHIL including electronic publishing of the Newsletter on the EAHIL website.

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