

# NEWS LETTER

TO EUROPEAN  
HEALTH LIBRARIANS

DES BIBLIOTHECAIRES EUROPEENS  
DE LA SANTE



***European Association for Health Information and Libraries***  
***Association Européenne pour l'information et les Bibliothèques de santé***

JANUARY 1991 • NUMBER 14

JANVIER 1991 • NUMERO 14

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The production of this Newsletter was made possible by the generous sponsorship of:

La publication de ce Bulletin a pu être réalisée grâce au généreux parrainage de:

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AND LIBRARIES**

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*The EAHIL logo consists of the caduceum, the symbol of the health professions for two millenia; the book, the symbol for all forms of media for information for five centuries; the 12 stars of the flag of Europe adopted since 1949 by the Council of Europe and other European institutions.*



*Le logo de l'AEIBS se compose du caducée, le symbole des professions de la santé depuis deux millénaires; du livre, le symbole des différentes formes de media de l'information depuis cinq siècles; les 12 étoiles du drapeau de l'Europe adopté depuis 1949 par le Conseil de l'Europe et d'autres institutions européennes.*

**EDITORIAL**

**THE ULTIMATE "END USER"**

The Chief Defect of Henry King  
Was chewing little bits of String.  
At last he swallowed some which tied  
Itself in ugly Knots inside.  
Physicians of the Utmost Fame  
Were called at once; but when they came  
They answered as they took their Fees  
"There is no Cure for this Disease..."

Cautionary Tales - Henry King, by Hilaire Belloc

Henry King's misfortunes were both exceedingly unlikely and self-inflicted. But how does the general public acquire information to keep themselves healthy, or find support in the face of chronic or life threatening disease? Should we as medical librarians, or providers of health information to professionals, be involved or distance ourselves from health information for patients

**EDITORIAL**

**L'ULTIME "UTILISATEUR FINAL"**

Le Petit Henri King ayant mâché des morceaux de ficelles fut bientôt emporté en de terribles agonies.

"Le défaut principal du Petit Henri  
Était de mâcher de petits bouts de ficelles.  
Il finit par en avaler un qui fit  
De vilains noeuds dans son ventre.  
Des médecins de grand renom furent  
A son chevet de suite convoqués.  
Mais leur réponse ne se fit pas attendre;  
Ils déclarèrent,  
Tout en touchant leurs honoraires :  
"Ce mal est incurable".

d'après Hilaire Belloc, "Contes Moraux, Henri King".

Les malheurs d'Henry King étaient à la fois tout fait improbables et un peu masochistes. Mais de quelle manière le grand public obtient-il de l'information sur la

and the lay public ?

Health librarians in developing countries would think this a poor sort of question (see the reports on the Delhi meeting in this issue). So why have the developed countries given such relatively low priority to this important type of information ? Libraries and information centres of all types are well developed in Europe, but there are differences from country to country and a system developed in one might need adaptation to be effective in another. How far have we progressed ? Are we scared of the medical establishment ? Should we cooperate with other bodies ? Should we bother ?

Henry King's terminal complaint might have been avoided if healthy eating advice had been available at an earlier stage. So, who gathers this information and how do they disseminate it ? In the U.K. Health Education/Promotion Departments are an integral part of the National Health Service, though this is a fairly recent development. The one I know best, in Leicester, has its own small library and has only recently appointed an information officer to make it effective.

Where would Henry's grieving parents go for support and advice on, say, the best sort of diet to sooth the pains of knotted string (spaghetti perhaps). Advice given orally by the physician is rarely fully retained or understood at times of psychological stress and the grieving parents might well find that a national or local self-help group was an effective channel of support and useful information. Indeed as hospital stays are reduced to a minimum, and more nursing takes place in the community, health professionals (including doctors) need to know where all these different types of support and help can be obtained.

If we are to progress as a European Association, we need basic information on what is going on at a national and a local level in the different parts of the continent. I have asked a lot of questions, but we need you to answer them or express an opinion. EAHIL members, like patients and their care givers, need to be well informed to be effective.

**Jean Shaw**

Clinical Sciences Library Leicester Royal Infirmary  
PO Box 65 Leicester LE2 7LX, U.K.

santé ou de l'aide face des maladies chroniques ou très graves ? En tant que bibliothécaires médicaux ou fournisseurs d'informations sur la santé auprès des professionnels, devons-nous être impliqués ou distancés par rapport à l'information sur la santé pour les malades et le grand public ? Les bibliothécaires médicaux des pays en voie de développement pourraient penser que ceci est une bien mauvaise question (voir à ce sujet les rapports sur la réunion de Delhi, dans ce numéro). Alors, pourquoi les pays développés ont-ils donné une priorité moindre à cet important type d'information ? Les bibliothèques et centres d'information de toutes sortes sont bien développés en Europe mais il y a des différences dans chaque pays et un système développé dans l'un peut être susceptible d'adaptation pour être efficace dans l'autre. Où en sommes-nous ? Avons-nous de l'"establishment" médical ? Devrions-nous coopérer avec d'autres institutions ? Dans le fond, est-ce notre problème ?

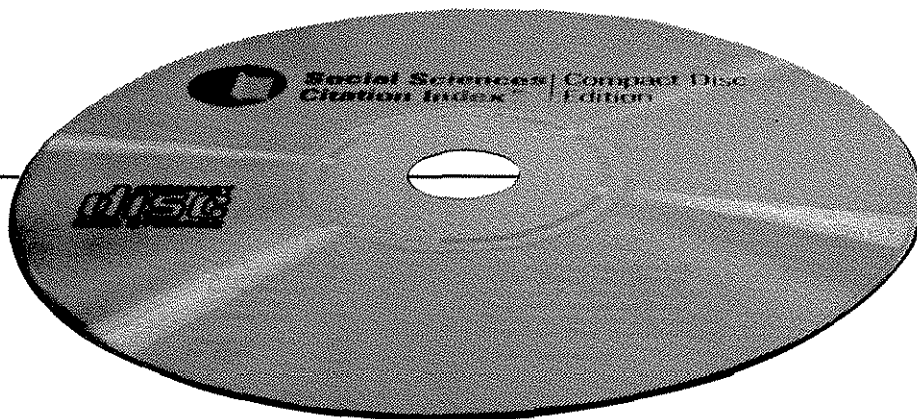
La plainte finale d'Henri aurait pu être évitée si de sains conseils nutritionnels avaient pu lui être prodigués en temps voulu. Qui rassemble donc ces informations et comment sont-elles divulguées ? En Grande-Bretagne, les départements Education/Promotion de la Santé font partie intégrante du Ministère de la Santé, bien que ce soit de création relativement récente. Celui que je connais le mieux à Leicester possède sa propre bibliothèque et, récemment, un spécialiste de l'information y a été nommé et rend ainsi ce service efficace. Vers quoi auraient pu se tourner les parents affligés du Roi Henri afin d'obtenir aide et conseil sur, disons, la meilleure sorte de régime pour calmer les douleurs provoquées par des ficelles emmêlées (peut être des spaghettis) ? Les conseils oraux donnés par les médecins sont rarement retenus en entier ou compris lorsque l'on se trouve stressé psychologiquement et les parents affligés auraient tout aussi bien pu trouver qu'un groupe d'aide local ou national était une manière de soutien et source utile d'information. Puisque les temps de séjours sont réduits au minimum et que beaucoup de soins sont prodigués dans la ville, les professionnels de la santé (incluant les médecins) ont besoin de savoir où peuvent être obtenus ces différents types d'aide.

Si, en tant qu'Association européenne, nous devons progresser, il est nécessaire d'avoir des informations de base sur ce qui se passe sur le plan national et local partout dans le monde. J'ai posé pas mal de questions mais il faudrait que vous puissiez y répondre ou donniez votre avis. Les membres de EAHIL, ainsi que les malades et les soignants ont besoin d'être bien informés afin d'être efficaces.

**Jean Shaw**

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## VIEWS FROM THE BOARD

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### Message from the President

The dramatic events which have unfolded over the last year in Europe have contributed unquestionably to the making of the Europe of tomorrow. A definite direction has been given. What role does an association like EAHIL play in this historical upturn ?

Derek Law, in the October issue of the MLA Bulletin puts EAHIL's position in this context when he writes "From the start (the European Association for Health Information and Libraries) took the view that (the Association) should cover Eastern as well as Western European countries and, given the rapid political changes taking place in Europe at the moment, this seems to have been a particularly astute decision".

Indeed, at the beginning of this new year, we are happy to greet our colleagues from the eastern parts of Europe as full members of EAHIL, in their own right. Thus, it is a stronger association with which we start the year. Slowly but surely, since its foundation in 1987, the EAHIL membership has grown to a count today of over 400 members.

As you read these lines, the new Executive Board elected last summer will already have met.

It is with deep regret that we see Marc Walckiers leave the Board, after five years of intense personal commitment and strong dedication to the Association. It is thanks to his foresight and hard work that the Association has been able to establish itself on a firm basis, with a solid structure and a program of work from which many of us have already benefitted. We know that we shall be able to continue to count on Marc for advice and suggestions whenever the need arises.

It is also with regret that we see two other members leave the Board, Ragnhild Lande and Tony King. We all remember Tony for the very successful WHILA program last spring. Besides this program, Tony has tried to keep the finances of the Association in good order with a positive balance, not an easy task for such young association. Though Ursula Hausen remains on the Executive Board, we wish also to express our gratitude to her for having served as Acting President, and for having given generously of her time to assure the success of the EAHIL program of activities.

We welcome the new Board members, Fiona Picken (U.K.), Pascale Delausnay (Belgium) and Elisabeth Husem (Norway). We are very much looking forward to working together and to pursuing the program which has been outlined for the years 1989-1990.

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## VUES DU BUREAU EXECUTIF

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### Message de la Présidente

Les événements qui ont marqué l'Europe cette dernière année, ont sans aucun doute contribué à préparer l'Europe de demain. Une direction nous est clairement indiquée. Quel rôle peut jouer une association telle que l'AEIBS/EAHIL dans un tel contexte historique ?

Derek Law, dans le numéro d'Octobre 1990 du Bulletin de MLA nous indique la position de l'AEIBS lorsqu'il écrit que "Dès ses débuts, l'Association Européenne pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé a décidé qu'elle devait s'adresser autant aux pays de l'Europe de l'Est que de l'Ouest. Considérant les changements politiques rapides qui ont pris place en Europe ces derniers mois, cela semble avoir été une décision astucieuse".

Au début de cette nouvelle année, nous sommes en effet très heureux de saluer nos collègues des pays de l'est de l'Europe comme des membres de l'AEIBS, à part entière.

Ainsi, c'est une association plus forte qui commence cette nouvelle année. Lentement mais sûrement depuis sa fondation en 1987, le nombre des membres de l'AEIBS a grandi pour dépasser aujourd'hui les 400 membres.

Au moment où vous lisez ces lignes, le nouveau Bureau Exécutif de l'AEIBS, élu en été dernier, se sera déjà réuni.

C'est avec beaucoup de regret que nous voyons Marc Walckiers quitter le Bureau Exécutif, après cinq années d'un dévouement sans réserve et d'un engagement personnel total à l'Association. C'est grâce à son jugement prévoyant et à son travail intense que l'Association a pu s'établir sur une base ferme, avec une structure solide et un programme dont plusieurs d'entre nous ont déjà bénéficié. Nous savons que nous pourrions encore compter sur Marc pour des conseils et suggestions lorsque le besoin s'en fera sentir.

C'est aussi avec regret que nous voyons deux autres membres quitter le Bureau Exécutif, Ragnhild Lande et Tony King. Nous avons tous en mémoire le bilan très positif du programme de Whila au printemps dernier. En plus de ce programme, Tony s'est efforcé de garder les comptes de l'Association en bon ordre et de veiller à ce que le budget présente une balance positive, une tâche peu facile pour une si jeune association.

Bien que Ursula Hausen ne quitte pas le Bureau Exécutif, nous lui exprimons notre gratitude pour avoir servi à la tête du Bureau Exécutif comme Présidente Interim et avoir elle aussi, contribué généreusement au succès des activités de l'Association.

Nous souhaitons la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres du Bureau Exécutif, Fiona Mackay Picken (U.K.), Pascale Delausnay (Belgique), et Elisabeth Husem (Norvège). Nous nous réjouissons de travailler avec ces collègues et de poursuivre le programme élaboré déjà pour les années 1989-1990.

As in the past, the Board will work in as close a co-operation as possible with the national delegates which constitute the EAHIL Council. To all of you, and to all EAHIL members nearby or faraway, I extend my warm greetings and wish everyone a most rewarding year.

Work has already started for the 1992 EAHIL 3rd Conference in Montpellier. The rich history of this city, the important role which the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier has played over the centuries, the facilities which are being reserved for the conference augur well for a most interesting and dynamic event. We hope to see all of you there.

This past year, our Newsletter has undergone important changes. Besides the fact that it is now completely produced by a team of EAHIL members, under the very competent editorship of Jean Shaw, its format as well as its content have evolved. There is room for each one of you to express yourselves, your opinions, some special news from your corner, some useful information or experience to share or even for some artwork. We urgently invite everyone to contribute in the making of this important link between us, the EAHIL Newsletter.

Other activities which will retain our attention these coming months are continuing education courses, CEC for brief. Next summer CEC should take place in various parts of Europe to answer the needs which were expressed in Bologna. Furthermore, CEC will also be organized in the context of the Montpellier conference, in 1992.

If you have not yet received the "EAHIL Directory of Medical Libraries in Europe", you should expect it very soon. We have been working actively to produce it. Not an easy task. The costs of such a production are not minor and the logistics involved in the making of a database require some careful planning. But, we are hopeful that it will be only the first of a series of useful tools produced by EAHIL for our daily use.

Other issues will retain our attention. Our representation in other professional associations, world-wide, must not be neglected, no more than our representation in international institutions. EAHIL has a role to play in the Europe of tomorrow and we shall make sure that this role is well played, for the benefit of us all as well as the many people who use our libraries every day.

As you see, our program of work, for the coming months is not light. This is why we count on the cooperation of everyone of you, in your own way, to participate in the continuing successful activities of EAHIL. We are anxious to hear from you !

Monique C. Cleland,  
EAHIL President

Comme par le passé, le Bureau Exécutif travaillera en collaboration étroite avec les délégués nationaux qui constituent le Conseil de l'AEIBS. A vous tous, et à tous les membres de l'AEIBS, proches ou lointains, je présente mes vœux chaleureux et vous souhaite une année des plus satisfaisantes.

Nous avons déjà commencé à travailler pour la 3<sup>ème</sup> conférence de l'AEIBS à Montpellier, en 1992. L'histoire très riche de cette ville, le rôle important qu'a joué la Faculté de Médecine de Montpellier au cours des siècles, les facilités qui ont été réservées pour la conférence sont de bon augure pour réaliser une conférence des plus intéressantes et des plus dynamiques. Nous espérons tous vous voir à Montpellier.

Cette dernière année, notre "Newsletter" a subi des changements importants. En plus du fait qu'elle est maintenant complètement produite par des membres de l'EAIBS sous la direction compétente de Jean Shaw, son format autant que son contenu ont évolué. Chacun peut y apporter sa contribution qui va de l'article professionnel, aux nouvelles locales ou à des informations sur des expériences utiles à chacun. Nous vous invitons instamment à participer à la réalisation de ce lien important entre nous, la "Newsletter".

Les autres activités qui retiendront notre attention cette année comprennent les cours de formation continue, CEC en bref (pour Continuing Education Courses). L'été prochain des cours devraient avoir lieu en divers points de l'Europe sur des thèmes déjà suggérés à Bologne. De plus, des cours seront organisés également dans le cadre de la conférence de Montpellier, en 1992.

Si vous n'avez pas encore reçu le Répertoire de l'AEIBS des Bibliothèques Médicales en Europe cela ne devrait tarder. Nous y avons travaillé activement. Cela n'a pas été une tâche facile. Le coût d'une telle production n'est pas mineur et la logistique nécessaire pour préparer une telle base de données exige une certaine planification. Mais, nous sommes confiants que ce répertoire ne sera que la pre-mière d'une longue suite de publications qui devraient nous faciliter le travail dans notre vie professionnelle quotidienne.

D'autres sujets retiendront notre attention. Notre représentation au sein d'associations professionnelles, à l'échelle mondiale, ne doit pas être négligée, pas plus que notre représentation dans les institutions internationales. L'AEIBS doit jouer un rôle dans l'Europe de demain et nous veillerons à ce que ce rôle soit bien joué, pour notre avantage et celui de tous les lecteurs qui fréquentent nos bibliothèques chaque jour.

Ainsi, notre programme pour les mois à venir n'est pas léger. C'est pourquoi nous comptons sur la coopération de chacun d'entre vous, pour participer activement au succès des projets de l'EAIBS. Nous attendons impatiemment de vos nouvelles!

Monique C. Cleland  
Présidente de l'AEIBS/EAHIL

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

### Farewell from the outgoing President

First, let me give a cordial welcome to our new president, Monique Cleland, and the three new members of the Board, Pascal Delausnay, Elisabeth Husem and Fiona Mackay Picken.

Before assuming my new position of Past President I want to say a few words about a concern I have.

The year 1992 - when our Association is going to hold its next General Assembly - will be a year for Europe. Up to now the construction of a united Europe in everyday life is merely a theoretical idea. Still - on a smaller scale - we have put this idea into practice by founding our European Association. However, I believe you will agree that simply by calling it EUROPEAN or even by gathering members from all countries of this continent we will not automatically be European.

To achieve this a change in thinking will need to take place, a change more fundamental than we have experienced so far.

Remember the two elections for the EAHIL Executive Board. When we consider the deeper spirit of our Statutes - statutes which all members have accepted - we will have to admit that they have not been fully realised; in practice we have not yet succeeded in being European. In regard to a candidate or elected member of the Executive Board we must not forget that these colleagues are representing all members of the association. Too often we associate these representatives with the country they come from.

The same holds true for the constitution of committees. Being of this or the other nationality does not have a lot to do with someone's professional competence and experience. I would like to ask that we remember this and continue the work of building a truly European association. Or as a colleague recently remarked: "With 1992 nearing, this sectarian approach is now rather out of date".

For the future I hope that many young colleagues will find it worthwhile to join our Association.

And at the end of this year of tremendous political changes on our continent I want to say once more "welcome" to our colleagues in the Eastern European countries, who will now increasingly be able to freely join EAHIL, participate in its activities, and seek contact with fellow-librarians and information professionals.

In concluding, I wish you all a successful new year, satisfaction in your work and good health for you and your families in 1991.

**Ursula Hausen**  
EAHIL Past President

### December 1990 Meeting of the Executive Board

On 1-2 December 1990 the Executive held its semi-annual meeting in Brussels. Two of the newly elected members of the 1991/92 Board, Pascale Delausnay and Elisabeth Husem, participated also. Jeanet Ginestet and Fiona Mackay Picken were excused.

- The final financial report on WHILA was accepted by the Board. The positive balance has been handed over to EAHIL. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Local Organising Committee for the successful management of the Workshop.
- The Board decided to rename the Nominating Committee the "Election Committee", and to reduce its membership to three.
- In future the annual mailing of invoices for fees to the membership will be done around November 1 of each year.
- The Executive Board decided to enclose a flyer in the January issue of the Newsletter reminding Representatives of Institutional and Collective Members to confirm or update their representative status.
- The Board confirmed the procedure for the membership drive proposed by the Chair of the Fund-Raising and Membership Committee. A copy of the EAHIL promotional leaflet, including a membership application will also be enclosed in this January Newsletter. Members may wish to use this to recruit new members or ask the Secretariat to distribute it to named colleagues or institutions interested in joining the Association and in that case preferably enclosing self-adhesive labels to facilitate the secretarial work);
- Following a suggestion from the Council it was agreed that members may pay for two years' Membership in one payment, the rate being double the fee for the current year. Those members who wish to do this, should amend the invoice for their membership fees accordingly
- Monique Cleland reported that substantial progress has been achieved regarding the production of the Directory. The data are just ready for printing and arrangements have been made to ensure that the Directory will definitely be available for sale at the very beginning of 1991. An order form will be enclosed in the January Newsletter.

The Executive Board finalised the structure of the Committees for the 1992 Third European Conference of Medical Libraries, Montpellier.



It announces the Chairs of the Committees that have already been appointed are :

*Local Organising Committee* : Jean Pierre Bernat,  
Montpellier

*European Organising Committee* : Monique Cleland,  
Lausanne

*Programme Committee* : Suzanne Bakker,  
Amsterdam

It reviewed the organisational time schedule proposed by the European Organising Committee and the structure of participants' fees.

- A policy paper prepared by Tony King on the formation of EAHIL Sub-groups was approved.
- The Executive Board discussed EAHIL's relations to the European institutions and to other associations.
- It announced new traineeship opportunities.
- The Chair thanked the outgoing members of the 1988/90 Executive Board, Ragnhild Lande and Tony King, and in particular Marc Walckiers, first Past President. She welcomed the new members of the Board and wished the new President success for her work in 1991/1992.
- The elected President, Monique Cleland, appointed the members of the Executive Board to the following positions :

Elisabeth Husem, *First Vice-President*  
Jeanet Ginestet, *Second Vice-President*  
Pascale Delausnay, *Treasurer*  
Brigitte Blum, *Executive Secretary*  
Fiona Mackay Picken, *Assistant Secretary*  
Ursula Hausen will be *Past President*.



### Members of EAHIL at the 6th International Congress of Medical Library (6 ICML) in New-Delhi, India

Europe was well represented at the 6th ICML in New-Delhi, last September. This good representation was the occasion for members of EAHIL to get together on the last day of the Congress and to discuss the feasibility of preparing a proposal within the context of the European Community Action Plan for Libraries. Though the proposals should be endorsed by a national focal point, some members of EAHIL suggested that a proposal could be promoted regarding the publication of a European union catalogue of medical books and periodicals on CD-ROM. Such a project would have all the features required by the EC Action plan. It would include technological aspects, research developments (OSI), be innovative and have meaningful applications at European level. The EAHIL Newsletter was offered as a channel for disseminating any future development regarding this project.



### EAHIL Council Meet in the UK in 1991

The 1991 Meeting of the EAHIL Council will be held at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Library Association (UK), 5-8 July, 1991 - in or near Leeds.



### Educational Opportunities

Exchange opportunities - a report

Exchange of librarians and opportunities for internship are part of EAHIL's Continuing Education Programme. Within this context, Josephine Dupré from Bellaterra/Barcelona University spent six weeks in Lausanne, Switzerland at the Library of the Faculty of Medicine. The library is a modern facility, serving a hospital of 1200 beds as well as the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lausanne. The main interest for Josephine Dupré was to study the implementation of the CD-ROM facilities.

The library is presently running three stations with various CD-ROM programmes. Each station can be used by novices as well experts in CD-ROM searching. Menu guide the user through the necessary steps to start the programmes. J. Dupré also had the benefit of visiting several medical libraries in Switzerland, thanks to the generosity of colleagues. Each library offers a different solution to common problems. Therefore the internship visit provided a many-sided overview of how medical libraries operate in Switzerland.

Anyone interested in such a programme of exchange or internship should write to the EAHIL secretariat or to Monique C. Cleland, EAHIL President, for more information.



### EAHIL Membership

We welcome a new Affiliated Member in the pharmaceutical field : BNA INTERNATIONAL, INC., serves as the marketing and publishing arm for the parent company to the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa and Asia in the areas of taxation, business and environment. (17 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H9BL, GB, Tel : 071/222 8831; fax : 071/222 5550. Contact : Mrs December Berney.



### COTISATIONS 1991

Le prompt paiement de votre cotisation annuelle 1991 serait vivement apprécié.



## NOUVELLES DE NOTRE ASSOCIATION

### Message de la Présidente Sortante

Tout d'abord, je désire souhaiter un accueil chaleureux à notre nouvelle Présidente, Monique Cleland, et aux trois nouveaux membres du Bureau, Pascale Delausnay, Elisabeth Husem et Fiona Mackay Picken. Avant d'assumer mon nouveau poste d'ancienne Présidente de l'Association, je désire m'exprimer sur ce qui me tient à coeur.

L'année 1992, lorsque notre Association tiendra sa prochaine Assemblée Générale, sera l'année de l'Europe. A ce jour, la construction de l'Europe unie était une idée plutôt théorique dans la vie quotidienne, bien qu'à une plus petite échelle, nous avons mis cette idée en pratique en fondant notre Association européenne. Cependant, il ne suffit pas de l'appeler "européenne" ni de rassembler des membres de tous les pays de ce continent pour automatiquement devenir "européen". Ce changement ne pourra se réaliser que par l'apport d'un changement fondamental de nos vues et pensées.

Quand nous considérons les deux élections du Bureau Exécutif de l'AEIBS/EAHIL et l'esprit de nos statuts qui ont été acceptés par tous nos membres, nous devons reconnaître que dans la pratique nous n'avons pas tout à fait réussi à être pleinement européens. Nous ne devons pas oublier que tout candidat ou membre élu du Bureau Exécutif représente tous les membres de l'Association. Trop souvent nous avons associé ces membres à leur pays d'origine.

Il en va de même pour la constitution de nos comités. La nationalité de ceux qui en font partie n'entre pas en ligne de compte. Seules leurs compétences et leurs expériences comptent. Je souhaite que chacun de nous s'en souvienne et continue à construire une réelle Association européenne. Comme un de nos collègues l'a fait récemment remarquer: "Avec l'approche de 1992, les vues sectaires ne sont plus à l'ordre du jour".

J'espère qu'à l'avenir beaucoup de nos jeunes collègues se joiront à notre Association dans cet esprit européen. Et à la fin de cette année où tant de changements politiques ont bouleversé notre continent, je désire souhaiter une fois de plus la bienvenue à tous nos collègues de l'Europe de l'Est qui pourront se joindre à notre Association librement, participer à nos activités et nouer des contacts avec leurs collègues et des professionnels de l'information de la santé.

Pour conclure, Je souhaite à tous une année de succès et de satisfaction dans votre travail, une bonne santé pour vous et vos familles.

**Ursula Hausen,**  
Présidente Sortante

### Réunion du Bureau Exécutif de l'AEIBS/ EAHIL les 1 - 2 décembre 1990 à Bruxelles

Les 1-2 décembre dernier, le Bureau Exécutif a tenu sa réunion bisannuelle à Bruxelles. Deux des membres nouvellement élus pour 1991-1992, Pascale Delausnay (Brussels) et Elisabeth Husem (Oslo) y participèrent. Jeanet Ginestet et Fiona Mackay Picken ont été excusées.

- Le rapport final de WHILA a été accepté par le Bureau. Le bilan positif a été communiqué à l'AEIBS/EAHIL. Le Bureau a exprimé son appréciation au Comité local d'organisation pour la réussite de ce séminaire.
- Le Bureau a décidé de renommer le "Nominating Committee" par la dénomination "Election Committee" et de réduire le nombre de ses membres à trois.
- A l'avenir les factures des cotisations seront envoyées vers le 1er novembre de chaque année.
- Le Bureau a décidé de joindre au Bulletin de janvier 1991 un formulaire de mise à jour de la liste des membres, plus particulièrement du nom des représentants des membres institutionnels et collectifs.
- Le Bureau a confirmé le désir du Président du "Fund-Raising and Membership Committee" de susciter plus d'inscriptions à notre Association. Un exemplaire du dépliant d'information sur notre Association ainsi que le formulaire d'inscription seront également joints au Bulletin de janvier. Des exemplaires de ce dépliant peuvent être demandés au secrétariat pour distribution au cours de congrès et séminaires ou dans toute correspondance. Le secrétariat, sur demande, peut également se charger d'envoyer ce dépliant pour autant que des adresses et noms de collègues lui soient communiqués (de préférence envoyez des étiquettes auto-collantes pour faciliter l'envoi).
- Suite à la demande du Conseil lors de sa réunion du 6 mai dernier, le Bureau accorde la possibilité de payer la cotisation de deux années consécutives en 1991. Les membres qui le désirent peuvent ainsi payer le double montant de leur cotisation pour 1991/1992.
- Monique Cleland a signalé l'avancement dans la réalisation du Répertoire de l'AEIBS des bibliothèques médicales de l'Association en Europe. Cette publication sera disponible dès le début de 1991. Un bon de commande sera joint au Bulletin de janvier.
- Le Bureau a finalisé la composition des comités pour la 3ème Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales, à Montpellier. La présidence de ses comités se présente comme suit:

*Comité local d'Organisation* : M. Jean Pierre Bernat,  
Montpellier

*Comité Européen d'Organisation*:

Mme Monique Cleland,  
Lausanne

*Comité de Programme*:

Mme Suzanne Bakker,  
Amsterdam

- La communication présentée par Tony King sur la formation de sous-groupes au sein de l'Association a été approuvée.
- Le Bureau a discuté des relations de l'AEIBS/EAHIL avec les autres associations ou organismes européens.
- Il a annoncé de nouvelles possibilités de stages.
- La Présidente a remercié les membres du Bureau sortants, Ragnhild Lande et Tony King, et en particulier Marc Walckiers, Premier ancien Président. Elle a souhaité la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres du Bureau et pleine réussite à la nouvelle Présidente pour 1991/1992.
- La Présidente élue, Monique Cleland, a nommé les membres du nouveau Bureau aux postes suivants:

Elisabeth Husem, *Premier Vice-Présidente*

Jeanet Ginestet, *Seconde Vice-Présidente*

Pascale Delausnay, *Trésorière*

Brigitte Blum, *Secrétaire*

Fiona Mackay Picken, *Secrétaire adjointe*

Ursula Hausen *a le poste de Présidente sortante.*



## Réunion du Conseil de l'AEIBS/EAHIL en Grande-Bretagne, en 1991

La prochaine réunion du Conseil de l'AEIBS/EAHIL se tiendra dans le contexte de la Réunion Annuelle de la "Library Association" des 5-8 juillet 1991 à Leeds.



## Possibilités d'échanges : rapport

Les échanges entre bibliothécaires et les occasions de stages font partie du programme de formation continue de l'AEIBS/EAHIL. Dans ce contexte, Joséphine Dupré de Bellaterra (Université de Barcelone) a passé six semaines à Lausanne (Suisse) à la Bibliothèque de la Faculté de Médecine. La Bibliothèque est un service moderne, desservant un hôpital de 1200 lits ainsi que la Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de Lausanne. Joséphine Dupré était principalement intéressée par l'implantation des services du CD-ROM. La Bibliothèque a actuellement trois postes de micro-ordinateurs avec différents pro-

grammes de CD-ROM. Chaque poste peut être utilisé par des novices aussi bien que par des habitués de la recherche sur CD-ROM. Des menus guident l'utilisateur à travers les étapes nécessaires permettant de commencer les programmes. Joséphine Dupré a également pu bénéficier de la visite de plusieurs bibliothèques médicales de Suisse, grâce à la générosité des collègues. Chaque bibliothèque propose une solution différente à des problèmes communs. Donc ce stage a donné une vue générale avec de multiples facettes et a permis de voir comment fonctionnent les bibliothèques en Suisse.

Toute personne intéressée par un tel programme d'échange ou de stage devrait écrire au secrétariat de EAHIL ou à Monique C. Cléland pour plus d'information.



## Des membres de l'AEIBS/EAHIL à la 6ème "International Congress of Medical Librarianship", New-Delhi, India

L'Europe était bien représentée au 6ème ICML, à New-Delhi. Cette bonne représentation fut l'occasion pour les membres de l'AEIBS/EAHIL de se réunir le dernier jour du Congrès pour explorer la possibilité de préparer un projet dans le cadre du Plan d'Action pour les Bibliothèques de la CE. Bien que le Plan souligne l'importance pour tout projet de recevoir l'aval d'un gouvernement national, quelques membres de l'AEIBS/EAHIL proposèrent qu'un projet soit présenté par l'EAHIL/EAHIL, en tant qu'association européenne, avec le soutien d'une organisation telle que l'OMS. Le projet considéré serait la préparation sur CD-ROM d'un catalogue collectif européen de livres et périodiques. Un tel projet comprendrait tous les aspects requis par le Plan, à savoir les développements technologiques, les innovations (application de l'OSI) et l'utilité, en plus de la collaboration internationale. Le Bulletin d'information de l'AEIBS/EAHIL servirait de moyen de communication concernant les développements d'un tel projet.



## Nouvelle Adhesion

Nous sommes heureux d'accueillir un nouveau membre affilié dans le domaine pharmaceutique : BNA INTERNATIONAL, INC., 17 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BL, GB, Tel : 071/222 8831; fax : 071/222 5550. Contact : Mrs December Berney.



## INVITED ARTICLE

### **The Physician's desk reference and database with automated literature search facilities in a primary care PC workstation.**

*Cet article décrit une base de données concernant l'information sur les malades et son système de fichiers, avec en plus la possibilité d'interroger une base de connaissances sur micro-ordinateur et logiciel de recherche bibliographique. Il y a trois niveaux de recherches pour cette base de données. La référence de base elle-même (ou "desk reference") qui contient de courtes recommandations résumées concernant diagnostics et traitements. Si plus de renseignements sont nécessaires, on peut obtenir une revue de la littérature et, en fin de compte, une recherche bibliographique peut être faite en utilisant le logiciel GRATEFUL MED. Les stratégies de recherches préparées par un spécialiste permettent à l'utilisateur d'effectuer des recherches sans aucune connaissance du MEDLINE ni du MeSH. La langue du PDRD (Physician's desk reference and database) est le finlandais mais une version pour un utilisateur anglais peut être publiée par la suite.*

The quality and continuity of care given by primary care physicians may be considerably improved by a PC-based population and patient database and recording system together with a computerized knowledge-base and literature retrieval software.

The PAPRUT WORKSTATION PROGRAM keeps a patient database, facilitates paperwork and records the consultation statistics. The user can define any forms (prescriptions, etc.) just by typing a model form once. The forms can be printed during the consultation using a printer or an electronic typewriter with PC interface. The form fields may contain any data from the patient database, free text from the keyboard or an existing text file. The workstation defaults to the current date and the doctor's name and institution. The form filling procedure may contain optional paths or short cuts. Macros performing searches from the patient database, executing DOS commands or running other programs can be incorporated and used in the same way as the forms.

The patient database contains the basic population data, current longstanding medical problems, continuous medications, drug allergies, and optionally, cardiovascular risk factors, selected laboratory data, social security data, and (partly as a text file) a medical history summary.

Every consultation is automatically recorded in a consultation register. The International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) data set will be included as a default. A synonym dictionary of diagnoses and their abbreviations can be used. The software enables the user to define any data generated during the consultation to be recorded in the consultation register.

An electronic textbook, THE PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE AND DATABASE (PDRD) published by the Finnish Medical Society Duodecim is integrated in the software. The PDRD is revised three times annually and the editing process resembles that of a medical journal.

The PDRD has three levels:

- 1) The desk reference contains short, summarized recommendations regarding diagnosis and therapy to be used during a consultation. The editors of the PDRD continuously gather, summarize, update and evaluate the contents. A logical structure of the text and algorithms is a main goal. A large number of experts contribute, and material from consensus conferences is used.
- 2) The database contains review articles as background knowledge on the same topics. Administrative regulations, information on health care institutions and a database for patient instruction and information are included.
- 3) Automated searches from MEDLINE and some other databases can be activated by the PDRD software using the GRATEFUL MED program by the National Library of Medicine, USA.

The textbook chapters are brought on the screen within seconds after typing the search term(s). MeSH is used as the basic indexing vocabulary. The MeSH vocabulary has been partially modified to meet the needs of Finnish primary care doctors. Some terms that are usable only for biochemical research purposes have been excluded and included are some non-MeSH terms, which are mainly used by primary health care doctors and statisticians. The non-MeSH search terms will be linked to other interna-

tional vocabularies, whenever possible.

The vocabulary of PDRD works as a synonym thesaurus, where each MeSH term has numerous synonyms and related words. The thesaurus contains Finnish and Latin words, and even medical jargon and abbreviations. When a new article is indexed in updated PDRD, the computer program just "reads" the text, finds the synonym thesaurus words appearing in the article and adds the corresponding MeSH terms in the indexing table. Whichever word, provided it is the thesaurus, appears in the article, the user can search and find the article using any of these synonyms.

Unfortunately, in the Finnish language any word may occur in 15 different forms, singular or plural. To ensure that all of the words in the article will be found, the thesaurus must contain 30 different forms of each Finnish synonym. To avoid unnecessary lengthening of the thesaurus, only five of the most common forms have been included. If important terms in the articles appear in other forms, the basic form is added manually at the end of the article.

Cross-references to other international vocabularies and coding systems will be constructed and maintained in order to facilitate future connection to more intelligent decision support systems. The user can type the complete search terms or just the first letters and then pick the terms from an alphabetic list.

In addition, the user can add his own notes into the database and find them using search terms or synonyms. Local or regional recommendations can be delivered to users through this function of the PDRD program.

Every chapter in the desk reference contains a MEDLINE search strategy planned by professionals in medical informatics. The PDRD program is linked with the search engine function of the GRATEFUL MED program, which communicates with the Medical Information Centre (MIC) computer at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. To the user this function looks as follows:

As the user is reading a PDRD article, he just hits one key (M) on the keyboard. The GRATEFUL MED starts, phones to the MIC computer, gives the user's ID and password, connects to the database the latest MEDLINE database or some other defined by the ready-made strategy, and transmits the whole search strategy, and including request for sources and abstracts. The user sees the references scroll on the screen and they are simultaneously

stored on the user's hard disk for further processing by either GRATEFUL MED or the user's own software for reference handling. When all the references have been obtained, the program automatically disconnects and asks the user whether he wants to print or store the references or whether he wants to rerun the same search on older MEDLINE databases. As far as we know this is the first software application coupled to microcomputer database which allows the user, without any knowledge of MEDLINE or MeSH, to expand the scope of the database by performing a MEDLINE search planned by an expert.

If the user wishes, he can interrupt the automated functions and continue on his own just by pressing one key (F9). The program tells the user that he is now directly connected. The user can display the ready-made strategy by the command DISP and then continue searching using the ready-made strategy as a starting point, or he can define a completely new strategy. In the near future a function is planned which could generate a photocopy request just by asking "Yes" or "No" when the user displays the stored references.

The software can be run on an IBM compatible microcomputer with 640 kB RAM and a hard disk. A 286 processor is recommended. The whole Finnish version of the PDRD desk reference requires 7 MB on hard disk. The PDRD database will be available using a modem or a CD-ROM. The patient database requires 1-3 kB storage memory per patient. If a medical history summary is made of every patient, the memory requirement increases up to 5 kB per patient.

The language of the PDRD is Finnish, but a low-price test version in English is available, and an English user version may be published later.

More information and an English preliminary version of the program can be obtained from the Duodecim Medical Publications Ltd. Kalevankatu 11A, SF-00100 Helsinki, Finland, or from Ilkka Kunnamo, MD, Editor of PDRD, tel. int +358-44-69311 or int +358-44-61554, fax: int +358-44-62307.

**I. Kunnamo,**  
MD, J. Jousimaa, MD,  
The Finnish Medical Society Duodecim;

**L. Salmi,**  
MSc, The Medical Library,  
Kuopio University, Central Hospital, Kuopio, Finland



## NEWS FROM EUROPE

### CEC

#### Plan of Action for Libraries in the EC 1991-1996 Project for Health and Biomedical Libraries

##### *Projet du Plan d'Action 1991-1996 pour les Bibliothèques Biomédicales de Santé des Communautés Européennes*

The Council of Ministers is expected to approve and allocate funds to the Plan in 1991. The Commission of the European Communities will then be charged with the implementation of its provisions (see Newsletter Jan. 1990, French version April 1990). The Bibliothek der Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover and the Bibliothèque de la Faculté de Médecine, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, are considering proposing a project within the framework of the Plan.

The proposal concerns a European Union Catalogue of Books and Periodicals in the field of Biomedical Sciences and Health Service.

Its objectives are:

- to allow libraries to import bibliographic records; thereby avoiding original cataloguing in their libraries;
- to facilitate document delivery and interlibrary loan by providing location information;
- to facilitate regional, national or even inter-European acquisition policy agreements.

The project will use communication and information:

- to enhance subject access to existing national, regional and local databases; - for implementation of OSI protocols in document ordering and delivery procedures;
- for standardisation of data formats.

European health sciences libraries and health professionals and institutions in the field would benefit in many ways from such a union catalogue which could be made available on CD-ROM or as an online network.

The project to be proposed to the Commission will have to be supported by several Member States. Other European countries are invited to join. A financial support of the project budget must be born by the institution of the applicants or respective governmental bodies. Preparation of the proposal will be a considerable task.

The undersigned invite readers of the Newsletter to express their interest by contacting them.

G. Kuske and U. Hausen  
Bibliothek Medizinische Hochschule Hannover  
Postfach 61 01 80, D-3000 Hannover, FRG  
Tel.: 49/511/532 3335 or 532 5578  
Fax: +49/511/532 3346

### GENERAL

#### Barriers to the Flow of Books

##### *Barrières devant l'Avalanche des Livres*

The Working Group of European Librarians and Publishers have recently issued a statement regarding the political obstacles, which hinder free access to the printed word. Television and the most up to date technological means of communication complement rather than compete with books and journals in the transmission of knowledge, which is so fundamental to human society. The Working Group have thus chosen to look at the ways in which different countries operate: import taxes, internal taxes, VAT, postal rates, exchange control, censorship and boycott, reduction in budgetary allocations and the effects of photocopying.

The full report is obtainable from STM Secretariat, Keizersgracht 462, 1016 GE Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

See also "Exchange Opportunities" in News from our Association

#### High Demand to Study Health Information at Aberystwyth (Wales), UK

##### *Importante demande d'Etudes en Sciences de l'Information Médicale à Aberystwyth (Pays de Galles)*

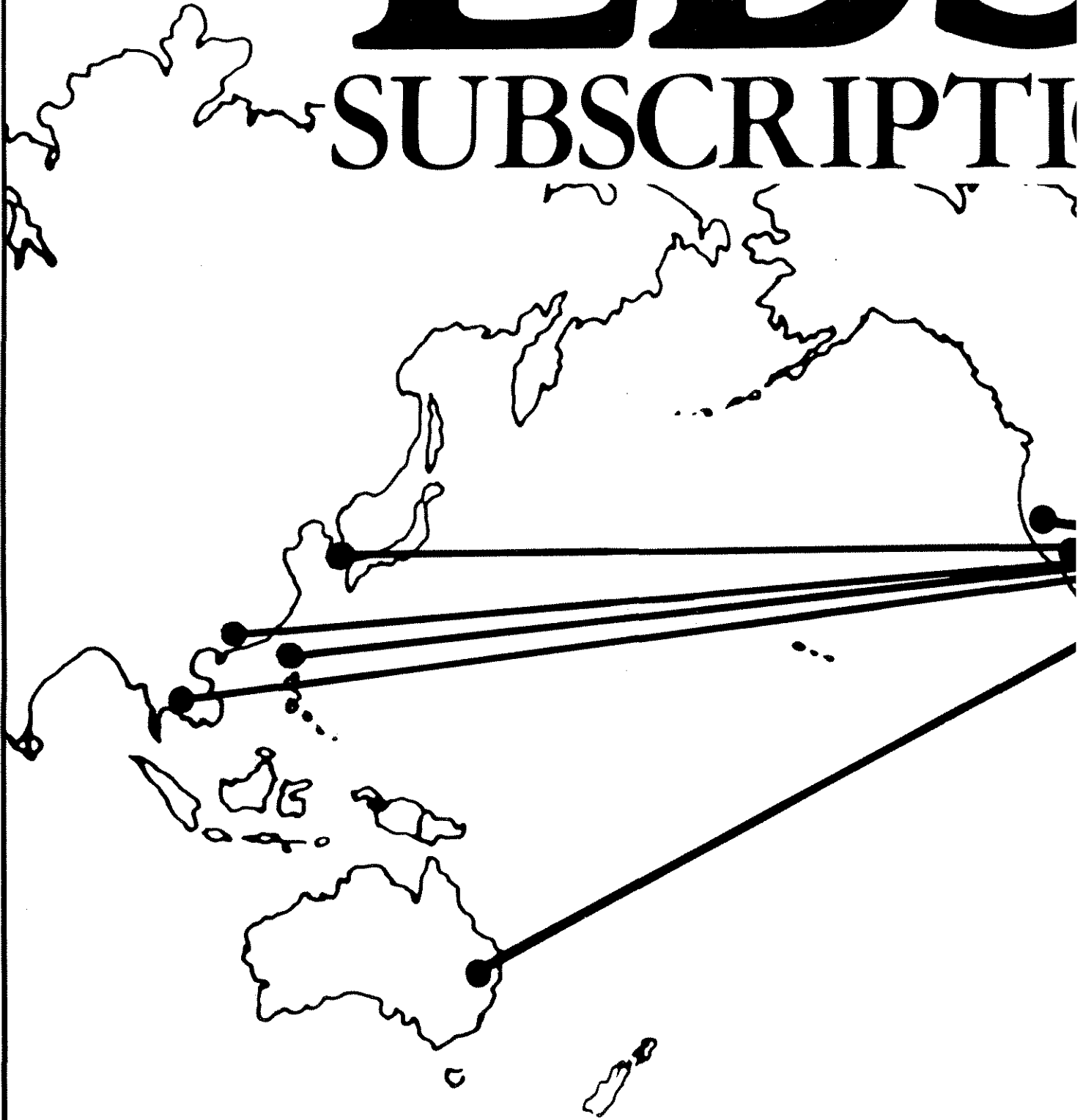
Demand has exceeded available places on the Information Systems and Services for Health Care distance learning MSc launched this year by the Department of Information and Library Studies, University College of Wales Aberystwyth.

The course is intended for those who seek marketable skills in handling the broad range of health information. It has attracted applicants whose present posts or career intentions require an understanding of the principles and practices needed in health information management.

Applications have been received at the rate of 2.5 per available place, and the Department has been able to select high calibre candidates holding a range of posts in health care. The intake includes an Information Officer

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## SUBSCRIPTION



# COO

## ON SERVICES





in a Mental Health Unit, an Operational Research Officer, an Information Systems Assistant, an AIDS Information Coordinator, two Medical Librarians, a Health Authority Manpower Planner, a District General Hospital Biochemist and a Research Officer in Health Care Evaluation. Eleven students began their studies at a Weekend School in Aberystwyth on 28th-30th September.

Financial support has been given to candidates by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, six health authorities in Wales, Scotland and England, the University of Wales College of Medicine and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine of the University of Bristol.

First year modules cover The Contexts and Users of Health Information and Information Systems Analysis and Design, whilst second year modules include Information Sources and Services and Management Information Systems. Three weekend schools are held each year and the third year is devoted to a dissertation. Much of the work set is designed to relate to work-place situations and is linked to case-study activity. The Department's collaborative research links in Wales and beyond provide an opportunity to incorporate current research work into the course.

Course Director John Hepworth comments :

"Applicants are already accepted for September 1991 and it is clear that the new course has identified a demand for flexible study schemes at higher degree level in health information. Along with our existing research activity and health information course for undergraduate and post-graduate level, the new course brings to the Department an interesting cross-section of people currently working with health information".

Further information on this course is available from :  
The Department of Information and Library  
Studies Aberystwyth U.C.W. Aberystwyth, Wales

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## Personal Bibliographical Databases

### **Reference Manager and Its Use in Lausanne**

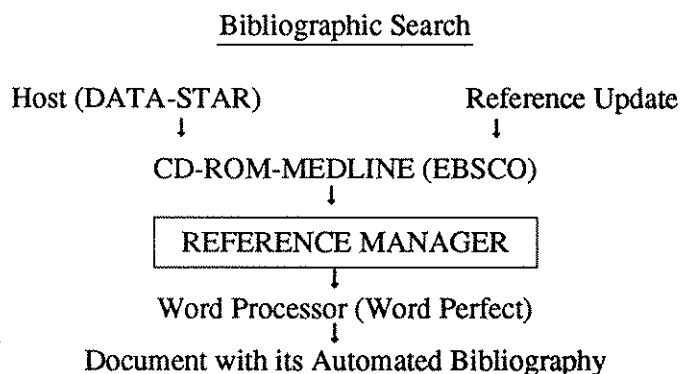
#### *Reference Manager et son Utilité à Lausanne*

I firmly believe that we should share our problems, our solutions and our expertise and hope that others will follow this example. In answer to Beatrice Wilhelm's editorial of last April, I offer our experiences of using a Personal Filing System on Microcomputers.

More attention has been given to the development of personal computerized filing systems for the biomedical

community than for any other professional group, it seems. The result is a coherent array of computerized tools, which enable the physician or the biomedical scientist to manage his personal bibliographical files with ease, efficiency, and without having to invest a lot of time in learning the technique. Even competitors in the field of management file systems seem today to talk in a friendly way to one another. It was not without some surprise that I heard recently an aggressive producer of such tools indicate that now his products were compatible with one of his competitors. Even a manual for use had been developed. For the medical librarian, it means that real advice and support can now be offered to users of the library who are looking for methods of managing their personal reference files.

### Personal Bibliographic Files Management



The above diagram summarizes the coherence which can be realised whether you favour IBM/MS-DOS environment or MacIntosh. Support for personal file management software is relatively easy to get from producers who will alter their software upon request, to satisfy needs. REFERENCE MANAGER is such a case. Today, this personal file management system can import references from a wide array of databases, whether from online vendors or CD-ROM, including Medline. Even more interesting is the fact that one can export whole tailor-made bibliographies to a word-processor and in no time at all, prepare a manuscript with its bibliography according to the exacting rules of a journal editor.

One of our objectives has been to provide physicians with such tools, while offering them enough help in-house. REFERENCE MANAGER was chosen because more than any other software on the market, it seems to be tailored for physicians and because it requires only a minimum of computer knowledge to make it work. After having mounted the software on public access microcomputers in the library, and having offered demonstrations on the capabilities of this software, we distributed several copies of REFERENCE MANAGER, at cost, to interested users. Enhancements to the system have been requested from the representative of REFERENCE MANAGER on several occasions.

Any user can experiment on any of our public microcomputer stations to search databases on CD-ROM or on diskettes (Current Contents and Reference Update), import references into REFERENCE MANAGER and export bibliographies to a word processing programme. We even discovered that among the formats offered for exporting references, we could use one which matches the requested format for the publication of medical dissertations.

Because of the easy way of tracking down references from the REFERENCE MANAGER database, and the monitoring feature of REFERENCE MANAGER as to the status of paper files (request on file or not on file, or request made), we hope that the number of photocopies made will be reduced, since now it is easy to retrieve a reference through REFERENCE MANAGER. We advise users to pay careful attention to the use of specific added keywords to index imported references. Indeed, this very flexible feature, can be a very powerful tool for retrieval if properly used.

Though with a few exceptions, data-bases on CD-ROM are not yet published for the MacIntosh, users have found ways of importing their downloaded reference into REFERENCE MANAGER on MacIntosh if they prefer to work in that environment. The version for MacIntosh is not yet quite as refined as the one for IBM, but an improved version will probably have appeared before this paper has been published.

Monique C. Cleland  
CHUV - BDFM, Lausanne, Switzerland

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#### NEWS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES

**Germany - Annual Meeting of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Fuer Medizinisches Bibliothekswesen (AGmB)**

**Allemagne - Réunion Anuelle de l'AGmB**

With more than 100 participants the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für medizinisches Bibliothekswesen held from 29-31 October 1990 in Biberach an der Riß, in the very South of Germany, drew the largest audience ever since its foundation. The main reason for this was the fact that for the first time librarians from the five new states of the Federal Republic were able to participate.

The exchange of ideas among German librarians from East and West was the important focus of the meeting. On the one side the fragmentary knowledge among West

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German colleagues about medical literature services in the former DDR was improved; on the other side the great problems became apparent in maintaining and reorganising a territorial network of medical libraries in the future which had been based on an abundance of personnel. As an example, the East-Berlin Institut für Wissen-schaftsinformation in der Medizin will be closed by the end of the year 1990. Its centralised services will be discontinued.

In order to avoid irreversible damage which is to be expected when closing down many libraries an immediate reaction on the professional as well as the political level is necessary. The AGmB will take appropriate action.

The traditional meeting of hospital librarians revealed again the well-known problems, lack of money, an abundance of tasks, too few personnel and no lobby. The scene of hospital libraries in the FRG up to now shows a spectrum which reaches from the non-professional provision of services to the integrated hospital library and to the large medical library holding 100 000 volumes and more.

Another focal point of the meeting concerned the special libraries in the pharmaceutical industry. They cater to the - expensive - needs of their users in literature search services and development or usage of special software thereby achieving impressive results in their services.

The latest state of the ADONIS-Project - particularly interesting for industrial library and information services, improvements and new developments at DIMDI and the Central Medical Library in Cologne were received with great interest. So was the report about the online services of the German Library Institute (DBI, Berlin), in particular its union catalogue of periodicals (Zeitschriften-Datenbank / ZDB), which will integrate without delay the holdings of libraries in the new states in the Eastern part of Germany.

While regular interlibrary loan procedures between libraries still continue in its antiquated fashion producers of new technologies wonder whether printed indexes should be continued. The National Library of Medicine (US), for example, is about to find out through a questionnaire whether CD-ROM technology is already replacing the paper versions.

The meeting closed with a critical review of new technologies employed in document supply. D. Boeckh, Mannheim

Dorothee Boeckh,  
Klinikum der Stadt Mannheim Me. Wiss Bibliothek  
P.O.Box 23, D-6800 Mannheim 1 (F.R. Germany)

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## Sisyphus or Tantalus ?

### The Outcome of Survey Carried out Among the Participants to the Second European Conference of Medical Libraries, Bologna.

#### *Les Résultats d'une Enquête Menée Parmi les Participants de la Seconde Conférence Européenne des Bibliothèques Médicales, Bologne*

In this article the authors aim at reaching a critical evaluation of the Second European Conference of Medical Libraries, which was held in Bologna from 2- 6 November 1988. To this purpose they describe the various stages of the Conference : organisational phase giving full details as to its funding sources, sponsoring institutions, and to the operating criteria of its scientific committee. Then, a few notes on the actual event follow, supported by an analysis of the data collected by means of a survey carried out among the participants. Discussing the results of this survey full understanding can be obtained of the "identity" of specialists and professionals, who attended the Conference (nationality, employer), of their source of financing for attendance, their specific fields of interest (for present and future scientific events) and their personal assessment of the Second Conference under various aspects (from the scientific ones to the more practical, i.e. location, accommodation, etc.). The article is complete with tables, footnotes and a reproduction of the questionnaire distributed to the participants to the Conference.

The full text of this article has appeared in: "biblioteche Oggi", Vol. 8, nr. 2(1990), p. 171-180

Valentina Comba,  
Rita Iori and  
Laura Cavazza

Biblioteca Centralizzata di Medicina,  
Universita di Torino,  
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\*\*\*

#### 1991 DUES

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## NEWS FROM OUTSIDE EUROPE

*Two reports from the 6th International Congress on Medical Librarianship were received. Since they give very different views of what was clearly a stimulating and rich source of information, they are both included.*

### **Medical Libraries : Keys to Health Information - Sixth International Congress on Medical Librarianship, New-Delhi, India**

*Bibliothèques Médicales : Clés de l'Information sur la Santé - Sixième Congrès International de Bibliotéconomie Médicale, New-Delhi, Inde*

Medical Libraries : Keys to Health Information.

Keys to Resources : professional libraries point of view.

Keys to Access : health professionals point of view.

Keys to Information at the grass-root levels : Laymen's point of view.

These were the themes under which the Sixth International Congress on Medical Librarianship (6ICML) hosted by the Medical Library Association of India took place in New Delhi, India, on 24-26 September 1990. Our Indian colleagues had made this an impressive and memorable event. Some 300 participants from 50 countries found ample opportunity for hearing and discussing a wide range of professional topics in 8 plenary and 22 technical sessions. More than 80 papers were presented.

Some of the interesting reports were on the considerable changes in regard to technology that had taken place in Asian libraries; Library services to nurses and cooperation between librarians and nurses in health education in rural and urban situations, also the need for a nursing term thesaurus; stronger sharing of resources; the collaboration between teaching staff and librarians; the need for local journals to be given proper attention and indexing; issues and trends in lay health information.

A very useful feature was a daily review of all papers given in concurrent sessions during the previous day. In her conclusions Fiona Picken summarised the important points evolving from the deliberations:

1. Local literature and access to it through bibliographies, data bases and indices;
2. The success of the WHO Regional schemes;
3. Health education drives and programmes in libraries at the grass root level as well as in those of developed countries;
4. The librarian as an instrument of change; clarification of the role;
5. The importance of the infrastructure of libraries contrary to more and bigger libraries.

The Assembly passed a resolution at the Closing Session aimed at forming an Interim Committee which is to make a feasibility study on the formation of a World Association of Medical Libraries which had been proposed by the Indian Medical Library Association. The Committee will endeavour to report on the progress made to the Regional and National Medical Library Associations at the 1992 IFLA General Conference to be held in New Delhi. Members of the Committee are Dr Goran Falkenberg, President of the International Organizing Committee for the 6ICML, Mr S.K. Anand, Secretary-General of National Organizing Committee and Frances Groen, Canada. There may be one or two more members from other regions of the world.

Old and new friends had lots of opportunities during tea breaks, Indian lunches, receptions and dinners to exchange experience and chat away. The Congress ended as the Dussehra, most popular of all Indian festivals, came to its culmination.

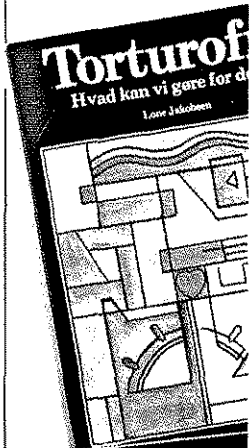
Ready for participants at the Congress was: **MEDICAL LIBRARIES: Keys to health information. Proceedings of the 6th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, and Pre-Congress Seminar on "Health Information : Impact of Technology Development on its Production, Analysis, Distribution and Consumption", 24-28 September 1990, New Delhi".** Vol.1 Papers. New Delhi: Medical Library Association of India (MLAI), 1990. 43,514 p. It can be ordered from: Mr S.K. Anand, Secretary, Medical Library Association of India c/o WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia Region. World Health House, I.P Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi 110002, India. Price: (per set of 2 volumes): Rs.350 / or \$35 + postage.

**Ursula Hausen**  
EAHIL Past President

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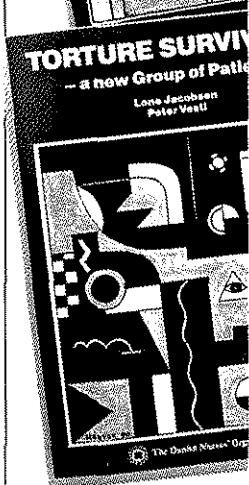
The overall theme of the congress, "**Medical Libraries - Keys to Health Information**" was unfolded to almost 400 participants from 60 different countries by the pre-congress seminar. The topic of the seminar was "Health Sciences Information: Impact of Technology Developments on its Production, Analysis, Distribution and Consumption". The papers given really opened our eyes to the problems of developing countries in health information provision. Health science libraries are mostly the only channel for the information needed by all health care professionals, whereas, in developed countries medical libraries are just one of many channels for health information.

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The book, which was first published in Danish in 1987, came into existence on basis of the experiences made during the last 10 years at the "Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims" in Copenhagen.

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The book is for sale from the Danish Nurses' Organization, in Danish at **D.kr. 71.-**

and in English at  
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The programme of the congress was well structured; both developed and developing countries were represented in each session. Thus we could very clearly see that we have the same problems. Sometimes, of course, we act at different levels, but the fundamental questions are the same. There was a strong sense that developed countries have now learned something of how things are done in developing countries. Ideologically we are getting closer to each other.

This was perhaps best illustrated by the fact that local needs have become the focus of services. Local needs exist at every level: information needs are different in developing and developed countries. They are clearly different in Europe and Asia and health care personnel in Nairobi need something quite different from those in Helsinki.

It was delightful to see that the technology peak is over. We have been very eager to buy the latest technology, often just for the sake of having a CD-ROM, telefax, networked databases etc. Development of technology is good, of course, and we have to use it to be able to give feedback, but now we are, perhaps for the first time, realising what can be done with it. We are moving from technical matters to subject matter, and critical evaluation is needed. This is especially important thinking in developing countries.

Medical librarianship is no longer a technical performance; the organization and distribution of health information. The user of the library has become the starting point for all activities. It sounds self-evident when stated like that, but to be honest, we still sometimes think that our clients "disturb" our work.

Mahatma Gandhi was cited: "He (the user) is not an interruption to our work, he is the purpose of it." This should be kept in mind all the time.

Another observation was that medical libraries are expanding to be health information libraries. This is particularly true in developing countries where there is no possibility of maintaining various kinds of libraries. Much more is thus required of librarians and information specialists than before, because we have to know so much more of the subject matter and not only how to organize and lend out books and journals. Instead of dealing with publications we are dealing with information.

The Seventh International Congress on Medical Librarianship will be held in Washington DC, USA in 1996. The International Organizing Committee consists of Deborah Avriel (WHO, Geneva), Elisabeth Buntz (Norway), Boris Loginov (USSR), Tony McSean (UK) and a representative from India.

Liisa Salmi

Medical Library, Kuopio University, Central Hospital  
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## IFLA - Call for Papers

### IFLA: *Appel de Communications*

The 57th Council and General Conference of IFLA will take place in Moscow, USSR, 18 - 24 August 1991. The timetable for those who wish to present papers is as follows:

- 1 February 1991** Deadline for receipt of the abstract and the application form at IFLA Headquarters.
- 1 March 1991** Authors of abstracts will be informed whether they are shortlisted.
- 1 April 1991** Deadline for submission of draft text of paper to IFLA HQ, for review.

**15 April 1991** The Professional Board will inform authors on its decision.

**15 June 1991** Deadline for receipt of final text of paper at IFLA HQ.

Theme: **Libraries and Culture: their Relationship.** For further information please contact the USSR Preparatory Committee at: The Lenin State Library, 3 Kalinin Prospekt, Moscow 101000, USSR.



## PUBLICATIONS

### EUROPE

In the proposed action lines of IMPACT-2 you find the following proposals among others: in Action line 2 proof and authentication of electronic signatures, in Action line 3 improving access and presentation (of electronic information services) and increasing information training, the integration of multilingual facilities of icons and graphics in information services, in Action line 4 a European cooperative network for biotechnological information and strategic information projects with catalytic effect for the take-off of the information market in less favored regions. *From I'M 63 1990 (July-August).*

**Informal Library projects guidelines** issued by the Commission should give initial assistance to potential new project proposers. Contain the methodology structure likely to be required. *Available from: Ms Ariane Iljon, DG XIII-B, L-2020 Luxembourg (Tel: 352-4301-2923).*

**Seymour J (1990)** Going it alone. *Nursing Times* 86(22): 46-47, May 30-June 5. At present nurses receive little help if they want to work in another EC country. The European Commission is trying to make it easier.

**Culyer AJ and Mills A (1989)** Perspectives of the future of health care in Europe. *York: University of York.*

**May A (1990)** Looking under the patchwork of Europe. *Health Service Journal* 100:1172. Brief report on the first of a series of conferences on "Health care in the European Community: standards of excellence".

**Crisp AH (1990)** Medical training in the European Community. *Postgraduate Medical Journal* 66(778) : 627-638 (August).

**Walkiers M (1990)** European health librarians facing 1992. *Bulletin Liber* 35:74-78.

**Ramsey L (1990)** Networking in the European community. *Newsletter of the Library Association Information Technology Group* 21:19-23 (February).

**Durieux B (1989)** Online information in Europe. *EUSIDIC*. 176 p. £20 (members), £35 (non-members). ISBN 0906518016. Available from EUSIDIC, 9A High Street, Calne, Wilts, England, SN11 0BS. Comprehensive description of the electronic information community, its preoccupations, its background and its areas of controversy.

**Walford AJ (ed) (1990)** The working languages of the European Community: a guide to learning resources. *London: Clive Bingley*. 144 p. £16.50. ISBN 0853658099.

**The Directory of EEC Information Sources (1990)** provides access to information about the European Commission, the European Parliament, the EEC's other institutions (Council, Court of Justice ...) and the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the European Communities. Price: 7700 BF. To order from: *Euroconfidential, BP 29, B-1330 Rixensart (Belgium). Tel: 32-2-652 02 84, Fax: 32-2-653 01 80.*

(1990) Europeans explore the future of publishing. *Information World Review* 50 (July/August) 15-16. Maxwell Communications is heading a 14-partner European consortium in a project called DIMPE, Distributed Integrated Multimedia Publishing Environment, supported in part by the EC RACE program. DIMPE aims to complete a specification for distributed publishing embracing DTP, multimedia products and broadband communications.

Mackay R (1990) How to spend 2 billion deutschmarks: the new German Fachinformationsprogramm. *Information World Review* 52 (October) 26-27. An imposing financial program to boost scientific electronic information in Germany. European cooperation is only marginally taken into account.

Stephenson D (1990) A single market but divided in two. *Information World Review* 52 (October) 12. They are signs that several EC countries may try to evade the Single Telecommunications Market.



**PRODUCTS**

Kawamura H (ed) (1990) International Directory of Libraries for the Blind. 3rd edition. IFLA Publication 51. Munchen: KG Saur.

New from ISI: Current Contents on Diskette - Social and Behavioral Sciences providing weekly access to 1'300 leading social and behavioral sciences journals.

New on Data-Star : Social SciSearch providing access to over 1'400 journals (cover-to-cover) and 1000 more selectively ; Health Periodicals from IAC containing

articles from over 200 leading English-language medical journals and consumer health publication; Aerzte Zeitung, Germany's oldest daily medical newspaper; ASSIA - Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts giving access to social work, nursing, occupational and physiotherapy, nutritional studies and health management and many more; Sport, the database containing sports medicine, psychology, biomechanics, fitness, doping etc; Cuadra - Directory of Databases, to include portable databases New on DIALOG: Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Industry News Database (PHIND) containing full text articles from Scrip, Clinica, Animal Pharm and Agrow.

News from MIC : Cats, important for the areas of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation, terminal care and alternatie medicine, produced by the Medical Information Service of the British Library.

Vickers P & Hendley T The influence of optical disc media on the distribution, packaging and storage of information. EUSIDIC. £500 (members), £750 (non-members). Available form EUSIDIC, 9A High Street, Calne, Wilts, England, SN11 OBS. FAX: 249-813 656. A study carried out for EUSIDIC by the Information Partnership in association with CIMTECH, the National Centre for Information Media and Technology.

Fang JR & Songe AH (1990) World guide to library, archive, and information science associations. IFLA Publication 52/53. Munchen: KG Saur.

For all interested in NLM's UMLS (Unified Medical Language System) and NLS (Natural Language Systems) research programs : Humphreys B (1990) UMLS Progress Report: First versions of Metathesaurus and Semantic Network announced. *National Library of Medicine News* 45(9-10), Sept/Oct., 10-11.

<p><b>WORLD Pharmaceutical STANDARDS REVIEW</b></p> <p>From distinguished leaders in the pharmaceutical field ... ... A powerful vantage point for preparing now for the impact of industry moves, regulatory actions, and pivotal litigation on your interests.</p>	<p>The monthly <i>Review</i> draws on noted international authorities for insights into what's happening, what may happen next, and how developments might affect testing, pricing, licensing, marketing, and more.</p>	<p>For a FREE sample fax this coupon to (+44)-71-222 0294</p> <p>Name _____ Title _____ Organization _____ Address _____ Country _____ Postcode _____ Fax _____</p> <p>BNA International Inc., 17 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BL, UK</p>
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**McCray AT (1990)** Update on NLM's Natural Language Research Program. *National Library of Medicine News* 45(9-10), Sept/Oct., 11-12.

**PASCAL sur CD-ROM:** For information contact INIST DIFFUSION - Service Clients, 2 allée du Parc de Brabois, 54514 Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy Cedex, France. Tel: 33-83 5046 64, Fax : 33-83 50 46 66.



## PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

**Comba V, Iori R and Cavazza L (1990)** Sisyphus or Tantalus ? *Biblioteche Oggi* 8(2): 171-180. The outcome of a survey carried out among the participants to the Second European Conference of Medical Libraries.

**Morgan P & Shaw J (1990)** Conservation and management of medical collections. Proceedings of a Meeting held under the auspices of SCONUL. Leicester: *University of Leicester*. ISBN 0900210109.

**Soremark G (1990)** Medline versus Embase: comparing search quality. *Database* 13(6):66-67. For drug related searches Embase offers practical benefits.

**Alberani W, De Castro Pietrangeli P & Rossi Mazza AM (1990)** The use of grey literature in health science: a preliminary study. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 78(4):358-363. Based on defini-

tions of the major categories of grey literature (GL) the authors examine the use of GL, the number of articles citing GL, the number of GL citations found in selected periodicals and other aspects.

**Crawford DS (1990)** Regional health library service in Northern Ireland. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 78(4):364-369. Description of the regional medical library service provided to physicians, hospitals, nurses, social workers, and health care administrators by the Queens's University of Belfast.

**Anderson SM ed. (1990)** Media news: presentation software. *MLA News* no 230, Nov/Dec, 11. Presentation software for demonstrations of online catalogs, CD-ROM products etc. Includes list of products and bibliography of selected readings.



## VARIA

Call for Project proposals: The Section on Education and Training of IFLA would like to hear from anybody interested in embarking on research, studies etc in the field of library science. Funding is limited, but can help to get you started. *Contact the Chairman or Secretary for more information.*



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**January 27-February 2, 1991 - London, UK**  
British Council Course: Medical Libraries: Effective Resource Management. Director of Studies Mr T.A. King. *For details, contact your nearest British Council office, or write direct to Courses Dept., The British Council, 65 Davies St., London W1Y 2AA, mentioning course no. 078.*

**February 4-8, 1991 - Hamburg, W. Germany**  
ONLINE'91, 14th European Congress Fair for Technical Communication. *For further information and registration form: Online GmbH, Kongress und Messen für Technische Kommunikation, Postfach 10 08 66, Nevigeser Str. 131, D- 5620 Velbert 1, F.R. Germany, tel. (0 20 51)230 71; fax: (0 20 51) 219 93*

**March 13-16, 1991 - München, F.R. Germany**  
Wissenschaftliche Information im europäischen Rahmen. 23. Arbeits- und Fortbildungstagung der Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Spezialbibliotheken.

*Contact: ASpB-Geschaefsstelle: Frau Dr. Marianne Schwarzer, Kekule- Bibliothek, Bayer AG. D-West-5090 Leverkusen-Bayerwerk. Tel.: +49.511.30 7819*

**May 15-17, 1991 - Paris, France**  
First European Workshop on Drug Information. An initiative of the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy's Drug Information Special Interest Group. *For further information: Secrétariat, Centre d'Information PCH, 7 rue du Fer à Moulin, BP 05, F-75221 Paris Cedex 05, Tel. +33/1/43 37 11 00 (xt. 205), Fax: +33/1/43 36 92 97*

**May 28-30, 1991 - Bordeaux, France**  
IDT 91, 9 ème Congrès sur l'Information et la Documentation, organisé par l'ADBS et l'ANRT. Thème: "L'information, une dynamique pour l'Europe". *Contact: ADBS, IDT91, 25 rue Claude Tillier, 75012 Paris, France - Tel.: 1/43 72 25 25.*



**June 16-21, 1991 - Helsinki, Finland**

The Finnish Council for Health Education will host the XIV World Conference on Health Education in Helsinki, Finland. Theme: "Health - United Effort" ("La santé - Un effort commun") - ("La Salud - Un esfuerzo conjunto"). For General information, please contact: Mrs Aira Raudasoja, Project Manager, The Finnish Council for Health Education, Karjalankatu 2C 63, SF-00520 Helsinki, Tel.: 358/0/717 611 or the Conference Secretariat Office: Congrex Finland, P.O.Box 1031, SD-00101 Helsinki, Finland, Tel.: 358/0/175 355.

**July 5-7, 1991 - Leeds, UK**

Annual Conference of the Library Association in Leeds, UK

Contact: Rob Palmer, Conference Director, Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE (Tel: +44/71/636 7543) or Alison Ray for MHWLG, Scarborough Postgraduate Medical Centre Library, Scarborough Hospital, Scarborough, N.Yorkshire YO12 6QL (tel. +44/723/368111, ex.24)

**July 7-14, 1991 - Harare, Zimbabwe**

Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA) - Association pour L'information et les bibliothèques de santé en Afrique (AIBSA). 3ème Congrès et Assemblée Générale de l'AIBSA - Thème: L'automatisation et les services d'information.

For information, contact: Mrs Helga Patrikios, Medical Library, University of Zimbabwe, P.O.Box MP 45, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe

**August 18-24, 1991, Moscow, USSR**

57th Council and General Conference of IFLA, Moscow. Theme: "Libraries and Culture: their relationship" ("La bibliothèque et la culture : leur interaction").

For further information, please contact the USSR Preparatory Committee at the address: The Lenin State Library, 3 Kalinin Prospekt, Moscow 101000, USSR.

**August 26-28, 1991 - Helsinki, Finland**

Third Scandinavian Conference of Medical Librarians, Helsinki. The Conference will be arranged by the Finnish Medical Librarians' Association, Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae.

Contact: Eeva Kihlberg, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, Helsinki University, Dental Library, Mannerheimintie 72, SF-00300 Helsinki, Finland - Tel. 358/0/4735 324 - Fax: 358/0/414 272.

**September 9-10, 1991, Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France**

SCICOM-2 - Deuxième Conférence Internationale "Communication Scientifique et Sciences de la Vie" - Second International Conference "Scientific Communication in Life". Technopole Nancy-Brabois, France. Avant programme/Preliminary programme.

Contact: Laboratoire d'Immunologie, Faculté de médecine, avenue de la Forêt de Haye, B.P. 184, F-54500 Vandoeuvre les Nancy, France, Tel. 83 51 59 64.

**October 3-5, 1991 - Grenoble, France**

IDEX 91 - 2ème Bourse Internationale des Banques de Données. L'ADBS et le GRD participeront activement à son organisation.

Contact: Elisabeth Fontannaz, CGIG, 1 place André Malraux, BP 297, F-38016 Grenoble Cedex - Tel. +33/76 47 20 36



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VOL 7 NO 4 1990

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