



EAHIL 10th Anniversary

1987 ~ 1997

10^{ème} Anniversaire de l'AEIBS

EAHIL is celebrating its 10-year's anniversary this year. In spite of its young age, EAHIL can look back on a rich and eventful past, which is clearly manifested in this issue of the Newsletter with its many articles and testimonies from those who have followed - and worked within EAHIL from the very beginning.

I am proud to say that I too have belonged to the EAHIL family from its beginning, first as one of EAHIL's many enthusiastic members, then as a Board Member and finally as president.

I got one of my first lessons in European co-operation, when I was still a Board Member, and I expressed my frustration to a Nordic colleague in the Association about how certain things were done differently down south than they were done up north. He turned to me and said: "Calm down - take it easy, this is European co-operation!" Of course! When you accept to work internationally or in Europe, you also have to accept different ways of doing things, and then after a while you do not only accept, but you appreciate and become grateful for learning new ways of thinking.

My period as president has been three years of excitement, stress and work: my first Board- and Council Meeting, my first General Assembly, my speeches, my presentations, etc. Oh, how many late evenings nervously writing, and nights without sleep in fear of not doing a good job. But most of all it has been years of pleasure and joy, pleasure in meeting new people and travelling to different places and enlarging my horizon. I have got many new friends, and I certainly feel that I belong to a European family.

Professionally it has been a very satisfying experience. I have had the chance to work with a Board which has been very efficient and co-operative and which had many years of experience working within EAHIL.

I am thankful for all the valuable experience I have gained and all the things I have learnt during this period.

I am most grateful to Roselyne Hoet, at

the EAHIL secretariat in Brussels, for all her support, advice and comfort, - without her I would never have survived as president!

I think every new president has his/her own ideas about what are the most important tasks, and one of the matters which is very near to my heart, is a close co-operation and integration of libraries in western, eastern and central Europe, a goal which certainly is within reach in the near future.

But maybe it would be more important to try to look into the future, than to dwell on the past....

We will certainly see great changes in our Association as well as in our libraries and in our roles as librarians. But my hope for the future is that EAHIL will survive as a strong and active professional association, uniting and motivating all librarians and information officers working within medicine and health science in Europe.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the EAHIL Board to thank all EAHIL members for being with us, and I certainly hope that our EAHIL family will continue to grow in the coming years. A special thanks to those who have been faithful since the beginning, and to all the different committee-members and others who have been active within the Association, and who have contributed to its development and growth. Thanks to all our generous sponsors, many of them have been with EAHIL from its beginning. It would have been very difficult to survive without them.

Last, but not least a special thanks to the Editorial Board for having succeeded in giving us a very good and useful Newsletter. Extra thanks for this special anniversary issue which gives us much pleasure to read and a good opportunity to reminisce.

I wish us all a **HAPPY 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY** and a **PROSPEROUS FUTURE !!!**

Elisabeth Husem
EAHIL President

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10. výroci EAHIL
Czech

EAHIL 10 ars jubilaem
Danish

EAHIL 10th anniversary
English

EAHIL kümnes aastapäev
Estonia

EAHIL 10 vuotta
Finnish

10^{ème} anniversaire de l'AEIBS
French

EAHIL 10jäbriges Jubiläum
German

10η ΕΠΕΤΕΙΟΖ
Greece

EAHIL 10 éves évfordulója
Hungary

10° Anniversario EAHIL
Italian

EAHIL-desmitā dzimšanas diena
Latvia

EAHIL'ui -10 metų
Lithuania

EAHILs 10-års jubileum!
Norway

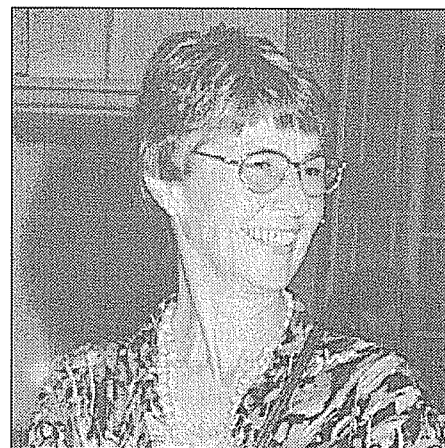
10º Aniversário da EAHIL
Portuguese

10.výrocie EAHIL
Slovak

EAHIL -10. obletnica
Slovenia

10f Aniversario de la EAHIL
Spanish

10 års jubileum
Swedish





10th Anniversary

First European Conference of Medical Libraries in Brussels, October 22-25. Creation of EAHIL in 1987

Since 1980, the International Conferences on Medical Librarianship are held every 5 years. In 1985, the Fifth one attracted 600 colleagues in Tokyo, including only 25 from Europe! Worst of all was that they had no other opportunity to meet each other : no meeting of European medical librarians had ever been organised and the next ICML was scheduled for 1990 in New Delhi.

Meeting each other at lunch time, these 25 European delegates recognized the need to promote information and cooperation between European medical librarians and agreed to launch them by the first European Conference of Medical Libraries to be held in Brussels : Ursula Hausen (WHO Library, Geneva), Christine Deschamps (Université de Paris) and myself (Université de Louvain in Brussels) agreed to set up and to chair a European Organising Committee, a Programme Committee and a Local Organising Committee. This First European Conference of Medical Libraries received the support of the WHO Bureau thanks to *Beryl Ruff* (Chief of the WHO library, Geneva) as well as from the European Commission (DGXIII), which was preparing its first programme for the promotion of telecommunications among libraries in Europe.

The big surprise was that 300 delegates arrived at the opening of this first European Conference of Medical Libraries on October 22, 1986, in the premises of the European Commission in Brussels (the largest room had not enough seats for everybody!) : not any European meeting of librarians had ever attracted so many people. Delegates came from 27 European countries of that time, most of them from Great Britain, France, Italy, etc. WHO and European Commission officers took the floor at the opening session ; speakers in other sessions were colleagues from the highest level at the British Library (David Russon), the Ministère de l'Education Nationale in Paris (*Denis Varloot*), the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm (*Prof. S. Bergstroem*), the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche in Roma (*Prof. L. Rossi-Bernardi*), etc., as well as

from the (US) National Library of Medicine (*Lois Ann Colaianni*). As one can still see in the proceedings published a few months later, topics discussed ranged from on-line bibliographic searches (CD-ROM were still unknown) to patient information.

This Conference was so successful and the need of such meetings of health librarians in Europe so obvious that all delegates supported a recommendation for similar conferences, preferably every two years, and for setting up a permanent European association for health libraries able to maintain links between colleagues by publications, special meetings, and various projects as well as to represent them among governmental and non-governmental European institutions. The official creation of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries took place during the IFLA Conference held in August 1987 in Brighton : the founding session was chaired by *Derek Law* (King's College, London) and the statutes discussed over the previous months were signed there by 22 colleagues from 13 Member States of the Council of Europe. I agreed to chair the temporary Board (1987/1988) which included *Ursula Hausen* (WHO library, Geneva), *Valentina Comba* (Universita di Torino), *Christine Deschamps* (France), *Derek Wright* (British Medical Association), and our late colleague *Anna Nicolaysen* (Norway).

Coming back from Brighton, I had to set up the secretariat : fortunately, the positive balance of the 1986 Conference enabled us to appoint a half-time secretary, to rent a small office, to buy a personal computer, to publish a quarterly newsletter and to distribute registration forms to colleagues throughout Europe, and the feedback met our hopes perfectly. When this had been done in the Fall of 1987, there was *Roselyne Hoet* who took over the day-to-day correspondence, the preparation of elections and millions of other actions and duties. And she has been doing this ever since! None of us working in the management of the Association could have done it successfully without the indispensable assistance of Roselyne. She was always there, not only at the Brussels

secretariat, but at the Conferences and Meetings of the Board and Council.

We also had to select a place for the next Conference and to cooperate with the selected colleagues for its smooth organisation. Another task was to organise our elections by mail in 1988. Despite nobody expecting such a decision, I refused to run for another term as President: I was snowed under by my responsibilities as librarian and lecturer at the University of Louvain, as consultant for the international organisations, and as President of a European association where I was doing most of the work since the beginning. Fortunately, the Conference in Bologna in September 1988 was very successful, *Ursula Hausen* took over as President after *Valentina Comba's* resignation at the end of 1988. And further conferences were successfully held with 400 to 500 delegates every two years since 1992.

I have to thank all colleagues for the support they steadily gave me in this endeavour, and especially *Ursula Hausen*. Despite having now left the field of libraries, I can tell you that a lot of work has still to be done at European level by health librarians, and I hope that, learning how our association was set up between 1985 and 1988, you will understand that what has still to be done depends first on your mind and your will.

Marc Walckiers

First EAHIL President (1987/1988)
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How it all began!

The International Congress of Medical Librarianship (ICML) first held in 1953 has always served as a starting point for medical library groups on the national level. Thus it had happened that the German Arbeitsgemeinschaft had been founded after the Third Congress in Amsterdam in 1969. When the Fourth Congress finally was organised more than ten years later, *Valentina Comba* and I met in Belgrade in 1980. And again, after *Valentina* and her colleagues had become active in Italy, the Italian medical library group was born, as a sub-group of the Italian Library Association in 1982. In 1983, *Gabriella Poppi* of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita Library in Roma attended the Bibliothekskongress of the Deutsche Bibliotheksverband in Hannover. A year later, by the way, I had started to work at the Library of the World Health Organization in Geneva, the three of us had been well acquainted and I was invited to the first conference of Italian medical librarians, the Conference

honoring the 50th anniversary of the Biblioteca del Istituto Superiore di Sanita in Roma, in December 1984.

It was during this Conference that *Valentina, Gabriella* and I sat in Gabriella's living room to discuss ways and possibilities to join health and medical librarians of all countries of Europe, in a European conference and ultimately in a European association. I have always felt it a pretty good joke that we, twenty-five European librarians attending the Fifth International Congress of Medical Librarianship (ICML) in Tokyo, first got together in this Far-Eastern place to take the first steps in that direction which later led to the foundation of EAHIL. It was, by the way, the important help of *Ms Takada* of the Japanese ICML Organizing Committee in finding a meeting room for us and the insistence of both *Valentina* and the German hospital librarian, *Brigitte Pawlik* of Offenbach - while I was serving at the Congress - who made this historic meeting possible.

There was, in fact no question at all about whether or not there was interest or a need for joint action of European medical

librarians. Somehow, everyone seemed to be ready to go right ahead. It must have been a bit like when printing with movable letter was invented. And there, *Marc Walckiers* comes into the picture immediately volunteering at our meeting to investigate possibilities of a first European Conference of Medical Libraries in Brussels. He fulfilled his promises with skill as we all know.

Ursula Hausen

2nd EAHIL President (1989/1990)
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President of EAHIL? a challenge? a responsibility? a commitment? a call for growth? a personal and professional growth?

It is all of the above, and more! I reflect on my years as an officer within the Executive Board or EAHIL as very rewarding years. These were mostly years of consolidation of the foundation laid out by EAHIL's first Executive Board. But for me, it was also years of hard work, when evenings and weekends were spent in front of my computer or at my desk, in the office! Outside of the EAHIL secretariat, I did not have the benefit of a secretary whom I could call upon to write letters, prepare reports, open mail. When accepting the challenge to serve on EAHIL Executive Board or on any committee for that matter, in any capacity, one must also consider the work and the time which will be involved to answer the challenge, especially if secretarial help is limited. But the rewards were many and stand out as lasting memories of happy moments. More than anything else, the meeting of so many colleagues, anxious to help, quick to respond to a call; the revelation of so much competence in so many ways, the

initiative, the knowledge, the dedication, it all stands out as good years, very good, indeed!

The meeting of a small group of European Medical Librarians, in 1985, at the 5th International Congress of Medical Librarianship in Tokyo, was only the start of a successful enterprise to be followed the next year by the First European Conference of Medical Libraries. The founding of EAHIL in a small room of the Convention Center, in Brighton, at the 57th Annual Conference of IFLA, with a handful of those European Medical Librarians who had met in Tokyo, is now history but very much alive in those of us who have partaken in all of those events. *Marc Walckiers* stands out as the one among us who had enough of a vision matched by the necessary courage to launch such an endeavor.

In those years, my role remained modest but I learned a lot! I recall my feelings of awe and admiration for *Valentina Comba* who picked up the torch and carried it further with the responsibility of

the 2nd European Conference of Medical Libraries in Bologna. At that time, there was still no seed money of any kind to support the fledgling association and its projects. Everything had to be most carefully budgeted unless we should face a red balance at the end of the exercise! And it is only thanks to the enormous generosity and very hard work of all of our colleagues who believed in their undertakings that the projects could be carried through but not always without a loss!

I also recall the long day in the room where we were meeting, on the top floor of the Pompidou Centre/ Beaubourg Centre in Paris, thanks to the diligence and necessary contacts of *Arlette Pailley-Katz* to reserve a room for our Board Meeting in this famous institution. It is then that *Ursula Hausen* accepted the presidency of the Association on the spur of the moment, deserving all our respect and admiration, for standing up to her responsibilities and commitments since she was the First Vice-President of the Association. As such she had the



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responsibility to carry forth the role of the EAHIL presidency. It is then that we realized how carefully the status and the rules of procedures of the Association had been drawn by the first Executive Board. Only this initial detailed chart where the names of *Anna Nicolaysen, Christine Deschamps, Marc Walckiers, Ursula Hausen, Brigitte Blum* stand out, could save the association from the difficulties encountered in the stumbling beginnings of our enterprise. I realize the constant drive and renewed energy *Ursula Hausen* managed to stir up in everyone of us, when she was fulfilling her responsibilities accepted without warning or self-preparation, except for her undaunted dedication to the task.

But my time had come when, I too, would serve in a more demanding capacity when I agreed to run for President and was elected in 1990. I felt that I had everything to learn yet with little time to spare. The next Conference had to be planned. Funds had to be found to be able to pay the rent of the office and the small salary of the association's secretary, *Roselyne Hoet*. As we were meeting with other Board Members, and with delegates from various countries, east and west, north and south, we quickly realized how much we had to learn in terms of international negotiations so that everybody would be listened to, everyone would freely express his/her opinions and be respected for stating them! The long tables around which we were sitting were the scenes of lively debates to try to understand the attitude of each of us and to reach agreements on matters of policies, conference venues, worthwhile projects to pursue. Money was still very much an issue to contend with. No allowance could be offered to support members whose institutions were not always sufficiently endowed to allow long distance travelling. There is no question that one important goal was to secure enough funds to be able to support our members if the need arose.

The publication of the Newsletter depended entirely on the generosity of our sponsors, such as *EBSCO* and *SWETS*, who supported this publication from its very beginning. In Montpellier, already, the question of various interest-groups was raised. How to answer needs as varied as those of nursing, of veterinary and pharmaceutical librarians, as well as the "one man band" library in so many hospitals around Europe?

Travel money, special interest-groups and of course continuing education courses were issues recurring often enough that a clear policy had to be defined about them. We started then the policy statements of which 5 have been published to this day.

They can be found by accessing the EAHIL homepage.

Montpellier was of course the highlight of my time as EAHIL President. Thanks to the courage and dynamism of *Jeanet Ginestet*, a record attendance had signed up for the conference. A moment of confusion arose, at the opening ceremony of the conference. The guest of honor was somewhere on the road. After 20 minutes of waiting, I recall addressing the audience of more than 600 people in the large auditorium of the Corum, Montpellier's imposing convention centre. I apologized for the two or three minutes (more than 20 minutes!) of delay in opening the conference. The audience burst into with laughter, the ice was broken. Spirited conference attendants had proven their good will and patience, the conference was going to run well with such a warm reaction! It was a success by any standard!

The conferences had clearly indicated that continuing education courses were much in demand. But when we tried to schedule some training classes outside of the calendar of the EAHIL conferences, we failed. Indeed, a few people registered, but more or less as an afterthought, after we had had to cancel the courses planned. Interestingly enough, continuing education courses remain a very hot item at the EAHIL conferences. In fact they are one of the first projects, if not the very first one, which was truly self-sufficient and which started to bring in some of this financial reserve which the association needed so desperately in those first years!

As I view the current achievements of EAHIL, I often feel that *Marc Walckiers* should be enormously proud of the success of his endeavour. EAHIL has evolved with time. The Newsletter has taken on a very professional look. Even its cover is no match to the very modest, type-written first issue of the Newsletter. The conferences have always been a great success and have always reflected the rich diversity of our continent. It is with quite a bit of pride that *Elisabeth Husem* can view the achievements of her efforts in building bridges with our colleagues on the eastern borders of Europe; The first workshop in Prague so masterfully set up by *Otakar Pinkas* will be followed by the one in Budapest planned by *Marta Viragos*. The feeling of warm companionship and friendliness which has characterized our meetings wherever we met can now too be enjoyed in the company of our more eastern colleagues! While telephone, faxes and just plain mail were our means of communication, we all correspond today by email and the EAHIL Homepage has been masterfully prepared by *Arne Jakobsson* and *Ragnhild*

Lande, all names whom I have known from my earlier times in EAHIL.

Tony McSeán was the next President (1993/1994). I had met him at the *Brussels Workshop* in 1990 when he spoke about CD-ROM which had just been introduced into libraries. His presentation stood out for its highly spirited criticism and of the new support, for the liveliness of his remarks, and for the self assurance which seemed to be his trademark. I welcomed his election as President because I knew that he would make things move and that he would not shy away from bringing changes even in presence of opposition of more conservative members.

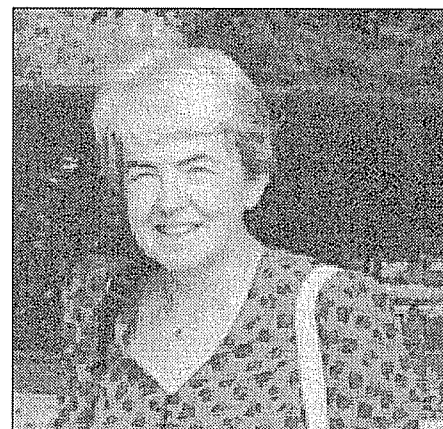
Last but not least, *Roselyne Hoet* stands out as the longest active person in EAHIL since its foundation. Thanks to her selfless commitment to the Association, to her immense patience no matter how much pressure we put on her shoulders with deadlines not respected or urgent request, thanks to her familiarity with the workings of the Association, her careful managing of the files, her memory and her deep interest in people, the years she has served the Association will have been, no doubt, a solid foundation for its future. Through the years, with EAHIL's strategic and most convenient location in Brussels, the presence of *Roselyne* has guaranteed the necessary continuity for smooth sailing.

Assuring continuity in the mission and activities of EAHIL is important. However, continuity does not mean stagnancy or refusal of changes. On the contrary, if change for change must be avoided at all cost, changes with a clear vision of the goals and objectives pursued, will assure the continuity of EAHIL successful mission for all librarians concerned by health matters.

Happy 10th anniversary to EAHIL and best wishes to all its current and future members!

Monique C. Cleland

3rd EAHIL President (1991-1992)
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President of EAHIL

Being elected President of EAHIL is one of the greatest professional honours to which a medical librarian can aspire, but I have to admit that my own tenure began with a small disappointment when my wife and son failed forcefully to agree with my assertion that as a President it would be quite beneath my dignity to perform any household chores, and that it would be an insult to my profession to even suggest that I should do so. However that was the only disappointment from my term of office.

I was lucky to have the opportunity to preside over a talented and lively Executive

Board, and that "my" conference as president, in Oslo, was organised with efficiency and care by an exemplary conference team. It is no coincidence that the London 2000 conference in which I am deeply involved has many of the Oslo team at its heart. Much of the emphasis of my presidency was on reforming the EAHIL statutes in order to make the organisation more effective, and in particular trying to make the Council a more effective reflection of membership opinion by increasing the Councillors' term of office from two years to four.

Time will tell whether this was a success, but I look forward to many more years of involvement in our Association as we develop and adapt to take account of changes both in our own profession and in the political environment in which we live.



Tony McSean
4th EAHIL President (1993/1994)
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Our European Conferences of Medical and Health Libraries

**BOLOGNA (Italy),
November 2- 6, 1988**

**SECOND EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES
"Health Information for All -
a Common Goal."
*Information biomédicale pour tous
- un objectif comun".***

In 1988 Bologna was the venue of the Second European Conference of Medical Libraries. 400 medical librarians were expected to attend, more than 550 turned up, putting facilities to a severe test.

The choice of the venue was important. It was not only a matter of accommodating participants and providing adequate means such as technical facilities and support, but also to provide a grip on the subject; the Congress Centre of the Rizzoli

Orthopaedic Institute was ideally placed as it was adjacent to the medical library, part of the research institute and hospital at the same time.

The conference was the first one to make use of electronic mail for the organization. As a resource it showed a number of flaws; in a sense, access to the organizers' mailboxes multiplied queries and expectations of an immediate answer to any possible doubt. On the other hand it was a quick and efficient way of communication: as a result communication was so intense that organizers reached a point of 'e-mail stress'!

A new section saw the light: the first poster session of a European Conference of Medical Libraries. No more than ten posters started what was to become a successful feature in the following conferences. The task force behind the Conference was a community organized into five separate bodies (Local Organizing

Committee, European Organizing Committee, Local Scientific Committee, Programme Committee and Scientific Secretariat). The Local Organizing Committee acted as an information exchange for the committees; within each body, members formed a closely knit community and the very length of their preparation selected those who were to work well beyond the conclusion of the Conference. In Italy some members from the various committees continued to work in order to ensure that what had been started with the Conference provided a harvest of initiatives and results locally.

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Local Organising Committee
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e-mail: LCavazza@ibc.regione.emilia-romagna.it

**MONTPELLIER (France),
September 23-26, 1992**

**THIRD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF
MEDICAL LIBRARIES
"Information Transfer - New Age,
New Ways"
*Le Transfert de l'Information -
Temps nouveaux, Méthodes
nouvelles".***

A letter from the South!
Une lettre du Midi!

323 participants ! Appel de chez VISA GMO/Congrès, qui gérait la logistique du congrès EAHIL/AEIBS en 1992 à Montpellier. Ouf ! Le nombre critique d'inscriptions était atteint, les frais fixés du congrès couverts, et les inscriptions supplémentaires nous permettaient

d'apporter tous les plus qu'on peut apporter à un congrès. Dîner de gala, réceptions, fleurs, mais aussi interprètes en bon nombre et sponsoring de quelques collègues des pays de l'Est ou autres.

En fait, nous fûmes plus de 650 collègues et avec les exposants, 51 compagnies ou institutions, plus de 800 à déambuler dans le CORUM à Montpellier, à dialoguer sur l'avenir de l'information et sur la réception



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de la veille ! Quelle semaine inoubliable pour les organisateurs, et quel plaisir de voir les congressistes satisfaits du soleil montpelliérain et des prestations du congrès.

Quel bonheur encore aujourd'hui quand on rencontre un membre EAHIL/AEIBS qui nous dit "Ah! Montpellier, quel souvenir! On peut recommencer !"

323 members! A call from VISA GMO/Congress who were in charge of the EAHIL/AEIBS logistics for the Congress in Montpellier 1992. The number of attendees should cover the Congress's permanent expenses and extra registrations would allow us to add some extras which are good for a Congress: reception dinners, receptions, flowers, enough translators and sponsorship for a few colleagues from east European countries, or others.

In fact, there were more than 650

colleagues and with the exhibitors, 51 companies or institutions, more than 800 to wander in the CORUM at Montpellier, to discuss the future of the information and on the last night a reception! What an unforgettable week for the organizers, and what a pleasure to see the attendees satisfied with the sun of Montpellier and the Congress services.

What pleasure it still is now to meet an EAHIL/AEIBS Member who tells us: "Ah! Montpellier, what a memory! We could do it again!"

With best regards to all of you,

Jeanet Ginestet

former Board Member

Sanofi Recherche, Montpellier

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for the Local Organizing Committee:

Maguy Pezeril, Christiane Nicq, Anne Pujol

(Universities Libraries) Monique Loubière,

Jean-Pierre Bernat - Jeanet Ginestet (SANOFI)



Anne Pujol, Christiane Nicq, Jeanet Ginestet

**OSLO (Norway),
June 28-July 2, 1994**

**THE FOURTH EUROPEAN
CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL AND
HEALTH LIBRARIES
"Health Information
New Possibilities
Information de la Santé -
Nouvelles possibilités".**

In 1992, the Norwegian Library Association, Section for Medicine and Health (SMH), took the initiative, in collaboration with Norwegian EAHIL members, to invite the 4th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries to be held in Oslo in 1994. As president of SMH, and at that time a Board-member of EAHIL, I saw this as an excellent chance to strengthen SMH's links to EAHIL and to enlarge our European network, at the same time as SMH saw this as an opportunity to present Norwegian Medical Libraries to our European colleagues.

A local organizing committee was nominated, consisting of five enthusiastic and hardworking women, but none of them with much experience in organizing big conferences. But we were all experienced and sober librarians and house-wives, used to managing on small budgets and arranging "family-parties". We saw the Conference as an enormous challenge, and we meant to win!

The International Programme Committee did an excellent job in order to ensure a high quality programme at the conference,

and we, the LOC/Oslo wanted it also to be an unforgettable social event.

There ensued about 2 years of hard work, trying to get much out of little! We had no money to start with, but very soon we were pleased to note that Norwegian medical and health science libraries and associations wanted to join us in order to have a well organized conference and show "the world how it could be done in the Norwegian way". This was the slogan of the LOC for the Winter Olympic Games in Norway, that was going to take place the same year as our conference, and we

wanted to be just as good as them! Thanks to the support from these libraries and associations, among other things, we managed well, and we were very proud to be able to create the EAHIL Fund as one result of the conference.

As I said, much work, but also much joy, and especially many new experiences. I do not think that any of us in LOC/Oslo regretted that we had agreed to participate in the Committee, the work was both stimulating and interesting, and we gained many new friends and broadened our personal network.



From left to right : Eldbjørg Naheim Eien, Elisabeth Buntz, Turid Tharaldsen, Elisabeth Husem, Tove Gellein

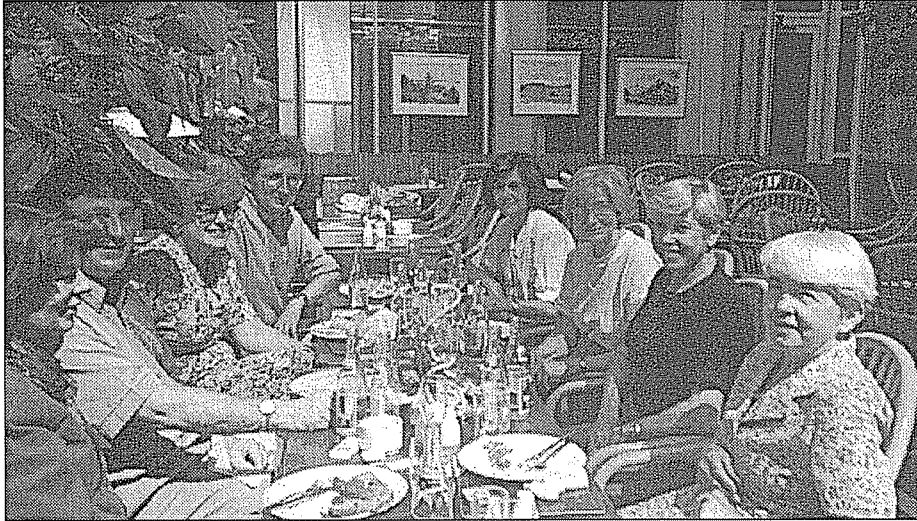


I think one can say that the conference became a success, professionally as well as socially. We had excellent summer weather, (which is not always the case in Oslo), some pleasant official events, and possibilities for the participants to explore

the city on their own. Many found their way to the open-air restaurants along the harbour. Many contacts were established or strengthened during these days.

The day the conference was over, we felt a little sad and empty. Gone were all our

friends that we were used to seeing from morning till evening for nearly a week. But we knew we had participated in fulfilling some of the aims of EAHIL in creating a good conference and increasing the EAHIL family. And we started to looking forward to the next EAHIL conference.



The Conference attracted 536 participants from 36 countries. Countries from outside Europe were represented by participants from USA, Canada, Australia, Zimbabwe and the United Arab Emirates. One of our main goals was to attract many participants from eastern and central Europe as possible, and 40 colleagues came from these countries.

On behalf of LOC/Oslo-94
Elisabeth Husem (EAHIL President)
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*The Executive Board in Oslo, from left to right :
 Teodora Oker-Blom (Stockholm), Tony McSean (London, EAHIL President 1993-1994), Beatrice Doran (Dublin), Jean-Philippe Accart (Lyon), Antonia Pereira da Silva (Coimbra), Roselyne Hoet (Brussels), Pascale Delausnay (Brussels), Monique Cleland (Switzerland).*

COIMBRA (Portugal), 17-21 September 1996

FIFTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH LIBRARIES "Health Information Management: What Strategies? *La gestion de l'information de santé: quelles stratégies?"*

Organizing a EAHIL Conference: a personal feeling

When deciding whether to organise the 5th EAHIL Conference in Portugal, two main thoughts occurred to me. Firstly the responsibility, as the previous Conferences had been very successful. Secondly worrying about weighing up to pros and cons. The pro was the great challenge of accepting such a huge task, the con the uneasy start without financial support. Contacts had to be made to ensure the Conference went ahead:

1. Coimbra University Hospital Administration
2. Portuguese health information professionals
3. Non-governmental organisations
5. Private organisations

The agreement by the Coimbra University Hospital Administration and the Portuguese colleagues was essential. Enthusiasm "for" the organisation of such a large congress spread immediately. The EAHIL Board was informed and the

Portuguese proposal was discussed both by the Board and the Council members.

In December 1993 the Conference was formally given to Portugal through a EAHIL Board message. I must admit that a mix of great anxiety and job satisfaction were the deepest feelings then. However the anxiety became stronger than anything else. The local Committees set to work. Schedules were set. The Scientific programme was given the first attention. Based upon the initial programme presented to the EAHIL Board, it was rearranged by the Local Programme Committee and complemented by the European Committee's collaboration later.

Soon each day became a series of events, some good, some difficult. These brought prompt support from the team and everybody's effort was tested in sorting out the difficulties. The Conference's publicity succeeded in attracting a great deal of interest from sponsors. Every expression of interest always brought relief which would last a few hours.

Work grew and grew together with the anxiety as the actual Conference approached. Every detail of the programme had to be carefully checked from the very beginning. The Conference week was a lot of work as well but there was a sense of achievement : lots of delegates and speakers participating, Special Interest Group and EAHIL meetings, the scientific programme, the exhibition, the social programme all happening normally. Only all

these ingredients working together can contribute to a successful international meeting.

The Portuguese health professionals felt honoured "for" this opportunity, "for" the many contacts found, "for" enhancing everybody's relationships. Even though we tried to fight "against" stressful situations we were conscious that they always happen when organising such events. The anticipated sense of relaxation was only felt some months later. The balance between the "pro" and "cons" however a year after this international meeting allows us to assume it was a very successful Conference.

Antonia Pereira da Silva
 Chair of Local Organising Committee
 Coimbra, Portugal





10th Anniversary

EAHIL Workshops

BRUSSELS (Belgium)
May 7-8, 1990

WHILA - Workshop on Human Issues in Library Automation
Séminaire sur l'aspect humain de l'automatisation des bibliothèques

WHILA was successful with its 133 European participants attending this workshop at the Bedford Hotel in Brussels. Main topics presented were training implications of library automation, CD-ROM, online, effects of CD-ROM on library service. There were groups of discussion of great interest providing an excellent opportunity to hear how other people had introduced CD-ROM into their libraries and ways in which the end-users had been taught. The main part of the workshop was rounded off by a number of presentations

on new products varying from serials control to different types of database. *Tony McSean* (BMA, UK) gave the closing paper. He described the strengths and weaknesses of CD-ROM but suggested that it might well be a transient form of technology.

Jeanet Ginestet (France)
Chair of the European Organising Committee

Pascale Delausnay (Belgium),
Chair of the Local Organising Committee

Trevor King (UK),
Chair of the Programme Committee

Jeanet Ginestet and Pascale Delausnay in Brussels



BARCELONA (Spain)
August 26, 1993

Workshop on Information and Document Access

On August 24th of 1993, as an IFLA 59th General Conference satellite event, EAHIL organized a workshop in Barcelona.

The topic was "Information and Document Access". *Monique Cleland* was in charge of contacting the speakers and the Eahil Spanish representative *Josefina Dupre* and I took care of the workshop organisation. *Monique Cleland* did a fantastic job in contacting such qualified speakers: After a presentation by *Beatrice Doran* (Mercer Library -Dublin-), *Teodora Oker-Blom* from the Karolinska Institute (Sweden) talked about "Management of an Information and Document Supply Center". *Graham Cornish*, from the British Library spoke about Electronic Document Delivery systems which, at that time was a brand new topic. *Lois Ann Colaianni* showed us the NLM experience.

Late *Deonilla Pizzi* (Univ. Fac. Medicine, Siena) and *Christine Deschamps* (Univ. René Descartes, Paris) also talked about their experience and projects, while the user point of view was given by *Herbert Fleish* (Institute of Pathophysiology, Bern). Finally, *EBSCO* was in charge of representing the Company's vision of the market.

After the sessions several discussion groups were organized. The meeting lasted all day thanks to the cooperation of the British Library and EBSCO, who provided the necessary funding for a splendid buffet and snacks. The Catalan Institute of Health Studies kindly hosted us in their building.

We still are very grateful to the 53 attendants for their patience and good humor in staying with us all day with no air-conditioning service due to technical problems. For all of you who aren't familiar with our weather, I remind you that Barcelona is very hot and humid in the middle of August. The other side of the coin was that, by staying with us, they were



saved from one of the most severe summer storms of the last decades.

Marta Jorda Olives
Chair of the Local Organising Committee
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PRAGUE (Czech Republic)
20-21 September 1995

**EAHIL Symposium on
 Cooperation of Medical Libraries:
 "Library Cooperation in the Era of
 Electronic Technology"**
*La coopération des bibliothèques,
 l'électronique et la technologie"*

Some 130 delegates from 19 European countries (among them 20 delegates from the United Kingdom) and two guests from the United States attended the symposium organized by the National Medical Library in Prague. The key-note addresses were delivered by *Lois Colaïanni* of the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda and *Tony McSean* of the BMA on behalf of *Derek Law* of King's College, London. *Ms Colaïanni* discussed the requirements of cooperative programmes and stressed the need to share resources in an era of reduced budgets. She suggested several ways in which EAHIL libraries could cooperate via INTERNET, including the development of a union list of serials and the monitoring of electronic health resources.

Derek Law's report focused on the UK experience in the national planning of networked services for libraries and on the policy issues involved. The "distributed library" opens up new possibilities of serving the broad community, not only the affluent clients.

Four sessions over two days were devoted to the following topics: "Classical and modern methods of acquisition" (moderated by *Albert Prior*, Amsterdam); "Shared cataloguing and union catalogues" (*Monique Cleland*, Lausanne); "Document supply: new ways and approaches" (*Tony McSean*, London); and Networking: impact on library and information services" (*Teodora Oker-Blom*, Stockholm). Of these the last session, with 15 contributions, evidently reflected the most current subject of interest on the European scene.

The symposium - the first EAHIL meeting

to be held in central and eastern Europe - was initiated by the EAHIL Board with the aim of bringing together as many representatives of the post-communist countries as possible, and to involve them in European projects and initiatives in the sphere of medical librarianship.

All participants were given ample opportunity for the exchange of ideas and viewpoints and for developing cooperative relationships with colleagues from other countries.

Otakar Pinkas and Jiri Drbalek
 Local Organising Committee
 National Medical Library, Prague
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From left : Otakar Pinkas (Chair) and Elisabeth Husem (EAHIL President) in Prague

COPENHAGEN (Denmark)
September 4th, 1997

The EAHIL/IFLA Workshop

**Une évènement réussi à Copenhague,
 4 septembre 1997**

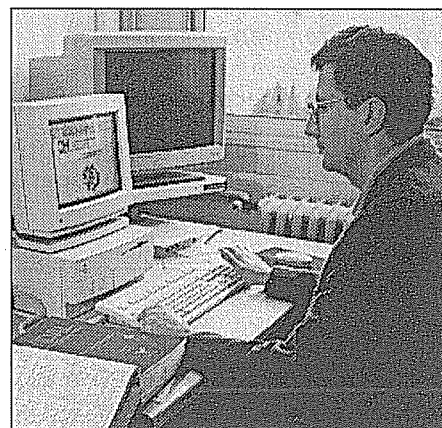
L'Atelier du 4 septembre dernier organisé conjointement par EAHIL et la Section des Sciences Biologiques et Médicales de l'IFLA a attiré plus d'une cinquantaine de participants en provenance d'une quinzaine de pays.

Réunis autour du thème des réseaux, du transfert de l'information et des changements organisationnels et humains que cela impliquent, l'idée de cet Atelier de travail avait été lancée par *Monique Cleland* et *Jean-Philippe Accart* et soutenue par *Elisabeth Husem*, ceci afin de célébrer

le dixième anniversaire de la création de EAHIL (Conférence IFLA de Brighton en 1987). Cette journée de travail a été l'occasion de réunir des professionnels de l'information (*Derek Law*, *Irène Wormell* et *JP Accart*), des concepteurs de produits technologiques tel OVID et les fournisseurs de ces produits (*DAWSON*, *EBSCO*, *SWETS*, *Compact Data*).

The EAHIL/IFLA workshop September 4th, 1997 attracted over 50 medical librarians. The theme of the workshop held in Copenhagen was: Resource Sharing in Medical Libraries: Informatics and Human Aspects.

The idea of having a workshop in Denmark in connection with the IFLA Conference was generated by *Monique*



Jean-Philippe Accart

Cleland, former president of EAHIL and secretary to the IFLA Section for Biological and Medical Libraries and *Jean-Philippe Accart*, President of the Section and former EAHIL board member. *Alice*



10th Anniversary

Norhede was the chair of the local organizing committee.

Since its foundation EAHIL has maintained close links with IFLA and to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of EAHIL with a satellite event organised as a joint venture with an IFLA Section was a splendid idea. *Alice Norhede*, co-opted to the EAHIL board, was appointed as contact person in Copenhagen.

From the very start our sponsors took great interest the planning of the workshop. Ovid Technologies, Swets & Zeitlinger, Compact Data (Copenhagen), EBSCO and Dawson were very supportive and generous.

The programme combined papers and presentations from sponsors with discussions and comments in a relaxed and open-minded atmosphere. *Derek Law* from King's College London, with great zest gave the participants a competent overview on "New Directions in Networking". *Bruno Tremblay*, Ovid Technologies and *Helen Henderson*, Dawson Information Quest, talked about the sharing of resources. Both papers focused on combining local and remote resources by integrating web services with

electronic document delivery and other library services.

The last two speakers concentrated on the human aspects of new ways of working. *Irene Wormell*, The Royal School of Librarianship (Copenhagen) gave a paper which focused on experiences drawn from a course in telematics, run as a project between the Royal School of Librarianship and the Queen Margareth College, Edinburgh. The paper from *Jean-Philippe Accart*, Centre d'Information et de Documentation, ANACT, Lyon highlighted the existing research on the nature and extent of teleworking. After lunch there was product presentations from Swets, Compact Data, EBSCO and IPI/UMI. The workshop ended up with some very lively and enthusiastic discussions.

Aproximately 55 persons representing 15 countries attended the workshop. It was a great pleasure to have colleagues from Malawi, Nigeria, Brazil and Lebanon taking part in an EAHIL event. This very successful co-operation between the Section of Biological and Medical Libraries and EAHIL has contributed to further trengthening of the links between the two associations and promises bright prospects for the future.

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Head Librarian
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Documentation, ANACT, Lyon, France
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Alice Norhede, Chair of the local organising committee

Our last event in 1997!

BUDAPEST (Hungary)
September 23-25, 1997

**Workshop on Managing
Information in the New
Electronic Age**

*Dés politiques de gestion de
l'information dans les
bibliothèques médicales à l'ère
nouvelle de l'électronique*

**A fitting Celebration for the 10th
Anniversary of EAHIL, in Budapest,
Hungary!**

Hundred twenty participants, twenty two countries represented! EAHIL is alive and well! After the very successful EAHIL/IFLA workshop organized by Alice Norhede for the 10th anniversary of the foundation of EAHIL, at the 63rd annual conference of IFLA in Copengahen (Denmark), a spirited group of EAHIL members convened again, this time in Budapest, Hungary, thanks to the organizing ability of *Marta Viragos* to celebrate the 10th EAHIL anniversary.

The majestic buildings along the shores of the Danube, the quiet hills of Buda with the soaring steeple of Mathias Church, dedicated to Saint Stephen, the busy streets of Pecs, with their grand facades speaking of past grandeur and the large avenues resounding with the clamour of numerous street cars, the horns of fast taxis and the large crowds crossing the ever busy streets, all of this is modern Budapest, the seat of this 1997 EAHILworkshop! The National Library of Hungary, in the old palace of Buda opened its doors to this EAHIL event. It was, perhaps for some of us, a sobering thought to have this meeting housed in buildings which have been part of the Unesco World Human Heritage program since 1987.

An objective, at times even candid, assessment of the state of health in Hungary, delivered by the Ministry of Health, was a fitting opening for the conference. The Hungarian public health system is undergoing a complete overhaul in its approach to improving public health and trying to remedy its current problems. Education and information are paramount in the efforts undertaken first to evaluate the situation and then to change habits, which are centuries old. Statistics seem to indicate that the Hungarian people are



Marta Viragos, Chair of the loc. organising committee
marta@lib.dot.hu

worse off on many counts especially related to known dietary problems of a modern society. Whether it is circulatory problems, weight control, various kinds of cancer. The economy of an effective public health system is also being studied and new methods of management are being devised. Quality control is foremost in the schemes designed.

10th Anniversary



In this context, the road was thus well signposted for medical librarians gathered in Budapest to pursue their work during this three day anniversary conference.

In times when hard competition and serious economic constraints weigh heavily on everyone, it is paramount that thoughts and actions are tempered by a code of ethics. Thus, *Lois Ann Colaianni*, of the National Library of Medicine of the USA, reminded participants in the first plenary session, of everyone's obligations and the active role we have to play, in observing ethical rules of conduct in all of our activities.

Partnership stands high in the objectives set by EAHIL for the coming decades. With information management and communication being increasingly dominated by technology, it will become more important to stay abreast of it all. *Monique Cleland*, former president of EAHIL, presented an overview of some aspects of technological changes which will undoubtedly affect our future activities in every sphere of our daily life. As a member of the Section of Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries of IFLA *M. Cleland* encouraged everyone to look also towards IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations, to stay abreast of it all and thus manage our daily responsibilities in a world forever changing ever faster.

The tone was set for looking at where some libraries stand today. Libraries in the countries of eastern Europe are rapidly aligning with their western counterparts and very impressive reports of activities were presented along with the economic problems to be overcome.

In Hungary, just like for the public health system, a critical evaluation of the higher education program has been undertaken and reforms are in progress. As a component of an education program, libraries have a long history of development and represent an important element in the cultural heritage of this country. Today, too, libraries are being looked at critically. Standardization in practices, whether cataloging or interlibrary loans along with automation are now an integral part of reform projects. In the Czech Republic like in Hungary, economic constraints define the rate of progress achieved. Very careful planning and budgeting are more than ever the limiting factors. Ambitions are big but budgets remain small. Personal commitment, alertness and much patience seem to be part of the important elements which will ensure the success of

projects! Other reports of automated projects covered libraries in Slovenia and in the Slovak Republic.

The Internet of course was mentioned in most if not all of the presentations. The Internet can be a source of much spurious and unwelcome information as outlined in a paper about policies set in North Carolina medical libraries to counteract several cases of unpleasant pornographic discoveries. But "The Internet is neither good nor bad, it just is, and it is very much what we are going to make of it which will define its usefulness or its destructive influence" (Workshop program p 98). As positive aspects of the use of the Internet, direct Web access for patients to medical information is a fairly new but very promising development. Two papers, one from Hungary, the other one from Italy, reported studies where the patient is the primary inquirer into medical information, without the intervention of intermediaries. But all of this is still very much in the realm of experimentation. And as pointed out by Suzanne Bakker of Amsterdam, "signposts or a mental map [are necessary less we] get lost in cyberspace" (Workshop program, p.29).

Several papers on the future of the electronic journal were the focus of much attention. It is a credit to the organizers of the conference to have invited several of the publishers currently prominent in the development of an electronic journals collection. To summarize their presentation would require much space because of the many aspects involved. It seems fair to say that as of today, much confusion and uncertainty surrounds the question of the future of the electronic journal. So far, from the reports heard, it seems that journals publishing has not changed substantially, its concept and that mechanical printing methods have only been transposed into electronic digital

printing methods but the overall scheme of publishing has remained the same. Is it time to rethink the very process of diffusing information? Should not scientific authors, in particular, take the lead in re-thinking totally the process of information production and of its access?

It is fair to say that the conference did not answer these questions. However, by providing the opportunity to discuss these important aspects of today's world of information, it has contributed, unquestionably, to raise our awareness of the many problems we are confronted with, in the age of the Internet.

The text of most papers presented at the conference were available to participants as a preliminary publication. The full text of all the papers will be published as proceedings in the coming months.

As with any conference gathering, the social aspects of such a meeting were not overlooked by our colleagues in Hungary. There were several generous luncheons and receptions where participants could enjoy the many flavors of Hungarian cooking, all sponsored by the publishing houses of Ebsco, Swets, UMI and Silverplatter. Visits to local libraries, an evening enlivened by Hungarian folklore as well as for some of the participants, a tour up to the Danube Bend where the mighty stream flows from south to north for a short stretch, all of these contributed to make this conference a fitting event for the 10th anniversary of the foundation of EAHIL.

Monique Cleland

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Further highlights on the Budapest workshop expected in the January issue.

*From left to right : Donna Flake (MLA, USA)
Ivan Rónai (Head of the Department of Cultural
Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Education,
Hungary), Elisabeth Husem (EAHIL president)*

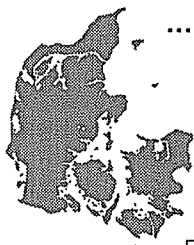




10th Anniversary

A few founders of EAHIL remember !

NORDIC MEMORIES



... From Denmark!

The editor has asked founders of EAHIL to provide short notes about their past and future relations with EAHIL.

Background

Participant of the First European Conference of Medical Libraries in Brussels October 1986. Member of EAHIL from the very beginning. EAHIL Council member for Denmark. Have acted as chairperson for sessions at the conferences.

The past

First of all we are indebted to the team of people from Europe who met in Japan for the 5th International Congress on Medical Librarianship in 1985. They agreed that it was essential to establish a European Association for Medical Librarians. Then came the hard work to make the plans come to fruition. We cannot thank enough the committee-members who took on this workload: *Ursula Hausen, Marc Walckiers, Christine Deschamps*, and their helpers. Believe me, it cannot have been easy to start from scratch. It must have taken a lot of enthusiasm and dedication to arrange the First European Conference for Medical Libraries in Brussels 1986 and to follow-up and get EAHIL established. And bear in mind: this was before the availability of email!

They should all feel proud when they see how their "child" has grown and developed! Several conferences have been arranged since then and new members have to bear in mind that it has not been easy work. EAHIL did not have an "infrastructure" like that of the Medical Library Association in North America with their long experience, well-established organization (100 years old in 1998!), and efficient headquarters. Nor did EAHIL have any money - or capital - to facilitate the work. Another obstacle was the differences in language, culture, legislation and educational systems in the member countries. And these differences (and a mix of them) continue to cause problems for the work of EAHIL. - On the other hand it is also a constant challenge to make things work in spite of these very relevant problems.

Language

Once upon a time Latin was the common language for the medical community. Has this role been taken over by the English language? It is a fact that the English language has dominated the medical literature (especially after World War II) and later the databases as well. Nowadays the concept "cultural imperialism" is not exactly one of the "buzz words", but it is a fact that the attitude to health care and medical research is heavily dominated by Anglo/American attitudes and by the spread of English language, literature and information.

Several EAHIL conference papers have focused on the problems for non-English research to be recognized - via databases, in connection with evidence-based medicine, impact factors etc.

As a practical problem for EAHIL it is very expensive to provide simultaneous translation at conferences and EAHIL has settled on only 2 languages - English and French. This is sensible but causes problems for the EAHIL members who do not have these languages as their first language. Culture/attitudes/educational systems and legislation The educational systems in the member countries are different and librarians as well as health care staff have different backgrounds and attitudes to what medical librarians can do for the medical community. The legislative rules and procedures also vary, which, for example, adds to the problems of running EAHIL. And it is a learning process to make elections, meeting agendas, rules of procedure run smoothly in spite of the cultural differences and habits. But I can only recommend members to get involved in it, as it is also very rewarding to work in international organizations and it widens your horizon considerably...

The future

Nobody can foresee what changes technology will bring about. Hopefully EAHIL will be able to influence the development of the European healthcare system. In general we cannot, as individuals, influence politicians and other decision-makers. But as an organization EAHIL should represent us in the relevant bodies. Access to medical information is crucial. EAHIL can facilitate cooperation between members and support the education of medical librarians, so that we

will be regarded as a profession fit for assisting the medical community in the next century.

Lise N. Christensen
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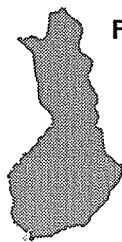
When I try to recall the steps towards the foundation of EAHIL as an organization 10 years ago I immediately come to think of our late colleague *Anna Nannestad Nicolaysen* from Norway. She was the person in Scandinavia with whom I had the opportunity to discuss the many complicated issues that evolved from the first attempt to co-operate within a European framework.

From the very start we agreed strongly about the goal of the association: close contact, mutual inspiration and co-operation between libraries in the medical sciences all over Europe. *Anna* actively liaised with our contact people: *Marc Walckiers* and *Ursula Hausen*. A matter of great importance to all the founders of the new association was to create both financial and formal opportunities for our colleagues in the eastern European countries to participate in the upcoming co-operation between many nations. I know that it would have been a great delight for *Anna* to witness the strong relationship that now exists between the former eastern and central European countries and EAHIL. When we signed the documents in Brighton it was the fulfilment of mutual visions, intense correspondances with colleagues all over Europe and very hard work. I guess that all the founders of EAHIL felt like myself at this time. This was a new beginning on a long chain of opportunities for improvement of library services to the benefit of both users and staff in European medical libraries.

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The Danish Pharmaceutical Library
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From Finland!



It was resolved that all national and international professional library and information associations facilitate the work of the medical librarian by providing a forum for exchange of ideas and professional development, and support medical librarians in the vital role they play in health care delivery". This citation is from the report adopted by the delegates at the 4th International Congress on Medical Librarianship in 1980.

We were 14 librarians from Finland in Belgrade, and we realized that we needed a national medical library association. Our discussions with the delegates from other countries strengthened this opinion. Coming home we founded *Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae* in the same year 1980.

The Nordic cooperation began in 1984 when the first Nordic Conference of Medical Librarians was organized by the Norwegian Special Group of Medical Librarians in Oslo. So many Finnish librarians attended that we hired a bus to get there.

During the 5th International Congress in Tokyo in 1985 the European delegates were called together to discuss forms of cooperation between medical Libraries in Europe. As we already had good experiences in national and international cooperation, we were happy when *Marc Walckiers* accepted the task of organizing a European meeting of medical libraries. We all know that the Congress in Brussels in 1986 was a success and led to the foundation of EAHIL in Brighton in 1987.

I had the honour to represent *Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae* at the organization meeting of EAHIL. The board considered it important that BMF was present in Brighton. There was only one obstacle. BMF was very short of money. I turned to the Chancellor of the University of Helsinki for help. He considered the foundation of EAHIL so important that he granted the money for my travel expenses. Perhaps the fact that he happened to be a physician was of some help, too.

And finally a strictly personal - and rather painful - memory concerning the start of this first meeting. The president of BMF, *Ms. Soini* had told me to take part in the preliminary talks in Brighton to discuss the draft of the bylaws for the new association. So I was happy when I arrived by plane in London (first time in my life) a

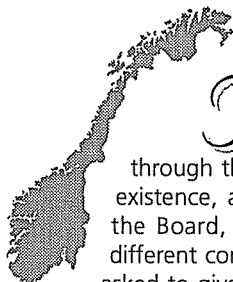
couple of days before the meeting in Brighton. Unfortunately a terrible migraine hit me the very first day and took most of my energy so that I was present at the meeting but remember very little of the discussions. Happily the headache was over in a day, and I was well and proud when signing the founding document of EAHIL on behalf of *Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae* and myself.



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From Norway!



As a member of EAHIL from its foundation through the first 10 years of its existence, and having served on the Board, the Council, and on different committees, I have been asked to give some impressions of those first 10 years of EAHIL. There are many things that could be mentioned, but I shall limit myself to what I remember best. It has been an interesting time, and I can hardly believe that EAHIL is celebrating already!

The first notable event, that springs to my mind is the International Conference for Medical Librarians in Tokio in 1985. Among Librarians, from all over the world, were 20-30 participants from Europe, including some of our initiators. During an informal lunch conversation one day, I remember one of them saying; "It is beyond my comprehension that we have to travel to another continent to meet, and exchange knowledge with colleagues from neighbouring countries. Why don't we make our own European Association, and arrange our own conferences?" I am sure, that all of us who were at that lunch meeting, regard it as the very beginning of our Association.

Thanks to *Marc Walckiers*, and many other enthusiasts, the first European Conference of Medical Libraries, took place the next year in Brussels. 300 medical librarians from 26 European countries attended. At the closing session, the plenary assembly decided to organise an European Association for Health Libraries. Its aim would be to represent European Health librarians, offer them improved education and co-operation for better information on medical research and health services. The establishment of the Association was formalised at the IFLA-meeting in Brighton in 1987, when the STATUTES were endorsed by 22 colleagues, from 13 member states of the Council of Europe. I feel proud of being one of them.

When elected to the Board at the General Assembly in Bologna in 1988, I was grateful to my colleagues, who showed confidence in me, by giving me their votes,



A few members of the Board in Montpellier.
From left to right : Pascale Delausnay (Brussels), Roselyne Hoet (EAHIL secretary, Brussels), Elisabeth Husem (University of Oslo), Ragnhild Lande (Trondheim), Brigitte Blum (Bern).



10th Anniversary

keen to start work, but apprehensive because of lacking experience in international practice.

Communication and information were the greatest hindrances to efficient and speedy board work 10 years ago. Writing, copying and sending of letters, and other information, took a lot of time. Council members and the Newsletter, were the links to the members. Today e-mail, our discussion list, and homepage have brought us closer together than ever before. A lot of people have attended our conferences, workshops and courses, which have always contained, as an important part, new technology for information storage and retrieval. These events are the most important offers which EAHIL gives. The personal contacts we get here can never be substituted by electronics.

Together with colleagues, I strongly advocated equal status in EAHIL for East-European librarians, when Europe was divided. It was therefore a pleasure for me to attend the well-organised EAHIL workshop in Prague. European medical and health science libraries become one family. Let us expand.

Another pleasant experience was the opening session of the Oslo conference, welcoming over 500 colleagues to our beautiful country. In a sparsely-populated country, with a limited number of medical librarians, it was possible to arrange a conference successfully. Thanks to Elisabeth Husem, the initiator, inspirer, and boss.

During the 10 years activities of EAHIL, I have invested a lot of time and work in it, and my employer a lot of money for my travelling expenses. I hope that both organisations have got some value in return? What about me? Looking back, it has been an experience that I would not have missed for the world. The memories of creative work, and achievement with international colleagues, and the information and experience from lectures, and exchange of knowledge and discussions in international fora. I feel I can do a better job for my library users, by implementing new technologies, as well as marketing and teaching new information sources. The EAHIL participation has made me see my own job in a much wider perspective. Above all it has given me a lot of good friends and colleagues all over Europe.

Much has been achieved in 10 years, but challenges are still waiting. Looking into

the future, and with experience from EAHIL's work, I feel sure, that willing and enthusiastic members can meet these challenges, and realise EAHIL's goals and visions.

To you who are not an active member:
BE ONE!

Ragnhild E. Lande

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**From
Switzerland!**



**EAHIL 10TH
anniversary,
August 1987/1997**

Among the outstanding and industrious librarians who were strongly involved in founding and shaping the new European Association for Health Information and Libraries, *Valentina Comba, Ursula Hausen* and *Marc Walckiers* had drawn up the draft statutes of the Association that were published in the EAHIL Newsletter (nr. 1), June 1987, for comment and were mailed out with the invitation to the inaugural meeting held in Brighton (UK) during the IFLA 53rd General Conference on August 18, 1987. The statutes of EAHIL were discussed, adopted and signed at the inaugural

meeting by 2 individuals, representing 12 countries. This well prepared and most necessary document, despite it seems to some of us a tedious text, serves as skeleton to the body of EAHIL and its activities. Other items discussed at the same meeting:

- election of the members of the offices (who served until the 1st General Assembly in Bologna, November 1988);
- Executive Board: President: *Marc Walckiers*; Members: *Valentina Comba, Christine Deschamps, Ursula Hausen, Anna Nicolaysen and Derek Wright*. Discussion and adoption of an EAHIL budget 1987;
- 2nd European Conference of Medical Libraries, Bologna, November 1988;
- Report on the planning/presentation of conference budget/ election of European Organising Committee.

This meeting and other gatherings were, as mentioned already, held at the IFLA conference site. Most EAHIL members attended IFLA meetings as IFLA members or as conference participants only. This was the year and occasion when some databases had been just come out with CD-ROM versions of their databases, others were still in development. Demonstrated were Medline, Science Citations Index, Chem Bank, Books in Print, etc. The crowd at the CD-ROM demonstrations was impressive and showed excitement. Some of the participating medical librarians afterwards purchased their first CD-ROM station and

*Lois Ann Colaianni (NLM, USA) and Brigitte Blum,
Former EAHIL Board Member.*





started to subscribe to bibliographies on CD-ROM. The British Medical Association in London at Tavistock Square offered to the European Medical Librarians in their lofty Atrium a fine aperitif. Present at this lunch-hour were also many distinguished personalities from the British Medical Library World.

The important foundation of EAHIL and the 53rd IFLA General Conference were blessed with lovely summer weather of bright sunshine and warm temperatures.

However, not much water was found at evening conference receptions, but fine wines were offered which lifted the already stimulated spirits even higher.

My personal wish to the 1997 anniversary of EAHIL and its members: an open mind and never ending success.

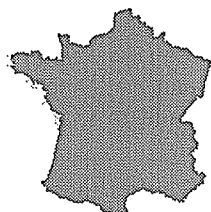
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From France!

First thought about EAHIL in September 1985.



We first thought about EAHIL in September

1985 when we met at the ICML in Tokyo that year. We thought that, given the number of European medical librarians, it might be a good idea to try and bring them together in a specific association. **Marc Walckiers** agreed to organize the first conference in Brussels for 1986, and worked on creating the Association's Statutes with **Ursula Hausen** with terrific efficiency. We all worked very hard on this first meeting, and it was indeed immensely rewarding to see the interest raised amongst our colleagues.

Since then, EAHIL has grown up. Even if I am now less involved in biomedical libraries, and a little more active in worldwide international associations like IFLA, I still remain a EAHIL "fan", and I still consider it as a very special group of people. I know that I still have a lot of friends there, and I look forward to the next conference in Utrecht. Good luck to EAHIL for the future!

De l'AEIBS à l'IFLA

Quand j'ai commencé à travailler à la

création de l'AEIBS, j'étais loin de penser qu'un jour je pourrais être Présidente de l'IFLA. J'étais alors bibliothécaire dans une grande bibliothèque médicale française, et le fait de participer aux travaux d'une Association européenne me remplissait de joie, et je n'imaginai pas autre chose. Ces jours exaltants ont peut-être été l'élément de départ qui m'ont donné le goût des relations internationales, qui m'en ont montré l'utilité, et qui m'ont fait réfléchir sur le besoin de participation des bibliothèques francophones dans de telles institutions.

Le Comité Permanent des Bibliothèques Biomédicales de l'IFLA, dont j'étais déjà membre, me paraissait alors oeuvrer au sein d'une institution trop formidable pour que je puisse y trouver ma place. Le temps a passé, les contacts se sont continués et le fait que j'ai quitté les bibliothèques médicales pour travailler pour une plus large panoplie d'institutions m'a poussée dans le même sens d'élargissement des activités.

Après deux ans au sein du Bureau Exécutif de l'IFLA, me voici maintenant Présidente, grâce au soutien notamment de mes collègues de bibliothèques médicales. Il s'agit maintenant d'actions politiques au plus large niveau, de négociations avec l'UNESCO, le Conseil International des Archives, la Fédération Internationale de Documentation, le Bureau Mondial de la Propriété Intellectuelle et autres institutions internationales. La responsabilité est encore plus grande, la charge plus universelle, mais le mode de travail est le même, et l'expérience que j'ai pu accumuler au sein de l'AEIBS me sera précieuse pour mener ma tâche à bien. Je continue à travailler pour les bibliothèques avec certains des collègues de bibliothèques médicales de la première heure, et les enseignements de l'organisation des premières conférences de l'AEIBS tenues à Bruxelles et à Bologne sont toujours précieux quand il faut participer à la préparation et à l'organisation d'une Conférence rassemblant presque 3000 personnes.

Je voudrais ici retransmettre mes remerciements à tous mes amis et collègues de l'AEIBS, et leur transmettre le désir de les voir participer également aux travaux de l'IFLA afin de mettre en place une bonne synergie entre nos deux associations.

Bon courage pour tous, donc...
et meilleur souvenir!



Christine Deschamps

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SOUTHERN MEMORIES

EAHIL foundation and statutes



One of the things I am very proud of, is to have been present at some of the most important meetings of the EAHIL foundation. I would like to tell you about a very small meeting "a trois", which happened in La Thuile (Aosta) in March 1987.

The idea of a European Association was strongly supported by a group of medical librarians coming from various European countries and participating in the 5th ICML in Tokyo, September 1985. Among them, **Christine Deschamps**, **Ursula Hausen**, **Marc Walckiers** and **Valentina Comba** and other 21 medical librarians who proposed the organisation of a Conference, to be held in Brussels in October 1986 to launch the new Association. The preparation of the conference was very intensive but really successful: at the end of the Brussels Conference the decision to found the



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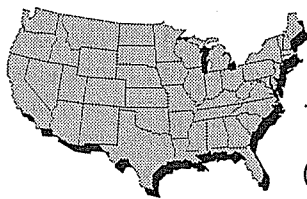
European Association received the approval of all the participants.

An Association needs a Statute: therefore we started to read statutes of different associations to draw up a proposal for our EAHIL. In order to discuss the different solutions we needed to meet, not only to send pages and pages of fax to each other. As *Marc Walckiers* was occasionally in Geneva as consultant at the WHO, where *Ursula Hausen* was also working, I proposed a meeting in La Thuile, which is a nice little skiing resort in the Vallee d'Aoste, quite near to the Mont Blanc tunnel; in order to have a quiet stay without paying for chalet (March is the most expensive season) I asked a colleague of mine, *Giovanna Di Meglio*, the keys of her chalet near La Thuile (which is in the village "La Balme", 3 km. from La Thuile). Therefore *Ursula* and I stayed at *Giovanna's* chalet and awaited the arrival of *Marc* and his wife the following day in La Thuile main square: we spent all of that sunny day of March discussing the articles of the Statute and putting together a draft which was quite successful. The only subject still to be discussed was the status of the eastern Europe members; this topic was discussed in Brighton before the official foundation of the European Association of Health Information and Libraries, at the IFLA Conference in August. At the Brighton meeting *Marc Walckiers* was elected first President of the newborn Association and the first Executive Board elected as well. The life of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries was starting.



Valentina Comba
Biblioteca Centralizzata di Medicina e Chirurgia, Univers. Torino, Torino, Italy

TRANSATLANTIC VIEW



EAHIL foundation

*F*rom this

side of the Atlantic, I was delighted to learn about the formation of EAHIL in 1987. Having just spent six months in England 3 years before, I felt a sense of longing to be a part of EAHIL, but that was not to happen for me for several years.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s I attended several British medical library meetings and at these meetings I heard enthusiastic conversations about EAHIL meetings. In Feb. 1995 I became the Medical Library Association representative to EAHIL. I was so very pleased to be selected. At the 7th International Congress on Medical Librarianship in Washington, DC in May 1995, I met *Elisabeth Husem* for the first time. *Elisabeth*, *Tony McSean* and I went to dinner at Blackie's House of Beef for a delicious meal and lively conversation. I was quite impressed with *Elisabeth* and she was just as pretty, dynamic, and charming as I had been told. At that dinner, I learned about EAHIL and my role in it. I also enjoyed meeting the other EAHIL members at the 7ICML.

At the EAHIL meeting in Prague, I was delighted with the hospitality I received. *Otakar Pinkas* met *Shane Godbolt* and I at the airport and traveled with us to our hotel and graciously showed us the beautiful streets of Prague. I particularly remember the friendliness of *Arne Jakobsson* with whom I toured the castle. Another highlight was the beautiful welcome reception at the Czech Academy of Sciences., and going sightseeing with *Beatrice Doran*, *Shane Godbolt* and *Liisa Salmi*. At MLA in Kansas City in May 1996, late *Deonilla Pizzi* represented EAHIL and we spent much time together. *Deonilla* extended her warmth and generosity to MLA members, and so many MLA members learned much more about EAHIL from *Deonilla*.

During 1995 and 1996, *Liisa Salmi* and I sent many emails back and forth across the Atlantic. I submitted news items to the EAHIL Newsletter and we also placed EAHIL news in the MLA publications. *Liisa*

was such fun and so prompt to work with a true joy!

I attended the Sept 1997 EAHIL meeting in Coimbra and was again overwhelmed with the kindness of *Antonia Pereira da Silva* and her organizing committee. I stayed at the Branganza Hotel where the Dutch librarians stayed and I befriended many of the Dutch librarians including *Gertie Zeltman* and *Anita*. We planned ways to publicize the upcoming Utrecht meeting.

After leaving Portugal, *Elisabeth Husem* and I decided to give a paper at MLA on EAHIL to publicize it. We wrote the paper and I delivered it at MLA in Seattle in May 1997- unfortunately, *Elisabeth* could not attend the meeting. The paper was very well received and many MLA members expressed much interest in EAHIL. During the paper presentation, *Suzanne Bakker* and *Sieb Bolheim* stood up to encourage people to come to the Utrecht meeting.

Now I am eagerly looking forward to seeing colleagues at the Budapest EAHIL meeting. I must remember to bring Karo syrup to the meeting because *Liisa Salmi* wants to make a pecan pie and she cannot get Karo syrup. (We continue to share cultures.)

Congratulations to EAHIL on its tenth anniversary! I am so proud of EAHIL and all it has accomplished!



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EAHIL Sub-Groups

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION GROUP

Created during the 1994 Pharmaceutical Special Interest Session at the Fourth EAHIL

Conference in Oslo, the Pharmaceutical Information Group try to offer a forum where the information professionals from the pharmaceutical industry can share their experience. First with the column in the EAHIL Newsletter, then through the

discussion list, and recently with their HomePage. But the Sessions during the Conferences keep the first place, because of the possibility of real contacts.

For the first time in Coimbra, a Decision Committee elected by the Group organized the Pharmaceutical Information Session. Eleven high-quality papers were presented, from both the academic and the industry sectors, whose full-text was issued as a handbook freely distributed to delegates.

We are now working on the organization of the Pharmaceutical Information Session at the next EAHIL Conference in Utrecht.

Vincent Maes

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*From left to right :
Marie-Danielle Meunier (France),
Nada Trzan-Herman (Slovenia),
Muriel Carcano (Belgium), Vincent Maes (Belgium).*

THE EUROPEAN VETERINARY LIBRARY GROUP

Expanding cooperation providing veterinary information: the European veterinary libraries group.

1. "Where have we come from?"

In dealing with these questions I'll focus on the European situation. To answer the first question - according to the Bible we come from void. Some years ago that was indeed the situation in the European veterinary information scene. However, as a result of the first International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists in Reading U.K. in 1992 two steps forward were made: the first was the foundation of AHIS-UK: the animal health and information specialists of the United Kingdom, at present a very active group with some fifty members, and secondly some years later in 1995 the foundation of the European Veterinary Libraries Group (EVLG). It was then decided that this group should be a subgroup of the European Association for Health

Information and Libraries (EAHIL) and not an independent organization.

The goals of the EVLG were set to:

1. unite people: to unite all those, who are interested and/or employed in the animal health information field;
2. develop cooperation: to develop and encourage cooperation between veterinary medical libraries;
3. linkup organizations: to maintain the link with international organizations in the field not only with EAHIL, but also for instance with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the World Veterinary Association (WVA).

The first goal of uniting people has been the most successful in the past years. In Europe there are 32 countries with in total 78 centres of veterinary education. We succeeded in getting members in 18 of the 32 countries, more than 50% of the European countries. The map of Europe (fig. 1) shows the distribution of members and non-members. EVLG members can be found in Denmark, Norway, Sweden,

Finland, and also Lithuania; Ireland, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Italy and Portugal. There are countries with no members, like Spain and some Eastern European countries, but also countries with only one centre in the country as EVLG member, like Italy, France, and also the United Kingdom, probably because "everyone" in the UK joined AHIS-UK.

The second goal development of cooperation between centres has mainly been accomplished through direct contacts, especially by using the Vetlib discussion list.

The third goal linking up with international organizations has mainly been restricted to EAHIL. Our group participated actively in the international conferences and workshops of Oslo, Norway in 1994; Prague, Czech Republic, 1995 and in Coimbra, Portugal 1996.

2. What's going on now?

To answer this question from a European



10th Anniversary

point of view three topics should be reconsidered. First as a start in 1995-1996 we did a survey not only among academic veterinary centres in Europe, but we also sent out questionnaires to state veterinary centres and to veterinary pharmaceutical companies. We asked questions on number of staff, holdings, automation. This survey was carried out by *Marta Prosbov* from Kosice, Slovak Republic in the framework of a European Union financed project. A booklet with the data from the 72 centres that responded was compiled (*M. Prosbov, P.W. van Olm: Academic libraries and information centres in veterinary medicine in Europe. - [s.n.], Kosice, Lelystad, 1995. - 7 p.*).

The second project is our own Newsletter. *Linda Warden* from London and *Rosemary Warner* from Dublin are the driving force behind it and are two enthusiastic editors. Up until now they have produced three issues with lots of contributions not only from Europe, but also from other continents.

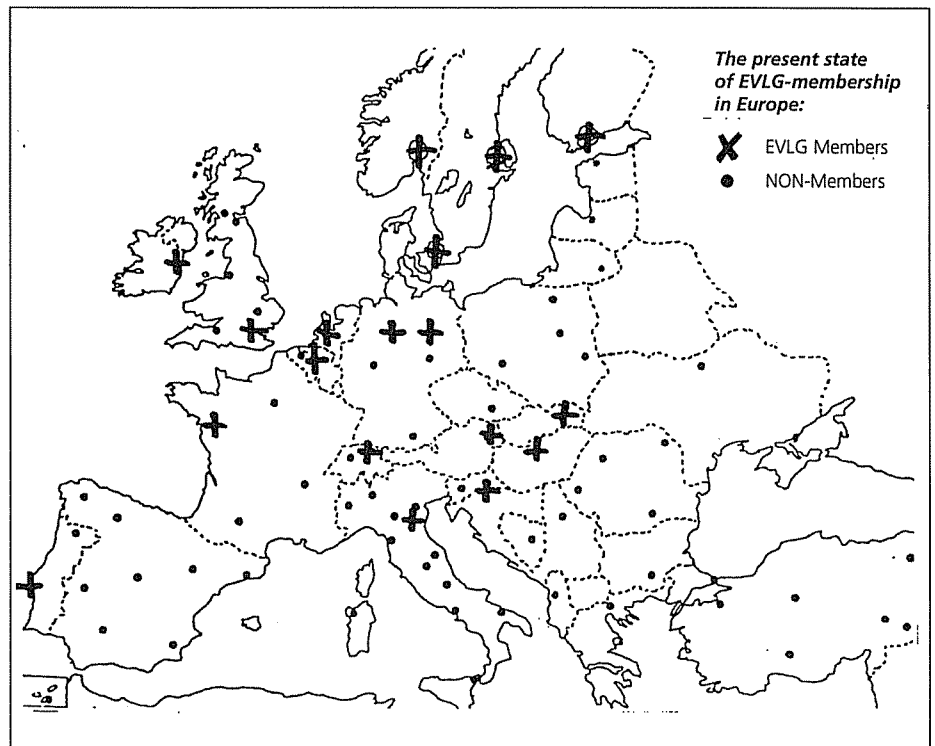
Subscription information can be obtained through the e-mail address: rosemary.warner@ucd.ie, or by writing to Veterinary Medical Library, University College Dublin, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland.

The third project of EVLG of interest is the development of our own homepage. The credit for this goes to *Holger Kulemeyer* from Berlin, Germany. The url-address is <http://www.vetmed.fu-berlin.de/evlg>. The homepage not only gives you all the details on our group but it also enables you to access OPAC's through the American system of linking databases.

3. Where do we go from here?

For Europe I see three points of action:

1. We must increase the number of members of our group especially in southern and eastern Europe. For countries that lack Western currency a system of sponsoring from West to East countries can be set up, for instance a West-European country pays the annual fees for EAHIL and EVLG for that new-member from eastern or central Europe. An extension to the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union is also of major importance. Such a system of sponsorship can easily lead to more



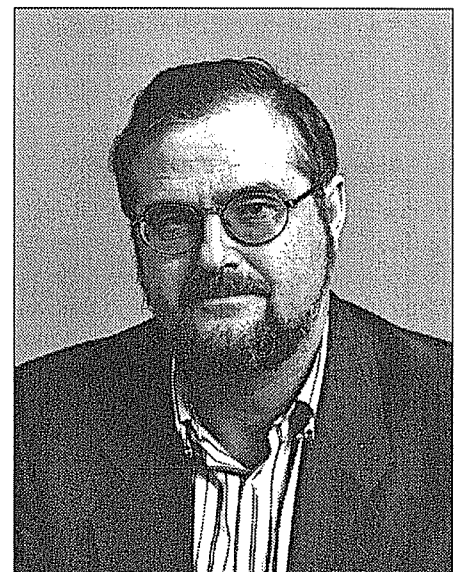
cooperation eg. in the field of document delivery, thus really providing veterinary information.

2. We must use international conferences as a motor for cooperation. The events for the near future are:

- the 6th European conference of Medical and Health Information and Libraries next year in Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- the World Veterinary Association will gather in Lyon, France in 1999. That seems not only to be a good opportunity to link up with this organization, but also a good location to strengthen the ties with Southern Europe.
- in the year 2000 there will be a large conference for the profession in London UK, called Converge on London.

3. The various programmes of the European Union can be used to start East-West cooperation between veterinary information centres. The Copernicus programme is a possibility, but the FAIR programme with one of the main themes "Thematical networks" seems to offer a good opportunity. Such a project should be launched as a "Concerted Action". These projects are fully financed by the EU and they should involve "many"-countries. At least two EU-member states must be involved and at least 2

countries from outside the EU, but experience has taught us that the more countries that are involved the more likely it is for the EU to give a positive reply to the proposal. If such a project proposal can be put forward and it is broad enough, it would be even possible to become a global project.



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Newsletter to European Health Librarians Former editors' point of view!

Following in *Marc Walckiers* footsteps was not going to be an easy task. He had not only been one of the founders of EAHL, but editor of the Newsletter as well.

In 1989, a new committee, the Editorial Board of the Newsletter met for the first time somewhere in the labyrinths of the Pompidou Centre in Paris, where the IFLA Conference was being held. None of us knew one another, we were all from different countries, *Marc* was busy elsewhere, and hanging over us was the dreadful knowledge that some sort of Newsletter had to be produced more or less on that day or perhaps the next ...

Well, we decided on a format with different sections and some invited articles - just to ensure that there was something to print! Other sections were designed to promote discussion and news from members - they still are. Perhaps the basic structure is still recognizable, but, fortunately, the same cannot be said about the appearance of our Newsletter. From camera-ready copy it has progressed to its present design which is so much easier to read.

Of course there have been problems. EAHL is a bilingual association and so, with certain limitations, is the Newsletter. This always added to the mad rush as the last date for the printer approached. Some contributors met the deadlines, but others, well ... such is life! Perhaps more serious have been the responsibilities necessary to producing a professional publication. The editor and language editors must be both editors and reviewers whose competence in reviewing may not extend very far outside their respective countries. And balance. How does one try to ensure a balance of contributions from different countries - is the Newsletter the mouthpiece of the Association or the mouthpiece of its members?

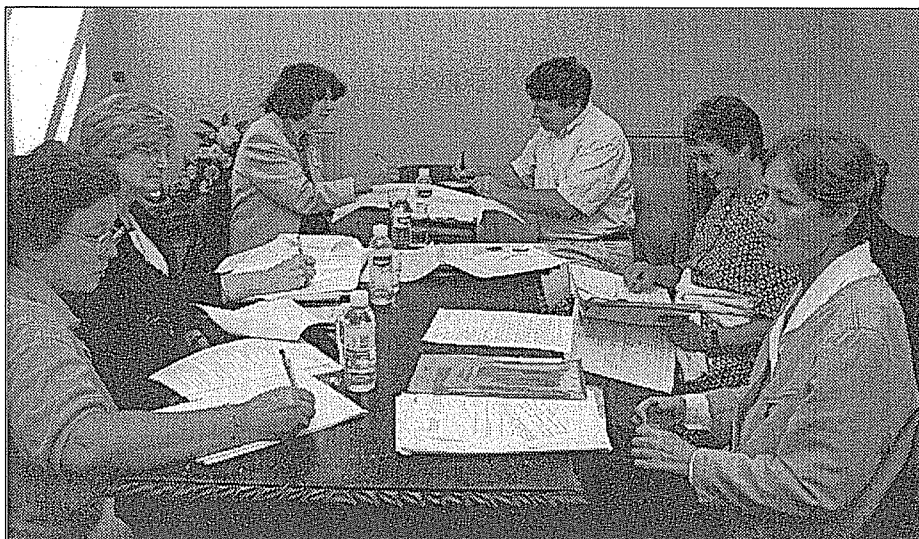
But the production of our Newsletter is a team effort. Without the team there would have been no Newsletter.

Jean Shaw
exxjgs@bath.ac.uk
Liisa Salmi
liisa.salmi@uku.fi





10th Anniversary



The Executive Board in Coimbra.
From left to right : Manuela Colombi (Italy),
Roselyne Hoet (EAHIL secretary, Brussels), Teodora
Oker Blom (KIBIC, Sweden), Tony McSean (BMA,
London), Elisabeth Husem (University of Oslo),
Liisa Salmi (Kuopio Hospital Library, Finland).

Elisabeth Husem and Antonia Pereira da Silva
in Coimbra



Elisabeth Husem
and Wim Luijendijck
(EBSCO) in Oslo

Welcome
to our next Conference
Utrecht, The Netherlands
June 22-27, 1998
"Information Professionals
Make the Difference"

See further information pages 24-26

From the Medical Library Association (MLA), Chicago, USA.

Dear President Husem and EAHIL Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, The International Cooperation Section, and members of the Medical Library Association, I wish to congratulate you on the occasion of your tenth anniversary.

Since 1987, EAHIL has successfully distinguished itself as a professional association which brings together librarians and information officers working in medical and health science libraries throughout Europe. Your efforts are strengthening the abilities of health sciences librarians to serve the information needs of their clients. As you look to the future of your association, I know that you will continue to make a difference in the quality of health care Europe's citizens receive.

As you know, the Medical Library Association has a long-standing association with our international colleagues. I am pleased to say that many members of MLA and EAHIL choose to join each other's organization and participate in activities offered by each association. This reaffirms MLA's desire to share a strong and committed relationship with our European colleagues as well as those throughout the world.

We very much appreciate having this opportunity and look forward to working with you in the coming years. Again, please accept our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for your future.

Sincerely yours,

Carla J. Funk

Executive Director, Medical Library Association