



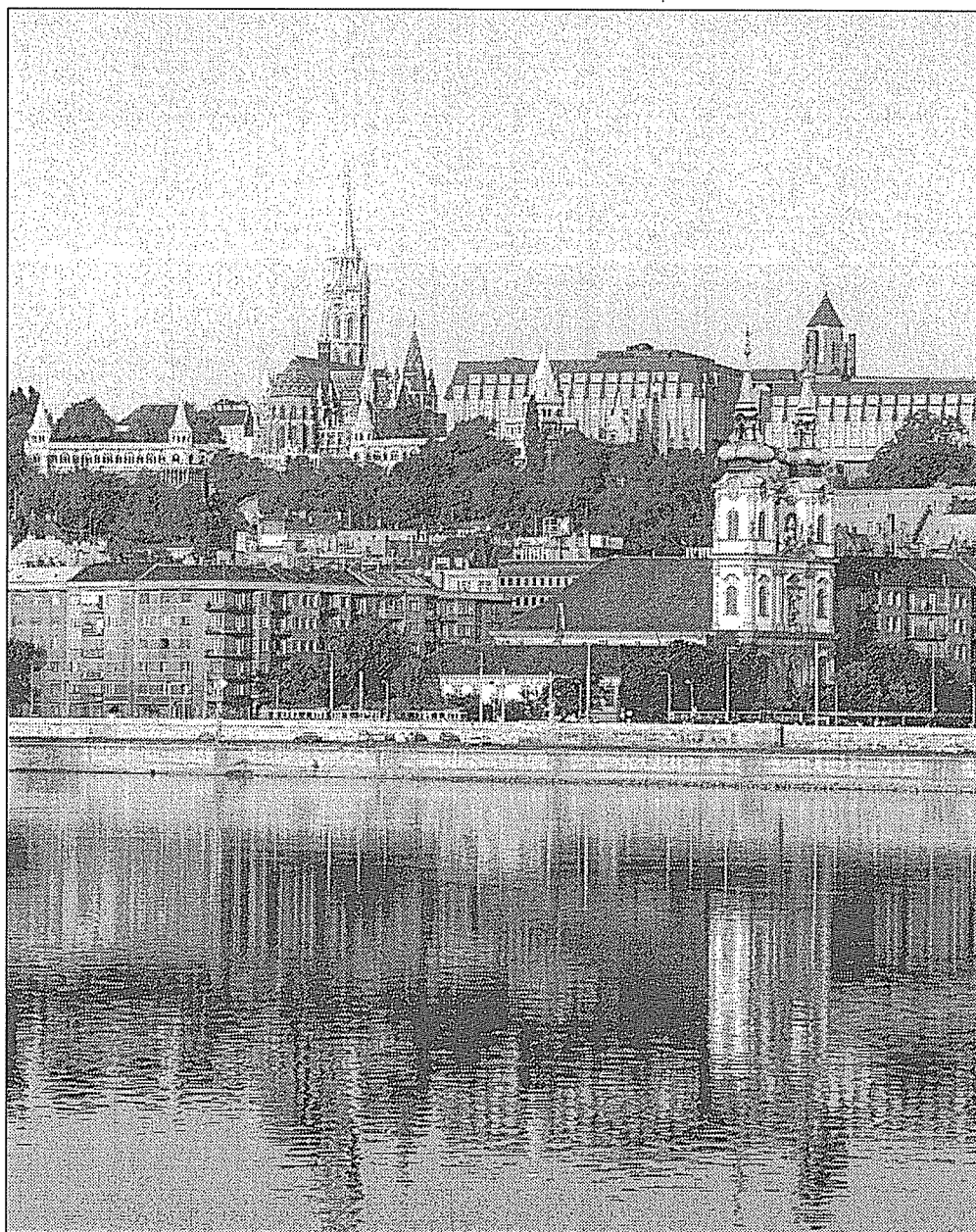
*European Association
for Health Information and Libraries*

*Association Européenne
pour l'Information et les Bibliothèques de Santé*

October - Octobre 1996 • N° 37

NewsLetter

to European Health Librarians • des Bibliothécaires Européens de la Santé

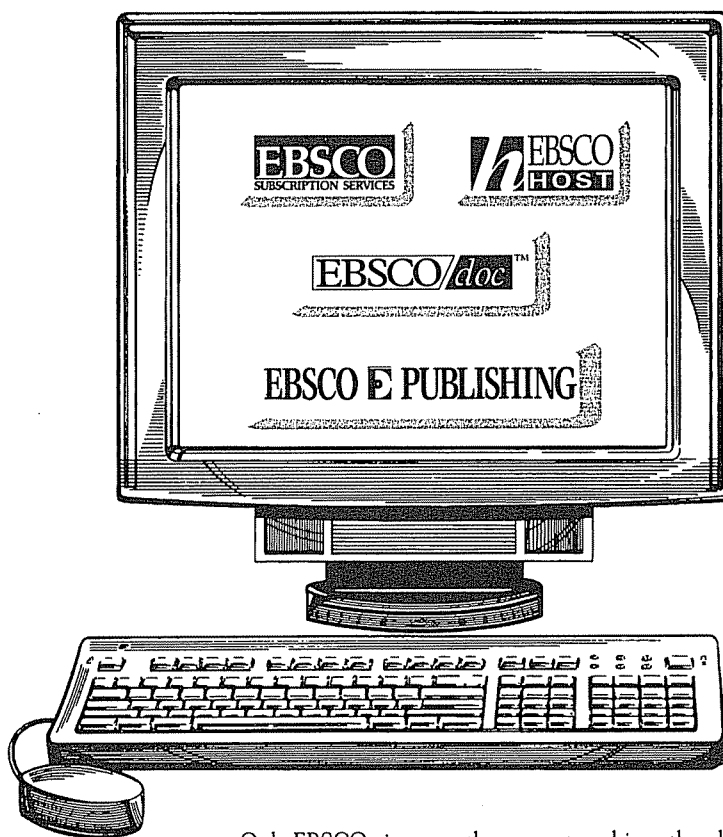


EAHIL Workshop in Budapest, Hungary - October 8-9, 1997

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La Rédaction s'efforce d'obtenir des articles intéressants. Cependant, les faits et opinions exprimés dans ces articles sont de la responsabilité de leurs auteurs. Ils ne reflètent pas nécessairement les politiques et opinions de l'Association.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES



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EDITORIAL

After two years and eight issues it is time to retire and let new ideas and people emerge.

These two years have been a most fruitful time for the editor in many ways. Professionally, there is nothing that can teach a librarian more than to become familiar with other peoples' "own" problems, questions, routines and visions in other countries, and to see that there are always colleagues who have to deal with similar matters and with whom I can talk.

This job has been a key position to follow what is going on, where we are going to, what can be expected and

what cannot be foreseen in our field. At a more personal level, it has also been an extraordinary insight into realising what I can do better in my work and what I am good at.

What has delighted me most, is that the library professions are not dying out. A librarian's education gives us possibilities for a great number of jobs in the information society.

We have the knowledge and skills to manage the chaotic information flow of today, but we must market ourselves to the political and commercial decision makers, perhaps more boldly than we are used to. I have great pleasure in introducing you to the next Editor. She is Luisa

Vercellesi from Italy, who has been an active member of the Editorial Board. In addition to her personal skills, I am glad that the editorship now moves from the North to the South.

I hereby wish to thank the whole Editorial Board for their excellent co-operation. I also express my thankfulness to the editors of the special sections and subgroups, and all contributors. And of course, the Newsletter would have no purpose without the readers, i.e. all members of the Association.

Liisa Salmi
Rédactrice-en-Chef

Après deux années et huit numéros de la Newsletter, le temps est venu pour moi de me retirer et de laisser émerger de nouvelles idées et s'exprimer de nouvelles personnalités.

A bien des égards, ces deux années ont été pour moi des plus enrichissantes, rien ne peut apporter plus d'enseignement à un bibliothécaire que de se familiariser avec ses "propres" problèmes, questions, méthodes d'organisation et de vision rencontrés dans d'autres pays et de voir qu'il existe toujours des collègues qui sont concernés par les mêmes sujets et avec lesquels il est possible d'en discuter.

Cette fonction a représenté une position stratégique qui m'a permis de suivre ce qui se passait dans notre domaine, quel était notre devenir, que

pouvions-nous espérer et aussi ce qui était imprévisible.

Sur un plan plus personnel, cette position extraordinaire m'a également permis de réaliser quels étaient les points forts dans mon travail et en quoi je pouvais m'améliorer.

Ce qui m'a le plus ravie, c'est de constater que notre profession n'est pas en voie de disparition. En effet, la formation de bibliothécaire offre la possibilité d'exercer un grand nombre de fonctions dans le domaine de l'information.

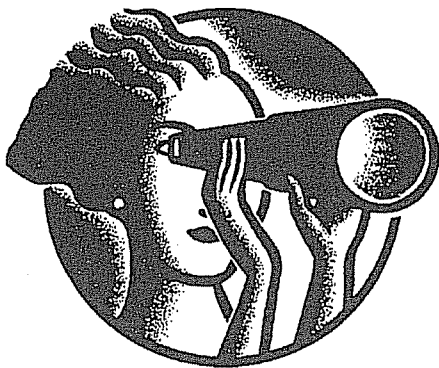
Nous avons la connaissance et les capacités pour gérer le flux chaotique de l'information qui règne actuellement, mais il faut que nous nous "vendions" nous-mêmes aux décideurs tant politiques que commerciaux, peut-être avec plus d'assurance et d'agressivité qu'autrefois.

J'ai le grand plaisir de vous présenter Luisa Vercellesi, d'Italie, qui sera notre future Rédactrice-en-Chef. Luisa a été un membre actif du Comité de Rédaction. Et en plus de ses compétences personnelles, je suis heureuse que la rédaction se déplace du Nord vers le Sud de l'Europe.

Par la présente, je souhaite remercier l'ensemble du Comité de Rédaction pour son excellente collaboration.

Mes remerciements s'adressent aussi aux sections spécialisées et Sous-Groupes ainsi qu'à tous les collaborateurs. Et bien entendu, la Newsletter serait sans objet sans ses lecteurs, c'est-à-dire tous les membres de l'Association.

Liisa Salmi
Rédactrice-en-Chef



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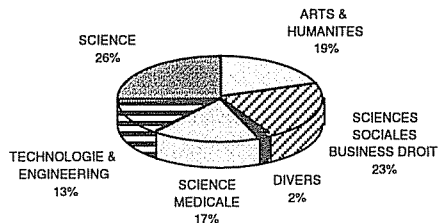
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NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

EAHIL ELECTIONS

The election results were officially announced in Coimbra, on September 19, at the EAHIL General Assembly, in the context of our Fifth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries.

The results of the elections are as follows :

The Executive Board:

- The President for 1997/1998: our President, Elisabeth Husem of the Institute of Psychiatry Library in Oslo, has been re-elected.

The newly elected members on the Executive Board are as follows:

- Tony McSean, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, UK -
- Tel: 44 171 383 6036
- Fax: 44 171 388 2544
- email: tone@kcl.ac.uk
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- Fax: 358 71 173770
- email: liisa.salmi@uku.fi

As announced in our previous Newsletter, for professional reasons Pascale Delausnay, Treasurer, and Jean-Philippe Accart, Assistant Secretary, have resigned from the Executive Board, as from December 31, 1996. They will be replaced by the elected candidates, Otakar Pinkas and Manuela Colombi:

- Otakar Pinkas, National Medical Library, Sokolska 31, CZ-12132 Prague 2, Czech Republic
- Tel: 422 293682
- Fax: 422 2491 4625
- email: pinkas@nlkdec.nlk.anet.cz
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- Tel: 39 2 525 8431
- Fax: 39 2 525 8605
- E-mail : scherplo@galactica.it

We warmly thank Teodora Oker-Blom and Beatrice Doran for the work accomplished on the Executive Board from 1993-1996.

The new Executive Board will take office on January 1st, 1997.

The EAHIL Council:

5 new national delegates have been elected by the members of their country for the years 1997-2000:

- Aidan Beatty, Ireland; Jarmila Potomkova, Czech Republic and Ingrid Simmasgard, the second Swedish delegate. Laura Cavazza, Italy and Eva Alopaeus, Sweden will replace Manuela Colombi and Arne Jakobsson newly elected on the Executive Board.

The complete list of the EAHIL National delegates on the Council is as follows:

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- fax: 44 71 278 0622

**Suzanne Bakker
and Angélique Mattioli**
Election Committee

We want to express our warm appreciation to all candidates for their willingness to stand for office. We also warmly thank Suzanne Bakker and Angélique Mattioli of the Election Committee for the work accomplished for these elections.

Elisabeth Husem
EAHIL President

Obituary - Deonilla Pizzi (1948-1996)

Every obituary is, by definition, an occasion for sad reflection on a friend lost or a profession deprived of a valuable colleague, but the sadness is worse by far when we are celebrating someone who has died suddenly and in the prime of their professional life. Dr Deonilla Pizzi, a member of EAHIL's Executive Board, died on July 17th of head injuries sustained in a road accident, and both EAHIL and the wider library and Information community will mourn her passing.

Deonilla was born in Ravarino in 1948 and after spending some of the late 1960s travelling in Europe - including a spell working in London which gave her an idiomatic and fluent command of English - she graduated in political science from the University of Siena. Following graduation she began work as an assistant librarian in the Central Humanities Library of the University of Siena, and remained within the Siena University network of libraries for almost the whole of her professional life.

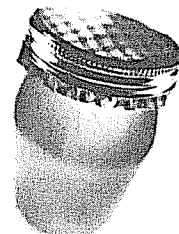
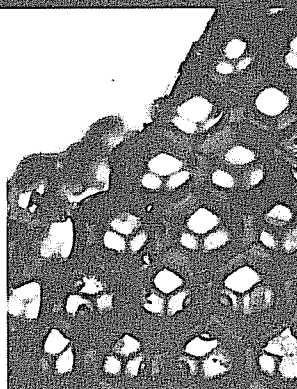
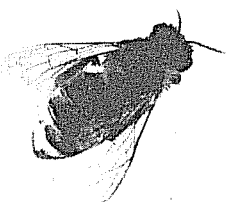
She moved to the main library in 1975, then progressed to be head of the law library and, from 1977 worked as the university's medical librarian. Of the three years up to 1990 she was the coordinator of library automation, in addition to her departmental duties. After a short spell working in Bari, she returned recently to the University of Siena to become the head of libraries.

Alongside her illustrious career, Deonilla led an active professional life. Among many activities, she had since 1989 been a member of the biomedical group of the university and research libraries' group of the Italian Library Association and was active in trade union work. Her range of interests was wide, and included library management, health informatics and the cataloging of manuscripts. Deonilla also had the keenest interest in the environment.

A member of EAHIL since the early days, she was elected a member of the Executive Board in 1992. Right from the start she demonstrated a rare gift for being able to engage in lively debate and express firmly held principles without personalising the discussion in any way. Most European associations seem to enjoy a steady creative tension between the northern and the southern way of doing things, but Deonilla's breadth of perception and experience helped to keep the emphasis on the "creative" rather than the "tension".

She also had a priceless ability to defuse a discussion by making everyone laugh, which made Board meetings more enjoyable affairs than they otherwise might have been. The personal quality that stays longest in the mind was Deonilla's generosity - of time, of experience, of spirit and also in concrete things. Never did a Board meeting pass without her arriving with an armful of biscuits or chocolates, and outside the meetings themselves her end of the table was always a lively and happy place. Deonilla is survived by her husband, Professor Flavio Casprini. They were married only last March, although they had been together for much longer. As a regular "accompanying person" Flavio was always a welcome face at Board meetings and to him must go the EAHIL's deepest condolences.

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EAHIL WEB LAUNCHED !!!

EAHIL's home page was launched at the 5th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Coimbra, September 1996. By providing easy-to-use information, on the Web, EAHIL aims to intensify the interaction between EAHIL and all its members. On the Web you can find the names and addresses of all EAHIL Board Members and EAHIL Council Members including email addresses, where available. Just by clicking on an E-mail address link you can send email directly to the EAHIL elected representative of your choice.

EAHIL Aims Towards Year 2000

EAHIL Aims Towards Year 2000 is one of the most important documents on the EAHIL Web. The participation of all EAHIL Members is essential to achieve these aims.

EAHIL Conferences and Workshops

Information about EAHIL Conferences and Workshops including the call for papers, programme, continuing education courses, registration, local organizing committees, programme

committees will be published on the Web as soon as it becomes available. Today you can find the dates and places for all EAHIL conferences and workshops until the year 2000.

About EAHIL

There are also pages of general information about EAHIL and an EAHIL Membership Application Form. Updated versions of the EAHIL Statutes, Rules of Procedures and Policy Statements will always be available on the Web.

Links to EAHIL Sub-groups

From the EAHIL home page there is a link to the home page of the EAHIL Veterinary Libraries Group, and information about the Pharmaceutical Information Group.

Links to other associations

Finally from EAHIL home page you can link to other medical library associations. Later this year much more information will be added, i.e. items from the EAHIL Newsletter, minutes from the EAHIL Board and the Council

Meetings, Reports from the EAHIL President and so on. You can participate in building the EAHIL Web by submitting information to the EAHIL Web team, preferable in html-format. Your ideas and wishes about the EAHIL Web are also welcome.

Visit the EAHIL Web site to view the latest information from EAHIL at <http://www.ub.ntnu.no/eahil/eahil.htm>

Do not hesitate to contact the EAHIL Web team:

Arne Jakobsson

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Box 70487*

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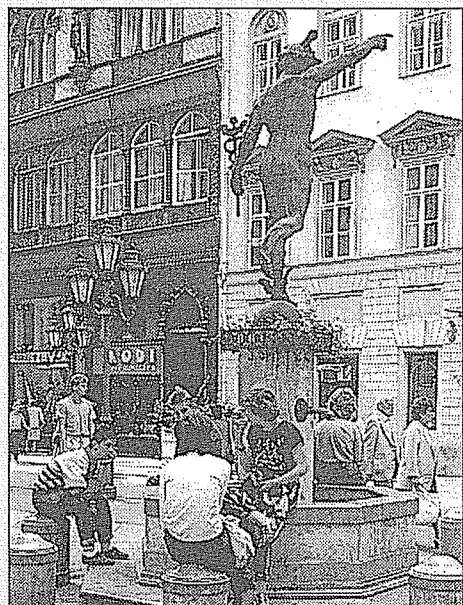
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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

EAHIL WORKSHOP IN BUDAPEST

"Information Management Policies in Medical Libraries in the New Electronic Age", Budapest, Hungary, October 1997

"Des politiques de gestion de l'Information dans les Bibliothèques Médicales à l'ère nouvelle de l'électronique"



Are you looking forward to stimulating discussions with your colleagues at the EAHIL Workshop in Budapest?

The Group of Hungarian Medical Librarians and the Hungarian Librarians' Association invite you to participate in the Workshop on "Information Management Policies in Medical Libraries in the New Electronic Age". We hope that the Workshop will bring together delegates and experts from all over the world.

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, is a beautiful city on the river Danube offering not only monuments, museums, concert halls and historic buildings or thermal baths to visit, but also restaurants and café's to taste Hungarian food and wine.

Budapest welcomes you at the EAHIL Workshop in **October 8-9, 1997**. For the Preliminary programme, watch out for the next issue of the EAHIL Newsletter.

Contact person: **Dr Márta Virágos**, Director of the Central Library, Medical University, Debrecen 4012, Nagyerdei ket. 98, Hungary. Tel/fax: 36 52 413 847 • email: Marta@lib.dote.hu

EAHIL 5TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH LIBRARIES IN COIMBRA.

We couldn't let this issue of the Newsletter go to press without mention of the 5th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries held in Coimbra, Portugal on September 18-21, 1996. Full conference reports will appear in the next issue, but as delegates have only just returned from Coimbra, it seemed timely to say a few words about the value of the Conference.

For me, and I am sure this applies to many colleagues, the EAHIL European Conferences are the most valuable ones I attend - it is reasonably easy to keep up to date with developments in one's own country, but many of the problems we face in providing health care are common to us all. And it is very instructive and inspirational to see how they are being tackled in other countries. Innovative approaches to common problems - every country has something to offer.

The city of Coimbra was a delight (even though there was an unseasonal amount of rain during the week!) and our conference hosts were charming in their enthusiasm to show us the best of Portuguese culture and cuisine. Ad for the Conference itself - each time it seems to get bigger and have more and more to offer us. This time, there were 450 delegates from over 26 countries present, with an excellent scientific paper and workshop programme in operation.

As I say, fuller details will be given in the next Newsletter. But for now, all I will say to those who could not attend Coimbra (and those who did!) - don't miss the 6th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Utrecht in June 1998!

Linda Lisgarten
EAHIL Council Member
The School of Pharmacy

"Prix d'Honneur" The librarian of the year 1995

As EAHIL President, I am pleased to congratulate the 1995 and 1996 EAHIL "Prix d'Honneur". Lois Ann Colaianni, *Associate Director, Library Operations, National Library of Medicine* in Maryland USA, has a very long experience in medical librarianship. She is a global librarian. She has been the President of Medical Library Association (MLA), a member of many committees and a faithful member of EAHIL since the beginning. She has participated in most of the EAHIL Conferences and workshops with great interest. Lois Ann has this special gift of getting in touch with people, encouraging and giving inspiration. We are happy to award her with the EAHIL "Prix d'Honneur" for 1995 and warmly congratulate her.

"It is with great professional and personal gratitude that I accept this award from EAHIL. It is truly an honor to have one's professional work acknowledged by this dynamic, growing organization representing the wonderful cultures and countries in Europe. In accepting this award, however, I must acknowledge the professionals who have served as role models; my family for their encouragement and support; my employer who believes that health is of world-wide importance and is committed to providing high quality, up-to-date health information resources; my colleagues with whom I have worked to improve information resources and develop the infrastructure to provide access to these resources throughout the world and have made working fun; and, all of you who will make the vision of a world-wide network of health libraries a reality in the next decade."

Lois Ann Colaianni - *National Library of Medicine*
8600 Rockville Pike - Bethesda, MA. 20894, USA
email: loisann@lbc.nlm.nih.gov

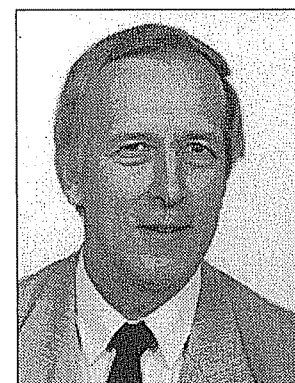


"Prix d'Honneur" The librarian of the year 1996

Otakar Pinkas, *from the National Medical Library in Prague*, has been with EAHIL for many years, always present at our conferences, active as a speaker or as a member of one of the conference committees, as he was in Oslo, a member of the Programme Committee. You always know that he is doing what is expected from him, and a man you can rely on in every way. Otakar was responsible for organizing the EAHIL Symposium of Cooperation of Medical Libraries in Prague in September 1995. This was not only a good professional symposium, but a great social event, held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The symposium was an important meeting of colleagues from Eastern, Central and Western Europe. As you know, he has been elected as a member of the EAHIL Executive Board as from January 1997. This will broaden the horizons of the Association. Our warmest congratulations!

"May I express my deepest thanks for the honour granted to me. It is with great pleasure that I accept the EAHIL award for the current year; the award I will share with all my colleagues in the Czech Republic. This honour constitutes also a big challenge for me, for my further professional activity. Many thanks for all of you for your assistance, for your confidence and friendship."

Otakar Pinkas - *National Medical Library*
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EAHIL SUB-GROUPS

EAHIL European Veterinary Libraries Group (EVLG)



Recently the European Veterinary Libraries Group produced its second Newsletter. The editors, Rosemary Warner (Ireland) and Linda Warden (England) did a fine job in inspiring so many colleagues and in gathering such interesting papers from all over the world. *The electronic library news* is covered by Jean Paul Jette from Canada, *Internet access* from abroad to European veterinary collections is the topic.

Recently the EVLG participated in the Union List of Serials already in existence in the USA. Friedhelm Rump from Germany gives a report on the state of the art. Anne Catherine Munthe and Per Ola Raf give us an insight into their "local" situation in Norway and Sweden. There are more reports from Belgium, Hungary (Mary Csereny) and the UK. To make this a really global issue Trenton Boyd from the US and Erica van der Westhuizen from South-Africa give their international reports. The treasure of veterinary dissertations and the way in which they can be obtained is explained by Holger

Kulemeyer from Germany in cooperation with Theo Elsinghorst and Gerdien de Jonge from The Netherlands. Another report from Africa by Mohamed Harun from Mozambique concludes this very interesting issue. Maybe I'll reflect on some of the papers in a more lengthy way in the future...

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Pharmaceutical Information Group

Groupe Pharmaceutique d'Information

Here's is a short report on the Coimbra PhinG session.

More than fifty people attended the two-part Pharmaceutical Information session. Although we expected more participants (some 200 people were registered before the Conference), this was a good attendance. Indeed, the first part of the session was held before the official opening of the Conference, and the beauties of the Coimbra university certainly stole a lot of potential attendees.

The session was a good balance of studies or state-of-the-art reviews and some very interesting practical experiences.

We regretted Mrs B. Fayl's absence of EMEA, but contact and further arrangements are being made to benefit from her knowledge and experience in another way.

Most attendees were very pleased with the number and the quality of the papers. I deeply regret the absence of handbooks. Although copies of slides (or of items) were to be provided, the confusion occurring with their distribution prevented attendees from using these copies during the sessions, despite the efforts of the authors and of Muriel Carcano, supported by Elsevier. At the time of reading, attendees should have received their copy.

The rest of the Programme was of high quality, with some items of direct

interest to the Group. The social programme was particularly successful.

The General Assembly of the PhInFG members also took place during the Conference.

The first point touched on was an informal evaluation by the members of the session. Suggestions were made in order to improve the organisation of next conference sessions.

The need for a PhinG member within the Organising Committee of the next Conference in Utrecht in 1998 in order to defend our interests was also underlined.

The principle of an elected Decision Committee for the Programme was found effective, and should be set up again for the next Conference. Instead of one meeting before the International Programme Committee meeting, it was felt that two meetings, before and after, would be more effective. Everybody agreed the ideal days to organise the Pharmaceutical Session would be Thursday or Friday.

A small additional fee for the PhinG affiliation was discussed. The final decision has not been taken yet and will be reported in the next issue. Your opinion is welcome.

About membership management, it will be asked to modify EAHIL affiliation forms in order to permit direct subgroup affiliation. Information should also be given to the EAHIL secretariat in order to be systematically

provided with replies to any EAHIL general information request.

It was also felt that a meeting every two years was not enough. Even the quarterly periodicity of the Newsletter cannot fulfil most of communication needs between members. It was thus decided to look for some communication means between the Conferences. An Internet discussion list was one of the most interesting tracks assessed, although all members haven't yet the possibility or authorization to use this means. It was decided first to analyse member communication possibilities with a questionnaire which could be published in the Newsletter. This questionnaire could also be used for the renewal of the affiliation. This opportunity will be followed by Luisa Vercellesi, the new Editor of the Newsletter, and the Secretary.

As you know, EAHIL is launching its Internet Home Page. An informal committee will analyse and propose a specific PhInFG page. This committee is constituted of Manuela Colombi, Nada Trzan-Herman and the Secretary. Other interested people are welcome.

We should also decide on the opportunity to organize specific pharmaceutical information activities during the next EAHIL workshop, planned in Budapest, Oct 8-9, 1997.

Vincent Maes - PhinG Secretary
E-mail: maesv@pophost.eunet.be

NEWS FROM EUROPE

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOSPITALS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (HOPE)

Comité Permanent des Hôpitaux de l'Union Européenne (HOPE)

Les nouveaux statuts du Comité Permanent des Hôpitaux de l'Union Européenne (NGO), ont été officiellement approuvés par la loi belge le 16 octobre 1995. Les principaux objectifs que le Comité Permanent s'est fixé sont les suivants:

1. être pour les institutions de l'Union Européenne un interlocuteur privilégié
2. maintenir et développer les échanges d'informations
3. intervenir en qualité de conseil en matière de création, d'organisation et de fonctionnement des services hospitaliers
4. promouvoir des programmes de jumelage et d'échange
5. entretenir des relations avec les professions de santé de l'U.E.
6. entretenir des relations et une coopération avec les organismes internationaux s'intéressant à la santé (WHO, Conseil de L'Europe.)
7. exercer toute autre activité susceptible de promouvoir les services hospitaliers

The former Hospital Committee of the European Community has been incorporated recently under modified statutes as an international non-profit organisation under the Belgian Law (Annexe au Moniteur Belge, 28.3.1996, nr. 5874) It has the following objectives:

1. to act as a principal source of advice on hospital and health affairs to the institutions of the European Union;
2. to develop and maintain information about planning and operation of the health systems within which they function;
3. to advise members on matters relating to standards of provision, organisation and operation of

- hospital services and of the health systems within which they function;
4. to promote exchange and twinning programmes within the European Union and elsewhere in the world;
5. to maintain links with health professions in the European Union;
6. to liaise and co-operate with international bodies concerned with health affairs, particularly with the World Health Organization and the Council of Europe and with other international associations of health;
7. to engage in any other activity designed to further the best interest of the hospital services in the European Union and of the health systems within which they function (Art. 1.par.3 of its Constitution).

The Permanent Committee pursues these goals and objectives for the 15.000 hospitals in the European Union. These hospitals employ five million health professionals. They are on duty 24 hours a day for the 370 million citizens in the European Union. Headquarters of the Permanent Committee of Hospitals of the European Union remain at Kapucijnenvoer 325, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. General Secretary: Prof. K. Schutyser, Tel: 32 16 336902, Fax: 32 16 336906, email: hope@geo2.poptel.org.uk

Ursula HANSEN

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THE WAYS OF DEVELOPMENT AND DIRECTIONS OF COOPERATION OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 16-18 MAY, 1996, WARSAW, POLAND

The conference organized by the Central Medical Library (CML) in Warsaw was held in the historical and restored building belonging to the CML. This event was one of the most important in a series of meetings organized in the year of the 50th anniversary of the CML. The goal of the Conference was to renew a cooperation of medical librarians from various countries of Eastern and Central Europe, and to start the modernization of medical libraries in these countries.

During the first two days 16 papers were presented. Delegates mostly spoke about their libraries, activities and problems. Everybody underlined the importance of introducing new

technologies to provide wider access to information for library users as well as the necessity for interlibrary cooperation to improve the quality of various library services.

About seventy delegates, among them 17 librarians from abroad, participated in the conference. The conference was accompanied by an exhibition of new library and information technologies presented by 11 Polish and foreign firms. The exhibition was eagerly visited also by guests who were not immediate participants in the conference.

The third day was dedicated to a discussion on the meeting and opinions on cooperation of medical

libraries between different countries. Many of them looked to EAHIL as an appropriate forum to enlarge contacts between medical libraries.

An attractive social programme included, amongst others, a guided sightseeing tour to Warsaw and Zelożowa Wola - a village where Fryderyk Chopin's house is to be found, a supper by fire in the Kampinos National Park and a visit to the International Book Fair.

Papers of the conference in English were published before the meeting.

Roslawa Ran-Rokicka

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EUROPEAN CANCER RESEARCH GOES ON-LINE HELPS PATIENTS

L'accès en ligne à la recherche européenne sur le cancer aide les patients

L'Institut Européen du Cancer, un organisme privé de Milan, a inauguré en mars 1996 une banque de données avec son propre site sur le réseau informatique mondial susceptible d'aider les médecins à diagnostiquer et à traiter le cancer. Connue sous le nom de START (State-of-the-Art oncology in Europe), cette banque de données, conçue et mise à jour par 170 des meilleurs spécialistes du traitement du cancer en Europe, sera accessible en ligne gratuitement à partir de la fin de l'année. Elle permettra aux médecins d'être plus rapidement au courant des plus récents traitements utilisés dans le cancer et de réduire par conséquent la mortalité des personnes atteintes d'un cancer de 10%.

Cancer specialists in Europe and North America are using the Internet to spread knowledge of the latest treatments in the hope that more lives can be saved from the killer disease. The European Cancer Institute, a privately-funded body in Milan unveiled a database in March 1996 with its own site on the worldwide computer network which can help doctors diagnose and treat cancer.

Known as Start, short for "State-of-the-Art Oncology in Europe", the on-line pool of information drawn from 170 leading cancer specialists throughout Europe will be available free of charge from the end of the year.

Start is directed more at the doctor than the patient. It will give greater scope for a doctor to make his own decisions. The Start idea draws its inspiration from a highly successful US computer database called Physician Data Query (PDQ), which has been in

use for more than 10 years. PDQ which is updated every month by a small panel of cancer experts has a vast range of information on treatment, screening, prevention, supportive care and drugs which have either been approved or are under investigation. It goes a step further than Start by trying to help patients as well as the doctors that treat them. Most of the information is presented in two versions.. in technical language for specialists and in simplified form for patients.

One of the main aims of database services such as PDQ and Start is to give anybody requesting this sort of information and particularly doctors, who are often overwhelmed by the sheer volume of new medical research, the opportunity to stay abreast of latest cancer therapies. Giving cancer-stricken patients access to the best available treatments could reduce mortality rates by up to 10 percent,

specialists say. One factor preventing many patients from getting the best possible treatment is that it often takes time for word to get round among doctors of the most up to date techniques.

Cancer specialists say that one of the consequences of the growing use of a service like PDQ is that patients are becoming much more knowledgeable and are increasingly likely to ask questions about the treatment they are getting. Less easy to predict is how patients will react if they find out by surfing the Internet and accessing database such as Start or PDQ that they have been given the wrong treatment.

Luisa Vercellesi

Zeneca SpA

Medical Information Group

via Fr. Sforza, Palazzo Volta

20080 Basiglio, Italy

TEACHING INFORMATION-SEEKING SKILLS TO SECOND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS AT ZAGREB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

L'enseignement des techniques de recherche de l'information à des étudiants de deuxième année de médecine à l'Université de Médecine de Zagreb

Un cours obligatoire intitulé "Introduction à la Recherche Scientifique en Médecine" a été introduit au programme de la deuxième année de Médecine de l'Université de Médecine de Zagreb. C'est avec enthousiasme que le personnel de la Bibliothèque Centrale de Médecine a accepté de participer à ce programme en mettant sur pied un module sur la diffusion et la recherche de l'information, constitué par une conférence, un séminaire (30 étudiants) et des petits groupes d'exercices pratiques (10 étudiants). Les premières expériences ont été très encourageantes et les opinions des étudiants ont été requises après chaque cours grâce à des questionnaires anonymes qui seront analysés ultérieurement.

Zagreb University School of Medicine has introduced in its curriculum for second year medical students a course entitled "Introduction to Scientific Research in Medicine". The course is an obligatory one and it consists of four modules: sciences and medicine, data gathering

and analysis, information retrieval and dissemination, writing and publishing. Having some experience in the problem-base electives, the librarians of the Central Medical Library enthusiastically agreed to join the programme, designing and performing

a module on information retrieval and dissemination.

In the process we also managed to write our respective part of the textbook. Our part of the programme consists of a lecture, a seminar (30 students in each group) and a small

group exercise (10 students in each group). The main topics in the lecture were:

- a) characteristics and structure of the scientific medical literature, with special emphasis on primary medical journals and their bibliographic control,
- b) characteristics of abstracting and indexing services, especially of Index Medicus and its MeSH thesaurus,
- c) information needs and information finding.

The seminars were designed as an opened discussion on various topics,

such as the Internet, satisfaction with library services, patient information services, etc. The practical exercises (90 minutes each group) were based on formulating a search strategy and conducting the literature search. We spent about 15 minutes selecting the subject of the search and discussing the appropriate MeSH terms. The subject of the search was selected by the students themselves, and the literature was searched through monthly issues of Index Medicus, through the local database (Biomedicina Croatica) and through a CD-ROM version of Medline. The students then had to find the papers they got as a results of their

searching in the Library's journal collection. These papers were the ones they analysed later in the module on writing and publishing in the medical sciences.

Our first experiences have been very encouraging. Student opinions of the course will be identified by analysing the anonymous questionnaires which each of them filled up after the course.

Jelka Petrak

Central Medical Library

Zagreb University School of Medicine

Salata 3

1000 Zagreb, Croatia

BMA LIBRARY HOSTS DINNER IN HONOUR OF LOIS ANN COLAIANNI, HON. FLA

On June 3rd, the BMA Library hosted a dinner to mark the award of an honorary FLA (Fellowship of the Library Association) to Lois Ann Colaianni, head of library operations at the US National Library of Medicine.

The event was attended by representatives of every strand of British medical librarianship, happy to honour the world's leading medical librarian. Mrs Colaianni is a former president of the Medical Library

Association, has been Chair of the IFLA medical section and among many professional hours she was given the 1995 award of Honour by the European Association for Health Information and Libraries.

Ross Shimmon, LA chief executive, paid tribute to Mrs Colaianni's contribution to the development of medical librarianship throughout the world, and presented her with a copy, signed by all those present of *Health care librarianship and information*

work, recently published by the Association.

He said that only four honorary FLAs were awarded annually, that overseas librarians were honoured only in exceptional cases, and that both the award and the celebration dinner were indicative of the respect and affection engendered by Mrs Colaianni's professional example and promotion of good practice and cooperation.

The picture shows the group gathered for cocktails in the BMA library's reading room, which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, originally as the Temple of the Theosophical Society and is now one of the centres of Britain's medical information network.



From left to right:

Penny Bonnett, BMA deputy librarian, Shane Godbolt, N.Thames Reg. librarian & HLR editor, William Forrester, BMA head of library development, Linda Wishart, Dept of Health librarian, Bruce Madge, British Library Medical Information Service Manager & Health Libraries Group committee member, Tony McSeán, BMA librarian & Library Association councillor, Fleur Fisher, BMA ethics, Lois-Ann Colaianni, NLM head of library operations, Derek Law, Kings College London director of inform.services and systems & Library Association policy & resources committee chair, Ross Shimmon, Library Association chief executive, John Lancaster, University of Wales College of Medicine librarian & University Medical schools Librarians Group chair, David Russon, British Library deputy chief executive

LIBRARY OF KAUNAS MEDICAL ACADEMY - SITUATION AND PROBLEMS

La Bibliothèque de l'Académie de Médecine de Kaunas - sa situation et ses problèmes

L'Académie de Médecine de Kaunas en Lituanie dispense une formation de type universitaire au 3/4 des médecins spécialistes de Lituanie, avec un hôpital universitaire de 2.300 lits. La bibliothèque recrute 5.500 lecteurs par an parmi les étudiants, chercheurs, personnel académique et médecins.

Grâce à l'aide de la NLM, le personnel du Centre d'Information effectue gratuitement des recherches dans les banques de données de la NLM via Internet/Grateful Med et en 1995 un réseau local de CD-Rom SilverPlatter MEDLINE, permettant l'accès simultané à 8 utilisateurs, a pu être installé.

Malheureusement la situation économique en Lituanie est très mauvaise et nous sommes limités par le Gouvernement dans le financement de nos abonnements. S'abonner aux périodiques occidentaux, de même que l'obtention de photocopies d'articles extraits de ces journaux constituent pour nous un réel problème et nous savons que ces derniers dispensent la plus grande partie de l'information médicale.

Conscients de nos problèmes, la NLM, nos compatriotes établis à l'étranger ainsi que plusieurs bibliothèques médicales européennes nous ont apporté une grande aide en nous faisant parvenir gracieusement des périodiques et des photocopies d'articles. Nous espérons que ce type d'activité puisse s'accroître et souhaiterions obtenir des listes de périodiques possédés par d'autres bibliothèques afin de nous aider dans nos recherches.

Kaunas Medical Academy (KMA) is a university-type higher medical education institute in Lithuania. It is responsible for training 3/4 of Lithuanian medical specialists. KMA consists of five faculties: Medicine, Stomatology, Pharmacy, Nursing and Public Health and of four research institutes: Biomedical Research, Endocrinology, Cardiology, and Psychophysiology and Rehabilitation. KMA has a large academic hospital with more than 2300 beds.

In addition to the pedagogical staff, 3000 students and numerous residents, the Library serves researchers from the institutes, the Academic Hospital staff, medical specialists from other medical institutions and, as a centre of Postgraduate Medicine in Lithuania, physicians from other cities, too. The KMA Library has 5500 readers each year and some 300 000 publications are given on loan annually.

The staff of the Information Centre do searches in Current Contents, MEDLINE, TOXLINE, PDR, SamCD and also in 29 NLM databases over the Internet/Grateful Med, an opportunity that was given free of charge by the NLM. In 1995, a local CD-ROM network was installed for the Silverplatter MEDLINE for eight simultaneous users, and remote access is available over a fax modem around the clock. The research institutes and the Academic Hospital will be

connected, too, in the near future. With all these connections now, we would like to get into contact with other information service centres internationally, to share work experience.

The economic situation in Lithuania is very bad. A health reform is going on, syllabuses are being changed and new collections are required in the Library. There are not so many publications in medicine in Lithuania, and we have to buy expensive monographs, textbooks, multimedia and journals from the Western countries. Many Lithuanians living in the USA, Canada and other countries understand our poor economic situation and send us scientific literature and subscribe to some journals for us. We also receive some literature from various libraries and private persons as charity, but mostly, these donations are too old to be used.

Subscription to Western medical periodicals is a real problem for us. We, the medical librarians, know that the main part of medical information is published in periodicals, but the Lithuanian Government has cut short the finance for them. We can at present subscribe to only 20 Western and 20 Russian titles, since it is sometimes difficult to pay the salaries for the staff on time. We are now coordinating the subscriptions with the Lithuanian Medical Library in Vilnius in order to avoid duplicates and to

exchange new journal issues every month.

Since there are only these two libraries with Western medical journals, getting photocopies of articles is a big problem for us. NLM provides us with copies of articles free of charge, which is of great help to our scientists, but it does not satisfy their needs.

Another problem is that we cannot subscribe to any professional journals for the medical librarians. We only have one professional journal in our country, but it mostly deals with problems of public libraries. It is difficult to keep abreast with new technologies and new information resources without professional literature and without meeting colleagues from other countries.

During the last few years our library has entered into relations with many European medical libraries. Libraries in Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, Poland and Latvia have sent us, among other things, article copies free of charge, which we are very grateful for.

We are having a difficult period, and we wish that this kind of activity could be increased. Even having lists of periodicals would help us so that we would know what various libraries have and could then order copies.

Dana Trapidiene

*Kaunas Medical Academy Library
A. Mickeviciaus 9, 3000 KAUNAS,
Lithuania - Lina@kma.lt*

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E A H I L

All members are kindly requested to return this form in the enclosed envelope.

I. TO EAHIL MEMBERS

We are in the process of updating our mailing list. Recently, cities in countries as France, Finland, Belgium, etc.. had to modify their phone and fax numbers. For those who didn't attend the EAHIL General Assembly in Coimbra or didn't inform EAHIL about any change, please return to the EAHIL Secretariat in Brussels this form carefully filled in, with your **email address** as well.

YES I returned the below information to EAHIL in Coimbra.

NO I didn't return the form.

(If yes, just give your name, institution, city and return this form. If no, please carefully fill this in).

Name / first name : Fonction :

Institution :

Address :

City : Country :

Tel : Fax :

E-mail (block capitals) :

For institutional members : (only if any change)

Our representative to EAHIL is (Name/first name) :

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE COIMBRA CONFERENCE, September 18-21, 1996.

YES I ordered my copy in Coimbra or before October 1st, 1996

YES I want to order copy(ies) of the Coimbra Proceedings at the price of BF. 2.300* (EAHIL Member)

YES I want to order copy(ies) of the Coimbra Proceedings at the price of BF. 2.950* (non Member)

NO I do not want to order a copy of the Coimbra Proceedings.

I am a EAHIL member, please find my address above.

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A E I B S

Nous vous prions de remplir le formulaire ci-dessous et de le renvoyer à l'AEIBS dans l'enveloppe ci-jointe.

I. AUX MEMBRES DE L'AEIBS

Nous mettons à jour notre liste des membres. Plusieurs villes de pays comme la France, la Finlande, la Belgique, etc... ont dû modifier leurs numéros de téléphone et de fax. Nous prions les membres qui n'ont pas assisté à l'Assemblée Générale de l'AEIBS à Coimbra ou n'ont pas rendu sur place le formulaire, de bien vouloir nous renvoyer celui-ci au secrétariat de l'AEIBS à Bruxelles avec leur **adresse email** et les autres informations, si nécessaire.

OUI J'ai communiqué les informations demandées ci-après à l'AEIBS à Coimbra.

NON je n'ai pas communiqué le formulaire.

(Si oui, donner le nom, l'institution, la ville et renvoyer le formulaire. Si non, veuillez compléter les données ci-dessous).

Nom / prénom : Fonction :

Institution :

Adresse :

Localité : Pays :

Tél : Fax :

E-mail (en capitales) :

Pour les membres institutionnels : (uniquement s'il y a un changement)

Notre représentant auprès de l'AEIBS (Nom/prénom) :

II. LES ACTES DE LA CONFÉRENCE DE COIMBRA, Septembre 1996.

OUI J'ai commandé un exemplaire des Actes de la Conférence à Coimbra et/ou avant le 1er octobre 1996

OUI je désire commander exemplaire(s) des Actes au prix de **2.300 * BF. (Membre EAHIL)**

OUI je désire commander exemplaire(s) des Actes au prix de **2.950 * BF. (Non Membre)**

NON Je ne désire pas commander un exemplaire des Actes de la Conférence de Coimbra.

Je suis membre de l'AEIBS, veuillez trouver mon adresse ci-dessus.

Je suis non membre, veuillez trouver mes coordonnées ci-après.

Nom / prénom :

Institution :

Adresse :

Localité : Pays :

Fax : E-mail :

Pour les pays de l'Union Européenne (toute commande doit spécifier l'assujettissement ou non à la TVA)

Assujetti à la TVA. N° de TVA : (en majuscules)

Non assujetti à la TVA

Date : Signature :

* Frais de port inclus, paiement dès réception de la facture.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN FINLAND GETS NEW FACILITIES AT LONG LAST

La Bibliothèque Nationale des Sciences de Finlande a enfin obtenu de nouvelles installations

Après avoir été cantonnée trois années dans un espace surpeuplé et mal adapté, situé au rez-de-chaussée de l'Hôpital Central Universitaire d'Helsinki, la Bibliothèque Nationale des Sciences de Finlande va être enfin installée sur une superficie de 4.300 m² dans un nouvel immeuble de 3 étages construit en face de l'Hôpital. Ces nouvelles installations comprennent 7,5 Km de rayonnages, une salle de lecture, un espace pour les utilisateurs de PC, des salles pour des travaux en équipe, une salle de conférences et de l'espace pour des expositions. Si les délais sont respectés, la bibliothèque devrait être transférée dans ces nouveaux locaux au début de l'année 1998.

The National Library of Health Sciences in Finland has been situated on the ground floor of the Helsinki University Central Hospital (Helsinki, Finland) for 30 years, in very a crowded and unsuitable space. In 1992, the Ministry of Education appointed a working group to find out the best way to finance a new library building in these years of recession. The budget totalled in FIN 36 million (\$ 6 million), and it was suggested that the costs should be divided into three according to the library's role as a national central library, a university faculty library and a university hospital library.

The planning was begun in November 1995, and the library is represented on the planning group by the director of

the library and one librarian as a representative of the staff. The new building with its three floors will be situated in front of the Helsinki University Central Hospital, with a total area of 4300 square meters. The library will occupy the first two floors, and the Helsinki University Hospital Clinical Research Institute will be housed on the third floor. There will be 7,5 km of shelves, a reading room with a reference collection, space for PCs for the customers, rooms for team work, a class room and space for exhibitions. Not all of the present collections will have room in the new building, so older and less used literature will be sent to the Deposit Library in Kuopio, Central Finland. The general impression will be as light as possible in the Finnish climate: big windows will

bring the nature close to the users and personnel and glass walls inside divide the space gracefully. Personnel will work on two floors; there will be only one entrance for the users to make control easier, and the reference desk is close to the entrance, thus making it easier for the users to orientate themselves. The floor plan is very clear and adjustable. And if the time schedule holds, the library will move in at the beginning of 1998.

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EXCHANGE VISIT TO GERMAN LIBRARIES

Visite des bibliothèques allemandes réalisée dans le cadre d'un programme d'échange

Dans le cadre d'un programme d'échange organisé par la "Bibliothekarische Auslandsstelle"(BA), la Rédactrice-en-Chef de la Newsletter, Liisa Salmi, de Finlande, a eu l'occasion de visiter 6 bibliothèques de l'Allemagne du Sud-Ouest, lors d'un circuit de 6 jours, très bien organisé, avec des visites fort bien documentées, et entièrement pris en charge par la BA. Ce qui était le plus impressionnant dans ces visites était de constater que les bibliothèques allemandes pouvaient encore offrir des services gratuits à leurs clients et qu'il existe en Europe des bibliothèques qui peuvent se procurer ce dont elles ont besoin. L'année prochaine un bibliothécaire allemand visitera la Finlande sur la même base.

The Editor of the Newsletter had an opportunity to visit German libraries last summer. Bibliothekarische Auslandsstelle (BA) has an exchange program for foreign librarians, which in this case included visits to six research libraries in SW Germany. Wuerttembergische Landesbibliothek in Stuttgart, University Libraries in Stuttgart, Freiburg, Constanze and Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek and Suedwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund in Constanze were chosen as the objects of the visit. The six-day tour was very well organised, with much information on the libraries given in advance. BA had really made

everything very easy for the visitor, who felt very welcome in every library. The costs, which included train tickets within Germany and a daily allowance, were paid by the BA. Next year, a German librarian will visit Finland on similar terms.

There were plenty of interesting things giving new ideas and practical hints. Generally, my strongest impressions were that German scientific libraries can still serve their clients practically free of charge or with nominal fees – which is no longer true in Finland, and that only those libraries which offer new services in close cooperation with the computer centres in departments

in their organisations will in the future satisfy their clients' need. It was also delightful to see that there are libraries in Europe who can buy what they need. The professional reward was great, and I hope that this kind of international exchange will increase. Even a short period gives new ideas and insights to one's own work. The contact address of BA is: Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut, Haus 2, Auslandssekretariat Luisenstrasse 57, D-10117 BERLIN tel. 0049-30-231193 fax 0049-30-23119480

Liisa Salmi

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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN PORTUGUESE PHARMACEUTICAL CURRICULA

Portuguese pharmaceutical curricula do not have information or communication subjects amongst their courses.

Nevertheless, not a few teachers in our universities feel and know how these matters can improve both the students capacity to find the learning material they need for study and for transmitting knowledge either to the examiner or to the public after becoming a professional. Students, themselves, consider it necessary and useful to learn about these topics. Since this is the scenario in which we have to work, unofficial attempts have been made to fill this gap in the curriculum.

At the Faculty of Pharmacy at Coimbra University, the students in their last year before graduating in pharmacy participate in seminars about communication skills under the guidance of invited experts. Although too late for other purposes, these notions are very useful in the training period starting after the conclusion of the 5th year.

Regarding information skills a similar process has been adopted. Addressed to the 4th and 5th year students, lectures and workshops on information matters have been included in the programme on Hospital Pharmacy each year - a course with multifarious themes.

The invitation to information professionals to collaborate in these courses has two main objectives:

1. To make library resources known to students;
2. To help students to obtain advantage from such resources

These aims are the basis of all the lectures and workshops.

Lectures

- To introduce traditional and modern-access information sources to students;
- To draw their attention to differences between tertiary, secondary and primary sources - their best qualities and the defects of each one;
- To design a search strategy for databases through the use of text words, search logic and indexes;
- To introduce the main pharmaceutical books, databases and journals;
- To provide some examples of sources for investigational or clinical purposes;
- To recommend bibliographic analysis as a means to achieve important information resources;
- To provide some guidelines on how to be selective in reading the biomedical literature.

Workshops

- To familiarize students with CD-ROM database searching;
- To train them in bibliographic resources utilization, in order to give the students a thorough knowledge of them;
- To search for information using different pharmaceutical bibliographic resources;
- To compare the information obtained in order to qualify each resource according to its profile or orientation;
- To select publications according to the main themes studied in each course.

In spite of the limited time ascribed to these subjects, the experience has been successful, although not perfect. Students are pleased to attend the classes and state their interest in improving their knowledge in this field as a tool to achieve better performance either as learners or as young professionals.

We hope that, in the near future, a course on information related subjects will be officially considered as an integrated component of our curricula.

Noémia Canas

*Librarian and Pharmacist
Faculty of Pharmacy
University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal*

OVID WEB GATEWAY AT THE MEDICAL INFORMATION CENTER OF THE KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE, SWEDEN

Since the beginning of May this year the Medical Information Center (MIC) of the Karolinska Institute has been running the Ovid Web Gateway as an option for access to databases.

After a test period MIC is at present offering access via the Ovid Web Gateway to all institutions of the Karolinska Institute, which now enables about 750 researchers and physicians to make use of the MIC's databases using their own favourite Web browser.

The Ovid Web Gateway is compatible with most Web browsers, and enables users to access both Ovid and Z39.50 compatible databases, including OPACs. Innovative features include the ability to "maintain state" (keeping track of search histories, and enabling previous search sets to be re-executed), full hypertext and graphical support, and searching not only from the command line, but also directly from a displayed bibliographic citation.

The Ovid Web Gateway is a valuable option for institutions of any size who

need to distribute information across a diverse user base, without needing a large investment in financial, personnel and computing resources.

Further information about the information services at the MIC of the Karolinska Institute is available from :

Lotta Mathiesen,
*MIC-KIBIC, Box 200, S-171 77
Stockholm, Sweden.*

*Fax: 46 8 330481,
Email: MIC.office@micforum.ki.se*

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - MLA 1996

AN AMERICAN OVERVIEW

The Medical Library Association M.L.A. (USA) held its 96th Annual Meeting June 1-5, 1996 in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme of the conference was "The Information Frontier", and throughout the meeting, speakers made the analogy of the information pioneers of today being much like the American pioneers who gathered in Kansas City before travelling to the vast unexplored American West.

35 continuing education courses were available to on topics such as:

- Introduction to Reference Sources
- Expanding Your Library to Futuristic Dimensions
- Publishing on the Internet
- Presentation Skills

Additionally, a special very popular Collection Development Symposium was held at the beginning of the meeting, as well as a joint MLA/AMIA Symposium on Telemedicine at the end of the meeting.

Attending the meeting were 1577 paid attendees (the total membership of MLA is 4900) and 637 exhibitors and 98 vendors made their products available in the exhibit hall. 117 contributed papers were presented, a combined poster and interactive computer demonstration was set up, an Internet Center was available for the participants (it turned out to be very popular, especially for keeping up with email messages) and a Placement Center was organized for librarians seeking jobs, or for employers seeking potential employees.

Each year at MLA, the National Library of Medicine also presents an update of their activities.

Of particular interest are the activities of the International Cooperation Section of MLA. At the business meeting, ideas were suggested to make attending MLA by international librarians easier and more enjoyable.

An International Visitors' Reception was held and Ms. Deonilla Pizzi extended greetings and a warm welcome to MLA from EAHIL, the EAHIL Board, and Ms. Elisabeth Husem, EAHIL's President.

Two very interesting plenary sessions dealt with very up-to-date topics. Robert M. Baude delivered a paper with the title "On the Origin of a Species: Evolution of Health Sciences Librarianship", where he likened the medical librarian of today to a species which could either alter and flourish, or become extinct due to other newer species competing for our niche in the ecosystem. Michael D'Alessandro and Jeffrey R. Galvin, the true pioneers and creators of "The Virtual Hospital" on the Internet, gave a lecture on the background philosophy of building up this magnificent teaching tool.

Donna Flake

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• • •

A EUROPEAN OVERVIEW

Those few Europeans (and we were only a handful) who made it to MLA this year were well rewarded for their efforts to reach this frontier!

The standard of presentations was as high as ever, and amongst all the excellent offerings described by Donna Flake what stood out for me was Jana Bradley's Presidential Address, a maturing of all the ideas she presented in last years Doe lecture backed up by a detailed knowledge of pertinent developments across the health sciences library sector. It was truly encouraging to learn of so many inspiring and innovative initiatives by our American colleagues. The

opportunities are there for us all and we need to share success stories - ours with them also.

The John P. McGovern lecture was fascinating and a privilege to hear from the creators of the Virtual Hospital their experience and insights. What came over so strongly at this as in so many of the presentations was what had been learned during the process particularly the value and contribution of each profession and individual to the whole.

Common themes continued to emerge throughout the meeting. The turbulence and uncertainty of working environments worldwide today; legal and copyrights issues in online, electronic environments for learning and document delivery law may be different but issues are the same; ways of moving forward through collaborative ventures which build understanding and new frameworks for delivery of traditional and new services.

MLA, despite its numbers, is a very friendly meeting. Whether you are in a continuing education course, attending a general session or just browsing the posters or exhibition you will be greeted wherever you go in an interested, open and friendly manner and these conversations too are learning opportunities and build lasting friendships and contacts now made so easy to keep up through email.

I hope many EAHIL members will be encouraged to attend the meeting next year in Seattle. Mark Frisse has urged us to "embrace change - cherish values" and the profession will be even more enriched if we all contribute sharing with and learning from each other.

Shane Godbolt

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FEATURE ARTICLES

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY SYSTEM IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY - PART I

Le reseau des bibliothèques médicales en République Fédérale Allemande

Le réseau des bibliothèques médicales en République Fédérale Allemande est constitué:

- de la bibliothèque Nationale Allemande de Médecine
- des principales bibliothèques des facultés de médecine ou des branches de bibliothèques dans les universités et les écoles de médecine
- d'un grand nombre de bibliothèques d'hôpitaux de différentes dimensions et;
- de bibliothèques spécialisées dans le secteur public et privé, particulièrement dans le domaine de l'industrie pharmaceutique.

La documentation médicale est réalisée par l'Institut Allemand de Documentation et d'Information Médicales (DIMDI) et par d'autres centres spécialisés en documentation. L'Association Allemande des Bibliothèques Médicales réunit des bibliothécaires et des documentalistes médicaux de tout type. Dans cette première partie, est décrite la Bibliothèque Nationale Allemande de Médecine (GNLM), son histoire, sa structure et son fonctionnement, ainsi que ses activités.

Introduction

The medical library system in the Federal Republic of Germany consists of:

- The German National Library of Medicine
- A number of major medical faculty or branch libraries in universities and medical schools
- A larger number of hospital libraries of different size and
- A number of specialized libraries in the private and public sector, especially in the chemico-pharmaceutical industry.

Medical documentation is done by the German Institute for Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI) and other specialized documentation centres.

The German Medical Library Association is an association of librarians from all types of medical libraries and of medical documentalists.

The German National Library of Medicine (GNLM)

The GNLM plays an important role in the German medical library system. It is the national focus for the collection, cataloguing, classification, and document supply of medical literature. In this role it is the most important medical library in Europe.

The GNLM was founded in 1969 but having its predecessors in the library of the Medical Faculty of the University of Cologne, its collection, date, back to the Gutenberg time.

It is one of the four central specialized libraries in Germany (one for Medicine, one for the technical sciences, one for economics and one for agriculture) serving as parts of a fictitious National

Library. All these libraries are financed jointly by the Federal Republic and the Federal States ("Länder"). The library has a collection of nearly 1 million volumes with an input of 25.000 volumes per year. The journal collection amounts to 16.000 titles with 8.000 current subscriptions. The GNLM collects and supplies literature in the field of medicine, public health and related sciences including molecular biology, bioengineering, hospital management, nursing, psychology, pharmacology and toxicology, and physical anthropology.

In principal, the library collects literature from all countries and in all languages. The main emphasis is on the collection of a complete stock of German and Anglo-American scientific medical literature and important medical titles of Japanese and European origin. The GNLM acquires the complete medical book production of the leading international publishers in this field and additionally governmental publications, publications by associations and companies, theses and reports. A special department observes the conference literature published worldwide, acquires it whenever possible and classifies monographic conference publications and congress reports published in journals. Periodicals have the highest priority, they are acquired irrespective of language and origin. The library has a complete collection of the journals indexed in MEDLINE and EMBASE. As it is continually analysing the incoming orders of its users the collection grows in direct reaction to demand. The acquisition budget in 1996 amounts to 2.9 Mio \$, the proportion for journal acquisition being 65 %. As the GNLM is the documentation centre for the World Health Organization in Germany it has a complete collection of WHO

material from the headquarters in Geneva and the Regional Office in Copenhagen. Since 1977, the incoming literature (monographs and journal supplements, but not journal articles) has been classified using MESH-terms. The catalogue named MEDIKAT now has 250.000 entries and is available online via the German online host DIMDI. Internet access has been available since 1995*. Documentation is done for congress reports (abstracts) in journals (4.000 documentation units per year). MESH headings are assigned to these reports, too.

In 1995, the German National Library of Medicine received 450.000 orders (1.800 daily) from abroad by mail, via online connections to several hosts and a mailbox, via videotext and via telefax. In fact, it is the most important document supplier for biomedical literature in Middle Europe. In addition to orders from abroad the library fulfils 110.000 orders from local customers. Local users have free access to all journal issues from 1946 on. Due to the active acquisition policy local demand can be met nearly completely and only six percent of the interlibrary loan orders remain unfulfilled. This is a rather good rate even by international standards. In the past few years there has been a marked tendency towards electronic order transmission. Today, more than 65% of all orders are transmitted online (mostly as a result of database searches) and by telefax.

The library uses modern technology for document supply such as an ADONIS workstation with jukeboxes and two book scanners. Since 1994, scanned documents (full texts) can be delivered by e-mail via the Internet (JASON project) directly to the PC's on the desks of the users. At the moment, an interface between the book scanner

and the processing system is being tested. By the way, Germany has no specific copyright restrictions regarding electronic full text delivery. 45 % of the orders are interlibrary loan orders. They are fulfilled free of charge according to the general practice in Germany. 55 % are so called "direct orders" originating from the pharmaceutical industry, departments of universities or hospitals, from the Government and from private users (physicians, pharmacists, students, etc.). These users have to pay a fee of \$7.50 (but only \$5 for users from institutions financed mainly by public funds). Orders are fulfilled within 4-5 days; urgent orders within 24 hours and orders for telecopies within hours on the same day. The total income from document supply in 1995 was 2.2 Million \$ which is more than 34% of the total budget of the library (6.5 Mio \$). No other library in Germany reaches such an enormous cost coverage. All the work is done by only 66 people plus 17 serving the local users, mainly from the university campus. With the use of modern techniques the GNLM tries to set trends for the German medical libraries. It was one of the first libraries (among four) taking part in the

ADONIS project in the trial stage (1988-1990), with the use of the JASON system ("Journal Articles Send On Demand") today it is in the forefront of electronic document delivery via networks. The library uses several levels of automation to receive and process orders from online hosts like DATASTAR, DBI (the German Library Institute), DIMDI, and STN and via videotext systems. With the help of a special programme the call numbers of periodicals are added to these orders automatically. Research work is done by the library as far as it is possible and in strong relation to medical librarianship. In 1994, the library undertook a project on the use of biomedical journals. 42.000 orders of its customers were analysed. It was found that these orders related to 5.775 different periodical titles (that is 75% of the living journal collection of the GNLM) and that no periodical was ordered more than 142 times (which is not more than 0,3%).

This surprising result shows impressively that only a large collection of biomedical periodicals like that of the GNLM can satisfy the needs of the scientific community in the biomedical

field (there are no regional medical libraries in Germany today). The libraries of medical faculties, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, etc. should only provide core collections of 300 to 500 titles and make use of interlibrary loan providing full-texts in electronic form. Judging from the scattered demand to thousands of journal titles it obviously would make no sense to build up regional journal collections with less than 5.000 titles in Germany. Taking into consideration that regional centres like these would be a costly solution for the Federal Republic of Germany it was realized that the GNLM as a centralized document supplier is very cost-effective and should be strengthened as institution in regard to staff and budget.

(to be continued in the next issue)

* <http://www.uni-koeln.de/zentral/zbib-med/index.html>

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 14-17, 1996 - Brighton, UK

European Congress of the Internet in Medicine. Mednet 96 is an international meeting which aims to bring together researchers, developers and users involved in the application of the Internet in Medicine. The congress which will provide a forum for the exploration of the rapidly developing relationship between medical sciences and the Internet, is relevant to all medical and health care professionals, as well as those involved in the development and application of the new technological opportunities offered to the medical field by the Internet and through the use of the www. For further information: email: Clive Baldock: cliveb@rsch.org.uk

December 3-5, 1996 - London, UK

Online Information 96. Contact: Conference Department Learned Information Europe Ltd., Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford OX1 5BE, fax: 44 1865 736354

March 17-19, 1997 - Harrogate, UK

HC97 - Information-led healthcare: facing the clinical challenge. Further information: Prof. Bernard Richards, HC97 Programme Committee, Dept. of Computation, UMIST, Sackville Street, Manchester M60 1QD, UK - fax: 44 161 200 3322

August 31-September 5, 1997 - Copenhagen, Denmark

63rd IFLA Council and General Conference. Contact: IFLA, P.O.B. 95312, NL-2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands. Fax: 31 70 383 4827

October 8-9, 1997 - Budapest, Hungary

EAHIL Workshop in Budapest "Information Management Policies in Medical Libraries in the New Electronic Age", Budapest, Hungary, October 1997. Contact person: Dr Márta Virágos, Director of the Central Library, Medical University, Debrecen 4012,

Nagyerdei ket. 98, Hungary -

Tel/fax: 36 52 413 847 -

email: Marta@lib.dote.hu

June 22-27, 1998 - Utrecht, The Netherlands

EAHIL Sixth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries "The digital Library in Biomedicine". Information: EAHIL'98, P.O./Box 80125, NL-3508 TC Utrecht, Netherlands, fax: 31 20 253 3667, email: l.donkers@fbu.ruu.nl

July 9-12, 2000 - Westminster, UK

8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, Queen Elisabeth II Conference Center. This congress is being organised under the auspices of the Library Association, and is being organised as a tripartite event incorporating EAHIL's 7th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries and the UK Health Libraries Group Annual Conference.



THE JOURNAL ISSUE IN DEPTH

The **vol. 12, no. 3 (1995)** issue of **Health Libraries Review** is devoted to "Current issues in quality".

- **Marshall J.G. Editorial - Quality:** a tool for change in challenging times. *p. 139-140.*
- **Buchanan H.S. The quality movement in higher education in the United States.** *p.141-146.* This article traces the quality movement in the US of the 1990s with its roots in the military and manufacturing, its adoption by service institutions and its more recent application by higher education institutions.
- **Bradley J. & Marshall J.G. Using scientific evidence to improve information practice.** *p.147-158.* The Medical Library Association's research policy statement published in 1995. It makes research central to the practice of library and information science, points at elements that make research a reality in the profession and provides an action plan for the Association.
- **Marshall J.G. Using evaluation research methods to improve quality.** *p.159-172.* In the information environment accountability is growing. Informal evaluation methods need replacement by more rigorous ones like total quality management (TQM)

PUBLICATIONS

and continuous quality improvement (CQI).

- **Cullen R. & Mason D. Quality assurance in health science literature searching:** applying the ISO 9000 quality standard. *p.173-190.* The authors take the internationally recognised ISO 9000 standard and test its applicability to literature searching.
- **McKibbin K.A. & Walker-Dilks C.J. The quality and impact of MEDLINE searches performed by end users.** *p.191-200.* It has been shown that MEDLINE is becoming an important clinical tool to improve patient care. Key roles for the library in end-user searching include the provision of the most effective MEDLINE access possible to the maximum number of users and training that includes feedback and practice opportunities.
- **Urquart C. & Hepworth J. The value of information supplied to clinicians by health libraries:** devising an outcomes-based assessment of the contributions of libraries to clinical decisionmaking. *p.201-214.* The Value project has examined the effectiveness of NHS library and information services. Clinicians at 11 hospital library sites were asked a set of questions concerning the purpose of their information seeking, the steps to obtain it and to assess the value of the information obtained from ILL requests, database searches and end-user searches. A sample of non-library users and users of the BMA Dial-up MEDLINE service were asked similar questions. Results show that information assists in personal clinical decision making and which kind of decisions were most supported. The data led to the production of a quality assurance toolkit.
- **The Brief Communications Section** carries two contributions:

Leishman J. Improving inter-library loan quality through bench-marking: a case study from the Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto. *p.215-218.*

- **Lingle V.A. Selecting processes to bench-mark:** a key step in quality improvement - a case study in an academic setting. *p.218-221.*

ALSO IN THE JOURNAL LITERATURE

In the **The Bulletin of the Medical Library Association**, Vol. 84 nr 2 (1996).

- **Zink S., Illes J. & Vannier, M.W. (1996) NLM extramural program: frequently asked questions.** *P 165-181.* This compilation of questions and their answers provides information for new and aspiring investigators in medical informatics, medical libraries and biotechnology information on how to get started with NLM's support programs. At the same time it provides a model for other types of funding opportunities.
- **Fox, L.M., Richter, J.M. & White, N. E. (1996) A multidimensional evaluation of a nursing information-literacy program.** *P 182-190.* This article describes the program Pathways to Information Literacy at the Northern Colorado School of Nursing. Evolving over a 4 year period the program evaluation methods included informal questioning, graded assignments, surveys, pre-and postprogram testing, comparisons to other student groups, and questions to alumni.
- **Sittig D.F. (1996) Identifying a core set of medical informatics serials:** an analysis using the MEDLINE database. *P 200 - 204.* The methodology described provides librarians with a tool for journal selection.

- **Symposium: Partnerships of Networked Health Information for the Public**, edited by Mary Jo Deering. (1996) P 206-236. An introduction plus 4 articles: Consumer health information demand and delivery: implications for librarians (by M.J. Deering and J. Harris); Los-Angeles Free-Net: an experiment in interactive telecommunication between lay members of the Los Angeles community and health care experts (by A. Bluming & P.S. Mittelman); Electronic networks, community intermediaries, and the public health (by N. Milio); Intellectual property and networked health information: issues and principles (by F.H. Cate).

In addition, the **Bulletin of the Medical Library Association** Vol. 84 nr 2 (1996). carries a section highlighting consumer health information:

- **CAPHIS/MLA The librarian's role in the provision of consumer health information and patient education:** Policy Statement by the Medical Library Association and the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section. p. 238-239.
- **Russo M.E. & Lanier D. Networking consumer health information:** bringing the patient into the medical information loop. p. 240-246.
- **Hollander S. Consumer health information partnerships:** the health science library and multitype library system. p. 247-252.
- **Calvano M. & Needham G. Public empowerment through accessible health information.** p. 253-256.
- **Kronenfeld M.R. (1996) Update on inflation of journal prices in the Brandon-Hill list of journals.** P 260-263. This paper examines the price increases that have occurred during the last 25 years for the journals listed in the 1995 Brandon-Hill list.

A supplement of the **vol 84, no 2 issue** (60 pages) of the **Bulletin of**

the **Medical Library Association** is devoted to "Outreach activities of the National Library of Medicine: a five-year review" with information including legislation, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and their Grateful Med demonstration and training programs, activities that strengthen hospital access to national information sources, training in health information management and an overview of new information products and services.

Stevens C.A., Morris, A. & Rolinson J. (1996) Consumer health information provision in the Trent region. *Electronic Library* 14(4):347-355. The Patient's Charter (Department of Health 1991) has made the provision of health information to the general public mandatory. This paper presents the result of research concentrating on services using electronic sources provided in one region.

Mixer J. (1996) Internet connection basics. *MLA News* no 287, August, p. 1,8. Introduction with reference to more recent developments on how to get the connection as single user or small organization. Checklist what to look for when selecting an Internet Service Provider.

NEW PRODUCTS AND PRODUCT REVIEWS

"**Electronic Searching of the Health Sciences Literature:** Examples for End-User Training" is the most recent publication in MLA's DocKit series (#8). Stephanie Fulton and Barbara J. Henry compiled examples of search statements and strategies. Various database system producers/vendors are represented (NLM, Grateful Med, Ovid Technologies, DIALOG on Disk etc.) Databases include Medline, CINAHL, Health, PsycINFO, Cancerline and Embase. *Price for MLA members \$35.00, \$41.00 for non-members plus shipping and handling.*
TEL: ++1-312-419-9094 or
email: pierceal@mlahq.org.

The **MLA DocKit #7** is entitled "World Wide Web and Other Internet Information Services in the Health Sciences: a Collection of Policy and Procedure Statements". It reviews the administrative processes needed to develop and maintain a Web site. Compiled by V.A. Lingle and E.P. Delozier. Available from MLA for \$25.00 (members) or \$31.00 (non-members). Tel: ++1-312-419-9094; pierceal@mlahq.org.

Also from **MLA: Step One-MLA's Librarian Survival Kit.** It is designed to help health librarians facing lower budgets or staff cuts to market their services within their organizations and institutions. It contains marketing tips, guidelines on writing effective letters to administrators, professional standards, research indicating the value of library and information sources, and a bibliography. \$18.00 for members, \$30.00 for nonmembers. Tel: +312-419-9094; info@mlahq.org.

Elsevier Science announces the development of **ScienceDirect™**. Its aim is to provide Internet access to the full text of all 1,200 **Elsevier Science** journals and the journals of other participating publishers. The initial release of 300 journals will be tested in the first quarter of 1997.

Also, **Elsevier Science** publishes the final report on the 5-year **TULIP** experiment (available on Elsevier's home page:

<http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/tulip>).

The experiment made possible the introduction of **Elsevier Electronic Subscriptions (EES)**. It addressed and solved technical problems and assessed user needs without resolving the economic questions about the transition to the digital environment, which, however, is much slower than thought.

Elsevier Science and Knight Ridder have agreed to offer the **EMBASE** Alert file through Dialog (file 172). It is a companion file to **EMBASE** providing rapid access to the latest drug and biomedical literature. Articles appear 5 days after the receipt of the original

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HEALTH CARE ON THE INTERNET

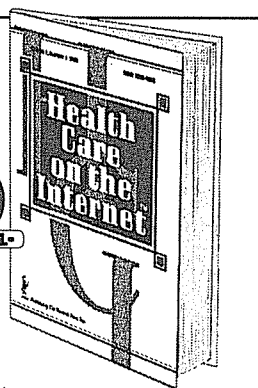
a journal of methods & applications

Editor: Eric P. Delozier, MLS

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The Pennsylvania State University, Hershey

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Also edited by Sandra Wood . . .

MEDICAL REFERENCE SERVICES QUARTERLY

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This highly acclaimed journal is the "working tool" for medical and health sciences librarians. For those professionals who provide reference services to health sciences personnel in clinical, educational, or research settings, **Medical Reference Services Quarterly** covers topics of current interest and practical value in the areas of reference in medicine and related specialties, the biomedical sciences, nursing, and allied health.

A SELECTION OF CURRENT CONTENTS . . .

Volume 15, No. 1: Benchmarking Reference Services: Step-By-Step • Benchmarking in Health Care: Using the Internet to Identify Resources • NLM's New Proximity Searching • Internet Access and Connectivity • Medical Informatics in the Medical School Curriculum • Pharmaceutical Published Literature Databases • Producing Training Videos for End-User Instruction • *more*

Volume 15, No. 2: Gateway to Bioinformatics: The Internet • Patents for Medical Librarians • Combined Health Information Database • Strategies for Finding Information on the Internet • MEDINFO'95: A Report on the 8th World Congress on Medical Informatics • Librarians and Transformational Learning • Beyond the Internet Curriculum • *more*

Volume 15, No. 3: The Hospital Library as Provider of Consumer Health Information • Medical Jargon: Ethnography of Language in a Hospital Library • Navigate the Net • In-House Databases as an Informational Tool • Hospital Information Services • The Moving Target: Internet Instruction at the University of Washington Health Sciences Libraries and Information Center • *more*

Volume 15, No. 1—Spring 1996.

Volume 16, No. 1—Spring 1997.

Quarterly (4 issues).

Subscription rates (per volume):

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US:	\$32.00	\$105.00
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"I would like to congratulate the editors for taking the initiative to provide this much-needed resource. . . . The librarian on the firing line at the reference desk will especially appreciate this journal. Whether located in hospitals or in public or academic libraries, reference librarians are always pressed for time and do not have extra hours to spend 'surfing the Net.' *Health Care on the Internet* will provide a quality filter for Internet resources. . . . An extremely useful addition to the professional library and informatics literature."

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"A refreshing and welcome emphasis on what's on the Internet for medicine consumers together with a wealth of useful resources and techniques."

—Alan M. Rees, Professor Emeritus, Case Western Reserve University; Editor, *Consumer Health and Nutrition Index*; Author, *Consumer Health Information Source Book*, 4th Edition

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Charter Issue Available Fall 1996!

H *Health Care on the Internet* will be a quarterly professional journal devoted to exploring consumer, personal, and community health care information sources available on the Internet. Of all the numerous other journals that cover the Internet as their primary topic, none focuses specifically on the aspect of consumer health information.

The primary objective of *Health Care on the Internet* will be to identify and disseminate the vast amount of Internet-accessible materials on health care and related issues to academic, special, and public libraries; patient education centers; community hospitals; consumer organizations; and the lay public.

Health Care on the Internet will help library and information professionals, especially medical and public librarians, stay abreast of the consumer health movement. The lay public will benefit from knowing what health information is available from the Internet and how to access it. The journal's readers will gain more knowledge about the Internet and its services from tutorial articles on the WWW, Gopher, Telnet, Netnews, FTP, and related Internet utilities.

CONTENTS IN THE CHARTER ISSUE . . .

Volume 1, No. 1: Community Networks and Health Information Providers: A Natural Partnership • Childhood Asthma Resources on the Internet • "PAN Islands" Experiment May Be an Answer to the Problem of Internet-Access 'Have-Nots?' • An Overview of Newsgroups and Mailing Lists • Consumer Health on the World-Wide Web: Gold or Gilt? • A Community Approach to Serving Health Information Needs: The Ohio Valley Community Health Information Network

Volume 1, No. 1—Spring 1997.

Volume 2, No. 1—Spring 1998. Quarterly (4 issues).

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Canada:	\$49.40	\$110.50
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article. Updated weekly containing the most recent 8 weeks.

Another **Elsevier Science** product, **Current Awareness in Biological Sciences (CABS)** with its 12 sections, can now be searched with Personal Librarian software. The customised software allows for additional functionality including automatic reprint request generation, automatic delivery service request to **EMDOCS**, to print out the search result or download it into Reference Manager or ProCite. Available for L170/\$271 per personal subscription, institutional rates. Contact: Customer Services, Elsevier Science/CABS, Molenwerf 1, 1014 Amsterdam. Fax: +31-20-4853222; e-mail: cabs-f@elsevier.nl

Ovid Biomedical Collection III will include full text and graphics from **NATURE** plus 14 medical journals such as British Heart Journal, Chest, Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey. Like its predecessors Biomedical Collection and Biomedical Collection II it will be possible to link to MEDLINE citations and from references to the full text of articles not only within the same Collection but also within the two others. As of September 1996 Ovid Technologies will expand the range of databases of its subscription-based WWW service in Europe and the UK.

Dawson Books BIBSCAN now offers access to over 2.3 million bibliographic records combining the British Library BNB file with Book Data, Whitakers and Electre. For more information: <http://www.dawson.co.uk:80/menu0407.htm>, ENTER Books.

DataSwets, the online service available to customers of Swets Subscription Service, can now be accessed on Swets home page <http://www.swets.nl>.

ISI, the Institute for Scientific Information, will launch **ISI Document Solution**. Built upon The Genuine Article (TGA) the service will provide copyright clearance, ordering and delivery options as before but with

increased coverage. The orders will be fulfilled more quickly.

Topics Select: Gene Research & Biotechnology is the first release of ISI's new direct-to-the-desktop alerting service (\$315). Research Information Service (RIS), an affiliate of ISI, has acquired PBS Personal Bibliographic Software including Procite, BiblioLinks, and Internet Enabler. RIS's most widely known products are Reference Manager and Reference Update.

The Burwell World Directory of Information Brokers, 12th ed., 1996, is a listing of 1700 information brokers, document delivery firms, freelance librarians, independent information specialist, information packagers, public and academic libraries and others providing library and information services for a fee. Book or floppy diskette. ISBN 0938519115. Price: L72 for the book, L108 for the disk. Available from: *TFPL Ltd, 17-18 Britton Street, London EC1M 5NQ, UK.* FAX: ++44-171-251 8318; e-mail: central@tfpl.demon.co.uk.

The Baltics Information Sources Directory 1996 is a new directory of information sources in the areas of business, finances, marketing, new/current affairs services, official statistics, regulatory information, scientific and technical information services and training and education information. Published on behalf of Eusidic, the European Association of Information Services. ISBN 1870889622. L55. Available from *TFPL Ltd, London.* FAX: +44-171-251 8318; e-mail: central@tfpl.demon.co.uk.

(1995) Hospital Care in Europe. - Challenges of a changing role. L320. Available from *FT Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Publishing, Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LL.* Tel: +44-171-896 2698. Covers the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. There are chapters on Issues for European Hospitals undergoing

change which includes information technology in hospitals, the European framework for the development of hospital information systems, and New Technologies in Hospitals. Many tables.

Le Centre de documentation en éthique des sciences de la vie et de la santé (INSERM) publie le Panorama de Presse en éthique biomédicale, composé à partir de la presse quotidienne nationale. L'abonnement pour 12 numéros: FF1 000. L'adresse du centre: 156, rue de Vaugirard, 75730 Paris Cedex 15. FAX: +40615458.

From the Newsletter of INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications): **INASP-Health** is a new program designed to strengthen advocacy for the information needs of health professionals in developing countries. It will lobby for the political and financial support needed for universal access to health information. Begun in April 1996 the three year programme was started with the launch of a newsletter. Neil Pakenham-Walsh, consultant editor of Medicine digest and multimedia project officer at the Tropical Medicine Resource (Wellcome Trust) has been appointed Programme Manager (FAX:+44-181-810-9795, E-mail: inasp@gn.apc.org).

Raeder A. (1996) Research Alert Direct. Database 19(4):50-55. A review of ISI's new alerting services introduced in 1996.

Hukins C. (1996) Nursing discs slip up on software. *Information World Review no.116, July/August.* The author compares Nurse ROM from the Royal college of Nursing and Nursing and Midwifery Index, published by Bournemouth University. Both products provide strong British coverage, Nurse ROM covering the more traditional nursing journals (including non-UK ones), NMI including fringe publications not indexed elsewhere. They are to some extent complementary to each other and an addition to CINAHL. The search

software of both products needs improvement. (review).

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE WHO

King A. et al. (1996) The Health of Youth: a Cross-National survey. WHO regional publication. European series; no. 69. 222p. ISBN 92-890-1333-8. SFr. 59.-. It is the fourth of the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) Study. Participating countries are Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales.

Montonen M. (1996) Alcohol and the media. WHO regional

publications. European series; No. 62. 165p. ISBN 92-890-1326-5. SFr. 39.-. This review focusses on research in three areas: alcohol education programmes and campaigns, alcohol advertising and representations of alcohol on television and in the press.

Anderson P. (1996) Alcohol and primary health care. WHO regional publications. European series; No. 64. 90p. ISBN 92-890-1328-1. SFr. 20.-. This book covers the role of primary health care in providing interventions for harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption.

Henderson M., Hutcheson G. & Davies J. (1996) Alcohol and the work place. WHO regional publications. European series; No. 67. 100p. ISBN 92-890-1331-1. SFr. 23.-. This review of the available literature is

aimed at investigating the effects of alcohol consumption on the workplace and the types of action that companies take with regard to alcoholism.

EUROPE

Medicine in Europe: A Guide to Funding for Medical, Dental and Veterinary Research Workers. EUR 1700 EN: ISBN 92-827-4196-6. This publication aims to provide those concerned with an overview of what the European Union research programmes can offer them and how to go about taking part. Copies (10 ECU) may be obtained from Office for Official Publications of EC, 2 rue Mercier, L-2985 Luxembourg. Fax +352-290828



To Medical Schools, Libraries of Medicine in University Hospitals, Libraries of Medicine and Science

At the University Hospital in Copenhagen, Rigshospitalet, the Laboratory of Clinical Skills has been established this summer. They would like to get in contact with other universities and libraries that have similar plans of establishing a mediatheque, in order to exchange experiences and possibly collaborate. For that purpose a meeting in Copenhagen will be arranged in the near future. Should you have any interest, please contact: **Birgit Hogsbro, Laboratory of Clinical Skills, The national University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark, Fax: (45) 35 45 41 20; email: rh01932@rh.dk.**

E A H I L M E M B E R S H I P

We are pleased to welcome new EAHIL members:

Individual Members:

- ARMSTRONG-YOUNG Stephanie, London, UK
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- ROZIE-HRISTOVSKI Anamarija, cenralna Medicinska Kniznica, Ljubljana, Slovenia
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- THIRION Benoit, Bibliothèque Médicale, Rouen, France
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- Bibliothèque Université de Paris-Val de Marne, Michel Etienne, France
- Dutch Cancer Society, Rob Knipping, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Medical Research Library of Latvia, Raisa Kazankina, Riga, Latvia

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Associate Members:

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- CLARK John R., Jose Castellanos Medical Library, Augusta, USA
- GROUCOTT Cathy, Glaxo Wellcome New Zealand
- MEAKIN Faith A, Rochester, USA
- POND Frederick C, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, USA
- TOPFER Leigh Ann, Health Technol. Assess. Inform. Service, Ottawa, Canada
- TOWELL Fay J, Greenville Hospital System, Greenville, SC, USA

This time, we will make it quite short, because we welcome in the Newsletter a very informative article from Dr O. Pinkas on the situation of the Internet in the Czech Republic, and its impact on medicine and health care. On the other hand, the new Editor, Luisa Vercellesi, has also suggested this resource :

HOS Health Online Service is an international information and communication service in science and medicine for the health profession available in the Internet. It allows you to carry out literature searches, to exchange ideas and suggest co-operation, and to participate to Internet congresses. The Italian centre is Arakne (<http://www.hos.it/> OR <http://www.arakne.it/>).

Take a look at it !

INFORMATION

Today, our purpose is to talk to you about "the most flexible and poorest tool of the Internet"... Telnet !

How can this be ?

Well... It allows you to connect to remote computers and run programs on them as if they were yours.

Thus, you are totally dependent on the system you visit... You can make complex searches... but only if it has that feature ! Sometimes, a login is needed.

But you can imagine the problems :

- Disparity of systems
- Some functions are not supported because of the type of connection (e.g. function buttons)
- Information and help is lacking
- System is blocked
- Long waiting times (telnet ports are limited...)

The address used in telnet is simply the address of the computer you reach, as sought before. This address is an alphabetic name or an IP (Internet Protocol) number :

- Alphabetic name : univscvs.csd.sc.edu
- IP number : 129.252.44.2

Telnet needs specific software. But there are plenty available free of charge. Telnet disadvantages will make its life short... Some alternative very powerful tools are already available that will certainly replace it before many years have passed. It is mostly used for existing databases that authors want to make accessible on the Internet. (e.g. catalogues)

Some samples...

With telnet, you can reach :

- Catalogues, e.g. Uncover : <telnet://database.carl.org>
- Information hosts : e.g. Data-Star : <telnet://rserve.rs.ch>
- Informations systems : e.g. British Library Access : <telnet://x25-pad.ja.net> (login and password required)
- Your own computer, and read your mail (e.g. when you are abroad)
- ...

RESOURCES

Medical Practice, Nursing, Medical Personnel and Patients :

- **ACCRI-L** - Anaesthesia and Critical Care Resources on the Internet.
Email to: listserv@uabdpo.dpo.uab.edu

- **ALLERGY** - Human allergies
Email to: listserv@tamvm1.tamu.edu
- **BALINT** - Problems generally related to the complex interactions between the medical staff, the patient and the hospital. Email to: listserv@sjvm.stjohns.edu
- **CLAN** - Cancer Liaison and Action Network.
Email to: listserv@frmop11.cnusc.fr
- **CLINALRT** - Clinical Alerts from NIH
Email to: listproc@list.ab.umd.edu
- **DENTAL_CE** - Dental education, seminars, and other related topics. Email to: listproc@bite.db.uth.tmc.edu
- **DIABETIC-MAX** - A German language list for Diabetic Children and Adolescents.
Email to: majordomo@rachael.franken.de
- **DRUGABUS** - Drug Abuse Education Information and Research. Email to: listserv@umabnet.ab.umd.edu
- **GERINET** - Geriatric health care. Email to: listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu - bit.listserv.GERINET
- **GLB-HLT** - Global Forum on Medical Education and Practice Email to: listserv@uicvm.cc.uic.edu
- **HEALTHRE** - Health Care Reform
Email to: listserv@ukcc.uky.edu
- **HLT-NET** - Innovations in health professions education.
Email to: listserv@nic.surfnet.nl
- **HOMEHLTH** - Home Health Care
Email to: majordomo@usa.net
- **HOMEOPATHY** - Discussion of all aspects of homeopathy
Email to: homeopathy-request@dungeon.com
- **MEDINF-L** - Medical informatics.
Email to: listserv@vm.gmd.de
- **NRSINGED** - Nurse educators.
Email to: listserv@ulkyvm.louisville.edu
- **NURSENET** - General nursing issues.
Email to: listserv@vm.utcc.utoronto.ca
- **NURSERES** - Nursing research.
Email to: listserv@KentVM.Kent.Edu
- **OANDP-L** - Orthotics and Prosthetics.
Email to: listserv@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu
- **OB-GYN-L** - Obstetrics & gynaecology.
Email to: listserv@bcm.tmc.edu
- **PAIN-L** - All aspects of pain
Email to: listserv@sjvm.stjohns.edu
- **PARKINSN** - Parkinson's disease
Email to: listserv@vm.utcc.utoronto.ca

- **PEDIATRIC-PAIN** - Pain in children
Email to: mailserv@ac.dal.ca
- **PROSTATE** - Prostate Problems
Email to: listserv@sjuvn.stjohns.edu
- **RADSIG** - Radiology Special Interest Group.
Email to: listproc@u.washington.edu
- **RURALNET-L** - Rural health care
Email to: listserv@musom01.mu.wvnet.edu
- **STROKE-L** - Stroke or Cerebro Vascular Accident
Email to: listserv@ukcc.uky.edu
- **TBI-SPRT** - Traumatic brain injury and other neurological impairments.
Email to: listserv@sjuvn.stjohns.edu
- **TRAUMA-LIST** - Trauma and burn injuries
Email to: majordomo@lists.duq.edu
- **WELLNESSLIST** - Health/ Nutrition/Wellness/Life Expectancy/Physical Fitness
Email to: majordomo@wellnessmart.com
- **WITSEND0** - Endometriosis
Email to: listserv@listserv.dartmouth.edu

UK medical lists

The majority of UK mailing lists are managed by mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk address. You will find hereafter a selection of medical lists. The scope is described in a little more detail than in the above.

To join, send the command:

JOIN list_name your_first_name your_last_name
where list_name is the list you wish to join to
mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

ADMIN-MEDICAL - Open to all administrators involved in Medical education and research, particularly those with responsibility for Medical or Health Care Schools and Faculties.

CANDID-DEMENTIA - (Counselling ANd Diagnosis In Dementia) Patients with young onset dementia (Pick's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Prion diseases and other unusual dementias).

CHILD-HEALTH - Establishment of an international network to support child health practitioners. This list is being established as part of a feasibility study.

COMP-MED-TRIALS - Evaluation of the effects and claims of the main complementary medical therapies. The main topics will be the design and interpretation of clinical trials and supporting background scientific research.

DENTAL-HEALTH - Dental and oral public health issues and the dissemination of theories and findings.

DOWNS-RESEARCH - Social and cognitive functioning of children and adolescents with Down's syndrome.

DRUG-MISUSE-RESEARCH - Research in drug misuse.

GP-UK - facilitates discussion on new ideas, research, workshops, seminars, conferences, grants, education, software development etc for the UK General Practice (Family Medicine) community. Non-UK views are also welcome.

HEALTH-ECONEVAL - Economic evaluation of health services and health care interventions; support the Cochrane Collaboration in using economic information in systematic

reviews; share experience and information on cost-effectiveness; produce a regular newsletter. All are welcome.

HEALTH-FOR-ALL - Support of the aims and principles of the World Health Organization's Health For All initiative.

INBORN-ERRORS - Inherited Metabolic Diseases, which can be important causes of disease in both children and adults. The discussion will include: a) Biochemistry and Diagnosis b) Genetics c) Clinical, nutritional and treatment aspects d) General discussion.

LIS-BUBL-E2MED - Tables of contents of medical by oriented journals, together with health information selection of LIS-MED-E2, the list dealing with the tables of contents of the information science journals.

LIS-PSYCHOL - Library and information resources for Psychology in United Kingdom Higher Education.

MEDICAL-IT - Use of IT in the teaching of medical students, particularly undergraduate medical students in the UK.

MYCOB-RESEARCH - Mycobacterial disease, including tuberculosis and leprosy.

NOSE - Nasal research; nasal-physiology, pharmacology, disease, common cold, hayfever, nasal surgery, nasal measurements such as rhinomanometry and acoustic rhinometry, mainly oriented towards human research but to include relevant animal research.

OCCUPATIONAL-THERAPY - Professional interest in occupational therapy (OT).

OMNI - News and discussion about the OMNI Project (Organizing Medical Networked Information).

PHARMACOLOGY-COMMS - The list seeks to: 1. facilitate communication between pharmacologists; 2. involve employers in the design and delivery of pharmacology courses; 3. disseminate good/innovative practice in teaching pharmacology. 4. improve the learning environment and the quality and efficiency of teaching.

PHYSIO - All matters of relevance to physiotherapists, in the UK and beyond.

PHYSIOLOGY - All aspects of physiology teaching and research.

PODIATRY - Exchange of information for podiatrist academics, most especially for those involved in podiatry education and research.

PSYCH-COUNS - Counselling psychology, counselling and psychotherapy

PUBLIC-HEALTH - Epidemiology and public health.

RADIOBIOLOGY - For scientists and clinicians with an interest in animal, cellular or molecular radiobiology or clinical radiotherapy.

SERONEGATIVE-ARTHRITIS - Various forms of seronegative arthritis, including ankylosing spondylitis, reactive arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, arthritis related to bowel inflammation and even Behcet's syndrome.

WHOORAL-PILOT - Members of the WHO Oral Health Group include academics, health professionals, government employees and industrial organisations (manufacturers of oral health products).

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IMPACT OF THE INTERNET ON CZECH MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE: PRESENT AND FUTURE

1. Introduction

The aim of the paper is to introduce the Czech Academic Network, to outline the tasks of health informatics with special reference to the Internet, to list the main providers of Internet medical resources, to give a brief account of Czech electronic journals, and to summarise the role of Czech medical libraries on the Internet.

2. CESNET network and its development

CESNET (Czech Educational and Scientific Network) is the most effective and most widely used computer network in the Czech Republic. Its primary aim is to assist in the sphere of education and research but it is open also to other commercial and non-commercial organizations. The Consortium of university schools and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Through CESNET nearly 30 Czech towns are interconnected. The number of CZ domain nodes exceeds 33,000. Connection speed varies from 19,2 Kbps to 2 Mbps. Connection abroad is provided via lines from Prague - Amsterdam (512 kbps to EuropaNET), Prague - Vienna (512 kbps to EBONE) and Prague - Bansk Bystrica (128 kbps to SANET). The first back-up circuits were introduced in 1995. In Prague a high-capacity network on the basis of ATM technology is being used. In other larger cities optic cable metropolitan networks are under construction. Information on CESNET is available on <http://www.cesnet.cz/> The concept of CESNET was approved in 1991. Nowadays primary attention is drawn to putting multimedia applications into practice. Current data circuits in the Czech Republic operate at transfer speeds up to 2-34 Mb/sec. Because of high prices for leasing data circuits the idea of sharing finance is being considered as well as the membership of about 85 district school administration centres in CESNET.

3. Health informatics and computer networks

Communication networks represent one of the six aspects of Health Informatics Programme projected by the Ministry of Health.

The other aspects are:

- National Health Information System (personal data, communication, and other standards),
- health statistics,
- information systems of health establishments,
- electronic patient card,
- health libraries.

Finance is allocated by the Ministry of Health to health establishments under its authority for the purchase of hardware and software and for Internet participation. However, no special programme exists which would deal

with a centrally financed computerized network in the field of health care.

In view of the continuing transformation of health services in the CR most of the finance is being spent on local information systems in hospitals. Networks like CESNET guarantee only a limited quality of health data protection. That is why health establishments prefer the services of a private provider sometimes for connection to Internet. There are some 30 of these providers in the country now who are listed in:

<http://sgi.felk.cvut.cz/~prikryl/providers.html>.

Step by step, medical libraries and information centres are beginning to employ integrated library systems and LANs. This year a special programme from the Ministry of Health up to 2005 has been started which aims at the gradual equipment of medical libraries with computer, communication, and reprographic technique. The usage of data standards recommended by the National Library (UNIMARC, AACR-2, ISO 2709) in these libraries is envisaged.

4. Medical and health information resources in the CR

- General list of CESNET information resources, see: <http://www.cesnet.cz/html/cesnet/cesnet-resources.html>.
- Map of these resources (arranged geographically according to towns), see: <http://www.cesnet.cz/html/cesnet/map.html>.
- List of CESNET servers, see: <http://www.cesnet.cz/cesnet/wwwservers.html>
- Harvest - a tool for searching in Gopher, FTP and WWW servers, available via WWW: <http://harvest.vslib.cz/>

Czech medical information resources with WWW service may be divided as follows: - government resources
- faculties and health establishments
- other institutions.

Most of the documents are accessible in English and most of the servers support code selection of Czech texts.

Medical libraries and information centres present their products usually within the frame of their "maternal" organizations and do not offer their own home page.

4.1 Government resources

Their number is small but they offer a relatively rich spectrum of information. Besides information on their own activities they contain health directories, methodological instructions, legislative regulations, drug lists, references to other sources in the CR and abroad etc.

- www.mzcr.cz Ministry of Health
- www.mzp.cz Ministry of Environment
- www.nlk.anet.cz National Medical Library

4.2 Medical Faculties

In the CR 7 medical faculties, 2 social health faculties and 2 pharmaceutical faculties with altogether 9,000 students exist in Prague, Plzen, Hradec Kralove, Ceske Budejovice, Brno, Olomouc and Ostrava.

The scope of information differs from site to site. Usually it includes information on the history and organization of the faculty, its training and research orientation, lists of staff and students, recommended Internet resources etc.

In some instances faculty servers offer home pages of cooperating organizations, mainly faculty hospitals. Personal home pages are exceptions.

Survey of WWW servers:

- www.lf1.cuni.cz 1st Faculty of Medicine, Prague
- www.lf2.cuni.cz 2nd Faculty of Medicine, Prague
- www.lf3.cuni.cz 3rd Faculty of Medicine, Prague
- www.lfp.cuni.cz Faculty of Medicine, Plzeň
- www.lfhk.cuni.cz Faculty of Medicine, Hradec Kr love
- www.faf.cuni.cz Faculty of Pharmacy, Hradec Kr love
- www.fnsपो.cz University of Ostrava - University Hospital

4.3 Health establishments

There are only a few health establishments with connections to the Internet are running their own WWW server:

- www.medicon.cz/ikem/index.html - Inst. of Clinical Medicine
- www.vol.cz/pin - 1st Internet Hospital
- www.lfp.cuni.cz/fn/fn.html - University Hospital Plzen
- www.fnsपो.cz - Univ. Hosp. Ostrava IKEM Praha

Some establishments have only dial-up connection in SLIP protocol, e. g. Postgraduate Medical School Prague, Faculty Hospital Prague - Bulovka, Liberec Hospital. Full connectivity for this year is planned for hospitals in Ceske Budejovice and Usti nad Labem.

4.4 Other organizations

- uemweb.biomed.cas.cz Institute of Experimental Medicine CAS
- www.handihlp.cz Inf. system of Disabled Persons
- www.vol.cz/ozp Life insurance company

5. Electronic medical journals

In 1996 the first primary medical journals appeared on Czech WWW servers. They are usually published in parallel with the printed version and they are available free of charge.

List of electronic journals

- Zpravodaj urazove chirurgie. ISSN 1211-0434. Ceska spolecnost pro urazovou chirurgii. - Ostrava. http://www.fnsपो.cz/zpr_chir/zpra_chi.html
- Folia farmaceutica : <http://www.faf.cuni.cz/fovia/fovia.htm>
- AmiReport : <http://david.nadace.fdnbr.cz>

6 Czech libraries on Internet and their information resources

At present, about 20 university libraries and 10 municipal or governmental libraries offer their information through wide area networks. They provide WWW and Gopher services, but only in a few instances ftp. Some library catalogues are accessible by telnet.

Survey of libraries, see: <http://www.cbvk.cz/libracz.html>

Specific library services are represented by online library catalogs. Out of these catalogs of the National Library in Prague, the Moravian Library in Brno, and the Masaryk Medical Faculty in Brno are the most important from the point of view of medicine. Apart from them, union catalogs formed by groups of individual libraries have come into existence: Charles University libraries, state scientific libraries and CASLIN Union Catalog. The CASLIN (Czech and Slovak Library Information Network) project is of a paramount importance for the development of Czech and Slovak libraries. Its aim is to lay a solid foundation for a nation-wide library network providing up-to-date services to national and foreign users and open to all libraries and information centres in the Czech and in the Slovak Republics. This project was prepared and implemented in the years 1992-1995 thanks to the sponsorship of American foundations - the A. W. Mellon Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Two pilot Czech participants are the National Library, Prague and the Moravian Library, Brno. Up to now a gradual build-up of national union catalogs in both republics has been successfully organized. Starting this year, the project opens itself to other regional and research libraries.

A selected list of libraries providing network services useful for medicine and public health.

- National Library of the Czech Republic
www - www.nkp.cz
gopher - alpha.nkp.cz
telnet - alpha.nkp.cz login: visitor, password: name
- The Moravian Library
www - www.mzk.cz
telnet - almor.mzk.cz login: visitor, password: -
- State Technical Library in Prague
www - www.stk.cz
gopher - gopher.stk.cz
www katalog - www.stk.cz
- Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University Brno
telnet - knihovna.muni.cz login: tinlib, password: -, catalog: 4
- National Medical Library Prague
www - www.nlk.anet.cz
telnet - nlkdec.nlk.anet.cz login: visitor, password: Visitor

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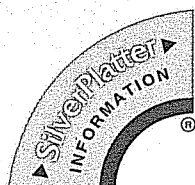
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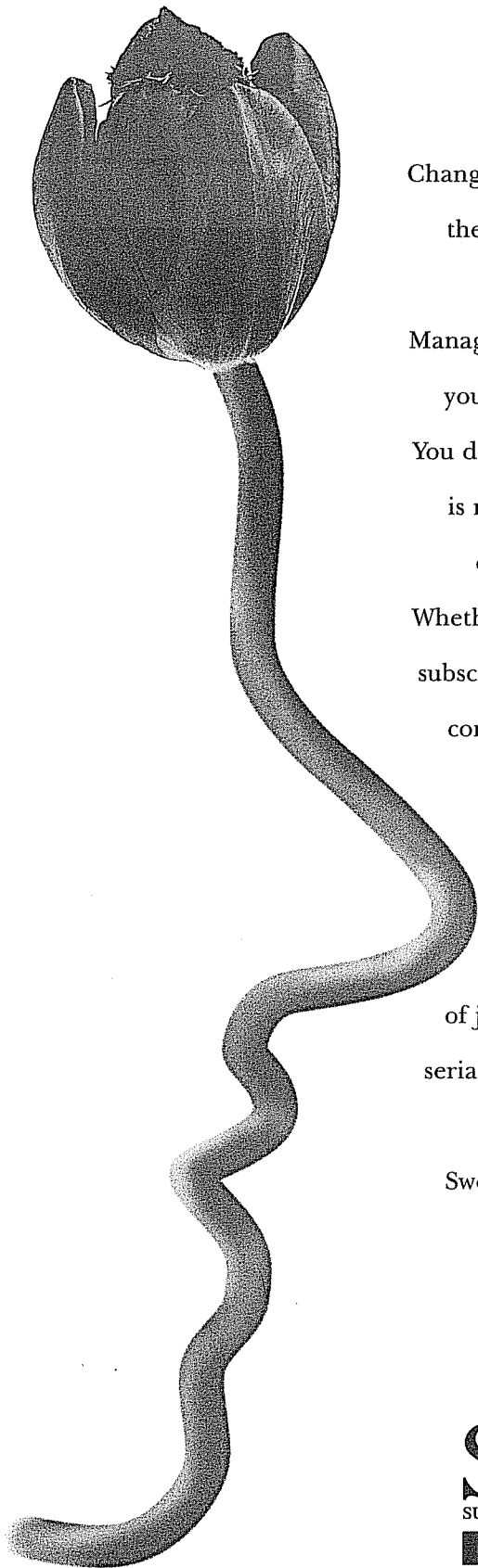
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