

European Association for Health Information and Libraries

February 2004 • N° 66

Spotlight on...
PHARMACY



Have You completed the EAHL
Survey at www.eahil.org

Have you registered
for the:



9th European Conference of Medical and Health
Libraries in Santander, September 20th-25th
2004?

Early Bird registration
Date 15 May 2004

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Newsletter

to European Health Librarians

Newsletter to European Health Librarians

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Editorial

I wish a very successful and happy new year to all EAHIL members. 2003 offered a memorable workshop in Oslo and with it a more open and relaxed opportunity for us all to contribute our suggestions and our enthusiasm on different topics concerning common interests. Arne Jakobsson, our president, is now offering all members a chance to express further ideas on paper on how to form a better EAHIL in the future. Please take the time to spend ten minutes on completing this valuable survey at www.eahil.org. This is a chance for everyone to be heard.

I enjoyed very much the opportunity to attend the EAHIL board meeting in Amsterdam and the report makes interesting reading. It was also decided at this meeting that from issue 66, February 2004, the EAHIL newsletter would be published in Romania. Therefore this issue will be the first Cluj edition and I hope we can continue the high standard set with the Netherlands printing. One item raised during the meeting was the quality of photographic reproduction in the newsletter. The quality of the illustrations printed in the newsletter largely depends on the quality of the illustrations provided by the authors and therefore I have made an addendum to the instructions for authors.

This issue is the very first in our theme issues and I would like to thank Linda Lisgarten and Michelle Wake for all their hard work in making this the success it is. There are also very good reports of the German Library Association annual meeting and the Nordic Seminar on evidence-based medicine and nursing and of course more information on the 9th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Santander, which promises to be exciting, not only scientifically but also socially.

The newsletters for 2004 are as follows and I would appreciate any further proposals for theme issues for 2005 and of course for any other Highlight on...countries.:

2004

Issue 67 - Feature articles [Deadline – April 15th 2004]

Issue 68- Theme Issue- *International Collaboration* [Deadline – July 15th 2004]

Issue 69 – 9th EAHIL Conference in Santander [Deadline – October 15th 2004]

It is with regret that I have to announce that Constantin Cazan has given up the Internet column and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his very interesting and valuable contributions over the past few years. However we have found an admirable replacement in Benoit Thirion, who will take over the Internet column from this issue. Benoit Thirion is Chief Librarian of the Rouen University Hospital Centre Library and coordinator of CISMef (Catalogue and Index of the French Medical Resources).

Lastly for issue 67 I have already accepted 2 feature articles but I am still looking for two or three more. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sally Wood-Lamont
Editor-in-Chief
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Letter from the President



It is getting brighter! I am writing this column on the darkest day of the year, 22nd of December. Especially when it is very dark and cold it is essential that we have something to look forward to. We can all look forward to the 9th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Santander, Spain, 20-25 September 2004.

I was very fortunate to join the International Programme Committee (IPC) for their meeting in Santander during two very sunny and warm days, December 13th and 14th 2003. Most of the time was spent inside working, but it was a warm atmosphere and we had some free time on Saturday afternoon. Altogether 122 abstracts were received, all very good and interesting but the IPC had to select only 69 oral presentations to fill 3 plenary sessions and five parallel sessions with 3-4 concurrent sessions. The PhInG (Pharmaceutical Information Group) and EVLG (European Veterinary Libraries Group) will have their own sessions included in the programme. There will also be a poster session and continuing education courses. The Council meeting will be on Wednesday the 22nd of September 14.00-16.00 and the General Assembly will be on Friday the 24th of September 17.00-18.30. Please join to shape the future of EAHIL.

Santander is a wonderful town and September is the best time of year. The conference hotel Santemar, a 4 star hotel, is situated in the Sardinero area only 50 meters from the Sardinero beach. Very close are four other hotels you can choose from. You can fly to the international airport in Bilbao, 1 hour and 15 minutes by bus from Santander plus transfer to the bus station or the airport in Santander. Please check what is more convenient for you. Since the total number of attendants to the Conference cannot exceed 500, I suggest you register as soon as possible. Registration is now open and information is already available via a link from EAHIL web (www.eahil.org). Preparations are well on their way and we can all look forward to a conference with an excellent scientific and equally excellent social programme. Please make sure to extend your visit to really enjoy the beach and the sites.

At the EAHIL Board meeting in Amsterdam 9th of January, the Board awarded the 2007 workshop to the Medical Library of Jagiellonian University in co-operation with Information Studies Department of The Institute of Public Health of Jagiellonian University. The proposed date for the workshop is September 11 – 14, 2007.

We also got a report from the progress for the EAHIL Workshop 2005: *Overall quality - quality for all*. Palermo, Italy, June 23-25, 2005 and for the 10th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2006. Additional information will be available from the EAHIL web. Please contact the Board if you wish to organize future conferences or workshops.

News from our Association

We can look back at a very good year for EAHIL including a very successful workshop in Oslo – *magic from the north*, and a lively and thought-provoking Focus Group session at the EAHIL Council Meeting in Oslo. The result from the Focus Group has been used as one input in the EAHIL Survey of European Health Information Professionals. The survey was designed during the autumn with the help of test pilots from the EAHIL Council. The survey became available on EAHIL web in November 2003. The survey is based on the survey of Canadian Health Science Information professionals. The result from both surveys will be presented at a parallel scientific session in Santander. The EAHIL survey will also be presented in a compressed version during the General Assembly.

Many EAHIL and non-EAHIL members have already participated in the survey. If you have not already done so, you still have a last chance. The survey is available on EAHIL web (www.eahil.org) until March 15th 2004.

Arne Jakobsson
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Report of the Meeting of The EAHIL Executive Board

Amsterdam, 9th January, 2004

The EAHIL Executive Board's meeting took place in Amsterdam, at The Netherlands Cancer Institute, on January 9, 2004. Board members Meile Kretaviciene, Gabriella Poppi and Tony McSeán were not able to attend the meeting due to various reasons (illness, airline strike). Neither could the two invited Italian organizers of the Palermo workshop attend.

President Arne Jakobsson greeted those present (Board Members Suzanne Bakker, Linda Lisgarten, Marta Viragos, Ulrich Korwitz, and Sally Wood –Lamont, the *Newsletter* Chief Editor (by invitation). The minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2003 in Oslo were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings. One copy was signed officially by the President. Two matters, not otherwise covered by the agenda, arose: representation of the association at the mid-term IFLA meeting in Rome and the matter of EAHIL scholarships to Santander.

Concerning the President's report, Arne Jakobsson had previously circulated by e-mail his report to the Board. He stated that the lively and thought-provoking Focus Group session at the EAHIL

Council Meeting in Oslo clearly demonstrated that our members are interested in the future of our Association. A survey was prepared in which the results from the Focus Group had been used as input. The survey was based on CHLA/ABSC (Canadian Health Libraries Association) Survey of Canadian Health Science Information professionals with some modifications (some questions had been deleted or changed and some had been added). The survey is web based, and since December has been available on EAHIL's home page (www.eahil.org). The same web based survey tool is used as CHLA/ABSC. Arne emphasized that he will analyse the questionnaires at Santander.

The Board decided that both the result from the Focus Group session in Oslo and the final result

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from the survey will be considered in the final proposal on the future of EAHIL at the General Assembly at Santander. As regards EAHIL representation on other committees and groups, Arne Jakobsson reported that Eva Alopaeus represented the association at the MLA meeting in San Francisco, May 2003. MLA and EAHIL shared a booth in the exhibition area at the IFLA meeting in Berlin, August 2003, where Linda Lisgarten, Suzanne Bakker and Bruce Madge provided information. The booth helped to raise our profile as a professional organization. Arne Jakobsson conveyed greetings from EAHIL at the 50-year anniversary of the Norwegian Library Association, Section for Medical and Health Sciences (SMH) and the 175-year anniversary of Semmelweis University's Central Library, Budapest, Hungary.

Concerning the Treasurer's Report, the text was distributed on site so the Board decided to go through the figures. It was stated that in the result column some of the figures are not yet definitive, so it was decided that the final report would be ready by the end of February. Income from bank interest is down, presumably because of the very low interest rates paid in the Euro zone. The cost of the secretariat is significantly down on the year because of the staff shortages in NVB during the year and the resulting reduction in the amount of work they were able to do for the association. The newsletter printing costs are over budget because of the larger than expected number of pages during the year. The Board decided that the price for advertisements would be raised by 10 percent. Arne stated that EAHIL had achieved its aims of having one year's worth of expenses in hand at the bank and the provisional result is a small profit. The main focus in the future is to spend less on administration and more on projects and scholarship.

Suzanne Bakker gave an oral report on the activity of the EAHIL Secretariat, where most of

the work is connected with accounting and administration. At the bureau, all financial registration is now done by the computer, which makes the production of various reports easier. A lot of effort was made to correct the list of membership, which is still unfortunately not completed. The Board decided that in the cases of non-payment of membership fees we should stop sending the Newsletter to them in May. It was also agreed that Council members should be activated by the Supervisor to help in checking their country's membership list. Suzanne reported that at the Secretariat she would start work with the archives. As prescribed by law, archival material regarding finances must be kept for a period of seven years. It was proposed for consideration, a reduction of Supervisor hours, which was accepted by the Board.

Regarding the EAHIL *Newsletter*, the Board members were unanimous in their appreciation of Sally Wood-Lamont's superb performance as Editor, and they also thanked Suzanne for her invaluable assistance. Sally gave an update on plans for future issues of the *Newsletter*, which would include a mixture of themed issues, profiles, and conference specials, plus all the usual features. Sally also announced that Constantin Cazan would not be able to continue to run the Internet Page column, but she had asked Benoit Thirion and he is willing to continue the work. The question was raised again as to whether the time was right to move towards an electronic-only newsletter. After full discussion, the Board agreed that the *Newsletter* is very important in that it is very much the "public face" of the Association, and so any changes must be very thoroughly considered. To reduce the cost of publishing, the Board decided to transfer the *Newsletter* printing to Cluj, Romania. Suzanne reported that Ebsco is willing to cover the mailing cost of the *Newsletter*. The Board agreed that a written contract should be signed with EBSCO about future sponsorship.

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Ulrich Korwitz suggested that in producing the *Newsletter* it is important that the quality of the photos be improved.

As for EAHIL committees and subgroups, Arne reported that the Veterinary Subgroup have reactivated their activity and they have organised a session at Santander. They have already set up a discussion list with 49 members. Re the Pharmaceutical Information Group (PhInG), Linda reported that PhInG had launched a discussion list EAHIL-P for its members in June 2003. The list now includes 23 members. PhInG have a scientific session at the 9th European Conference at Santander. It was announced also to the Board that the WHO working group would be present at Santander.

Concerning the virtual EAHIL, the Board decided at the Oslo workshop to circulate a questionnaire to all members to ask for their opinions on what issues EAHIL should address. The questionnaire has been on the EAHIL home page since December. Arne gave a short report to the effect that he had got 62 answers. The questions cover important themes such as continuing education and professional development, the EAHIL *Newsletter*, the EAHIL web and discussion list, virtual EAHIL, the accreditation system, etc. The Board agreed that all Council members should be asked to promote the questionnaire by sending it to their medical librarians discussion list nationally. The President reported that a very detailed analysis will be presented at the General Assembly meeting at Santander.

As for the forthcoming election next autumn, the Board agreed that the nomination of the council members should be organised nationally and that it does not need GA approval. For the Board members, the call for nomination will be included in the *Newsletter*.

Regarding the HILJ (Health Information Library Journal), the new editorial board has put in a lot of effort to make the journal more European, more scientific and attractive. Members are in agreement that the Board should encourage colleagues to publish in this journal.

Concerning the EAHIL website, the Board was unanimous in contending that it would be necessary to find a webmaster who is able to manage the content of EAHIL's website. The best solution would be to put up an advertisement in the *Newsletter*.

As for the EAHIL membership list and membership database, it was announced that the EAHIL membership list for 2003 had been distributed electronically as a PDF to all EAHIL members during the summer of 2003. Still an important challenge facing EAHIL is to find ways of attracting new members and retaining existing ones. All EAHIL members, particularly Board and Council representatives, are encouraged to be proactive in this regard. It was decided that EAHIL should produce a leaflet about the association and a welcome letter for new members.

Arne reported that the University of Oslo Library's Library of Medicine and Health Sciences has agreed to develop and host a web based membership database where all EAHIL members can access and update their own membership record. This will in the future significantly reduce the administrative workload of the EAHIL secretariat and make it possible to go virtual.

Pertaining to the question of scholarships, the Board agreed to advertise four scholarships for the Santander conference. They will be advertised in the next issue of the *Newsletter*. The Board asked Ulrich Korwitz to prepare the invitation and the

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criteria (two scholarships for librarians from East-Central European countries with an accepted paper or poster and two young colleagues under age 35).

EAHIL REPRESENTATION AT FUTURE EVENTS:

Arne Jakobsson will represent EAHIL at Buenos Aires at IFLA Annual General Conference, August 2004.

Gabriella Poppi will represent EAHIL at the IFLA mid-term meeting in Rome.

It was also decided that EAHIL should take a booth together with MLA at the 2005 IFLA conference in Oslo.

EAHIL FUTURE MEETINGS:

September 2004 conference, Santander: Fanny Ribes Cot sent the Board a written progress report. A Second Announcement brochure had been printed and copies were available at the Oslo Workshop. The International Program Committee had also produced a discussion list and an online evaluation facility. The meeting of the IPC members was held in December in Santander, to which Arne was also invited in his capacity of President of the Board. On this occasion Arne visited the conference site with the local organizing committee. According to Arne, everything is running according to plan. Altogether 122 abstracts were received, all very good and interesting. The IPC selected 69 oral presentations to fill 3 plenary sessions and five parallel sessions. The final scientific and social program will be ready by the end of February. The conference and hotel registration form are already on the web.

Regarding the continuing Education program of the Santander conference Suzanne reported that she had agreed with some of the moderators and

she would continually inform the Board about progress.

2005 Workshop, Palermo: Unfortunately, no representatives of the Workshop organisers were able to attend the Board meeting because of an air strike but they prepared a written program. The workshop has been fixed for the 23rd to the 25th of June. A website will be activated by May 2004 which will provide all information regarding the workshop. The Board agreed that in the International Program Committee half of the members should be from outside Italy. It was also accepted that the organisers would set up a booth at Santander presenting Palermo and giving the first invitation.

2006 Cluj-Napoca, Romania: 10th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries. Sally Wood-Lamont and Ioana Robu are in charge of organizing the conference. Sally gave a report to the Board of the preparations which are proceeding well. For the conference site there are a few possibilities with good conditions. They will prepare a presentation for Santander and organise the International Program Committee also.

2007 Workshop, Cracow: Arne Jakobsson in November visited the Medical Library of Jagiellonian University and the Information Studies Department of the Institute of Public Health to prepare a proposal for an EAHIL Workshop in Cracow, 2007. The proposal was discussed at the Board meeting. All the members agreed that the offer received is promising, and it has been accepted as the future workshop site.

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News from our Association

BE INFORMED -JOIN THE EAHIL DISCUSSION LIST

EAHIL-L is an electronic discussion list for all EAHIL members and is intended as an electronic forum for ideas, questions, and announcements specific to EAHIL members. The **EAHIL-L** list stimulates interaction and discussion between all EAHIL members including EAHIL Council and Executive Board members. An electronic mail/message sent to the list is delivered in a matter of seconds to all people currently subscribing to the list.

Only EAHIL members can subscribe to the list.

EAHIL-L was founded on February 1, 1997 and today some 215 members subscribe to the list. Interaction between all EAHIL members is very important for a democratic organisation. If you have e-mail you should subscribe to **EAHIL-L** and exploit this possibility of interaction. **Subscribing to EAHIL-L**

Send e-mail to: listserv@listserv.kib.ki.se

Subject: [leave blank]

First line: Subscribe EAHIL-L First name Surname

When you have subscribed you can start sending messages to the list.

Sending e-mail to the EAHIL-L

Send e-mail to: EAHIL-L@listserv.kib.ki.se

Subject: Your subject

Your message **Web Archives for EAHIL-L**

Old and new subscribers to EAHIL-L can also search EAHIL-L list archives via the World Wide Web.

You can search EAHIL-L list archives with your favourite web browser. To search the archives:

1. Please connect to EAHIL Home Page:

<http://www.eahil.org/>.

2. Choose Discussion lists.

3. Clicking the "Web Archives for EAHIL-L" hyperlink connects you to the archives page for EAHIL-L.

From here you can either browse the available archives (monthly archives) by clicking on the various hyperlinks, or you can choose "Search the archives" to bring up a search page. It is also possible to Post a message to the list.

Note: Only subscribers to EAHIL-L can search or look in the Web archives.

Please follow the online instructions for registration (with password) and searching.

The EAHIL Board and Secretariat will use e-mail messages, either direct or via discussion lists as the main communication channel to the membership.

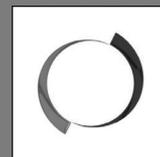
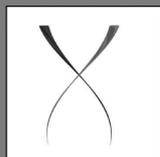
Please make sure that the correct e-mail address is in the files of the EAHIL-secretariat. The 2004

membership directory will be published in electronic format only and will be sent out to you in March/April

February 2004, Arne Jakobsson / Suzanne Bakker



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News from our Colleagues



News from MLA

MLA '04

As we begin the new year, MLA members are finalizing all the details for the 2004 Annual Meeting "Seize the Power" to be held in Washington, DC May 21-26. The program and conference details are now available on MLANET at <http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2004/index.html>. Descriptions of the dozens of Continuing Education courses, many of them "hands-on", are now posted along with all the information you will need to make plans to attend.

Policy Statement on the Role of Expert Searching

The MLA Board of Directors has approved a policy statement on the role of expert searching in health sciences libraries. I have excerpted the policy's introduction here. You can view or download the entire policy on MLANET at http://www.mlanet.org/resources/expert_search/policy_expert_search.html

The nation's health sciences librarians must continue to play a significant role in the expert retrieval and evaluation of information in support of knowledge- and evidence-based clinical, scientific, and administrative decision making at all health institutions. The nation's health sciences librarians also have a responsibility to train future health sciences practitioners and other end-users in the best retrieval methods for knowledge-based practice, research, and lifelong learning, and to help them identify which information needs should be addressed by expert searchers.

This policy statement:

- ⇒ Defines expert searching and provides the background on the issue;
- ⇒ Articulates the role of health sciences librarians in the provision of expert searching; and
- ⇒ Identified a number of high impact areas in which consultation and expert searching are critical to the success of the institution.

MLANET – Expanded Links

MLA has recently expanded the "Allied Resources" section of the Web site to include all known health sciences library and information organizations around the world on with links to their websites to help people communicate with others across the country and in the world. See http://www.mlanet.org/resources/allied_links.html Eighteen European associations are included. If we have missed national associations, I would

appreciate your sending me the name of the organization and the URL to its Web site so that MLA can have the most complete list possible.

The Library a Place Symposium In the last issue I highlighted this Symposium, which focused on the importance of the Library as Place and the impact of new technologies and other factors on planning for new library facilities and the renovation of existing facilities. The

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Symposium was held on November 5-6, 2003 at NLM, and featured a wide range of speakers, poster presenters, and exhibitors, as well as approximately 175 attendees. A videocast of the Symposium and the slides from most speakers' presentations are now available at

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/building/agenda.html>.

This Web site includes links to Web sites and print citations relevant for planning, as well as links to recent health sciences libraries building projects (both new and renovated buildings). Photos and

virtual tours of the recent building projects may provide inspiration to those planning library building renovations.

Eve-Marie Lacroix,
MLA Representative to EAHIL
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8th IFLA Interlending and Document Supply International Conference, Canberra

The 8th IFLA Interlending and Document Supply International Conference was organized by the National Library of Australia, between 28-31 October, 2003 in Canberra, Australia. The topic, bearing the title "**Breaking barriers: reaching users in a digital world**" involved the following major areas set forth by the program committee:

- ◆ Equity of access
- ◆ Empowering the user
- ◆ International sharing
- ◆ Automating services: lessons learned
- ◆ Legal implications of sharing resources: copyright and licensing
- ◆ When to borrow, when to buy
- ◆ Effects of changes in publishing on sharing resources
- ◆ Consortia: new collaborative access mechanisms
- ◆ Education for practitioners
- ◆ Best practice processes

The number of the participants was about 260; most librarians were, of course, from Australia, many came from the United States and a few from Europe, especially from the Nordic countries. It is no wonder there were not many attendants from Europe, the flight is very long (for us it took about 30 hours) and is rather expensive.

The venue of the conference, the National Library of Australia, is a modern building on Lake Burley,

which also houses interesting exhibitions on Australian cultural heritage and has in its collection such fine historical relics, for example, as Captain Cook's Endeavor Journal, which is on display near the entrance to the exhibition hall. Those interested in the cultural heritage of Australia did not miss visiting one of the major cultural attractions of Canberra, the National Gallery of Australia, whose collection includes

News from our Colleagues



significant works from all major art regions of indigenous Australia as well as the National Museum of Australia. The new museum uses state-of-the-art technology and hands-on interactive exhibitions so visitors can actually experience the stories of Australia.

Tom Ruthwen and his colleagues did a splendid job organizing the conference as regards to both professional content and social activities. We had heard about Australian hospitality but our experiences surpassed all our expectations. Refreshments were available all day, lunch was offered every day and a social program was organized every evening - a welcome reception at the National Library, a conference dinner at the Great Hall of Parliament House, a great outdoor entertainment evening at the National Botanic Gardens – and all this was crowned by a one day bush and beach tour.

The plenary sessions embraced many aspects of interlending. We learnt about consortia and collections, resource sharing and networking, copyright and licensing, unmediated, user initiated borrowing and other exciting issues.. The keynote speaker, Mary A. Jackson from the Association of Research Libraries, Washington defined the ten key trends in interlending which will affect libraries over the next five years:

1. Rising User Expectations;
2. Mediated ILL/DD Services;

3. User-initiated Services;
4. Increased Access to Electronic Resources;
5. Copyright and Licensing;
6. Implementation of Portals;
7. Enhancements to Online Catalogs;
8. Blurring of Collections and Access Activities;
9. Technical Standards; and
10. Increased Globalization.

and closed her address by speculating on the future directions of interlibrary loan. I quote: Where will we be in 5 years?

- we will be using a blend of mediated and mixed services
- the percentage of returnables will increase as electronic journals expand in number and print versions are terminated
- we will still be working in a mixed copyright and license environment
- global interlending and document delivery may reach five percent of a library's transactions
- Turnaround time will be fasterbut still not be fast enough
- Bibliographic items will be easier to identify.

Papers and presentations delivered at the congress can be found at <http://www.nla.gov.au/ilds/>.

Márta Virágos

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News from our Colleagues

AGMB Annual Meeting 2003 in Dresden

The annual meeting 2003 of the AGMB – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für medizinisches Bibliothekswesen e.V. took place in Dresden, September 22nd – 24th. The event was organized by the Zweigbibliothek Medizin of the Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden. Held under the motto *Medical Libraries: Changing by Acting* the meeting attracted 183 attendants and 18 exhibitors.

Prior to the official opening, the meeting started on Monday with a Microsoft Access workshop held by Peter Kastanek (Austrian Central Library for Medicine) and guided tours of the hospital Dresden-Friedrichstadt, the new Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden and Apogepha GmbH, a pharmaceutical company located in Dresden. The three AGMB working groups held their meetings on Monday afternoon. In the hospital libraries' working group, Betty Johannsmeyer (Helios Hospitals, Berlin-Buch) reported on the development of the library of Berlin-Buch hospital after the takeover by the Helios group. While all other libraries of the Helios hospitals were closed, the survival of Berlin-Buch library was secured by rapidly transforming it into a competence center for the whole group. Johannsmeyer described the library of the future as a nerve center focussing on the development of electronic services.

In the pharmaceutical libraries' working group the speakers pointed out different strategies for dealing with the complex task of product-related information transfer in commercial companies. Both Matthias Weingärtner (ALTANA Pharma AG) and Ulrike Krause (Schering AG) stressed

the importance of an effectively managed company intranet.

Last but not least the university libraries' working group attracted a large number of attendants. Dorothee Boeckh (Medical Library of the Faculty for Clinical Medicine Mannheim of Heidelberg University) presented the first results of the work done by a new task force dealing with the legal foundations of the maintenance of medical libraries at universities and hospitals. The task force that was established in April 2003 aims at developing official recommendations that are supposed to serve as argumentation aids for the heads of medical libraries and as guidelines for the representatives of the financing organizations. Further presentations introduced KELDamed¹, a commented e-learning database providing medical students, doctors and scientists with e-learning resources available on the internet free of charge (Isabella Friedlein and Martina Semmler-Schmetz, Library of the Faculty for Clinical Medicine Mannheim of Heidelberg University) and the *Bonn journal ranking*, a web-based method that has selected users assess journals (Petra Müller, Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn). Moreover, Ulf Paepcke (Medizinische Bibliothek, Charité – Universitätsmedizin) illustrated the new situation of the Berlin medical university libraries: In 2003 the then three medical faculties merged to form one new medical faculty by the name of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin with hospitals and libraries in three different locations.

The first day of the AGMB meeting ended after product reviews by OVID and Swets Blackwell and lunch in the *Sophienkeller* located in the historic *Taschenbergpalais*.

¹ URL: <http://keldamed.uni-hd.de>

News from our Colleagues

On Tuesday morning the meeting was officially opened by the AGMB chairman, Ulrich Korwitz (ZBMed, Cologne). Highlights of the program in the morning were lectures on the *Development of naturopathy in Dresden* by Albrecht Scholz (Director of the Institute for the History of Medicine, Department of Medical Science Carl Gustav Carus, Dresden Technical University), *DIPOL – Dresden Integrative Problem / Patient / Practice-Oriented Learning*² by Peter Dieter (Institute of Physiological Chemistry, Department of Medical Science Carl Gustav Carus, Dresden Technical University) and the consequences of the new *Approbationsordnung* for doctors by Reinhard Nippert (Director of the Institut für Ausbildung und Studienangelegenheiten of Münster University Medical Faculty).

The program was completed by presentations focussing on diverse electronic services developed as steps toward the virtual library. Bruno Bauer (Austrian Central Library for Medicine) gave a detailed review of consortia, usage statistics and cost-sharing models for ebooks and e-journals at medical libraries in Austria.

Oliver Obst (Zweigbibliothek Medizin, Münster University Library) reported on a pilot project with the German publisher Thieme. During the project, users at Münster university had online access to Thieme ebooks. The project was designed to test the acceptance and use of online textbooks by users at Münster university. The results of the study support the general observation that medical students primarily visit the library physically to borrow textbooks while doctors predominantly visit it virtually, using the

library's online services. As concerns the role of online textbooks, they turned out to be used as supplements to rather than substitutes for their printed counterparts.³

Tuesday evening offered the highlight of the supporting social program sponsored by OVID: a tour on a paddle steamer on the river Elbe including a rich buffet and providing plenty of opportunity to make new contacts and exchange opinions and experiences.

Wednesday, the last day of the meeting, offered further interesting presentations. Gabriele Beger (Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin) illustrated new developments in copyright. Gerd Antes (Institut für Medizinische Biometrie und Medizinische Informatik, Freiburg University) explained the concept of evidence-based medicine and stressed the importance of systematic reviews for the medical professions. He described the work of the Cochrane Collaboration⁴ as provider of the Cochrane Library, which consists of a regularly updated collection of evidence-based medicine databases, including The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Antes criticized both the lack of a national licence for the use of the Cochrane Library in Germany and the reluctance of doctors in Germany to actually put into practice the results of systematic reviews. Silke Schneider (ZBMed, Cologne) presented *MedPilot*, a system that allows simultaneous searches in more than 40 medical databases and catalogues.⁵

InsumaScout, an intelligent, adaptive search engine developed by the Information Department of Bayer AG in cooperation with Insuma GmbH, Tübingen, was presented by Helga Walter of

² DIPOL is a hybrid curriculum that was implemented in cooperation with Harvard Medical School, Boston.

³ Cf. Obst, Oliver: Elektronische Bücher in der Bibliothek : Beginn einer Revolution? In: *medizin – bibliothek – information* 3, 2003, no. 3, pp. 21-25.

⁴ The German Cochrane Center is located at Freiburg University.

⁵ URL: www.medpilot.de

News from our Colleagues



*Zweigbibliothek Medizin of the Sächsische Landesbibliothek –
Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden*

Bayer AG. After being fed with search strings provided as original input by the user, the search engine supplies the user with relevant internet findings accordingly. The user is then able to evaluate the relevance of the findings thus modifying the search strings employed by Insuma.Scout for further search steps. Last but not least, the presentations of Helena Bouzkova (National Medical Library, Prague, Czech Republic), Ewa Grzadzielewska (Main Library, University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland), and Livia Vasas (Library of the Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary) allowed the national issues presented in the course of the meeting to be placed in a European context.

A new AGMB board was elected at this year's general meeting. Members of the new board are: Dipl.-Bibl. Dorothee Boeckh, Mannheim (Chairperson)
Ingeborg Rosenfeld, Bad Schussenried (1st Vice Chairperson)

Dr. Robert Eschenbach, Aachen (2nd Vice Chairperson)

Dr. Annemarie Felsch-Klotz, Hannover (Secretary)
Dr. Thies-Peter Engelhardt, Wuppertal (Treasurer)

To sum up, the meeting in Dresden offered interesting presentations on current issues, an informative exhibition and a varied social program. It was not least thanks to the careful and effective work of the local organizers that the event turned out to be a great success.

The proceedings of the annual meeting are available online on the AGMB website (www.agmb.de).

The next annual meeting will take place in Mannheim, September 27th – 29th, 2004.

**Heike Wienholz,
Martina Semmler-Schmetz**

News from our Colleagues

Nordic Seminar On Evidence-Based Medicine And Nursing, November 21, 2003: Turku, Finland



Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae, The Finnish Medical Society Duodecim, The National Health Sciences Library in Finland and The Karolinska Institute Library in Stockholm organised a seminar on evidence-based medicine and nursing in November 2003. There were altogether 54 participants, the greater number being from Finland, but a few also from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Estonia.

The speakers were information specialists/librarians, physicians and nursing scientists. It has not been too easy to invite e.g. physicians to library seminars or meetings, but it seems that the value of cooperation has now been understood. This fact was revealed by the first speaker, who was very pleased to have been invited to the seminar. Arja Tuunainen, M.D., gave a very good presentation on *Everything you should know of evidence-based medicine*. She told the audience about medical clinical research and its methodology explaining in clear language what randomised controlled trials, double-blind studies, case-control studies, meta-analyses are.



The next presentation was carried out by Liisa Salmi, Information Specialist, on how to search evidence-based research in PubMed and Cinahl. She stated that the Systematic Reviews Service in PubMed is a good starting point but not enough.

Further searching has to be done by the help of valid publication types and MeSH terms and free text searching. Cinahl was criticised because of its inconsistent indexing, which combined with the Ovid interface sometimes gives weird results.

Iris Pasternack, M.D. is the Cochrane expert in Finland and she described the work of the international Cochrane network and the contents of the seven databases in the Cochrane Library. There are now more than 9000 people involved in writing systematic reviews in more than 80 countries. Some countries have multidisciplinary teams, which is the optimal way of working, although in many countries most team members are physicians. Her wish was to have at least information specialists included in the teams to do the searches in a professional manner.

Leena Lodenius, Information Specialist, introduced the evidence based products of the medical publishing house Duodecim (Helsinki, Finland). They have done careful work to make especially busy primary health care physicians' lives easier by filtering the best research results from the vast medical literature to their use. She also gave a solid presentation on evidence-based medical sources on the Internet.

The National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health in Finland has created an evidence-based database of mental health called PsiTri, introduced by Pia Pörtfors, Research Assistant. The research included in it has been collected from the Cochrane Library and a thesaurus to be used in connection with PsiTri has been created.

News from our Colleagues

Nursing science and practice was represented by Sanna Salanterä, professor of nursing science, who, first of all, gave an informative and vivid description of the differences between medical and nursing science research and clinical work in those fields. Nursing is remarkably more based on qualitative research than medicine, and this makes it difficult to determine strict criteria for evidence. This presentation was very illustrative for all the other professions at present.

The last paper before the panel discussion was given by Christine Wickman, Information Specialist. She told the audience about the extensive teaching the Karolinska Institute does. They teach various groups: medical teachers and students, practicing physicians, nurses and even custom-tailored courses for all health care professions. The speaker's view was that information specialists and librarians are needed more than ever for introducing relevant databases and teaching the best possible search strategies for the health care personnel to find evidence based research.

The panel discussion was rather lively and the conclusion was that a recommendation be sent to the administrative group of the Cochrane Collaboration that an information specialist be included in the groups for doing searches and maybe the preliminary scanning of the search results. It could be a group of information specialists and librarians from whom the topical groups could order searches for their use. Another suggestion was that the Nordic countries start a joint list of evidence-based links on the Internet, instead of every country now doing the same thing in their respective countries.

Leena Lodenius

The Medical Society Duodecim

Leena.Lodenius@duodecim.fi

Liisa Salmi

Kuopio University Library

Kuopio University Hospital Medical Library

Liisa.Salmi@kuh.fi



Health Information
& Libraries Journal



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News from our Colleagues



UKCHIP: the New UK Council for Health Informatics Professions

The UK Council for Health Informatics Professions (UKCHIP) has been set up to be the regulatory body for all branches of health informatics (HI) in the UK. It is thus a professional registration and regulatory body with the same functions as the General Medical Council or the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Its job is to set appropriate standards of qualification, experience and behaviour for HI professionals, check a Registrant meets such standards before being registered, check they carry out appropriate CPD and if they fail to continue to meet such standards to de-register them to protect patients.

Established by a group of people concerned about improving the professional status of the estimated 29,000 people working in health informatics in the UK, it is supported by The Departments of Health in all the home countries, The British Computer Society, ASSIST, UKIHI and IHM.

Health Informatics is defined as *The knowledge, skills and tools which enable information to be collected, managed, used and shared to support the delivery of healthcare and promote health* and thus it includes staff involved in medical records, coding, audit, libraries and knowledge management, information systems development, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) staff, Help desk staff, data analysts and clinical/medical informaticians

At present it stands alone as a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is hoped that in the future it will function under the Health Professions Council, which is moving towards statutory regulation for all health professions.

So, why the need for professional status? There are two reasons: the main one is to protect patients. We have many examples of where bad informatics has damaged or even killed patients. These include abnormal cervical smears not acted on until too late, incorrect radiotherapy doses and

Downs Syndrome risks inaccurately reported amongst others. As the UK National Health Service (NHS) embraces more and more information systems there is an increasing impact of informatics on direct patient care. Clinicians are becoming more and more reliant on the patient information they are provided with and the decision support processes the information systems provide. For example, it is now the norm for all prescribing in primary care (by far the largest part of NHS prescribing) to be done via the computer. (90% of all GP prescriptions are computerised). It could thus be regarded as negligent for a GP not to prescribe by computer. We have to ensure that those who develop, implement and manage such systems are competent.

The other problem is that informatics is an undervalued profession with a 40% annual turnover of staff in the NHS. HI staff are often buried in finance departments. Even if there are HI departments they are not usually understood by senior management. Packages within the NHS are always poor but in informatics the discrepancy between NHS remuneration and that which can be obtained by working in the private sector is immense. Nor has the NHS yet provided guidance on appropriate career progression for HI staff. Personal development is often stifled by managers

News from our Colleagues

not allowing time off for study etc. Those who are in ICT are very marketable in the wider IT world and vote with their feet. Those who have come from the clinical professions, developed skills and expertise in informatics over many years, but have to go back to their clinical professions if they want adequate career development.

If the NHS is to cope with massive investment into IT, it must have HI staff who are appropriately rewarded, working in reasonable environments and who have good career prospects.

UKCHIP is intended for those who are full time informatics professionals but also for the "Hybrid" informatics professionals who have a dual role, often as informaticians and as clinicians. It does not cater for the needs of end users who do not have an involvement in HI other than to use it to do their main job.

The Council was formed in Sep 2002. Over 50 of the leading HI professionals from around the UK accepted personal invitations to become Council members. A Constitution was agreed and the Council set up as a company limited by guarantee. Charitable status is being applied for.

The web site has recorded, as of April 2003, over 1000 registrations of individual expressions of interest. In July 2003 a set of draft professional standards was published for consultation. The

finalized initial version of the standards and the registration procedures will be published in winter 2003 with the opening of a voluntary register of HI professionals in early 2004.

UKCHIP will deliver:

- Defined qualification and experience standards for HI professionals
- Defined behaviour for HI professionals – a code of conduct
- Recognised CPD schemes
- Registration to provide recognition for HI professionals
- De-registration to protect patients

All this will take time to develop into a stable professional body which gives status to those who meet its criteria. If you are working in informatics in any way you should register on the web site. If you may be interested in developing your informatics skills in the future watch as the standards developed. For all of us, as patients, we should applaud this initiative to improve the care we receive.

More information is available on the web site www.ukchip.org.

Bruce Madge
Assistant Director - Patient Advice
and Liaison Service
National Patient Safety Agency
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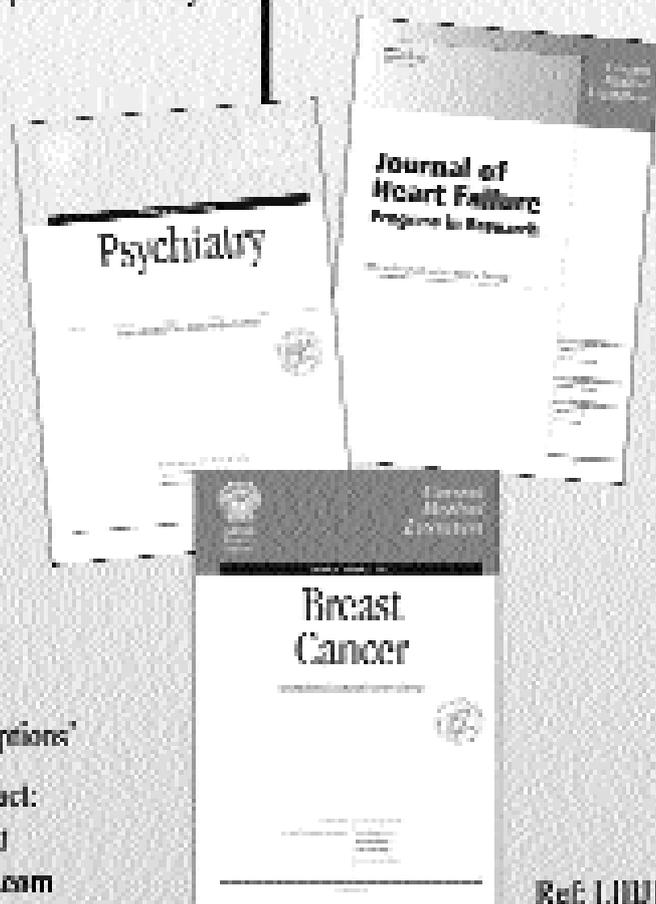
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Ref: JHUR



Santander 2004: From Altamira Until Now: Information Transference Ways.



*Chairs of IPC Meeting in Santander
Manuela Colombi and Mª Asuncion Garcia*

Since the last EAHIL meeting in Cologne, the Local Organising Committee, the International Programme Committee and the National Organising Committee have been working preparing the Santander conference. We worked very hard preparing programme brochures, exhibitors brochures, web page, selecting hotels, excursions, events, lunches, dinner party etc. Honestly we never expected so much work: but we are delighted to do it because we would like to bring you an unforgettable conference.

On behalf of the Local Organizing and Scientific Committee it is a great pleasure to invite you to Santander for the next IX EAHIL Conference. Come to Santander and learn about the most recent developments in medical information and library science. The main topics focus among others, the future for traditional, digital, hybrid etc. medical libraries and the evaluation of scientific publications and continuing education for: librarians, physicians, students and patients. Don't lose the opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues from countries all over the world: it might help you to learn different perspectives of your interests and above all to make new friends. Meet colleagues from 29 countries and share their experiences and opinions. And see how lovely the city of Santander is and its surroundings.

The social arrangements are also an important part of this meeting. The conference location Hotel Santemar (Sardinero area) gives us an excellent opportunity to offer many typical summer activities. We also are preparing a visit to Santillana del Mar and Altamira Caves Museum.

Early Bird registration before May 15th – Don't Forget!



*IPC meeting in Santander, December 2003
From left to right: Laura Cavazza, Antonia Pereira,
Carlos Gonzalez, Mª Asuncion Garcia, Arne Jakobsson,
Elena Primo, Carole Lefebvre, Livia Vasas and
Manuela Colombi and Fanny Ribes*

At the last meeting in Cologne, we organised the IPC which comprises 14 librarians from 10 countries. They have worked intensively together on the Call for papers, the evaluation of submitted abstracts, and the programme schedule for the conference. After the Santander IPC Meeting in December the preliminary programme was established. We received 122 abstracts representing 29 countries. The complete conference programme will be sent out in March, and also in the next Newsletter we will publish it.

News from Santander



You also must take a regular look at the conference web site : <https://ibio.humv.es/biblioteca/eahil/>.
Program and registration and accommodation forms available at the Conference web site.

Maximum 500 participants – be sure to register early!

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee:

María Francisca Ribes Cot

Biblioteca. Hospital Universitario Marques de Valdecilla

Santander

bibrcom@humv.es

EAHIL Scholarships: Call for Applications

The EAHIL Board is pleased to announce a call for applications for FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS to facilitate participation at the 9th EAHIL Conference. Santander, Spain, September 2004.

The scholarships are intended to include as many colleagues and countries in EAHIL activities, that otherwise would be excluded and will be valued at 500 Euros each.

There are two categories under which scholarships will be made:

CATEGORY A. Two scholarships will be awarded to speakers or poster presenters who have received notification of acceptance of their contribution from the International Programme Committee of the Santander Conference.

CATEGORY B. Two scholarships will be awarded to young colleagues (less than 35 years of age) who have never previously participated in an EAHIL Conference or Workshop.

In both categories, a condition of acceptance is that the successful candidate will be required to provide a report about one conference session (approx two pages A4) for publication in the EAHIL Newsletter (deadline 31st October 2004).

To apply, you should send your CV and a **full letter of application**, stating which category of scholarship you are applying for, and giving the reasons why you feel you deserve a scholarship, before 15th April 2004 to:

EAHIL Scholarships 2004,
The EAHIL Secretariat,
c/o NVB Bureau
Nieuwegracht 15
3512 LC Utrecht
The Netherlands



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME : CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

The following Continuing Education Courses will be organized in Santander:

(see further details on the conference web site and the *Meet the CEC Teachers* articles in EAHIL Newsletter 65,66,67 and in the conference brochure which you will receive in early March):

English Skills

COURSE TITLE: English for Librarians

by Margot de Wolf, from "About English", Utrecht, the Netherlands

This two-day training course will be tailor-made for EAHIL participants and aims to improve your oral communication in English in formal and informal situations. (See this issue of the newsletter: Meet the CEC Teachers)

Human Genome:

COURSE TITLE: Human Genome Information for Librarians

by Fernando Martin-Sanchez and Ana Yarte del Toro, from the Institute of Health 'Carlos III', Madrid, Spain

This type of information could mean a new role for documentalists that work in Health Science Libraries. Documentalists specialized in this area will acquire experience in handling the main resources and in information management techniques that take into account the special character of this information, which for the most part is available on the Internet.

Copyright:

COURSE TITLE: Copyright and the Electronic Library

by Charles Oppenheim, Department of Information Science, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, UK

This workshop will include discussion of the principles of copyright, and the impact they have on the development of the electronic library;

issues such as digitisation, electronic reserves, electronic journals and site licenses will be covered. This course was well attended in Utrecht and Cologne. Professor Oppenheim will inform us about the latest developments in this field.

Editing Skills

COURSE TITLE: Introduction To Scientific Editing: Adding Value To Library Editorial Products

by Paola de Castro, Italian National Institute of Health, Rome

This course will focus on basic editorial principles and give practical advice to improve librarians' editorial skills: How to organize the information in a paper document, Writing a text, Editing tables and graphs, Citations and References, Titles and abstracts, Tables of contents and indexes, Hints on copyright issues, Levels of technical editing and proof-reading, Useful "Editorial" sites. (see also EAHIL Newsletter 65 Nov. 2003 issue: p12)

Negotiating Skills in Electronic Journal Licensing

COURSE TITLE: Negotiating for e-journal access: getting the best deal through a systematic and value-driven approach

by Albert Prior and/or Paul Harwood, Content Complete, North Leigh, Oxfordshire, UK

Both have been involved in the scientific journal business in many different roles. They are willing to share with us their experiences especially from being the official Negotiating Agents for the UK electronic journal licensing initiative, NESLi2.

News from Santander



Health Economics

COURSE TITLE: Health economics and relevant information sources: Journals, Bibliographic Databases, Value-added Information, Statistical Data, Grey Literature and WWW Gateways

by: Moira Napper, Information Officer, Health Economics Research Unit, University of Aberdeen, UK

This course was accredited by the Medical Library Association and presented at the MLA Annual Conference in Dallas in 2002 and subsequently by the Canadian Health Libraries Association for presentation at their annual meeting in June 2003. The EAHIL CEC coordinator is delighted to be able to offer this internationally accredited course at Santander.

Evidence-Based Librarianship

COURSE TITLE 1: How to make better decisions in library practice

by Anne Brice, Oxford, UK

COURSE TITLE 2: Finding the evidence to support EB Health Care

by Andrew Booth, Senior Lecturer in Evidence Based Healthcare Information & Director of Information Resources, School of Health and Related Research (SchARR), University of Sheffield, UK

Both Anne Brice and Andrew Booth are experts in our field and very experienced teachers. For everybody who wants to improve their library management and information services, these courses are a must!

Fingerprinting metadata

COURSE TITLE: Conceptual fingerprinting as both a literature discovery tool and a means of semantic interlinkage of bibliographic, sequence and image databases

by Les Grivell, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany (see this issue of the newsletter for a short introduction)

Structuring Medical Information on the Internet

COURSE TITLE: Structuring the information on the Internet: the Dublin Core metadata, RDF and the Semantic Web by Benoit Thirion, Rouen, France and Ioana Robu, University Library of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj, Romania

This course will emphasize the role of librarians in structuring medical information on the Internet. Benoit Thirion has set up and is maintaining the Francophone website: CISMef and is therefore the most suitable colleague to explain to us "how to do ...", while Ioana Robu is familiar with RDF and currently doing research regarding the Semantic Web.

Suzanne Bakker

CEC Coordinator

s.bakker@nki.nl



MEET THE TEACHERS OF THE CE COURSES IN SPAIN

Les Grivell : From *EMBO*, Heidelberg, Germany

Title of Course: Conceptual fingerprinting as both a literature discovery tool and a means of semantic interlinkage of bibliographic, sequence and image databases

Les Grivell is coordinator and programme manager of E-BioSci at the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) in Heidelberg.

Before joining EMBO, he was a researcher and later professor in molecular biology at the University of Amsterdam (1970-2000). A search of PubMed will evidence over 100 hundred publications authored by Les and his co-workers, including many recently published. Nowadays Les is promoting the E-BioSci programme aimed at developing tools and procedures to allow integration and retrieval of many kinds of biological information, such as linking genomic and other data with the biomedical literature.

Large-scale data generation is becoming increasingly important in biological research and biologists are becoming increasingly aware that they are likely to be swamped by a tsunami of information. Alongside difficulties of extracting information from the literature, the limitations of the tools and systems to store, sort, interlink and order the >500 data resources, ranging from sequence to pathology and gene expression to metabolism data are becoming increasingly apparent. The problem is further exacerbated by the large heterogeneity of the underlying data and storage formats that make it difficult for scientists to retrieve, integrate and analyse the information that he or she needs.

E-BioSci makes use of a technology developed by Collexis b.v. Instead of relying solely on keyword- or citation-based index searching, the system employs the Collexis abstraction engine to “fingerprint” text. That is, it produces concept profiles that can subsequently be used for semantic comparison of documents either with each other, or with other text in database records.

E-BioSci’s current prototype uses a modified MeSH metathesaurus. This contains a number of vocabularies that have been translated into various European languages, thus making it possible to match documents in different language formats. However, other thesauri, more suited to knowledge domains outside the strictly biomedical can and indeed, are being used.

Besides its conventional web-page interface, E-BioSci also offers an XML / SOAP- web-service for literature search. Just as HTML was crucial to the development of the word-wide web, the use of XML now goes far beyond the representation of web-pages in an attractive form. The language allows the encapsulation, transfer and sharing of information that can subsequently be seamlessly integrated into a user’s environment.

Les Grivell is invited to address all Santander delegates in a plenary session as well as presenting a specialist course on the features of document search and retrieval by fingerprints. E-BioSci also invites all publishers and maintainers of repositories to have their archives analyzed and to see whether access will be improved. The future of E-BioSci will depend on how many people use the platform and find it helpful for their research.

Librarians in the biomedical field can play a pivotal role in making users aware of this new feature. Attend this course, if you want to know more about this intriguing new feature of literature discovery!!

Suzanne Bakker
s.bakker@nki.nl



MEET THE TEACHERS OF THE CE COURSES IN SPAIN

Margot de Wolf : From *About English*, Utrecht, the Netherlands

Title of Course: **English for Conference Participants!**

English has become EAHIL's language of communication. The EAHIL Newsletter, the conferences, the business meetings and reports are all in English. You will participate in an international conference where the main language is English.

But let's face it. Communicating successfully in a second language is a challenge. Learning English is hard work. Professionals like you are keen to hone their skills but have demanding schedules. They don't always have time to attend lengthy language courses. Which is where 'English for conference participants' comes in': a two-day language course targeting the specific needs of conference attendants.

The course aims to make you feel more comfortable using English in formal *and* informal discussions. It also provides you with a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of your colleagues better and to help you prepare for the actual conference. To participate successfully in this course you need to have a good working knowledge of English (as most medical librarians nowadays do). The course is included in the official conference programme.

Possible course topics: presenting your library; discussing library issues (e.g. budgetary problems or new developments in library services); chairing presentation sessions; handling audience questions.

Margo de Wolf is an experienced language trainer who developed the course "English for library staff" at Utrecht University more than 10 years ago. She is not only very familiar with library terminology but has collected and developed a wide range of learning materials for this specialized subject. The CEC coordinator is very pleased to be able to introduce this well-qualified teacher, in whom we recognize enthusiasm and professional skills combined with extensive experience in designing and delivering tailor-made language training.

Suzanne Bakker
s.bakker@nki.nl

WHO Documentation Centres in Europe will have a chance to meet and discuss at the **WHO Open Session** which will be held during the 9th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Santander, Spain, 20-25 September 2004.

Spotlight on... Pharmacy



What is Pharmacy?

Welcome to the first issue of the EAHIL Newsletter for 2004 – an issue with a pharmaceutical flavour! However, we trust that the items included here will have at least something of interest to all colleagues, whatever branch of health-care information you work within. The word “pharmaceutical” often conjures up images of the pharmaceutical industry giants – global “big business”, and money-motivated on a gigantic scale.

But it is important to remember that drug treatment is in fact by far the most frequent “medical intervention”, and because of this, matters concerning safe and effective treatment by medicines and drugs can and do seriously impinge on the work of just about everyone in the health-care arena, not least the health care librarian or information scientist. One should also remember that a great deal of drug research goes on in publicly-funded universities and government-funded research institutions, plus the work of many laboratories funded by the whole range of medical charities. Personally I think the fundamental scientific research work going on in universities is especially important – the freedom to undertake “blue sky” research in any area of medical/scientific interest, without it being totally motivated by, and at the mercy of, commercial exploitation possibilities, is becoming an increasingly rare and precious thing.

What is Pharmacy? Definitions are numerous, but here at The School of Pharmacy, University of London, our undergraduate students are told that **Pharmacy is the study of the sciences of drugs** – where they come from, how they act on the body and how to turn drugs into medicines – in the context of professional practice. Pharmacists can be involved in any aspect of the preparation and use of medicines.

So, what does a Pharmacy Librarian do? In practical terms, in an institution which educates

future pharmacists, and whose personnel are also prosecuting cutting-edge biomedical and pharmaceutical research, our library and information staff members are engaged in providing high-quality library and information support at a multitude of levels across a very wide spectrum of subject areas. We support teaching and learning, as well as research and development, right across the board, in subject areas which include: physical, biological and molecular chemistry; pharmacology, chemotherapy and toxicology; most areas of medicine; physiology; public health policy; education; law and ethics; epidemiology; behavioural sociology; clinical pharmacy practice; business studies, pharmaceuticals, particle science, chemical engineering and materials science; - to name but a few! It is perhaps this requirement to support information-finding across a very wide range of disciplines that differentiates a Pharmacy Librarian from a Drug Information specialist, although it is worth noting that a Pharmacy Librarian does actually undertake quite a lot of the work associated with Drug Information specialists, *inter alia* their day-to-day enquiry range, albeit probably not so in-depth. Most Drug Information specialists are qualified pharmacists, and work mainly in the hospital pharmacy or pharmaceutical industry environment.

So, are Pharmacy Librarians “Jacks of All Trades and Masters of None” (i.e. too general to be of real use)? Probably they easily could be, but

Spotlight on... Pharmacy

in the event, I don't think so. In fact I think it is inherent in the professional training and attitude of most librarians in their constant quest to seek out the best sources of information to give the best assistance to their users that makes us Pharmacy Librarians capable of becoming real fountains of knowledge across such a very broad subject range. This is not least because of the universal truth of Dr Samuel Johnson's old adage: *"Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it"*. I am convinced that a good Pharmacy Librarian, from whatever background, (i.e. whether he/she has had pharmaceutical or scientific training or not), needs several months/years "on the job" training to build up a truly useful knowledge of the best information sources for each subject area and for each type of enquiry.

As we all know, there is an unfortunate but growing tendency today to think that the quickest and best way to find the answer to any query, whatever its nature, is to immediately turn to the computer and search the Web. Personally, I have been torn between despair and laughter when I have watched some of our users frantically searching the internet for hours for the answer to a simple query that could easily be answered straight away by a quick glance at a textbook or

reference work that they already have more or less in front of them. But there is no doubt that the internet, and particularly, access to quality databases via the internet, has transformed the nature of information-seeking. No-one who, like me, has ruined both their eyesight and their temper over the years by having to search the minutely-printed indexes of Chemical Abstracts for elusive formulae or to double-check a complicated chemical substance name can regret the advent of computerised databases that are key-word cross-searchable at the click of a mouse, or doubt the huge improvement to the possible choice of treatment options offered by the quality evidence-based databases. But conversely, it is in precisely these areas that the experienced and competent librarian has so much to offer – advising on the choice of the best sources to answer each different type of query, and providing much-needed expert help to enable our users to steer a sensible and productive course through the huge mass of information possibilities available today.

I have worked as a Pharmacy Librarian for over 35 years, and can honestly say that the tremendous variety inherent in the job, plus the satisfaction of knowing that one can make a real difference and be of genuine help to those engaged in a very important area of health care, has ensured that I have not regretted my career choice in any way. I am sure this sentiment is shared by many of us in these busy and exciting times.

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Spotlight on... Pharmacy



Electronic IPA and EMBASE: a first glance comparison for pharmacy – a study in progress.

Introduction

EMBASE is known to cover drug related literature more extensively than many other biomedical bibliographic databases, but there is a lack of published comparative studies of EMBASE with IPA. So, the aim of this study was to *begin* that process.

The Databases

International Pharmaceutical Abstracts is produced by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and aims to cover pharmaceutical science and health related literature from around the globe. Around 800 journal titles around the world have been indexed, together with key pharmacy meetings. English language predominates (87% of records), but 25 other languages are also listed. With the oldest computerised citations dating back to 1970 (in print it goes back to 1964), it now contains 350,000 records, most of which have abstracts.

The Excerpta Medica database, EMBASE, well known by medical librarians, is produced by Elsevier Science and indexes far more journal titles; over 4,000 from 119 countries, but it does have a wider remit in that it covers all aspects of human medicine and related biomedical research. English is the language for 77% of the sources indexed; however, sources in 38 other languages are recorded. Computerised records go back to 1974 and books were indexed between 1975 and 1980. Approximately 60% of the records have abstracts.

Literature Review

The number of studies evaluating medical databases for biomedical information far exceeds the number examining for pharmacy information, but some valuable work has been undertaken.

Cecelia Brown found EMBASE produced more unique citations for pharmaceutical searches and that each record provided more drug information than MEDLINE¹. Woods and Trewheellar also discovered that EMBASE could answer more drug information queries than MEDLINE².

Fishman *et al.* reported that IPA covered more pharmacy journals than MEDLINE, but that the journals included in MEDLINE were more significant. However, as many of the searches conducted found results in IPA that were not in MEDLINE, the authors concluded that both databases had their advantages. For example IPA was better when it came to pharmaceuticals, the profession of pharmacy and when searching for proprietary names³.

A study to compare nine bibliographic databases for finding drug interaction material found that EMBASE was the most comprehensive database, finding more records and more relevant citations than IPA, MEDLINE, TOXLINE, BIOSIS, Chemical Abstracts, Pharm-line, PASCAL and Bibliographif⁴. An earlier comparison of databases for adverse drug reactions also concluded that EMBASE was the superior service when the quality of retrieved citations was taken into account⁵. This earlier study did not include Bibliographif, but did include the other databases and in addition the Iowa Drug Information System.

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Finding information in indexing and abstracting services on drug reactions in clinical trials is notoriously difficult for a variety of reasons. Derry *et al.* found that 23% of a set of studies they knew to have recorded adverse drug reactions had no adverse indexing terms or textwords linked to them in EMBASE and MEDLINE⁶.

When it comes to natural products, EMBASE has been shown to do well when compared to MEDLINE and IPA. For 9 questions out of 10 devised for a study, a higher number of relevant citations was found on EMBASE compared to IPA. However, 33.3% of the citations retrieved on IPA were unique to that database, leading the researchers to conclude that IPA “would be useful to fill gaps”⁷.

Bonnie Snow has completed some of the most comprehensive work covering all aspects of pharmacy information^{8,9}.

Method

For the purposes of this study three main evaluative criteria, were selected:

- A. The journals indexed – The number of key pharmaceutical titles.
- B. The number of citations found.
- C. The number of relevant unique citations in IPA.

Journals Indexed

The alphabetical list of journals indexed in 2003 provided by the databases was examined and the number of key titles counted. Obviously, deciding which titles are key is, to an extent, a subjective process. To try to make it less personally subjective, some “core” pharmacy journal lists were employed; namely the Journal Citation Index (Pharmacology and Pharmacy)¹⁰, the AACP Core Journal List¹¹ and the Core Collection of Medical Books and Journals (Pharmacology and Therapeutics)¹².

The Number of Citations

The number of searches to perform was limited to 10. These 10 were selected from current “hot topics” in the pharmacy / medical world. Sources for these included the NeLH, NHS Direct, the RPSGB, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products. The aim was to select topics that covered the main broad subjects within pharmacy, e.g. drug development, pharmacokinetics and pharmacology.

The Searches

1. Clinical Trials

Drugs undergoing clinical trials for treating MRSA

2. Clinical Use of Drugs

The use of goserelin in treating breast cancer

3. Adverse Reactions

Adverse reactions to oseltamivir

4. Pharmacokinetics

The bioavailability of vancomycin

5. Pharmacognosy

The toxicity of pyrrolizidine

6. Proprietary Names

epivir

7. Pharmacoeconomics

Cost effectiveness of beta interferon for multiple sclerosis

8. Pharmacy Practice

How pharmacists can improve patient compliance

9. Drug abuse

Drug abuse of pseudoephedrine

10. Pharmacy Education

The Internet as a training tool for undergraduate pharmacy students

Spotlight on... Pharmacy

The Search Strategies

Search strategies were designed for each question, and each database, utilising the most appropriate thesaurus terms and free text terminology. In EMBASE this meant extensive use of the Emtree Thesaurus and appropriate subheadings. Unfortunately the IPA Thesaurus is not available in a hierarchical form on the OVID platform to browse and no cross-references are provided in the indexes of subject terms. However, the indexes can be searched alphabetically. When devising the strategies, the preferred drug nomenclature of each database was taken into consideration. Both databases allow direct searching for CAS Registry numbers, so these were included when formulating the searches. For the question relating to clinical trials, the work of Marie Suarez-Almazor et al.¹³ and the Cochrane Collaboration¹⁴ was taken into account when selecting search terms.

Results

A. Journals Indexed

No. of "Key" Titles Indexed

	AACP List (109)	Core Collection (Pharmacology) (5)	ISI JCR – P&P (187)
In IPA	87	5	95
In EMBASE	89	5	170
In Neither	7	0	10
Unique to IPA	13	0	5
Unique to EMBASE	15	0	79

B. Citations Found / C. Relevant Unique Citations in IPA

Search	No. in EMBASE	No. in IPA	No. Relevant in IPA	No. of Relevant Unique to IPA
Clinical Trials	24	2	2	1
Clinical Use of Drugs	121	3	2	0
Adverse Reactions	64	2	1	1
Pharmacokinetics	47	3	3	0
Pharmacognosy	20	1	1	0
Proprietary Names	161	2	2	0
Pharmacoeconomics	24	2	2	1
Pharmacy Practice	179	73	54	41
Drug Abuse	18	3	3	3
Pharmacy Education	96	101	81	80

Interface Used / Time Period

Software from OVID was employed and the years searched limited to articles published in 2001 and 2002. Searching 2003 would have helped determine the currency of the databases, but for the purposes of this study I wanted to compare like-with-like as much as possible. The search strategies were all executed on the same day.

Relevancy of the IPA Citations

The records retrieved from IPA were examined to see if they could answer the relevant search questions. This was decided from title and abstract information. The full-text of the articles was not examined.

The Uniqueness of the Citations

The citations which appeared to be unique in IPA were cross referenced in EMBASE, to confirm that this was indeed the case.

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Discussion

A. Journals Indexed

Number of Key Titles Indexed

Both IPA and EMBASE indexed a similar number of titles from the AACP list (87 and 89 respectively), and although EMBASE indexed far more of the ISI titles, 90.9%, IPA still had a respectable 50.8%.

Uniqueness

The study shows that 11.92% of the journals in the AACP key list are unique to IPA and 13.76% are unique to EMBASE. However, only 2.67% of the journals in the ISI List were unique to IPA, whilst the figure for EMBASE was 42.24%. The titles indexed only by IPA predominantly covered the areas of pharmacy education, history and pharmacy practice. A larger study by Bonnie Snow in 1984, looking at **all** titles included in the databases, found that 12% of IPA's journals were not covered by MEDLINE, EMBASE, BIOSIS Previews or Chemical Abstracts.

B. Number of Citations Found

At first glance the number of citations found on IPA, compared to EMBASE, seems disappointing. However, similar results have been found in other studies. Ultimately one has to remember that IPA is the smaller of the two databases. Also, on a positive note, the citations that were retrieved from IPA were highly relevant; ranging from 50% for some searches to as high as 100% relevancy for others.

C. Relevant Unique Citations in IPA

When it came to uniqueness for the relevant citations found in IPA, the figures were a little

more varied. For 4 of the searches, all the relevant citations found in IPA could also be found in EMBASE. However, when it comes to drug abuse, pharmacy practice and pharmacy education, a searcher should definitely consider searching both databases. IPA's indexing of the annual meetings of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the meetings of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists clearly helped with search 10.

Preliminary Conclusions

The study has used only three evaluative criteria and has selected only 10 searches. Certainly I am very much aware that there are many other criteria than those used for determining the desirability of using one database over another and deciding on the quality of journals. Impact factors, in particular, being controversial. Also, that using different search terms and looking for other subjects might produce different results. The study as it stands is very much a quantitative survey and in the future I hope to take it forward looking more at qualitative issues, such as the relevancy and uniqueness of the citations found in EMBASE. However, the aim of the study was to *begin* the process of comparing databases that have not been compared before for pharmaceutical information. As with so many things, more studies and constant revaluation are required.

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IPA - International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA) provides worldwide coverage of pharmaceutical science and health-related literature. It includes drug therapy, toxicity, and pharmacy practice, as well as legislation, regulation, technology, utilization, biopharmaceutics, information processing, education, economics, and ethics related to pharmaceutical science and practice. IPA is produced by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and covers citations from 1970 to the present. The Health Sciences and Human Services Library uses the Ovid interface to access IPA. For a description of the IPA database, select the information icon on the Database Selection screen.

GENERAL FEATURES (see graphic below)

- **Multifile Searching** - [see separate **Multifile and Deduping** documentation]. Searching an individual database is the default.
- **Search History** window - contains a record of each search executed, numbered sequentially.
- **Run Saved Search** - click to run previously saved searches.
- **Save Search History** - retains a search strategy for later use.
- **Delete Searches** - use to clear the entire **Search History** window, or select specific search statements to be deleted.

WEB-SITE MANAGER WANTED!

The EAHIL Executive Board is urgently seeking (a) capable volunteer(s) to become responsible for the EAHIL website. The skills required for proper content management do not have to be explained: *all* librarians nowadays should be able to do this. However time, enthusiasm and adequate facilities such as proper equipment and Internet connections are what the right candidate should bring to this job!

Please contact the President, Arne Jakobsson, for further details.

Your application, together with a short curriculum vitae and details about your interests, can be sent by e-mail to the EAHIL Secretary, Linda Lisgarten
linda.lisgarten@ulsop.ac.uk

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Internet Resources for Pharmacy

Portals / Gateways

DrugInfoZone

<http://www.druginfozone.org>

InPharm.com

<http://www.inpharm.com>

Intelihealth

<http://www.intelihealth.com>

PharmiWeb

<http://www.pharmiweb.com>

PharmWeb

<http://www.pharmweb.net>

Virtual Library for Pharmacy

<http://www.pharmacy.org>

Organisations

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

<http://www.aacp.org>

American Pharmaceutical Association

<http://www.aphanet.org>

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

<http://www.ashp.org>

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)

<http://www.bpsa.com>

European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA)

<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

European Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences

<http://www.eufeps.org>

European Scientific Co-operation on Phytotherapy (ESCOP)

<http://www.escop.com/index>

International Pharmaceutical Federation

<http://www.fip.org>

National Institute for Clinical Excellence (UK NHS)

<http://www.nice.org>

National Pharmaceutical Association (UK)

<http://www.npa.co.uk>

Pharmaceutical Companies Across the World

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

<http://www.rpsgb.org.uk>

UK Drug Information Pharmacists Group

<http://www.ukmi.nhs.uk>

ULLA (European University Consortium for Pharmaceutical Research)

<http://www.u-l-l-a.org>

US Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov>

Books

British National Formulary

<http://www.bnf.org>

Electronic Medicines Compendium

<http://www.emc.vhn.net>

The electronic version of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry's Compendium of Product Characteristics. You do have to register, but it is then free.

Free Journals

Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin

<http://www.health.gov.au/tga/adr/aadrb.htm>

Volume 14, No. 1, 1995 –

Australian Prescriber

<http://www.australianprescriber.com/>

Vol. 17, 1994 –

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Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin

<http://bpb.pharm.or.jp/index.html>

Current year only

Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

http://www.cshp.ca/our_journal/our_journal.html

Volume 54, No. 1, 2001-

Chemical and Pharmaceutical Bulletin

<http://cpb.pharm.or.jp/>

DrugTopics.com

http://www.drugtopics.com/be_core/d/index.jsp

8th January 1996 –

Hospital Pharmacist

<http://www.pharmj.com/Hospital/CurrentContents.html>

Volume 7, 2000 -

Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~csps/Journals/JPPS.htm>

Volume 1, No.1 –

Journal of Pharmacological Sciences

<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/jphs/-char/en>

Volume 91, No.1, 2003 –

Journal of Toxicological Sciences

<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/jts/-char/en>

Volume 26, No.1, 2001 –

Journal of Toxicologic Pathology

<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/tox/vols/-char/en>

Volume 11, No.1, 1998 –

MeReC Briefing

http://www.npc.co.uk/merec_briefing.htm

No. 13, 2000 -

MeReC Bulletin

http://www.npc.co.uk/merec_index.htm

1997 -

Pharmaceutical Journal

<http://www.pharmj.com/Index.html>

Volume 262, No.1, 1999 –

U.S. Pharmacist

<http://www.uspharmacist.com/>

Volume 21, No. 9, 1996 –

WHO Drug Information

<http://www.who.int/druginformation/>

Volume 12, 1998 –

WHO Pharmaceuticals Newsletter

<http://www.who.int/medicines/organization/qsm/activities/drugsafety/orgpharmanews.shtml>

1997 -

Mailing Lists

Pharmacy Related Listservs or Other Mailing Lists

<http://www.pharmacy.org/lists.html>

PHING

The list for the Pharmacy Information Group of EAHIL.

http://www.eahil.org/pharmaceutical_information_group.htm

Private-RX Service

<http://www.private-rx.co.uk/terms.asp>

A restricted UK service for registered pharmacists.

Internet Tutorials

Internet Pharmacist

<http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/tutorial/pharmacist>

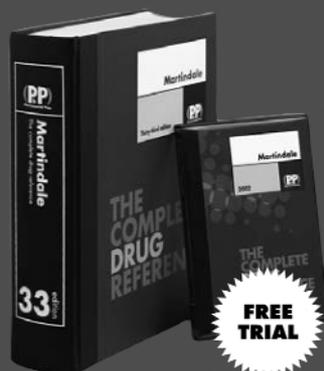
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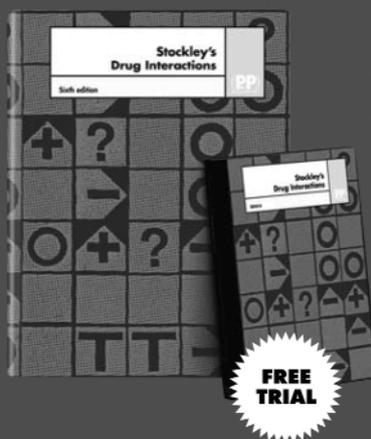
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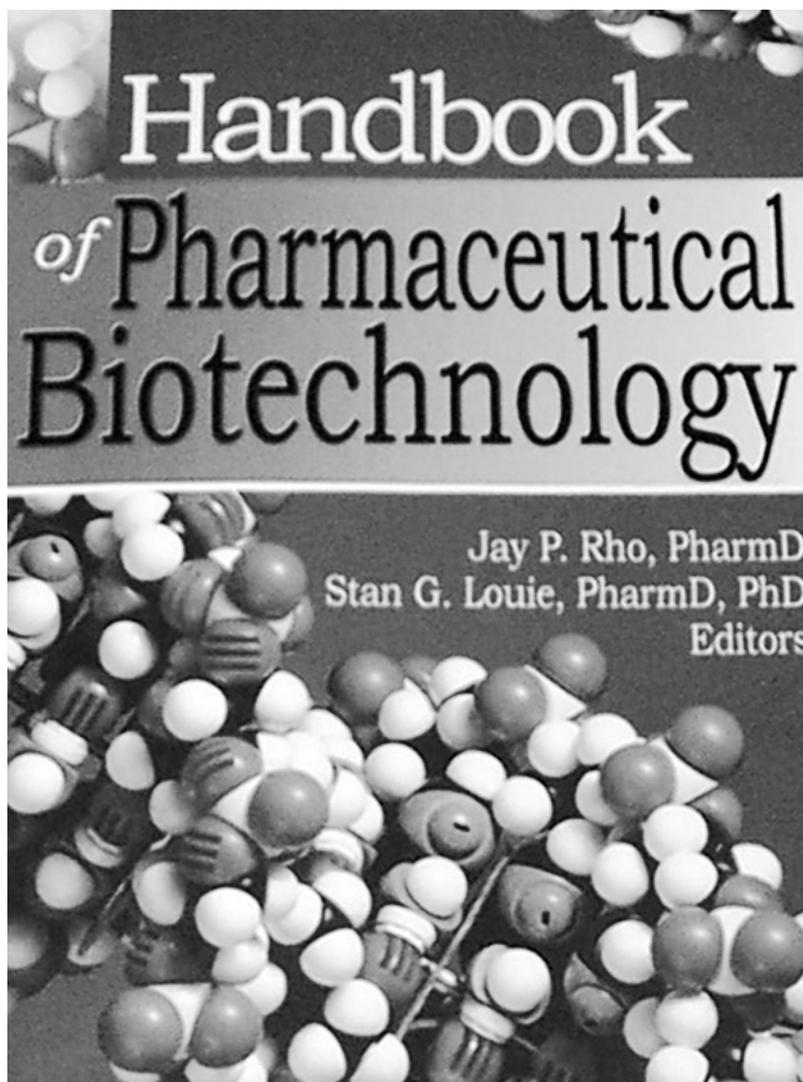


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Handbook of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology.

Eds. J.P. Rho, S.G. Louie. Pharmaceutical Products Press (an imprint of The Haworth Press, Inc.), Binghamton, NY (USA), 2003. \$59.95 cloth ISBN 0-7890-0152-7 : \$34.95 pbk ISBN 0-7890-1635-4

This surprisingly compact but informative little volume gives a good overview of the application of biotechnological products to pharmaceutical therapeutics. The editors and contributors all have good clinical pharmacy credentials and, unlike some other multi-authored compilations, the text is presented in a commendably consistent and straight-forward style. The book comprises just seven chapters: Introduction to Biotechnology; Monoclonal Antibodies; Clotting Factors; Enzymes and Regulators of Enzymatic Activity; Cytokines; Anticytokines; Oligonucleotide and Gene Therapy. Each chapter is presented in a simple but informative manner with clear diagrams and ends with a full "notes" section listing references to the literature. There is also a full index at the end of the volume which includes references to the figures and tables throughout. The easy-to-read, practical style makes the text extremely accessible and understandable to students and practitioners alike. All in all, the contributors have done an admirable job by successfully bridging the difficult gap between producing an informative overview of a fast-developing field for students, whilst still giving enough detail to produce a text that is useful to practising biopharmaceutical professionals.



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Spotlight on... Pharmacy

Clarke's analysis of drugs and poisons, 3rd edition. Eds. A.C. Moffat, M.D. Osselton and B. Widdop. Pharmaceutical Press, London (UK). 2003. ISBN 085369 473 7, £350, 2 volumes.

Universally known in pharmacy circles simply as **Clarke's**, this work provides analytical data to enable scientists to detect, identify and quantify drugs and poisons in body fluids, post-mortem material and pharmaceutical products, and has a reputation for being the seminal reference work for analytical toxicology. Written by over forty experts and assisted by an advisory editorial board of forty six from around the world, this third edition, published seventeen years after the second, does not disappoint. **Clarke's** has now increased its remit to more fully cover pesticides and industrial chemicals and this is reflected in a subtle, but important, change of title from the original *Isolation and Identification of Drugs*. As a result of this, and because of improvements in analytical methods and the number of new drugs introduced since 1996, the book has now had to be split into two volumes, but the very real necessity for this perfectly illustrates why this new edition is needed.

Volume One consists of thirty-one chapters on areas of work (eg, hospital toxicology, drug abuse in sport and workplace drug testing) and analytical techniques (eg, thin-layer chromatography, immunoassays and Raman spectroscopy), fourteen more than the previous edition. A chapter on emerging techniques highlights the fast moving nature of analytical methodology. This first volume could be used as a stand-alone textbook, as a subject index for both volumes is provided in Volume One as well as in volume two, but Volume One does contain additional data which complements the monographs in the second volume.

Volume Two contains over 1,730 monographs for drugs and poisons. This is 400 more than in the second edition, and all entries from the earlier

edition have been revised. (This is an improvement on the 1986 volume, which dropped around 200 monographs, thus forcing the retention of the original work published in two parts: one in 1969 and one in 1975). Each entry provides information on physical properties, analytical methods (mass spectral data is now included here rather than in a separate index), pharmacokinetic data and toxicity data. Abstracts from clinical studies are also provided, along with details of review articles where necessary. The monographs, listed alphabetically by rINN, provide some alternative names for each substance and, unlike the second edition, CAS registry numbers are included in the comprehensive index along with alternative nomenclature.

Given the increase in the size of the publication and the fast moving developments being made in pharmaceutical and analytical techniques, it is not surprising that an electronic version of **Clarke's** has been introduced. Available as a CD-ROM or via the Internet, it is planned that this version will be updated annually.

Clarke's, known simply as "Clarke" by toxicologists, is a text which deserves consideration for purchasing by medical libraries at undergraduate level as well as postgraduate / professional, and is an indispensable reference for analytical and pharmaceutical chemists and forensic toxicologists.

Michelle Wake

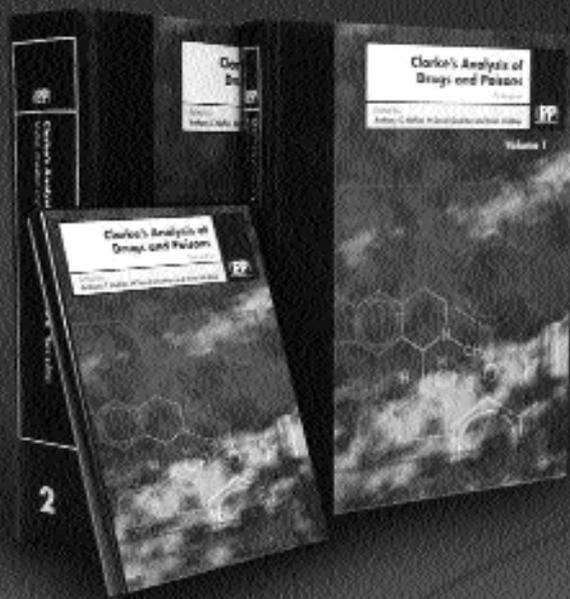
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LIBRARIANS PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE PATIENTS



Thanks to the Internet, the general public have access to an unlimited number of health information resources, ranging from mediocre and sometimes even false, in some web portal trying to increase their number of hits to guidelines issued by government agencies, ministries or learned societies. Patients and their families, worried about their health, often receive little or no information from their physicians, often too busy or too easily overlooking their informative role. It should be mentioned that the concept is relatively new, in France at least, and it is the recent law regarding the patients' rights which, at long last, sets the legal frame in this respect (<http://tif.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/2002/04118ALL.pdf>).

Patients looking for information in order to learn, ease their minds, or simply know more, are most of the time confronted with the difficulty of finding good information that is accurate, updated and reliable.

There are a number of web sites for the general public, created by librarians, which have been published in the latter years. The most famous is probably MEDLINEPlus (<http://medlineplus.gov/>) of the National Library of Medicine, which presumably does not lack the means to develop this project. Being a well known site, there is little use of presenting it in detail, though one of its strengths is worth emphasizing -- the tutorials -- outstanding educational tools incorporating image and sound (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorial.html>). Up to 21 October 2003 there were 165, an important number focussing on various specific diseases, but also on diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Worth noting is that these exceptionally well designed tutorials may also be used by non-English speaking librarians who want to improve their pronunciation and knowledge of medical (US) English.

Below are other web sites for consumer health information, most of them made known to me by the members of the LIS-MEDICAL and MEDLIB-L discussion lists and I wish to thank them again. At the same time I would like to mention that I kept only the sites partially or entirely created by libraries and librarians*. For

reasons of space and time, I have not included library sites that contain one page of links destined for consumers, only projects of entire sites specifically targeting the general public. Possibly and hopefully, many of us will want to build up similar sites with similar objectives. They may find these examples useful or encouraging.

EQUIP (Electronic Quality Information for Patients) is a UK directory of quality checked web sites of health and diseases information and support for patients (<http://www.equip.nhs.uk/>) "created in response to Government requirements for improvements in information available to patients. It is hoped that such information will help patients to understand their illness and become more involved in treatment decisions". It includes both an alphabetical and a hierarchical subject index, which makes orientation easy. Each disease is given a definition, completed by useful links and contact addresses of national and regional organizations. A page is dedicated to non-English resources for the use of ethnic groups. The site also includes lists of health care professionals and services. And last but not least, a very rich collection of services and associations for patients organized by topic and geographical location. The site also provides a search engine, which allows simple searches.

Healthfinder (<http://www.healthfinder.gov/>) is an awards-winning Federal Web site, developed by the U.S. department of Health and Human Services together with other Federal agencies. It is a bilingual site in English and Spanish, with a section dedicated to children. It includes: (1) a "health library" with alphabetical access to diseases and other resources (dictionaries, databases etc.); (2) "just for you" which targets specific groups (men, women, children...); (3) "health care" for looking up health professionals, organizations, insurance etc. and (4) "a directory of healthfinder organizations". The search engine allows simple text-based searches. The substantial descriptions attached to each resource help understand how the database is constructed.

HealthyNJ, the UMDNJ Libraries Consumer Health Web Site (<http://www.healthynj.org/>) "is a product of the University Libraries at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey". It is bilingual English and Spanish. For each topic in the "health & wellness" and "diseases and conditions" sections, accessible alphabetically, the user will find a general description - often taken from the *Merck Manual of Medical Information-Home Edition* - as well as New Jersey Resources, News Groups, Online Support and related web sites, Patient Education Information, search strategies from PubMed concerning complications, diagnosis, etiology, prevention and treatment, reviews etc. The site has a section dedicated to children. A search engine allows text-based searches of the entire site.

NHSDirect Online

(<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>) gives access to a rich updated medical encyclopedia based on both alphabetical and subject indexes. For each disease or condition one can find a general introduction, symptoms, diagnosis, complications, etiology, prevention, therapy etc. For a subject such as

"anesthesia" one will find a definition, procedure description and a short list of references. The second part of the site is very original, a guide by symptoms, classified by organs and body parts or by alphabetical order, advising the patient, step by step, on the measures to be taken. The third part concerns the NHS and its services and provides searches by type of service and post code.

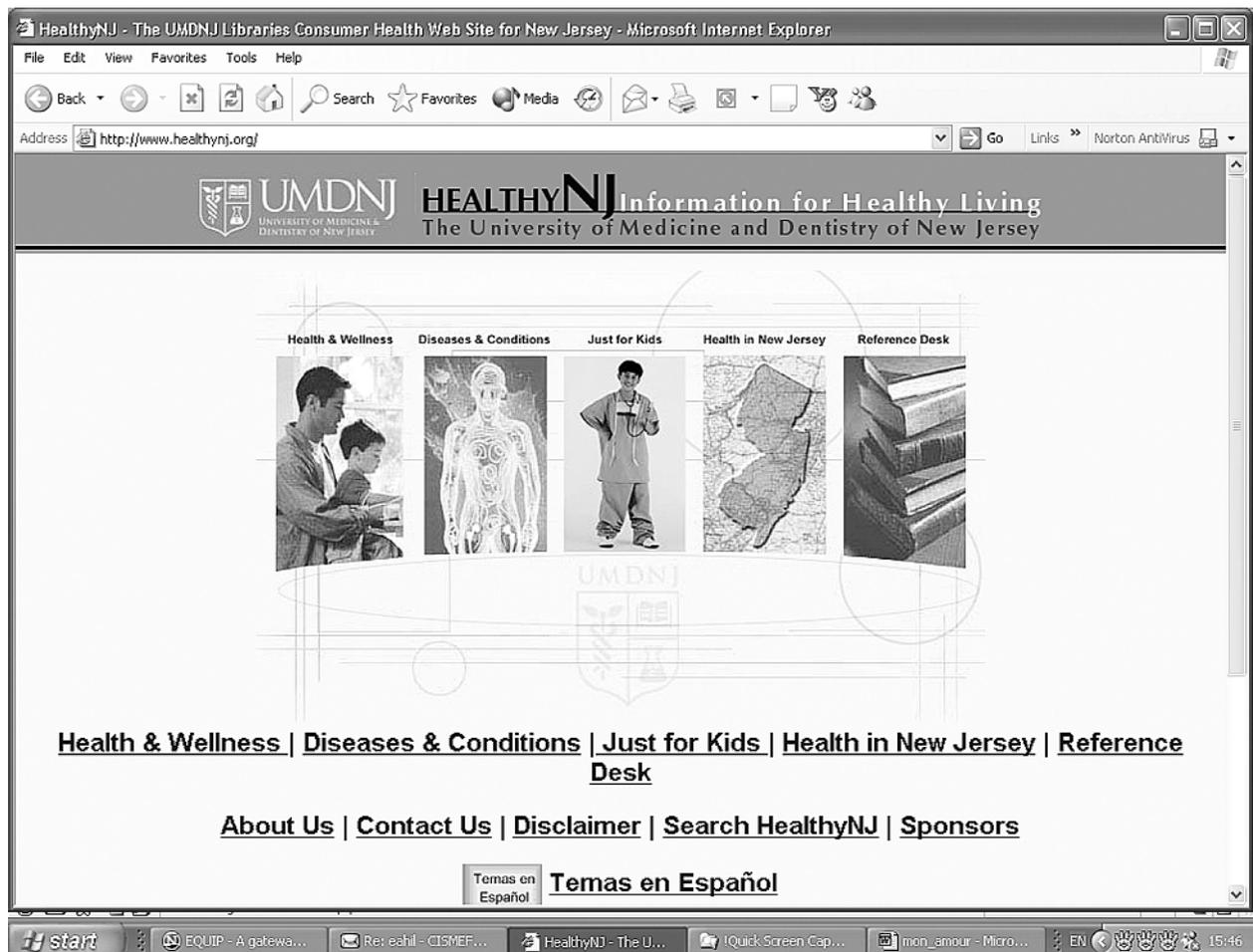
NOAH New York Online Access to Health (<http://www.noah-health.org>) "provides access to high quality full-text consumer health information in English and Spanish". Several libraries of the city of New York participated in this project, which was initiated in 1994. NOAH may be searched both by an alphabetical index of keywords and a hierarchical list of subjects. The search engine allows both simple and boolean searches. The *What's New* page points to the list of content updates as well as the most frequent searches of the last month. The information covers a wide range of fields: definition, diagnosis, complications, prevention, treatment etc. The subjects are updated regularly and dates are mentioned. NOAH also includes resources redirected from the project partners and also external resources.

NIHSeniorHealth (<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/>) "makes aging-related health information easily accessible for adults 60 and older". It is also a useful tool for family members and friends who are seeking online health information for their older relatives. This site was developed by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), both part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)". It presents diseases and conditions specific to people over the age of 60, particularly aspects regarding diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control. It offers the possibility of enlarging the text, adjusting contrast, and listening to an audio version.

Internet page

SPIRAL, Selected Patient Information Resources in Asian Languages (<http://www.library.tufts.edu/hsl/spiral/>) "is a joint initiative of the South Cove Community Health Center and Tufts University Health Sciences Library is supported by a grant from the New England Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. [...] The project aims to: increase electronic access to health information for consumers and health care providers of the South Cove Community Health Center and its affiliates, [...] provide consumer information in

the languages of the community served, specifically Chinese, Cambodian, Vietnamese and Laotian, [...] teach health care providers to use the wide variety of Internet resources available to them and their patients including National Library of Medicine and Tufts University resources". Though the title specifies in Asian Languages the information is, of course, available in English as well. It may be searched by language and/or subject, displayed in html and/or pdf formats. The sources and the updates are clearly indicated.



Internet page

*Below is a list of sites that are not presented in detail here because: (1) They do not represent a project in itself, being rather parts or sections of library sites, though most of them exceptionally interesting and informative; (2) They are not the result of specific librarians' work; (3) They were inaccessible or accessed very difficultly at the time of this study:

Auseinet - Australian Network for Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention for Mental Health (<http://www.auseinet.com>)

CancerBACUP - The UK's leading cancer information service (<http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk/>)

Cancer.gov-PDQ (<http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/pdq>)

Familydoctor.org (<http://www.familydoctor.org/>)

Diseases, Disorders and Related Topics (<http://www.mic.ki.se//Diseases/>)

Go Ask Alice! (<http://www.goaskalice.columbia.edu>)

Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, Information for families (http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/gosh_families/index.html)

Healthinfo4u (<http://www.healthinfo4u.org/>)

NIH: Health Information (<http://www.health.nih.gov/>)

HealthInsite (<http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/>)

HSLs: Consumer Health Information (<http://www.hslls.pitt.edu/chi>)

Jewish General Hospital (<http://www.jgh.ca/yourvisit/index.html>)

KidsHealth (Nemours Foundation) (<http://www.kidshealth.org/>)

Lowell General Hospital Health Science Library (<http://www.lowellgeneral.org/library/weblibcons/NLMConsumerclassif.htm>)

Medical Library Association: For Health Consumers (http://www.mlanet.org/resources/consumr_index.html)

Mercer University Patient Education And Consumer Health Information (<http://gain.mercer.edu/peachi/consumhealth.htm>)

MGH Medical Library/HGM Bibliothèque Médicale (<http://www.mghlib.mcgill.ca/consumer/chhome.htm>)

NetWellness (<http://www.netwellness.org/>)

SUNY Upstate Medical University: Health Sciences Library (<http://www.upstate.edu/library/healthinfo/> & <http://www.upstate.edu/uhpated/>)

See also the medical libraries on the site of MEDLINEplus that provide consumer health information (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/libraries.html>), as well as CAPHIS - Consumer and Patient Health Information Section of the MLA (<http://www.caphis.mlanet.org/>).

***There is also an HTML version of this article at URL:
<http://www.chu-rouen.fr/documed/eahil66.html>***

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Publications and New Products



Dear Colleagues,

Open access publishing is going to become a reality. A report commissioned by Wellcome Trust, the UK's largest research-funding body, argued that the present market structure in journal publishing does not work to the advantage of scientists (R. Horton. *Lancet* 2003, 362, 1510). Two research scientists at the University of California at San Francisco have called for a boycott of Cell Press publications, saying the price for electronic access is exorbitant (J. Lenzer. *BMJ* 2003, 327, 1070). Over recent years journal prices have increased faster than the rate of inflation and several large funding agencies have already agreed to cover the cost of open access publishing (T. Delamothe and R. Smith. *BMJ* 2004, 328, 1). Moreover the

Governments of 176 countries have signed a landmark international agreement that explicitly supports open access. In the action plan the governments pledged to encourage initiative to facilitate access to journals and archives for scientific information and promote electronic publishing <http://www.itu.int/ws>

A new biology journal *PloS Biology* aims to publish articles of "exceptional significance" to compete with traditional journals like *Nature*, *Science* and *Cell* (D. Butler. *Nature* 2003, 425, 554). According to the message from the founders, the aim of the journal is to catalyse a revolution in scientific publishing (P.O. Brown et al. *PloS Biology* 2003, 1, Issue 1, 1). Is this the beginning of a new era?

Giovanna F. Miranda

Giovanna.Miranda@sanofi-synthelabo.com

JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of **November 2003**, the following journal issue of *Health Information and Libraries Journal* has been received: **Vol. 20, 2003, n. 4**

Vol. 20, n. 4.

R. Cullen. Evaluating digital libraries in the health sector. Part 1: measuring inputs and outputs. p. 195 – 204.

The paper summarizes some major national and collaborative initiatives to develop measures for digital libraries, and analyses these approaches in terms of their relationship to traditional measures of library performance, which are focused on inputs and outputs, and their relevance to current debates among health information specialists.

C. King and S. Hornby. Access for all? A survey of health librarians in the north-west of England on provision of information to patients. p. 205 – 214.

This study examined the role that librarians could play in helping patients to find information. Advantages of health library involvement in the patient information include having a local point of contact for patients and the ability of librarians to find, evaluate and organize good-quality resources.

D. Nicholas, P. Huntington, P. Williams, B. Gunter. Perceptions of the authority of health information. Case study: digital interactive television and the Internet. p. 215 – 224.

This paper concentrates on the issue of trust in digital health information. Two thousand people were surveyed on the use of two digital health information services, one on the Web and the other on digital interactive television (DVT).

Publications and New Products

A. Booth, A. Sutton, L. Falzon. Working together: supporting projects through action learning. p. 225 – 231.

Action learning provides a group-based means of meeting skills deficits associated with project management and delivery. This paper describes an action learning set for project staff on five knowledge management projects within Trent Region.

Brief communications p. 232

BOOKS REVIEW

Staying legal. A guide to issues and practice affecting the library, information and publishing sectors. Second Edition. Eds. C. Armstrong and L.W. Bebbington. Facet Publishing, London (UK) 2003. £49.95 hardback, ISBN 1-85604-438-6, pp 288. This book offers a practical guide to the legal issues relating to information work and knowledge industries. The second edition is comprehensively revised to cover the many changes in the law.

NEW JOURNALS

PLoS Biology is a peer-reviewed journal launched by the Public Library of Science. After the acceptance for the publication, the articles will be made immediately and freely available online. They can be downloaded, printed, distributed, and used without charge or other restrictions, as long as proper attribution of authorship is maintained. <http://www.plosbiology.org>

PAPERS REVIEW

21st-century biomedical journals: failures and futures.

R. Horton. Lancet 2003, 362, 1510 – 1512.

Open access publishing takes off.

T. Delamothe and R. Smith. BMJ 2004, 328, 1-3

Who will pay for open access?

D. Butler. Nature 2003, 425, 554-555

Open access to peer-reviewed research: making it happen.

P. T. Tamber et al. Lancet 2003, 362, 1575 – 1577

Open-access publishing: where is the value?

B. D. Crawford. Lancet 2003, 362, 1578 – 1580

Opening the books on open access.

D. Malakoff. Science 2003, 302, 550 - 554

Knowledge management – the new librarianship? From custodians of history to gatekeepers to the future.

J. Rowley. Library management 2003, 24, Number 8/9, 433-440

Copyright: its implications for electronic information.

S. Subba Rao. Online Information Review 2003, 27, number 4, 264-275.

Going, going, gone: lost Internet references.

R. P. Dellavalle et al. Science 2003, 302, 787 – 788.

Cochrane at crossroads over drug company sponsorship.

R. Moynihan. BMJ 2003, 327, 924-926.

Publications and New Products

INFORMATION SOURCES..... Web-based

Cardiovascular diseases specialist library. The National electronic Library for Health's (NeLH) launched the cardiovascular diseases specialist library. The aim of this specialist library is to support the professional community, patients, and public alike. The site provides information that can be used for clinical decision-making by doctors and that can advise patients about the risks. From a drop-down menu users can rapidly gain access to guidelines, systematic reviews, bibliographies, a clinical database, and reviewed internet sites. A useful feature is "hot off the press," which highlights the most important papers published on cardiovascular diseases, with hyperlinks to the journal pages
<http://rms.nelh.nhs.uk/cardiovascular/>

Human protein database. Researchers from The Institute of Bioinformatics in Bangladesh, India and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, USA have launched an online human protein database freely available. The database contains critically reviewed entries with links to relevant scientific papers on more than 3000 proteins.
<http://www.hprd.org>

Medical errors. A site of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) for healthcare professionals which focuses on reports about medication errors. ISMP is a non-profit organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, professional organizations and the pharmaceutical industry to provide education about adverse drug events and their prevention. The Institute provides an independent review of medication errors that have been voluntarily submitted by practitioners to a national Medication Errors Reporting Program. (MERP) All information derived from the MERP is shared with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and pharmaceutical companies whose products are mentioned in reports.
<http://www.ismp.org>

my DNai. The site is hosted by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. It is a primer on the structure, function and uses of DNA. Designed for teachers and high school or lower-level college students, the site uses graphics and animation to draw students in.
<http://www.dnai.org>

NEWS FROM PUBLISHERS

The National Center for Biotechnology Information adds **LinkOut in PubMed**. LinkOut is a feature of Entrez that is designed to provide users with links from PubMed and other Entrez databases to a wide variety of relevant web-accessible online resources, including full-text publications, biological databases, consumer health information, research tools, and more.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/linkout>

BioMed Central announced that **Medline** have accepted another nineteen of BioMed Central's journal for indexing. In total 38 of the BioMed Central's journal are indexed in Medline. The cataloguing data for the almost 100 journals that BioMed Central publishes can be found in Internet
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/libraries/catalog>

Publications and New Products

Elsevier has launched **The Lancet Backfiles** going back to the first edition in 1823. They contain 390,000 historical articles, the complete chronicle of more than 180 years of medical literature. The articles are available in electronic format – all fully searchable and interlinked to today's top papers. <http://www.info.sciencedirect.com>

Elsevier plans to close its three end-users portals BioMedNet, ChemWeb and ElsevierEngineering.com. The existing portals will be withdrawn and some current activities will migrate to the main Elsevier.com site. Elsevier is expected to focus its Internet efforts on sophisticated search tools to complement ScienceDirect (Nature, 2003, 426, 744). <http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/nb031229-1.shtml>

Giovanna F. Miranda
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EAHIL welcomes the following members, who in the last months were newly registered or renewed their membership:

Affiliated members:

UK: Gemma England, Marketing Assistant, Current Medical Literature Ltd, London

USA: Mrs. M.E. MURRAY (Mollie), American Association for Cancer Research Circulation Coordinator, Philadelphia

Full members:

Belgium: Mrs. M. CARCANO (Muriel), GSK BIOLOGICALS Library, RIXENSART

Hungary: Mrs. S.S. JUDIT (Szabo Szavay), Veterinary Science Library of the Szent Istvan, Budapest

Gambia: M. NKARONYE (Millenarian), TAHIR AHAMADIYA Senior School LRD, Bantul

France: Mrs G. UTARD-WLERICK (Guillemette) BIUSJ BIOLOGIE RECHERCHE, PARIS

Forthcoming events

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

3- 5 February 2004, Bielefeld, Germany

Thinking Beyond Digital Libraries. Designing the Information Strategy for the Next Decade.
For further information: <http://conference.ub.uni-bielefeld.de>

8 – 9 March 2004, Rotterdam, Nederland

The Future of Scientific Publishing.

Eusidic Spring Meeting 2004.

For further information: <http://www.eusidic.org>

10-12 March, Washington DC, PA, USA

19th Annual Computers in Libraries 2004.

For further information: <http://infotoday.com/cil2004>

22 – 26 March 2004, Paris, France

Migration in Society, Culture, and the Library: WESS European Conference.

For further information: <http://www.library.jhu.edu/rsd/other/wess2004/wess2004.html>

19-23 May 2004 Thessaloniki, Greece

Scripta 2004, International Book Fair.

For further information: <http://www.helexpo.gr>

15-17 June 2004, Frankfurt Am Main, Germany

Careers in Information, Documentation and Communication with a Future.

The Association for Information Science and Practice

For further information: <http://www.dgd.de/>

24 – 30 June 2004, Orlando, FL, USA

Library Associations Worldwide: Breaking Down Barriers And Making Connections. 2004 ALA Annual Conference

For further information: <http://tinyurl.com/vwmw>

12 –17 September 2004, Bath, UK

European Conference On Digital Libraries (Ecdl) 2004.

For further information: <http://www.ecdl2004.org>

20 – 25 September 2004, Santander, Spain

9th European Conference of Medical and Information Libraries.

For further information: <https://ibio.humv.es/biblioteca/eahil>

27-29 September 2004, Mannheim, Germany

Annual meeting of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Medizinisches Bibliothekswesen (AgmB)

For further information: <http://www.agmb.de/> or <http://www.akh-wien.ac.at/agmb/neutag.html>

November 4th - November 5th 2004

2nd UK Clinical Librarian Conference, London

at the Royal College of Physicians, London

<http://www.le.ac.uk/li/lgh/library/clconfpage04.htm>

Giovanna F. Miranda

Giovanna.Miranda@sanofi-synthelabo.com

EAHIL Elections

ELECTIONS FOR THE EAHIL PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Amsterdam, January 26, 2004

To all EAHIL members,

Herewith the announcement that in 2004 elections should take place for the President and Executive Board members, for whom the term of office will end on 1.1.2005:

Arne Jakobsson (President) will stand for re-election for 2nd 2-years-term

Linda Lisgarten – will stand for re-election for 2nd 4-years term

Marta Viragos – will stand for re-election for 2nd 4-years term

Gabriella Poppi – will retire from the Board.

The election committee, Oliver Obst (Germany) and Reneé Mertens (Belgium), is seeking candidates for both the Presidency and Board membership.

Candidates should be nominated by two EAHIL members (see form on the next page). The President's election is separate from the election of the other Board members.

The Board would very much welcome nominations of candidates from the francophone and/or central European countries not yet represented in the Board. Furthermore the Board is interested to invite more people to attend Board meetings as co-opted members, for which non-elected candidates are eligible.

Please send the completed form **NOT LATER THAN March 31st** to the

EAHIL Election Committee
c/o EAHIL Secretariat
Nieuwegracht 15
3512 LC Utrecht
The Netherlands
fax: + 31 30 231 1830

on behalf of the election committee:
Suzanne Bakker
1st Vice President &
Supervisor EAHIL Secretariat

EAHIL

European Association for Health Information and Libraries

NOMINATION FOR	President* (2-years term)	2004 elections
	Executive Board member* (4-years term)	

*please clearly mark what is applicable and strike-out the other option

I, EAHIL member, membership number..... address: city: country: e-mail:	I, EAHIL member, membership number..... address: city: country: e-mail:
date:	date:
signature:	signature:

hereby nominate as candidate for President*/Board member* the 2004 EAHIL elections:

Candidate for Presidency* / Executive Board membership*: Name: Function: Institutional address: City & Country: Phone: Fax: E-mail:

Candidate's agreement:

I agree to be a candidate in the 2004 elections and willing & able to serve on the Executive Board of EAHIL for 2005-2006, 2005-2008 respectively.

Date: Signed (by candidate):

This form should be sent not later than **March 31st, 2004**, to:

EAHIL Election Committee, c/o EAHIL Secretariat,

Nieuwegracht 15, 3512 LC Utrecht, The Netherlands, fax: + 31 30 231 1830

Colofon

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Whilst the Editorial Board endeavours to obtain items of interest, the facts and opinions expressed in those items are the responsibility of the authors concerned. They do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of the Association.

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Two/third page	292 Euro	
A5 (landscape)	232 Euro	
One/third page	171 Euro	

Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts in English should be about 3-4 standard (1.50 space) typewritten pages and provided by e-mail. 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. **Illustrations** may be sent electronically, preferably either TIFF (tagged image file format) or EPS (encapsulated postscript) formats. If taken by a digital camera they must be 300 dpi resolution. For best results, illustrations should be much larger than the desired final size.

EAHIL

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