



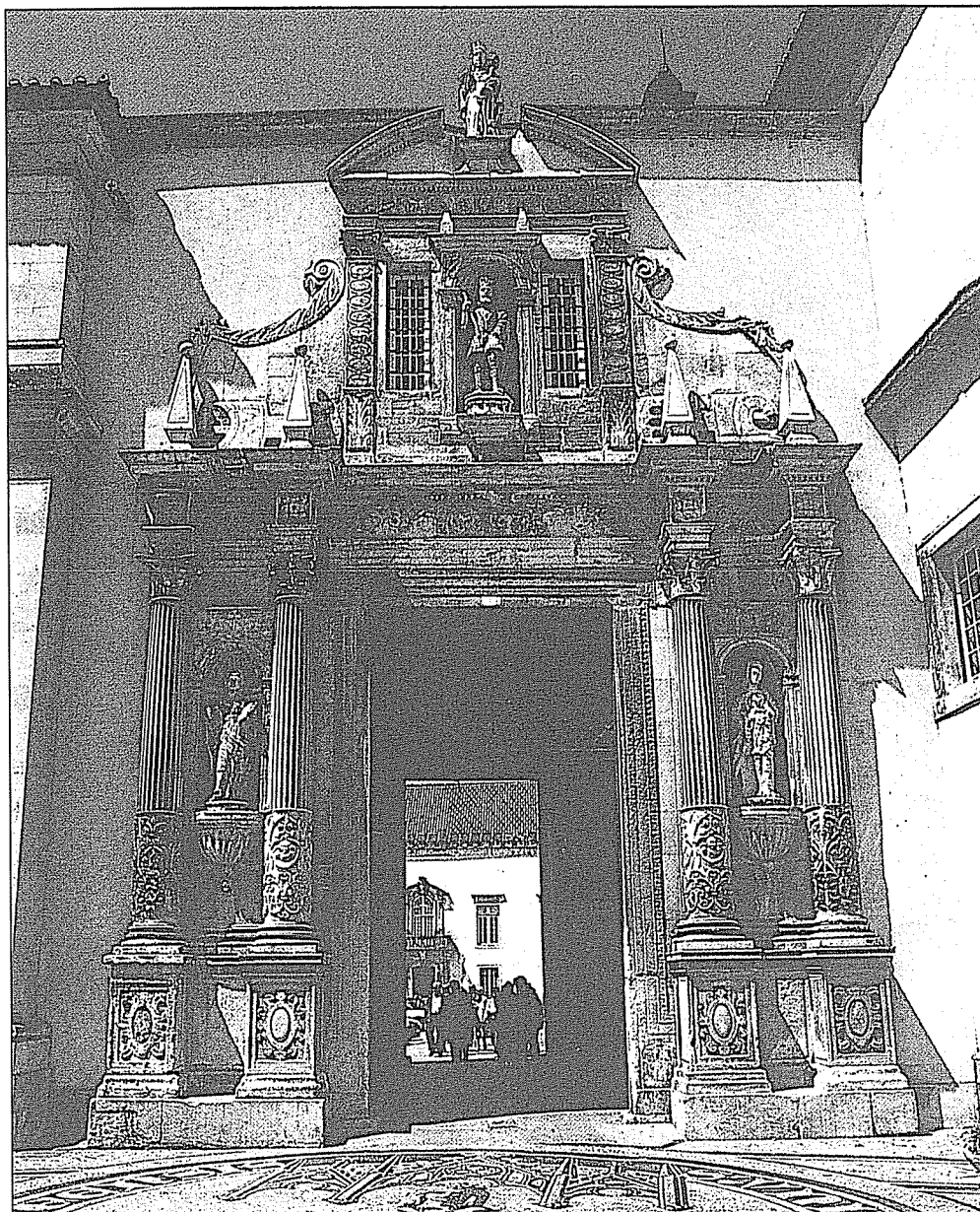
*European Association  
for Health Information and Libraries*

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

Octobre - October 1995 • N° 33

# Newsletter

*to European Health Librarians • des Bibliothécaires Européens de la Santé*



Fifth European conference of Medical and Health Libraries  
Coimbra, Portugal - September 18-21, 1996

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## EDITORIAL

### WHAT HAPPENS TO PUBLICATION?

It is a very worn out cliché to say that we live in a time of great transition. However, we do. The new information technology affects our lives and, because we are librarians and information specialists, our working life especially; more than we can perhaps foresee. Internet is here, whether we want it or not, and once you have been navigating there seriously, you are impressed by the vast amount of knowledge stored and by the ease with which you can move in and operate it.

One of the issues that comes very close to us is the ease of distributing information on the Internet. Knowledge is another thing, it is still mostly created in our brains in a much more sophisticated way than any computer can do. The latest health sciences information

has conventionally been disseminated via scientific journals, and this is still the most common way. With Internet, we can however, now let the rest of the world know immediately about new research results without having to wait for the long editorial and publishing process. Some fields have already experimented with publishing their results on the Net, with no referee system.

They just tell others what they have found, revise their texts when something new appears, allowing and encouraging the scientific community to give their remarks and comments. In this way the information gradually develops new paths, and the concept of publication has to be redefined.

If this is going to take place on a large scale, we all have to rethink our

thoughts on publication. This change is going to affect all the institutions involved, from scientists to publishers to librarians. Medical researchers seem to be rather conventional and most of them are worried about the quality of publication. The referee system is sacrosanct as long as you cannot find a better way of evaluating the research results.

Could we think of some other way of reviewing research results? What if we just let it go? Will a different measure of publication quality be developed?

I think the greatest obstacle just now is the limitations of our imagination.

**Liisa Salmi**  
*Editor*

### L'AVENIR DE LA PUBLICATION

C'est un vieux cliché de dire que nous vivons dans une période de grande transition. C'est cependant le cas. Les nouvelles technologies de l'information affectent nos vies et, parce que nous sommes des bibliothécaires et des spécialistes de l'information, notre vie professionnelle, plus que nous ne pouvions le prévoir. Internet est bien présent, que nous le voulions ou non, et lorsque vous y avez "navigué" sérieusement, vous êtes impressionné par l'énorme quantité de connaissances qui y sont stockées et par l'aisance avec laquelle vous pouvez vous y mouvoir et l'exploiter.

Ce qui frappe le plus, c'est la facilité avec laquelle l'information est introduite sur Internet. La connaissance est autre chose, elle est presque toujours créée dans nos cerveaux, d'une façon beaucoup plus sophistiquée qu'un ordinateur ne pourrait le faire. Les récentes sciences de l'information dans le domaine de la santé ont été disséminées de manière conventionnelle dans les journaux scientifiques, et cela reste la façon la plus usuelle de le faire. Avec Internet, le monde est informé immédiatement des résultats des nouvelles recherches sans avoir à attendre les

longues procédures d'édition et de publication. Certains domaines ont déjà expérimenté la publication de leurs résultats sur le réseau sans système d'expertise. Ils ont simplement communiqué aux autres ce qu'ils avaient trouvé, révisé leurs textes lorsque quelque chose de neuf apparaissait, permettant et encourageant la communauté scientifique à formuler leurs remarques et commentaires. De cette manière l'information se développe graduellement vers d'autres voies et le concept de publication devra être redéfini.

Si ce phénomène prend de l'extension, nous devons revoir notre façon de considérer la publication. Ce changement va affecter toutes les institutions concernées, en passant des scientifiques aux éditeurs et aux bibliothécaires. Les chercheurs en médecine semblent assez conventionnels et la plupart d'entre eux sont préoccupés de la qualité de la publication. Le système d'expertise sera "tabou" aussi longtemps qu'un meilleur procédé d'évaluation des résultats des recherches ne sera pas envisagé.

Pouvons-nous imaginer une autre manière d'évaluer les résultats des recherches? Que se passera-t-il si nous laissons simplement les choses aller?

Verrons-nous se développer une estimation différente de la qualité de la publication?

Je crois qu'actuellement le plus grand obstacle réside dans les limites de notre imagination.

**Liisa Salmi**  
*Rédactrice en Chef*

#### News from the Editorial Board

Our former Editor, **Jean Shaw**, has retired in September from her job as the Librarian of the Clinical Sciences Library, Leicester Royal Infirmary, University of Leicester, UK. She has also acted as the English Language Editor of the Newsletter, and to our great delight, she has promised to continue with this.

Her new address is: The Old Rectory, Shoscombe, Bath BA2 8ND, UK.

\*

We are happy to welcome a new contact in Sweden for our Newsletter:

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## **EAHIL SYMPOSIUM ON CO-OPERATION OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES IN PRAGUE, 20-21 SEPTEMBER 1995**

**I** 30 delegates from nineteen European countries (6 Eastern and Central European countries) took part in the EAHIL symposium on Co-operation of medical libraries held in Prague Czech Republic 20-21 September 1995. The Symposium was organised by Dr. Otakar Pinkas from the National Medical Library Prague together with the programme and organising committees. The Symposium was a great success and the EAHIL President and the Board very much appreciate the work of Dr. Pinkas and his committees.

The Symposium was preceded by meetings of the EAHIL Executive Board and Council and of the European Veterinary Libraries Group.

The EAHIL President, Elisabeth Husem, was pleased to announce that the Award of Honour for 1995 has been given to Lois-Ann Colaiani, Associate Director of Library Operations at the National Library of Medicine. The prize will be presented to her at the 1996 EAHIL Conference at Coimbra, Portugal, in September 1996.

The EAHIL President officially opened the Symposium, Dr. Otakar Pinkas welcomed the delegates to Prague and introduced the platform party of Dr. Narcisa Vitnerová of the Czech Ministry of Health, Prof. Peter Hach, Dean of the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, and Dr. Vladimir Hofman, Director of the Postgraduate Medical School in Prague. A particularly warm welcome was extended to our American visitors, Lois-Ann Colaiani from the National Library of Medicine and Donna Flake representing the Medical Library Association.

The plenary session was given by Lois-Ann Colaiani and Derek Law of King's College in London, whose paper was read by Tony McSeán of the BMA Library, UK.

Inter library co-operation was the title of the address by Mrs. Colaiani. She

defined and discussed the essential requirements of successful co-operative programs. The importance of the impact and availability of computing and communication technologies in facilitating co-operation between libraries was stressed by the speaker. She pointed out the great need for library co-operation today when budgets have been reduced. Librarians and libraries need to share if they are to prosper and survive.

Derek Law in his paper concentrated on National planning of Networked services for libraries, using examples of developments in the United Kingdom Higher Education sector. The goal of a distributed national electronic networked collection is to create a central core of material which is defined centrally, but meets the needs of all users in all disciplines. Mr. Law believes that librarians and libraries have a great future, but that we must persuade the state to join us in sharing our vision for the future.

There were four main sessions over the two days of the workshop. Classical and modern methods of acquisition was the first session moderated by Albert Prior of Swets & Zeitlinger. This session included such topics as the role of the National Medical Library in Prague in the distribution of book and journal donations from abroad, classical and modern methods of acquisition in the field of postgraduate education in medicine and libraries without frontiers.

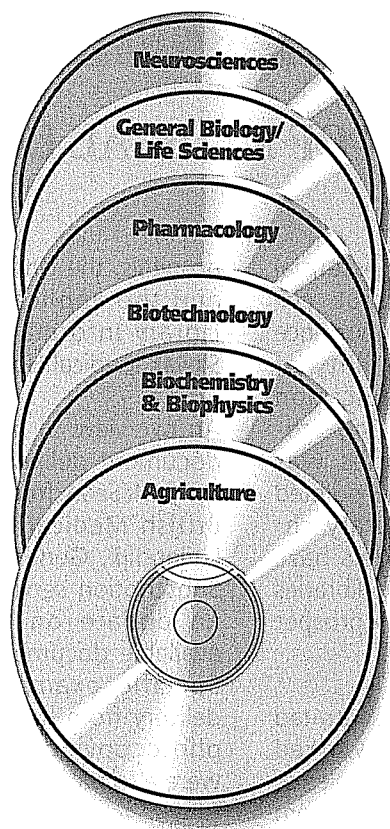
Shared cataloguing and union catalogues was the session moderated by Monique C. Cleland from the Faculty of Medicine at Lausanne. Donna Flake, the MLA representative at EAHIL, spoke about the North Carolina AHEC, Health Sciences Union Catalogue, on CD ROM. Other papers in this session discussed the development of LOKAT, a low budget union list of serials in Swedish County

hospitals, the Finnish Union catalogue and the application of the Rapid Library Information system in the Slovak Medical Library.

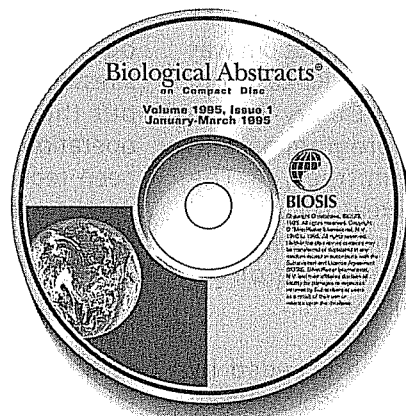
An overview of new opportunities in document delivery was provided by Tony McSeán from the Library of the British Medical Association. Wim Luijendijk, General Manager, EBSCO Subscription services in Europe, gave an update on the commercially available document delivery services. Specific examples of document delivery from Italy and an analysis of photocopying orders from Poland were also presented.

Session four was devoted to Networking and its impact on library services. There were three parts to this session and each was moderated by Teodora Oker-Blom from the Karolinska Institute Library in Stockholm. Details of the OMNI project in the United Kingdom was presented and demonstrated. HECLINET, a cooperative of hospital institutes from Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Germany and offered on DIMDI covers the entire area of hospital related literature. Implementing electronic technology in Czech Medical libraries, networking applications in three Italian drug information centres, collaboration and co-operation between organizations concerned with health information in the United Kingdom, and networked information services development in regional library and information services in the North Thames region of the United Kingdom were all part of this session on networking. Other topics presented included the implications of system architecture in building an open library system, developing a common user interface for searching medical information and campus wide information services at a London medical school.

Automation and cooperation at a medical university in Hungary, getting



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accustomed to the integrated library system at the central medical library in Warsaw, the impact of networking at the medical library at P.J. Sáfarik University (Slovak Republic) and library and information technology at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Charles University, concluded the workshop proceedings.

Anyone who would like to have a photocopy of individual conference papers should contact Beatrice Doran at [bdoran@rcsi.ie](mailto:bdoran@rcsi.ie) or fax to 353-1-478 0934. The articles will be forwarded as soon as possible. There are a limited number of complete copies of the entire conference proceedings available from Roselyne Hoet at the EAHIL secretariat in Brussels.

The European Association for Health Information and Libraries and the Prague Organizing Committee are grateful to the sponsors EBSCO Europe, Minerva Wissenschaftliche Buchhandlung, SUWECO Subscription service and Swets & Zeitlinger.

**Beatrice M. Doran**  
*EAHIL 1st Vice President*

## YEAR OF ELECTIONS AT IFLA: EAHIL IS WELL REPRESENTED!

The 61st IFLA Annual Conference was held in Istanbul, last August, under the theme: "Libraries of the future".

The members of the Section of Biological and Medical Sciences meet twice at their Standing Committees and also for the Session on Medical Libraries and Islam and in a Joint Session with the Section on Information Technology for Archiving Electronic Journals.

This year was a year of elections: Christine Deschamps (University of Paris 5) was elected to the Executive Board of IFLA and we are very glad that the voice of EAHIL has been heard! Congratulations to Christine from all her European colleagues!

For the Section of Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries, it was time for a change too: Frances K. Groen, from McGill University in Canada, was the previous Chair of the Section; Jean-Philippe Accart (from the EAHIL ExBoard) has been elected new Chair for the next two years. Monique Cleland (past EAHIL President) remains the Secretary of the Section. With such a dynamic team, we are sure that the Biomed Section is in good hands.

They have a great deal to do now, mainly to prepare the next Conference in Beijing in 1996. Every EAHIL member can bring them their ideas.

Definitely, EAHIL is well represented at an international level.

*(A more complete report on the activities of the Biomed Section will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter).*

## A NEW EAHIL COUNCIL MEMBER

Gina Reymond, Swiss Council member, starts a new job and leaves the field of health information. For this reason, she resigns from her function on the EAHIL Council. We thank her for her active and fruitful participation to EAHIL for the past three years and wish her every success in her new position.

Anna Schlosser, of the Universitätsspital in Zürich, has been elected

by her Swiss colleagues to replace Gina Reymond as the second Swiss representative on the EAHIL Council. We warmly welcome her and trust we'll reach a fruitful cooperation.

**Anna Schlosser's address:**  
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- BESSON Alain, Medical College Library, London
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- D'EMMANUELE Antony, Pharmacy, University of Manchester, UK
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- PCH/ADDM, Centre de Doc. Médicopharmaceutique, MARTIN Armelle, Paris
- RUSSELL-EDU William, Istituto Europeo Di Oncologia, Milano
- SCHLOSSER Anna, Universitätsspital, Zürich, Switzerland
- TARJANNE Anne, National Veterinary and Food Research Institute, Helsinki
- TURPIN Cornelia Maureen, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. UK
- VAN MIGRO Micheline, ITAC, St. Stevens Woluwé, Belgium
- WHITE Janice, Lothian College of Health Studies, Edinburgh, Scotland

### Associated Member:

- BOYD C. Trenton, University of Missouri, Veterinary Med. Library, Columbia, USA

## NOUVELLES DE NOTRE ASSOCIATION

# La coopération des bibliothèques, l'électronique et la technologie - EAHIL Symposium tenu à Prague, les 20-21 septembre 1995

**C**ent trente délégués de 19 pays européens dont 6 pays de l'Europe de l'Est et Centrale ont participé au Symposium de l'AEIBS tenu à Prague, République Tchèque, les 20-21 septembre. Le Symposium a été organisé par le Dr. Otakar Pinkas de la National Medical Library de Prague. Les réunions du Bureau Exécutif et du Conseil de l'Association ainsi que la réunion du Groupe européen des bibliothèques vétérinaires ont précédé le Symposium.

Ce fut un grand succès. La Présidente et le Bureau Exécutif de l'AEIBS ont vivement remercié le Dr. Otakar Pinkas et les comités pour la très bonne organisation et la qualité du symposium.

La Présidente, Elisabeth Husem, a annoncé l'attribution du Prix d'Honneur 1995 à Lois-Ann Colaianni, Associate Director, Library Operation, National Library of Medicine (NLM). Ce prix lui sera présenté à la Conférence de Coimbra, Portugal en septembre 1996.

Elisabeth Husem, Présidente de l'Association, a officiellement ouvert le Symposium ainsi que le Dr. Otakar Pinkas qui a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants. Etaient également présents à la cérémonie d'ouverture le Dr. N. Vitnerová du Ministère tchèque de la Santé, le Prof. P. Hach, Doyen de la 1ère Faculté de Médecine de l'Université Charles et le Dr. V. Hofman, Directeur de la Postgraduate Medical School.

Un accueil particulier a été adressé à deux visiteurs américains, Lois-Ann Colaianni de la National Library of Medicine et Donna Flake, représentante de la Medical Library Association auprès de EAHIL.

La session plénière a été présentée par Lois-Ann Colaianni et Derek Law du King's College, Londres, dont la

communication a été lue par Tony McSeán, de la BMA Library de Londres.

La coopération interbibliothèques était le titre de l'intervention de Lois-Ann Colaianni qui a défini et discuté des exigences indispensables requises pour obtenir des programmes de coopération réussis.

Elle a insisté sur l'importance de l'impact et de la disponibilité des technologies informatiques et de communication afin de faciliter la coopération entre bibliothèques. Elle a également insisté sur le grand besoin de coopération entre bibliothèques dans des temps où les budgets ont été réduits. Les bibliothécaires et les bibliothèques doivent partager leurs ressources s'ils veulent prospérer et survivre.

Derek Law, dans sa communication lue par Tony McSeán, s'est concentré sur la planification nationale des services en réseau dans les bibliothèques, utilisant des exemples d'application dans le secteur de l'enseignement secondaire en Grande-Bretagne.

Le but d'une collection distribuée électroniquement en réseau au niveau national est de créer un noyau central de matériel qui est défini centralement, mais qui puisse répondre aux attentes des utilisateurs dans toutes les disciplines. Derek Law pense que les bibliothécaires et les bibliothèques ont un avenir prometteur, mais que nous devons convaincre l'Etat de partager notre point de vue sur le futur.

Il y eu quatre sessions principales durant les deux jours de ce séminaire :

La première session, présidée par Albert Prior de Swets & Zeitlinger, était consacrée aux méthodes classiques et modernes d'acquisition. Cette session comprenait des sujets tels que le rôle de la "National Medical Library" à

Prague dans la distribution des donations de livres et de périodiques étrangers dans le domaine des études postuniversitaires en médecine et des bibliothèques sans frontières.

Partager le catalogage et les catalogues collectifs était le titre de la session présidée par Monique Cleland de la Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de Lausanne. Donna Flake, la représentante MLA auprès de l'EAHIL, a parlé du "AHEC" de la Caroline du Nord, un catalogue collectif sur CD-ROM réalisé dans le domaine des sciences de la santé.

D'autres communications dans cette session relataient le développement du "LOKAT", un catalogue collectif de périodiques, à petit budget, mis au point dans les hôpitaux suédois, du catalogue collectif finlandais ainsi que du "Rapid Information System" de la bibliothèque médicale slovène.

Tony McSeán, de la Bibliothèque de la "British Medical Association" nous a présenté une vue d'ensemble des nouvelles perspectives dans la livraison des documents.

Wim Luijendijck, Directeur Général d'EBSCO Subscription Services en Europe, donna quant à lui une mise à jour des services commerciaux disponibles pour la livraison des documents disponibles. Des exemples spécifiques de livraison de documents en Italie et une analyse des commandes des photocopies en Pologne étaient également présentés.

La 4ème session a été consacrée au travail en réseau et à son impact sur les services des bibliothèques. Les trois parties de cette session étaient chacune présidées par Teodora Oker-Blom de la Bibliothèque du Karolinska Institute de Stockholm. Les détails du projet OMNI du Royaume-Uni y ont été également présentés et démontrés. HECLINET,



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une coopération entre les instituts hospitaliers de Danemark, Suède, Autriche, Suisse et Allemagne offre via DIMDI la couverture du domaine entier de la littérature relative aux hôpitaux.

La mise en oeuvre d'informatisation des bibliothèques médicales de la République Tchèque, les applications du travail en réseau dans 3 centres italiens d'information sur les médicaments, la collaboration et la coopération entre les organisations concernées par l'information dans le domaine de la santé en Royaume-Uni ainsi que le développement des réseaux des services d'information médicale dans les bibliothèques régionales et ceux de la région du Nord de la Tamise firent également partie de cette session consacrée aux réseaux.

Les autres sujets présentés comprenaient les implications architecturales dans l'édification d'un système ouvert de bibliothèques développant une interface commune permettant à l'utilisateur d'accéder à la recherche de l'information et aux vastes services d'information du campus dans une bibliothèque de médecine à Londres.

L'automatisation et la coopération dans une université de médecine en Hongrie, le fait de s'accoutumer au circuit intégré de la bibliothèque médicale centrale de Warshaw, l'impact du travail en réseau à la bibliothèque médicale de la P.J. Safarik University (République Slovène) et les technologies de l'information et des bibliothèques à la Faculté de Pharmacie, de la "Charles University" concluaient les débats de ce séminaire.

EAHIL et les comités d'organisation ont remercié les sponsors qui ont apporté leur soutien au Symposium : EBSCO Europe, Minerva Wissenschaftliche Buchhandlung, SUNWECO Subscription Services and Swets & Zeitlinger.

Copies des communications peuvent être obtenues auprès de Beatrice Doran par email (bdoran@rcsi.ie) ou par fax (351 1 478 0934).

Il reste encore quelques exemplaires de la publication des proceedings en texte intégral disponibles sur demande auprès du Secrétariat de l'AEIBS à Bruxelles.

**Beatrice Doran**  
EAHIL 1st Vice President

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## Une année d'élections à IFLA où EAHIL est bien représentée!

**L**a 61ème Conférence Annuelle d'IFLA a eu lieu à Istanbul en août dernier, ayant pour thème "Les Bibliothèques du futur".

Les membres de la Section des Bibliothèques des Sciences Biologiques et Médicales se réunissent deux fois en comités permanents. Une session sur l'Islam et les bibliothèques Médicales, ainsi qu'une session conjointe avec les Bibliothèques des Sciences Technologiques (sur le thème "Archiving Electronic Journals") eurent lieu.

Cette année a été une année d'élections pour IFLA: Christine Deschamps (Université de Paris V) a été élue au Bureau Exécutif d'IFLA. Nous sommes heureux que notre voix ait été entendue. Toutes nos félicitations à Christine de la part de ses collègues européens!

Pour la Section des Bibliothèques des Sciences Biologiques et Médicales,

Jean-Philippe Accart, France (membre du Bureau Exécutif de l'AEIBS) a été élu Président pour 2 ans et succède ainsi à Frances K. Groen de l'Université de McGill, Canada. Monique C. Cleland reste Secrétaire de cette section.

Avec un team aussi dynamique, nous sommes sûrs que cette section biomédicale est en de bonnes mains. Beaucoup est à faire et principalement la préparation de la prochaine Conférence d'IFLA qui se tiendra à Beijing en 1996.

Toutes les suggestions des membres de l'AEIBS sont les bienvenues. Notre Association est définitivement bien représentée au niveau international.

*(un rapport plus complet sur les activités de la Section des Sciences Biologiques et Médicales sera publié dans le prochain numéro de notre Newsletter).*

## Un nouveau membre au sein du Conseil de l'AEIBS

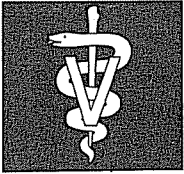
**G**ina Reymond, déléguée suisse au sein du Conseil de l'AEIBS, change de travail et quitte le domaine de l'information de la santé. Elle se voit forcée de donner sa démission comme membre du Conseil. Nous la remercions chaleureusement pour sa participation active au sein de l'Association et le travail accompli au cours de ces dernières années.

**Anna Schlosser**, Universitätsspital Zürich, a été élue par ses collègues suisses comme déléguée nationale et remplaçante de Gina Reymond. Nous lui souhaitons la bienvenue au sein du Conseil.

**Anna Schlosser**  
Universitätsspital  
Bibliothek Rämistrasse 100,  
CH-8091 Zürich, Suisse  
Tel.: 41 1 255 2861  
Fax: 41 1 255 9610  
email: schloss2uszbib.unizh.ch

## EAHIL SUB-GROUPS

### NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN VETERINARY LIBRARIES GROUP (EVLG)



Although we are looking forward to the EAHIL Fifth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries next year in Coimbra, the planning of future events goes on. In August the organizing committee of the Second International Conference of Animal Health Information came together in Copenhagen at the 4th Nordic Conference for Medical Libraries. Together with a representative of the EVLG (the chairman) it was tried to tune these two events to each other. The topics of the Conference in 1997 were proposed as follows:

- International cooperation, improving access to local information sites, proj-

ects, research, exchange of information and experience, organisation of regional groups of information workers cross borders, network communication.

- Management and marketing of library services, improvement of the contact to university staff/research workers, consultative activities, advertising.
  - User education, evaluating needs and demands, technical tools, teaching, teaching students as part of the curriculum.
  - Veterinary specialities, biotechnology, pharmacology, alternative medicine, animal health promotion (for the benefit of man), zoonoses, food/feed science and technology, food hygiene.
- This second international meeting will be held in Copenhagen at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University

on July 1-4, 1997. We urgently ask colleagues to comment on these preliminary proposal of topics.

Please contact Anne Eslau Larsen, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Bulowsvej 13, DK-1870 Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, Denmark, fax: 31 35 12 81, email: ael@dvj.kvl.dk - or the undersigned.

**Paul van Olm**

*Institute for Animal Science and Health  
The Library - Edelhertweg 15  
P.O.Box 65  
NL-8200 AB Lelystad - Netherlands  
Tel. 31 3200 38074  
Fax: 31 3200 38050  
email: p.w.van.olm@id.agro.nl*



### PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION GROUP Groupe Pharmaceutique d'Information

**T**hanks to **Hans Holm**, Astra Hässle AB, you will find hereafter a brief report about the 4th Nordic Conference for Medical Libraries, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 21-24, 1995, and its interest for the Pharmaceutical Group.

"Every fourth year a conference for medical libraries is held in Scandinavia. The fourth one was arranged by the Danish Medical Information Group and held in Copenhagen August 21-24. Contrary to the Nordic Conferences for Information and Documentation (the 9th held in Oslo September 6-8) the committees (Programme Organizing and Continuing Education) had Danish members only.

The Conference theme was Health Information Research and Development and attracted some 150 participants from 10 countries. Its structure was like the EAHIL Conference with the exception that there were no key-note speakers. This structure certainly widens the interest and attracts more attendees but makes it more difficult to follow

and review, especially if there are no proceedings. A plenary session was about classification. Annemette Hansen of the Danish Pharmaceutical Library read a paper on "Subject indexing for a pharmaceutical library catalogue" and Ian Crowlesmith of Elsevier Science BV gave a speech on "Quality control of EMBASE indexing and thesauri".

A parallel session of great value was entitled "Personal software management" users of Reference Manager, Pro-Cite, GetARef and REFbase reported their experiences.

The special interest group Pharmaceutical Libraries chaired by Alice Norhede got half a conference day. Michele Chatfield of the FDA presented information services by the agency on Internet, Erick Helmer of Pharmacia presented Pharma Documentation Ring and I myself LIDOK. A presentation of our new EAHIL group Pharmaceutical Information had fitted in very well here. In fact Vincent Maes was unable to come to Copenhagen. There will be other opportunities for our group! At the start of the conference a book of

abstracts was distributed. No proceedings will be published".

\* \* \*

For your information, please find hereafter the bibliographic description of an article that may be of interest to us:

**M.L. Huotari.** : *Strategic Information Management: A pilot Study in a Finnish Pharmaceutical Company.*

**Abstract:** A strategic information systems evaluation methodology based on the concepts of the value chain, critical success factors and the information auditing approach is presented as it has been shown that in different industries the most critical area of the value chain differs. This perception stresses that organizations have to discover the most significant area of their value chains, the critical information needed and possible problems experienced in the access and use of that information for the performance of that area in order to gain competitive

advantage. The theoretical background of the suggested methodology is briefly discussed along with the research methods applied. The results of a pilot study in a Finnish pharmaceutical R&D environment are presented. It is concluded that information systems evaluation conducted in the suggested manner enhances differentiation by focusing on the most critical organisational information needs. It also highlights the problem areas in the performance of the most significant area of the value chain of this pharmaceutical R&D environment. *International Journal of Information Management Vol. 15, nr. 04, August 1995, 295-302 - ISSN: 0268-4012*

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I encourage you to take a look at the PharmWeb ([www to http://www.mcc.ac.uk/pharmweg/](http://www.mcc.ac.uk/pharmweg/)), maintained by Dr Anthony D'Emmanuele (one of our first members), which contains:

- PharmWeb Directory - a directory of people in pharmacy and related professions
- PharmWeb Appointments - vacancies in pharmacy and related professions
- Publications - books, journals and other publications relevant to pharmacy

- Conferences/meetings - calendar of forthcoming pharmacy-related conferences
- World Wide Pharmacy Colleges/Departments/Schools - searchable database
- Academic Institutions on the Internet - pharmacy-related institutions on the Internet
- PharmWeb Yellow Pages - companies, pharmacies, hospitals, etc. on the Internet
- Government Information Sources on the Internet
- Societies and Groups - pharmacy-related societies on the Internet
- Newsgroups - links to pharmacy relevant newsgroups
- Mailing Lists - information on pharmacy-relevant mailing lists
- Teaching/Further Education - courses and teaching information
- Special Interest Pages - information on subjects related to pharmacy
- PharmWeb Index - a quick way of finding information on PharmWeb
- Miscellaneous
- Pharmacy and the Internet - applications of the Internet to pharmacy
- Internet Info - a starting point for finding information on the Internet

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In order to update our addressbook, and to survey the access to electronic email, could everyone send at least a blank message with the subject line "PhInfG" to me : (maesv@pophost.eunet.be). Please do not forget that you may have an electronic mail within a network related to Internet (e.g. DataMail, MicForum,...). Thank you very much in advance.

\*\*\*

Finally, I have pleasure in announcing our next event: **The Pharmaceutical Forum**, to be held both in Brussels (Belgium) and in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in the last week of February 1996. The one-day (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) Forum will be held by Ms Bonnie Snow, Knight-Ridder Information, and also author of the book "Pharmaceutical Information".

The programme will be:

- New tools for tapping into the Drug R&D Pipeline
- Update on other new pharmaceutical information sources
- Pharmacoeconomics searching

The price, including lunch & breaks, will be about BF. 3,000.

If you are interested in attending that Forum, please return duly filled in the form below:

## PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM

I am interested in attending the Pharmaceutical Forum in the city of: (please tick the city of your choice):

- Brussels, Belgium
- Ljubljana, Slovenia

Name: .....

Position : .....

Institution : .....

address: .....

.....

Tel : ..... Fax : ..... email : .....

Please return this form to:

Vincent Maes - Pfizer SA - 102 rue Leon Theodor - B-1090 Bruxelles - Tel: 32 2 423 0712 - Fax: 32 2 423 0799 - email: maesv@pophost.eunet.be

From this issue, you will be able to admire the nice logo that Mr Pascal Chantraine, Graphist, has kindly offered us. Many thanks to him.

## NEWS... NEWS... NEWS...

### JUST DO IT!

**Health Information for the Global Village - Report from the 95th Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association (MLA), Washington D.C.**

### A faire soi-même!

**Health Information for the Global Village - Report from the 95th Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association (MLA), Washington D.C.**

In most European countries medical libraries are under constant threat by economic crises and health care reforms. In his lecture "The Informatics of Health Care Reform", at the 95th annual meeting of the MLA, Dr Daniel R. Masys, Director of Biomedical Informatics, University of California, San-Diego outlined some professional opportunities for medical librarians now and in the future.

- 1) Get the users of the library and even your parent organization on to the Internet. Internet is becoming the infrastructure of the Global Village. Especially within the health care sector there is a tremendous interest in Internet, but so far very few organizations are actually connected. Medical librarians should teach people how to navigate and search information on the Internet and how to become good consumers of Internet based information.
- 2) The medical library should become an information provider on the Internet. Very little computer skills are necessary to build your own home page. To learn HTML (HyperText Markup Language) is within reach of medical librarians. The programmes can be downloaded free of charge from the Internet. It is astonishingly simple to learn and to become an information provider. Dr Masys' advice to medical librarians is "Just do it".
- 3) The medical library should provide health information to the public.
- 4) Medical librarians should become experts on sources of information in health services research. These librarians will be extremely valuable members of the health care team. In

the future nearly all health care organizations will use techniques as continuous quality improvement to define particular service or problem areas within their organization, and to create process or outcome variables.

- 5) Medical librarians should participate in developing local clinical practice guidelines. This is a very information intensive task and the medical librarian can provide access to international, national and other local guidelines.

Dr Masys ended his lecture advising medical librarians not to resist change but always to keep your eyes open for entrepreneurial opportunities to move into new roles. In my opinion Dr Masys' advice on professional opportunities is applicable for most European medical libraries.

**Arne Jakobsson,**

*Spri Library and Research Report Bank,  
Box 70487, S-107 26  
Stockholm, Sweden.  
E-mail: arne.jakobsson@spri.se*

### ACCESS TO THE WORLD'S RESOURCES: WOMEN'S HEALTH

*(Abstract of Astrid Nøklebye Heiberg's paper presented at the 7th International Congress for Medical Librarianship, Washington DC, May 11th 1995)*

In 1990 the Commission on the Status of Women undertook a five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forwardlooking Strategies.

The Commission found that the situation of women had deteriorated in many parts of the world, especially in the developing countries, where economic stagnation, continued population growth and reduction in public expenditures for social programmes had further constrained

opportunities for women to improve their situation. There was also evidence of alarming regression in the status of women in the spheres of employment, education and health. The majority of health problems in the developing world could be solved by better nutrition, clean water, sanitation, access to maternal care and family planning, prevention of infections, immunization and availability of essential drugs. Professor Heiberg spoke about women's health including infancy and childhood, the adolescent girl, the reproductive years and the aging women. She pointed to the fact that disaggregation of data by sex and the analysis of roles, activities, time-use and access to resources have helped to identify and highlight gender differences and factors that constrain or enhance the health and development of society as a whole.

She then asked if there is a limit to health? What is the situation like in the parts of the world where women have achieved these goals, where education for girls equal or even surpass that of the boys, both on the primary and secondary level? Women still have a longer life expectancy than men. But now the men are closing the gap. It means that women, seen as a group, have had no health gains during the later decades.

What about new lifestyles? We have to start making hypotheses.

We may question whether there are changes in our present society that negatively affect women's well-being - in a different way than for our male colleagues.

Finally professor Heiberg stressed that we need to know more. We need more research on women and their lives and benefits and their special health risks. There is much to investigate, there is much more we need to know, and there is an urgent need to have access to the new knowledge, in order to reach what we all want: a world that promotes the fundamental rights of health for all people, man and woman alike.

If you wish to have the paper of Astrid N. Heiberg in full, please write to:

Elisabeth Husem, University of Oslo, Department of Psychiatry, Library, P.O.Box 85 Vinderen, 0319 Oslo, Norway.

**Astrid Nøklebye Heiberg,**  
*Professor MD,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
University of Oslo, Norway*

### ANNUAL CUNNINGHAM MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

**T**he Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship, sponsored by the Medical Library Association (MLA), gives health sciences librarians from outside the United States and Canada the opportunity to broaden their professional experience and skills by visiting health sciences libraries in either of these countries. The fellowship offers valuable personal and professional rewards, with recipients bringing back new perspectives and expertise to their institutions. Each year's Cunningham Fellow works in US or Canadian libraries for four months and receives a stipend of \$3,000 for living expenses (\$750/month) and up to \$1,000 for approved travel within the United States and Canada.

For further information, please contact Reneta E. Webb, MLA, Suite 300, Six North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60602-4805, USA, Fax: 1 312 419 8950 - [webb@mlahq.org](mailto:webb@mlahq.org).  
*(Copy of the application form can be obtained from the EAHIL Secretariat as well)*

### 4TH NORDIC CONFERENCE FOR MEDICAL LIBRARIES 4ème Conférence Nordique des bibliothèques médicales

**T**he 4th Nordic Conference for Medical Libraries was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on August 21-24, 1995. The theme of the

Conference was "Health Information; Research and Development".

Over 130 delegates from Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and the Baltic countries attended an impressive choice of continuing education courses, plenary and parallel sessions, and special interest groups.

Among all the tempting subjects were research evaluation and citation analysis, quality management and performance measurement, analysis of document delivery services, problem based learning, and classification, to mention a few. The last day of the Conference concentrated on theoretical frameworks with examples from library and information science, nursing and medicine.

In connection with the Conference, the Board of the Nordic Association for Medical and Health Information held its yearly Board meeting.

**Eva Alopaeus**

*Kliniska centralbiblioteket  
Sahlgrenska sjukhuset  
413 45 Göteborg, Sweden*

### PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING LIBRARIES WANTED!

#### Appel pour la formation des bibliothécaires centrée sur l'étude des cas

**P**roblem-based learning in medicine has been carried out for some time at various universities in Europe. This kind of learning also affects libraries very much and makes new demands on us librarians.

The Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm is in a period of transition from conventional to problem-based learning and is collecting information for a review article. They would like to know who else is in the business.

Those libraries in Europe who are already giving services to problem-based learning students and teachers,

could you please notify your existence to:

**Teodora Oker-Blom**

*KIBIC, Box 200  
S-171 77 Stockholm, Sweden  
tel. 46 8 728 6830 - Fax: 46 8 308 128  
email: [teodora@argo.kib.ki.se](mailto:teodora@argo.kib.ki.se)*

### OBITUARY

As the October issue of the EAHIL Newsletter goes to press, we are saddened to report the death of **Anna Nannestad Nicolaysen**. Anna left this world in the middle of September after a painful illness. She has been a highly respected member among Nordic medical librarians. Within EAHIL, we mourn the loss of a hard working member of the Association. Her name figures among the members present at the founding of the Association, in Brighton, in August 1987. Born in Moss, Norway, Anna N. Nicolaysen was a graduate of the National College of Library and Information Science of Norway. She also attended the Nordic Continuation School for Librarians. In the course of her career, while Director of the Medical Library of Ullevål Hospital, she also served as a delegate to the Norwegian National Commission of Unesco.

Anna N. Nicolaysen played a major role in the first year of EAHIL since she was the Assistant Secretary of the Interim Executive Board of EAHIL, elected in Brighton in August 1987. She was instrumental with other members of this first Board in laying out the Rules of Procedure of EAHIL.

Her illness forced Anna to curtail her activities within EAHIL. However, she was present to greet all of us in Oslo, at the Fourth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, a year ago, in June.

Always modest, Anna N. Nicolaysen was a hard and serious minded worker. We remember her with respect and affection.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### ELECTRONIC INFORMATION DELIVERY PROJECT AT KUOPIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

#### Projet de livraison électronique d'information de documents à la Bibliothèque de l'Université de Kuopio

*L'Université de Kuopio, située dans l'Est de la Finlande couvre plusieurs disciplines : sciences médicales, dentaires, sciences de l'environnement, pharmacie, sciences sociales. Sa bibliothèque informatisée compte 70.000 volumes et 1.200 titres scientifiques (OPAC, bases de données sur CD-ROM en réseau, etc.). Un projet de mise en place d'un service électronique de documents a été élaboré à l'automne 1994, développant les points suivants:*

- 1) Information sur Internet (WWW) "home page", donnant les renseignements généraux aux universitaires (accès par liste de mots, matière offrant les ressources locales sélectionnées, évaluées et mises à jour).*
- 2) Amélioration de l'usage du réseau CD-ROM: de nombreuses bases de données sont accessibles - dont Medline la plus utilisée - par le réseau de CD-ROM, sur PC (MS-DOS) et sur MAC. On teste actuellement l'accès Medline par des serveurs résidant sur Internet (le prix de l'abonnement est le même pour les CD).*
- 3) Accélération du processus de PEB (photocopies) : le prêt inter-traditionnel (photocopies) est maintenant dépassé par des services commerciaux tels qu'UNCOVER ou EBSCO utilisant des techniques différentes : la scannérisation, le stockage sur disque magnétique et l'envoi par télécopie des documents.*
- 4) Utilisation des services de veille documentaire et des éditions électroniques: l'information scientifique récente doit arriver vite sur le bureau du chercheur. Les éditeurs peuvent publier leurs journaux électroniquement via Internet ou sur CD-ROMs mais il existe un moyen direct : l'échange entre scientifiques de "pre-prints" électroniques sur Internet et récupérables gratuitement.*

*Nous étudions ces deux différentes méthodes de veille documentaire (commerciales et directes) selon les expériences vécues des uns et des autres et tentons de les évaluer.*

The Library and information profession is experiencing a grand restructuring today. Rapid advances in computer systems and networking are gradually materializing the dreams of early visionaries such as Vannevar Bush and Ted Nelson. Physical libraries are challenged by virtual, digital or electronic libraries - whatever you may call them. This means that paper documents are replaced by their digital counterparts and it is possible to locate and retrieve them quickly regardless of where they are stored. At the same time library budgets have been tightened and the development of good printed collections is becoming increasingly difficult. Also, there are numerous commercial information and document vendors with a wide variety of services. What is the role of traditional library in this situation ?

We at Kuopio University Library have begun a project to enhance our services by using the most recent developments in the field of electronic information services. Kuopio University with its five faculties is located in Eastern Finland; we have Dentistry

(until the end of 1995), Medical Sciences, Natural and Environmental Sciences, Pharmacy, and Social Sciences. Thirteen basic degree programmes are offered. There are almost 3700 students enrolled in Kuopio University and about 70 % of them are undergraduates. The University has 55 professors, 35 associate professors and 200 other teachers. Our main research areas are chronic illnesses, environmental research including environmental health, research on pharmacy and drugs, application of molecular biology techniques in solving medical problems, and research on social and health services.

In terms of printed collections, Kuopio University Library is rather small, but we have considerable experience in library computing. Our collections consist of about 70 000 volumes of monographs and subscriptions to 1200 titles of scientific periodicals. Online database searching was introduced in 1974 and an in-house programmed OPAC in 1984. This was replaced with VTLS in 1993. We began using a CD-ROM databases in 1987 and CD-ROM network was installed in 1993.

When we were planning our electronic information delivery project we felt that it was of the utmost importance to work in close cooperation with our customers. We could not afford to make such large decisions concerning our services without knowing what the real needs of our customer body were. This kind of a project also serves quality improvement and educational goals for us. The digital future is almost here and we should be ready for it. Preparation of the project plan took place in autumn 1994 and it is concentrated on the following themes:

#### *Creation of World -Wide Web "home page" with selected information sources for our students and scientists*

There has been a rapid growth in Internet-accessible information resources in the last few years, especially in the fields of medicine, biochemistry and physics. Finding those resources is not easy for a casual user and some kind of guidance is usually needed. With the help of World-Wide Web (WWW) it is a relatively simple task to create a system that makes it easy to find

subject-based information by pointing and clicking with a mouse. WWW can also help in developing library services such as the reference service and interlibrary loan/photocopy service. Our library's "home page" is constructed with these things in mind. Firstly, there is some general information about our services. Opening hours, fees, etc. can be checked. Customers are able to ask questions using our electronic reference desk. The reservation of books, ordering of interlibrary loans or photocopies and ordering of the borrower's id card is also possible using appropriate electronic forms. Finally, we have created a subject-based list of selected and evaluated Internet resources. This list is updated regularly. Kuopio University Library's WWW service can be accessed at <http://www.uku.fi/kirjasto/kuykir.html> and the language is so far Finnish but will be translated into English soon.

#### *Improving the usability of the CD-ROM network*

Our CD-ROM network is Optinet/Netbios-based and consists of the following databases: Medline, PolTox I, Applied Science & Technology Index, Sociological Abstracts, Helecon, and the Finnish national telephone catalog. Of these, Medline is the most heavily used. The network can be accessed only by using a micro-computer with an MS-DOS operating system. Kuopio University has a somewhat large population of Windows and Apple Macintosh users and we would like to

offer CD-ROM network services to them as well. Presently the easiest solution to this problem seems to be SilverPlatter's Internet subscription. This means that instead of the local CD-ROM disks, the databases are accessed from servers residing on the Internet. Retrieval client software is available for MS-DOS, Windows, and Macintosh. There is no need to buy additional hardware and the price of the Internet subscription is the same as the CD-ROM subscription. We are currently testing this service using Medline.

#### *Speeding up the interlibrary photocopy request process*

Traditionally, there has usually been a considerable delay between the ordering and receipt of interlibrary photocopy requests. This is partly due to the handling process of orders which is very labour-intensive in traditional libraries. Nowadays there are commercial document delivery services capable of fast service, e.g. Uncover and EBSCO. These services utilize different techniques to achieve fast document delivery. For example, articles can be scanned and stored on magnetic disks and then sent by telefax to customers when requested. Our project includes evaluating the usability of these services.

#### *Utilizing current awareness services and electronic publications*

Acquiring the most recent information is very important to every scientist and this is why there are so many current

awareness services existing today. Their aim is to reveal information contained in scientific articles very soon after, or even before publishing of the journal issue. A classic example is ISI's Current Contents series, but today there are similar services offered by e.g. Swets and Uncover. Some publishers have also entered this market. Naturally, the fastest way to deliver scientific information is to publish electronically. There are two approaches to this issue. Publishers can sell their journals in electronic form using e.g. Internet or CD-ROM disks and actually this is just another distribution method. On the other hand, scientists can publish by themselves on Internet without any commercial publisher at all. For example, physicists have developed so called "electronic preprints". Internet users can retrieve these publications free of charge. However, most electronic journals of this kind are not yet rated very highly when compared with traditional printed publications. Problems of the peer review process are one reason for this. The main aims of our project are to develop experience and evaluate certain methods of electronic delivery of scientific information. To achieve these goals we have to try out selected current awareness services and electronic publications, because only experience shows their real value.

**Heikki Laitinen**

*Information Specialist*

*Kuopio University Library, Finland*

*Internet email: Heikki.Laitinen@uku.fi*

## **ERRATUM**

In the Antonia Pereira da Silva's article published in the July issue: "Co-operation in Collection Development: Strategies to Improve Health Information in Portugal"

*"Coopération et Développement des collections : les stratégies mises en place afin de promouvoir l'information de santé au Portugal"*

Please add the following:

1. *This is the text of a paper presented at the LIBER Conference, Lisbon, 1993*
2. *This paper had been presented in collaboration with Antonia Pereira da Silva's colleague, Lucilia Paiva*

**Antonia Pereira da Silva**  
*Coimbra, Portugal*

## CITATION ANALYSIS: what property of cited documents is really reflected: further to the paper by Liisa Salmi

*Abstract: It is shown that citation analysis is, by its nature, a method of direct assessment of the actual use of the cited scientific document, and, therefore, a method of indirect assessment of its value.*

The utmost importance and timeliness of Liisa Salmi's paper(1) is a result of the paradox about the use of citation analysis: this general method is being used widely, but its use is accompanied by plentiful misunderstandings of its essence and the principal possibilities. Therefore, the discussion ought to start with the key question - what do citations really reflect? Can we really say that the level of citedness reflects "the value" or "impact of research" (1.p.17)? The answer - at least, a good answer - can be given only by means of theoretical speculation because there is no aid to the direct measurement of the above properties. If such an aid existed, we either would not use citation analysis at all (as being a less sufficient aid of an indirect assessment) or citation analysis would be used with a precisely determined understanding of its limitations, possibilities and spheres of application - these having been developed through empirical studies on the simultaneous use of citation analysis as an indirect aid to assessment, and a standard method of direct measurement.

In general - let me be allowed to consider only the general trends, but not the plentiful exceptions - documentary citations confirm the actual use that has already taken place during the relevant creative work of the author of a citing paper. First, a document is read; then - if it is not thrown away as evidently useless - it is considered; then - if it is considered to be helpful - it is used (for comparison, including disproving, and assimilation of the methods described etc.); then it is cited in the published literature, provided that the scientific ethics of the author, editorial policy or the publishers etc. are OK. The level of citedness might correlate with a lot of other phenomena in science but par excellence and causally it reflects use. So the next question is, "does the actual use of cited documents really reflect the "value", "impact" or "quality" of cited documents?". At first

glance the answer seems to be positive, but a first glance impression is not enough. In Information Science there is a notion of the value of information, which is defined as a "property of information, determined by its fitness for practical use in various spheres of human activity for the achievement of a certain aim" (2.p.464). The value of information is thus directly associated with its use, and we can legitimately expand this statement to the document as "a material form of its (information's) fixing" which guarantees the possession of scientific information by mankind (3.p.102). So citations reflect the value of cited documents through reflecting their use. What about the "quality" and "impact"?

Table 1. demonstrates that, first (4), if "quality" is taken rather abstractly and is strongly dependent on a cognizing subject (e.g. an expert), the "value" assessment does not depend on abstract speculations of the specialist, but rather depends on his concrete needs or aims. From this viewpoint,

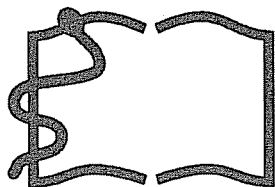
citations bear a relation with the citing authors' concrete aims and needs, but not their abstract speculations. So, citations reflect value, while peer assessment (mentioned in (9 and 10) as a control method due to the common misunderstandings of the nature of citing mentioned above reflects quality; this being dependent on knowledgeable people and irrespective of their concrete needs or aims. Peer assessment is immanently the assessment of quality - no matter if the peers were asked to assess quality, value, productivity or whatsoever!

The second and third pairs of the definitions (5 and 6) demonstrate that "quality" does not relate to merit or usefulness, since it is not involved in the satisfaction of concrete needs. All these conclusions are supported by the last pair of definitions which finally demonstrates again that a value assessment is associated with the possession and use of the object (7.p.606), while "quality" is recognized irrespective of the afore-

**Table 1:** Some definitions of the meanings of the words "value" and "quality" in this context

Value	Quality
"... is the result of assessment, i.e. the determining of the relation of the known object to the striving need or aim of a human being..." (4. p.265)	"... is a category that demonstrates the characteristics of the object which is attributed to it only as an object of cognition, therefore the characteristic that exists only relatively, depending on a cognizing subject (knowledgeable human being) ... " (4.p.127)
"... is attributed or relative worth, merit or usefulness" (5.p.990)	"... is a character of nature as ... distinguishing a thing" (5.p.740)
"... is ... that quality of a thing, according to which it is thought of as being more or less desirable, useful, estimable, important, etc ..." (6.p.2018)	"... is ... the degree of excellence which a thing possesses" 6.p.1474)
"... (is recognized through) the satisfaction of the desires of human beings that is conditional, in general, on the possessions and use of material objects ... (or)... immaterial sources of satisfaction" (7.p.606)	"... where, for example, two kinds of cloth are said to differ "in quality", it would usually be meant not merely that they differ but that one kind is better (by appropriate standards) than the others ..." (8.p.915).





EAHIL FIFTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL  
AND HEALTH LIBRARIES, COIMBRA, PORTUGAL - SEPTEMBER 18-21, 1996

CINQUIÈME CONFÉRENCE EUROPÉENNE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES MÉDICALES  
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Les auteurs seront avertis à la fin du mois de janvier 1996 si leur communication ou leur poster est accepté. Dans l'affirmative, il leur sera demandé de soumettre le texte intégral en français ou en anglais avant le 30 juin 1996. Le texte intégral des communications sera publié dans les Actes de la Conférence.

Les communications acceptées seront présentées dans les sessions plénières, parallèles ou de groupes de discussion. La lettre d'acceptation du Comité de Programme indiquera la forme de la présentation et simultanément, des avis pour la préparation des posters seront fournis.

Toutes les sessions plénières et certaines sessions parallèles auront des traductions simultanées (anglais/français). Les communications orales se feront en anglais ou en français.

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European Association for Health Information and Libraries

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Authors will be notified by the end of January 1996 of the acceptance or not of their paper for oral or poster presentation and, if accepted, will be requested to submit the full text in English or French before June 30, 1996. The full text of the papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings. Accepted papers will be presented either at plenary, parallel or special interest group sessions. The letter of acceptance from the Programme Committee will indicate the form of presentation, and guidelines for the preparation of posters will be available. All plenary sessions and certain parallel sessions will have simultaneous translation (English/French). Oral presentations are restricted to English or French.

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mentioned processes and with the aid of some ideal standard (8,p.915). So, though very often we use the words "value" and "quality" as synonyms, citation analysis does not reflect quality, but does reflect value. As for "impact", despite the enormously frequent use of this term, an appropriate definition is hard to find. The definitions from ordinary dictionaries give some idea of what "impact" is: "influence or effect" (5,p.451) and "a forcible momentary touch, contact or impressions (6,p.910). Can we say that citations reflect an influence or a strong impression by the cited documents on citing authors? Yes, we can, but such an influence ("impact") is just the consequence of the article's value. And this consequence is not straightforward or compulsory. If a certain researcher frequently cites a particular paper, it is not known for sure if he is strongly influenced by it or not thinking a lot about it at all, but it is known that he uses it repeatedly. On the contrary one may be "impacted", or much influenced, by some papers without using them in current work! So, we cannot say that citedness

reflects "impact" as causally as it reflects value. And as for the "impact-factor", this term is a technical one, but not a conceptual one.

### Conclusions

Citations analysis reflects first of all and causally the documentarily confirmed use of cited documents, and indirectly (through their use), - their value. It does not causally reflect the quality or impact of the cited materials, and the correlations which might be found between the assessment of these properties and the citedness level are of a stochastic nature.

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## EUROPEAN MEDICAL EDUCATION STUDY

### Etude sur la formation médicale en Europe

Une étude sur la formation médicale en Europe a été basée sur un questionnaire envoyé à 194 universités européennes. Le rassemblement de toutes les compétences dans le domaine de l'information est indispensable afin d'enrichir et d'actualiser la connaissance médicale dans le but de prodiguer de bons soins médicaux. Les aptitudes à utiliser les banques de données médicales devraient être développées dans les Ecoles de Médecine. 32% des écoles de médecine européennes donne un cours obligatoire sur Medline, dans 17% de ces écoles des cours d'introduction sont prévus. Les nouveaux médias tels que les programmes d'apprentissage interactifs sont de plus en plus introduits dans les bibliothèques médicales. Dans 60 % des écoles de médecine, des programmes d'enseignement informatisés sont disponibles et vont être introduits dans 22 % d'entre elles.

The European Medical Education Study is based on a questionnaire including 194 European Universities. Information gathering skills are important to gain and update medical knowledge in order to supply good medical care. The skills to use medical databases should be learned at medical schools. 32 % of European Medical schools have a compulsory course in Medline and at 17 % of Medical Schools introductory courses are planned. New medias like interactive learning programmes which are problem based learning programmes are more and more entering medical libraries. In 60 % of Medical Schools computerbased learning programmes are available and in 22 % computerbased learning programmes are going to be introduced.

#### Introduction

Information is increasing in all scientific fields. The impressive growth in medical science during this century is shown by the increased numbers of listed articles in Index Medicus, an index of the "Current Medical Literature of the World" founded by Dr. John S. Billings in 1879.<sup>2</sup> The numbers of cited articles in the Index Medicus increased from 20.000 to 250.000. The weight of Index Medicus increased from 2 kg in 1945 to 30 kg in 1977. To make use of the enormous amount of information new techniques in literature research have to be acquired to gain maximal success in finding the necessary information.<sup>3</sup> "Evidence - Based Medicine" is one approach which includes efficient literature searching and the application of formal rules of evidence evaluating the clinical literature.<sup>4,5,6</sup> Finding the relevant information has great clinical impl-

ications, as it cuts down hospital costs, reduces the patient's length of stay in hospitals and optimizes patient's treatment.<sup>7,8,9</sup> The librarian therefore has an important influence on medical education and medical practice<sup>10,11</sup>.

To evaluate the current situation in Europe's University Hospitals concerning computer equipment and compulsory introductory courses in Medline and the use of new medical computerbased learning programmes we performed the European Medical Education Study (EMEDUS).

#### Methods

16 European countries including 194 Universities ( Fig.1) were included in our study. Addresses of the universities were obtained from the Minister of Education of each country. Each University received a questionnaire .

The questionnaire contained the following questions.:

- Are there compulsory introductory courses in database literature-searching- systems for medical students at your university?
- Are introductory courses available for students concerning database literature searching at your university?
- Are there many medical students participating in those introductory courses?
- Are there plans to introduce a compulsory introductory course for database literature searching such as Medline for medical students at your university in the near future?
- Is there any computerbased database literature - searching equipment available at your medical faculty available?
- Are medical students allowed to use this equipment?
- Are computer terminals with Medline software available at your university Hospital? We asked about the

number of terminals available and whether they were on-line or CD - ROM.

- Do you think, that a compulsory course in computerbased literature searching like Medline is useful for the education of medical students?
- Do you have computerbased teaching and learning programs like computerprograms for differential diagnosis in medicine or 3 D programs in anatomy for your students? The number of programs and type of programs had to be stated.
- Do you think, that computer based learning and teaching programs are useful for the education of medical students?
- Are there plans to buy computerbased learning programs and teaching programs at your medical faculty.?

The questionnaire was in English language. 194 universities received the questionnaire.

#### Results

##### Introductory courses in medical databases

16 European universities were included in the EMEDUS study. They were the following: Denmark (3/3), Sweden (6/6), Austria (3/3), Germany (36/29), Netherlands (8/6), Belgium (10/7), Finland (5/3), Switzerland (5/3), Great Britain (20/11), Norway (4/2), Greece (5/2), Ireland (6/2), Spain (21/5) , France (29/6), Italy (29/2) and Portugal (4/0) .The responde rate to the questionnaire is the second number given in brackets. The first number refers to the number of the universities addressed in each country. The overall response rate was 46 % (194/90). The Northern European countries (Denmark , Sweden, Austria) had a 100 % response rate. Portugal

Figure 1 :  
Responding rate of EMEDUS -Study

Country	Universities	Response (%)
Denmark	3	3 (100)
Sweden	6	6 (100)
Austria	3	3 (100)
Germany	36	29 (81)
Netherlands	8	6 (75)
Belgium	10	7 (70)
Finland	5	3 (60)
Switzerland	5	3 (60)
Great Britain	20	11 (55)
Norway	4	2 (50)
Greece	5	2 (40)
Ireland	6	2 (33)
Spain	21	5 (24)
France	29	6 (21)
Italy	29	2 (7)
Portugal	4	0 (0)
all	194	90 (46)

Figure 2: Number of compuslory intro-  
ductory courses into medical databases

Country	available (%)	planned
Denmark	33	0
Sweden	83	17
Austria	0	0
Germany	28	10
Belgium	14	29
Netherlands	33	33
Finland	67	0
Switzerland	33	33
Great Britain	18	27
Norway	0	0
Greece	0	0
Ireland	50	0
Spain	80	20
France	17	50
Italy	—	—
Portugal	—	—
all	32	17

Fig. 3: Introductory courses in compter  
data-bases available for medical students

Country	Introd. courses available (%)
Denmark	33
Sweden	100
Austria	100
Germany	59
Netherlands	100
Belgium	57
Finland	67
Switzerland	67
Great Britain	64
Norway	50
Greece	0
Ireland	50
Spain	50
France	50
Italy	—
Portugal	—

(0%) and Italy (7%) had the worse response rate. Therefore Italy and Portugal were excluded from further study evaluation. None of the included countries had a 100 % compulsory introductory course for medical databases like Medline. (Fig.2).

The leading countries in providing compulsory computer courses in Medline were Sweden (83 %) and Finland (67 %). In 97 % of Universities equipment for databased literature research was available and could be used in 94 % by the students.

Most Universities supplied CD ROM services and in 44% direct on-line service with an optimal up to date literature service available.

Although most European universities have the necessary equipment to provide introductory courses in databased literature searching at only 32 % of universities were courses available and at 17 % introductory courses were planned. 83 % of Medical Faculties questioned expressed their view that an introductory course in medical databases is sensible and useful for the education of medical students.

#### Computerbased learning programs

New computerbased learning programs in various medical disciplines are now available. Their number is steadily growing. Computer programs include different subjects like differential diagnosis programs in medicine, electro-cardiography simulation and three dimensional anatomy programs etc. 100 % of the questioned medical

Fig. 4: Computer equipment at European Medical Schools

European Country	equipment available (%)	can be used by students (%)	on line (%) (Medline)	CD-ROM(%) Medline
Denmark	100	100	67	67
Sweden	100	100	67	100
Austria	100	100	67	100
Germany	97	93	46	82
Netherlands	100	100	50	83
Belgium	86	86	17	100
Finland	100	100	67	100
Switzerland	100	100	0	100
Great Britain	100	100	27	100
Norway	100	100	0	100
Greece	50	0	100	100
Ireland	100	100	0	50
Spain	100	100	67	67
France	100	100	67	67
Italy	—	—	—	—
Portugal	—	—	—	—
all	97	94	44	89

Fig.: 5 : Are computer based learning/teaching programs available or are they being introduced?

Country	programs available	planned	not present
Denmark	0	67	33
Sweden	100	0	0
Austria	100	0	0
Germany	59	21	20
Netherlands	83	17	0
Belgium	71	14	15
Finland	67	33	0
Switzerland	100	0	0
Great Britain	63	18	19
Norway	0	50	50
Greece	0	0	100
Ireland	50	50	0
France	50	33	17
Portugal	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—
Total	60	22	18

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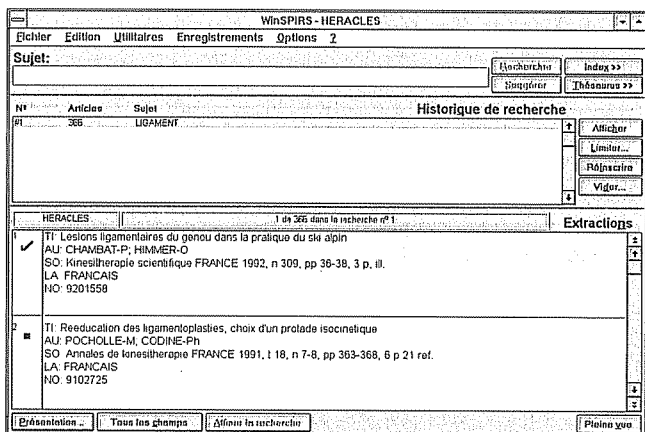
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faculties find computerbased learning and teaching programs useful for the education of medical students with the exception of Germany (97 %).60 % of medical faculties already have computer based learning and teaching programs and 22 % of the faculties will be making them available for their students.

#### Comment

The knowledge base in Medicine is increasing steadily. New techniques are necessary to search for relevant medical information and to evaluate the knowledge found for each clinical set up. Up to date distribution of medical knowledge is important to ensure "state of the art" clinical practice. There are many examples where up to date knowledge would have changed medical practice and the outcome of patient's care. Hopefully those times have passed when Stross and Harlan have shown that most physicians caring for diabetic patients at the primary care level were unaware of the efficacy of photocoagulation for diabetic retinopathy some 18 months after the publication of a definitive report establishing its value. Many patients were unnecessarily withheld from this important eyesight saving treatment because of lack of information.<sup>11</sup>

The World Organisation for Medical Education and the Panel on the General Professional Education of the Physician recommended to medical schools modern information - gathering techniques<sup>12,13</sup>. Librarians are playing a key part in the teaching of new information searching techniques and helping to provide up to date medical information in order to guarantee up to date clinical information and adequate medical care. As there are only 32 % compulsory introductory courses available within the European medical schools it is a time for change. Another 17 % of medical schools will introduce compulsory introductory courses in techniques of information retrieval.

It is the task of the medical schools to provide compulsory courses. The use of medical databases by the medical profession is very much dependent on the use and the experience gained with medical databases whilst being at

medical school. The success in handling medical databases is also very much dependent on the skill gained at medical school or in teaching sessions.<sup>14,15,16</sup>

New techniques of medical education like interactive learning and multimedia based on CD - ROM software are gaining more and more access into medical libraries. We are entering a new field in medical information and the capacity of a single CD - ROM which can save up to several million pages is an example. Not only the amount of information which can be saved, but the three dimensional simulation and interactive approach of the computer will open new fields of learning and information gain. European medical facilities are recognizing this and changes in the library environment with more and more CD - ROMS will be inevitable.

#### Conclusion:

Medical information is a fast growing field. New techniques in acquiring necessary information must be learned at medical school, and librarians have an important role in teaching medical students the intricacies of database information searching. Unfortunately only 32 % of European Universities have compulsory courses in searching databases like Medline. New approaches in medical practice such as evidence - based medicine have to be taken into consideration when teaching medical students information gaining skills through databases. Medical libraries will change, as at 60 % of Medical schools computerbased learning programmes and teaching programmes are available and at 22 % of European medical schools computerbased teaching programmes are going to be ordered. In the future there will need to be a change in the education of medical students and medical librarians as well.

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## HOSPITAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION HOPE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 1995 - MADRID COMMUNICATION AND HOSPITALS

### Communication and information in public hospitals : the role played by libraries and documentation in decision making

### Communication et information à l'hôpital public : le rôle joué par les bibliothèques et la documentation dans la prise de décision

*French public hospitals are confronted with the challenging problem of organizing an enormous amount of information in the fields of administration, medicine, science, nursing care, and technical challenge by creating libraries and resource centres in hospitals. The documentation is more often not centralized, it is a wide user of the new technologies and is acting in accordance with the demand of varied and exacting customers like managers, doctors or nurses. At the present time, an increasing tendency towards a centralized hospital library, delivering technical and specialized documentation is noticeable.*

#### La fonction documentaire à l'hôpital

L'évolution de la documentation a été très nette durant ces vingt dernières années, notamment grâce aux technologies dites nouvelles (type Minitel en France, micro-ordinateurs, banques de données, CD-ROM, réseaux informatiques tel Internet). La fonction documentaire à l'hôpital a commencé à émerger depuis 1977.

Un certain nombre d'enquêtes ont été réalisées. On trouve donc:

- des bibliothèques administratives, encore embryonnaires
- des bibliothèques médicales, en général les mieux organisées et pourvues de moyens
- des bibliothèques pour les étudiants en soins infirmiers qui s'ouvrent peu à peu au personnel des services
- et enfin, mais ceci est récent, des centres de documentation pluridisciplinaires.

#### La documentation hospitalière: diversité des utilisateurs et pluralité des moyens

##### 1) Les directeurs d'hôpitaux et les attachés de direction.

Formé par l'Ecole Nationale de la Santé Publique (ENSP-Rennes), le jeune directeur doit se référer constamment à la législation et à la jurisprudence administrative afin de

faire face à ses responsabilités. Son premier réflexe est de s'adresser à son réseau personnel pour obtenir des informations (anciens élèves, collègues, Ministère de la Santé). Ensuite, il fera appel au service de documentation ou à ce qui en tient lieu (souvent son propre secrétariat). L'information administrative est diffusée le plus souvent, en premier lieu, à l'équipe de direction sous forme de bulletins d'information, de revues de presse et de dossiers documentaires. Le recours aux banques de données juridiques (textes de lois et jurisprudence) se généralise.

##### 2) les personnels hospitaliers

- les personnels administratifs, ouvriers : leurs demandes portent sur les textes de lois régissant leurs carrières; les préparations aux concours, la formation permanente continue.
- les personnels techniques : avec l'apparition de nouveaux métiers liés à des plateaux techniques plus performants (ingénieur biomédical par exemple, informaticien), la documentation technique se développe.
- les personnels sociaux (assistant de service social, éducateur): avec notamment le recours à la documentation administrative. L'information administrative passe également par la presse hospitalière et de santé publique.

##### 3) La population médicale

- L'interne ou l'étudiant en médecine ou en pharmacie :  
Au cours de ces études, il utilise essentiellement les ressources proposées par la bibliothèque universitaire ou la bibliothèque médicale de son hôpital pour rédiger sa thèse; il utilise les banques de données et les CD-ROM médicaux, parmi les premiers à être apparus sur le marché.
- le professeur et le médecin-chef de service : il a recours à des monographies, des comptes rendus de congrès, des recueils de revues générales. Il dépouille les bibliographies analytiques et les revues de sommaires (Current contents, Reference Update, Medexpress).
- le chercheur :  
Il utilisera les outils bibliographiques classiques et de plus en plus les banques de données type Medline, Pascal et Embase.
- le médecin-praticien hospitalier :  
Pour sa formation continue à l'hôpital et pour alimenter les "staffs de bibliographie" réguliers à l'intérieur du service, il a recours aux encyclopédies, aux revues de spécialités, aux clinics, ainsi qu'aux banques de données.

Il attend de celles-ci des réponses rapides et précises pour affiner un diagnostic ou connaître les nouvelles thérapeutiques utilisées pour une pathologie. Il compte

beaucoup sur les relations professionnelles, les rencontres, les colloques, la formation médicale continue pour s'informer.

#### **4 La population infirmière et paramédicale**

Encore embryonnaire, la documentation en soins infirmiers est moins développée et bénéficie de moins de moyens (en personnel et en moyens techniques) que la documentation médicale.

- Les étudiants en soins infirmiers. La plupart des écoles d'infirmières en France possèdent une bibliothèque, gérée par un cadre enseignant selon des règles classiques qui ont fait leurs preuves. Très peu sont informatisées et le corps infirmier n'a ainsi qu'un accès réduit à l'information. Les besoins des étudiants sont cependant réels, car un travail personnel important leur est demandé durant leurs trois années d'études.
- Les personnels soignants. Avec à leur tête les infirmiers généraux, ils

bénéficient de peu de moyens pour assurer une formation continue digne de ce nom. Quelques abonnements sont achetés en commun pour le service et le cadre infirmier a un rôle non négligeable à jouer en matière de documentation et d'information. L'Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris a mis en place un Centre de documentation pédagogique centralisé, et quelques hôpitaux possèdent une bibliothèque pour le personnel soignant. Cependant, la littérature en soins infirmiers est abondante, ainsi que les titres de périodiques; des banques de données spécialisées (CINHAL par exemple) ont vu le jour, la plupart étant anglo-saxonnes.

#### **CONCLUSION**

##### ***Les orientations actuelles et futures de la documentation hospitalière***

Une première tendance se dessine nettement pour le recrutement au sein de l'hôpital public, de professionnels de l'information (bibliothécaires, documentalistes).

Le deuxième point est le développement d'un certain nombre de structures différentes et répondant à des besoins variés : centres de documentation pluridisciplinaires; centres de documentation spécialisés (urgences; infections nosocomiales; rééducation fonctionnelle...); centres de documentation, département d'information médicale et archives; centres desservant plusieurs hôpitaux.

Un troisième et dernier point est la percée importante que font les nouvelles technologies dans le monde hospitalier, et en documentation.

L'information reste le meilleur moyen de résoudre la complexité dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Problématique entre le management (ressources humaines, organisations) et la complexité (gestion des objectifs, gestion stratégique), l'information est le seul moyen d'adapter les organisations.

*(Résumé de la communication faite au Congrès HOPE95, Madrid)*

**Jean-Philippe Accart**  
*Centre hospitalier d'Argenteuil  
France*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **November 7-8, 1995 - Utrecht, The Netherlands**

AGSI (Association for Global Strategic Information) - "Information and Intelligence: better-informed corporate decision making". Information: c/o Infonortics Ltd., 9a High Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 OBS, UK - Fax: 1249 813 656

#### **November 15-17, 1995 - Madrid, Spain**

6as Jornadas de Información y Documentación de Ciencias de la Salud. Information; Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Complutense, Sección Congresos y Exposiciones, Ciudad Universitaria, 28040 Madrid - Fax: 3941314

**December 4-5, 1995 - Stuttgart, Ger.**  
Internationaler Kongress 1995: "Information Specialists between Conflicting

Claims: New Technology and Social Responsibility".

Information: Fachhochschule Stuttgart, Hochschule für Bibliotheks- und Informationswesen, Congress 1995, Wolframstrasse 32, D-70191 Stuttgart, Fax: 49 711 25706-47, email: guides@hbi-stuttgart.de

#### **December 5-7, 1995 - London, UK**

Online Information 95. Contact: Learned Information Europe Ltd. Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford OX1 5AU, UK Fax: 44 1865 736354

#### **January 23-25, 1996 - Warsaw, Poland**

1st Medical Library Fair and the European Library Forum on "Ways and Directions for Cooperation among Medical Libraries". The Central Medical Library in Warsaw will host the exhibition and conference. For further information, please contact Dr Edward

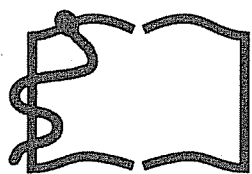
Pigon or Dr Wanda Król-Paluch, Central Medical Library, 22 Chocimska Street, 00-791 Warsaw, Poland - tel. 48 22 497 802

#### **August 25-31, 1996 - Beijing, China**

62nd IFLA Council and General Conference. "The Challenge of Change: Libraries and Economic Developments". Contact: IFLA, P.O.Box 95312, 2509 The Hague, Netherlands, Fax: 31 70 383 4827

#### **September 18-21, 1996 - Coimbra, Portugal**

EAHIL Fifth European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries. "Health Information Management: What Strategies?". Contact: Antonia Pereira da Silva, Hospitais da Universidade de Coimbra, Apt. 9023, 3049 Coimbra, Portugal, Fax: 351 39 23907



## EAHIL 5th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Coimbra, Portugal September 18-21, 1996

### Coimbra : A Brief Historical Note

Coimbra is located in the central part of Portugal, not far from the west coast. Centuries of history are underlain by fine Roman and Medieval remains that make the City worth visiting. The Old Cathedral is the most beautiful romantic monument in Portugal. The Church of Holy Cross founded more than 800 years ago by the first King of Portugal, King Alfonso Henriques, as the Convent of the Holy Cross was the birthplace of Coimbra's renaissance art.

The monumental outline of the New Cathedral stands out very clearly as does the Machado de Castro National Museum, famous for its collections of paintings, sculpture, gold work and tapestries, and for the elegance of its panoramic Loggia, built on a Roman Crypt, the precious remains of the Civita Aeminium Forum.

Looking out over the River Mondego the church of Santa Clara-a-Velha stands on the far bank with the imposing monastery of Santa Clara-a-Nova, the final resting place of Queen Santa Isabel, patron of Coimbra and King D. Dinis' wife, celebrated in famous religious festivities.

The University plays a very important role in the city life. In its several aspects, cultural, religious, economic, and political Coimbra has always been closely connected to the University. It was founded in 1290 by King D. Dinis and it is one of the most ancient universities in the world together with Bologna, Paris, Montpellier, Orleans, Salamanca, and Valencia. The University was originally divided between Lisbon and Coimbra but it came definitively to Coimbra in 1537. When the University was founded the monasteries and the churches supported it economically. The connection of the University to the

Church has been quite close for a long time. Only in the 19th century did both institutions gradually begin to separate.

Four faculties existed at the very beginning - Canon Law, Civil Law, Medicine, Arts and later on Theology. In 1537 with King John 3rd a very important reform occurred regarding academic studies and invitations to new professors, not only Portuguese but also from abroad, particularly from European countries. Several Colleges, connected with religious orders, were founded then to house the students who came to Coimbra looking for wisdom.

The College of Arts, which was the responsibility of the Companhia de Jesus, was guided by the principles of Christian Humanism and became the most important and influential in other European cultures. The University's contacts with foreign countries have existed since its foundation. Portuguese scholars and professors went to foreign universities and students and professors from other universities came to Coimbra.

With King John 5th (1707 -1750) the need for reform was felt and contacts with Europe were of particular importance. Culture, architecture and art flourished during this period. The splendid King John Library - the famous Old University Library - is a masterpiece of the baroque style with its gold leaf work and books of universal value.

The high reaching elegant tower in its erudite baroque stands as a symbol of the University and the city itself. It is well known as the Coimbra ex-libris. St Michael's Chapel - the University Chapel with its wonderful tiles, fine altars and baroque organ has a welcoming atmosphere. The festivities at the University Chapel have always been very important throughout the academic year. The very University Statutes of 1559 refer to Christmas, the Wise King's Day, Easter and other religious festivities. Besides, there were all the Colleges' festivities and academic graduation. Via Latina recalls the procession of

graduates, the opening of the school year or the investiture of the Rector.

With King Joseph and his prime minister, the Marques de Pombal, another very important reform took place. A particular interest in natural sciences emerged and the new Botanical Garden became a centre of interest. Experimental research in medicine was developed and Antonio Ribeiro Sanches is known in Moscow, Paris and London.

The College of Arts and that of Saint Jerome became the University Hospital of Coimbra. In the field of Arts and Humanities Carolina Michaelis de Vasconcelos, of German origin, became famous.

The University of Coimbra has received from abroad lots of invitations to be represented at special academic festivals, particularly centennial commemorations.

About student life lots of things could be told. The students' mysterious black capes can be seen all through the academic year but especially during the major academic festivities "Queima das Fitas".

The Old University area experienced great changes in the forties and the "Alta de Coimbra" was deeply altered as were the most characteristic Colleges of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, that had a relevant role in University life.

The City has a peaceful beauty enhanced by the view of Santa Clara. In the upper part narrow streets with yards and medieval arches, the bohemia of the "Republicas" where the students bring their passions and ideas of independence, can be seen. This upper part is dedicated to the students whereas the lower part of Coimbra is the commercial centre. Handicrafts, typical restaurants, narrow, endlessly winding streets, steps and arches, churches are other very interesting aspects of the "Baixa de Coimbra".

**Antonia Pereira da Silva**  
Documentation Services  
*University Hospital of Coimbra - Portugal*

### "ERRATA" AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM!

In my work as a librarian I have always been "tormented" by the numerous errors scattered throughout scientific works, errors which I believe all of us in this profession have discovered at some time.

These "Errata" appear both in periodicals (and refer to articles published previously) and in books. They are not however easy to find, as although many journals, particularly those concerning chemistry, group the many corrections together at the end of the issue, also mentioning them in the index, others publish them at the start, or at random inside and not always together.

The same problem occurs in books: the mistakes, which were evidently discovered after the last proof-reading, are given at the start or at the end or dispersed or even on loose slips (this inconvenient and unreliable system is also adopted by some journals).

Medicine, pharmacology, chemistry, engineering, etc. are particularly delicate fields and the utmost accuracy is essential. Although at times the corrections are insignificant, more often they are very important: for example, wrong dosages, mistaken formula and reactions, sentences whose meaning has been completely turned around, positive findings instead of negative ones and vice versa: a missing or added "not" causes quite the opposite meaning. I have also come across notice of articles which have been partially disclaimed or even totally retracted. How should we behave therefore? Ignore or correct?

Ignoring them does not seem right to me and correcting is not at all simple. In journals, for example, I write in pen a brief note under the title of the work which is to be corrected: "see errata on page such and such, volume such and such, year such and such" (occasionally the correction in books

under the title of the chapter, indicating the page of the correction). Obviously if it is on a loose sheet I say so and attach the sheet in some way to the book.

Highly rated chemistry collections such as the Beilstein, the Houben-Weyl and others, even periodically send booklets separately containing the errors to be corrected. Some journals, in the quarterly or half-yearly or yearly end of volume collective indices indicate the page of the respective correction next to the page of the article.

I have to add that the problem of "errata" naturally does not only concern purely scientific works: an example here would be the Italian Official Gazette and the European Communities Official Gazette, which issue laws and decrees. There may already be a solution and it would be interesting to hear about it.

What measures do the British Library and the American Library of Congress take? Could they be contacted? At the

EAHIL, people from different countries may already have discussed the matter: would it be worth contacting them? Why not create greater awareness among the better known publishers and request greater emphasis on the "errata", grouping them together with clear indications in a single, well-defined area to facilitate the work of research and correction? And why not ask their help to study other means of meeting these requirements? Otherwise what is the utility of publishing the "errata"?

The problem of course concerns not only the publications on paper but also the electronic ones.

Finally, to sum up, is there anybody of the same opinion as myself? I would in any case be very pleased to gather views: it may be that I am not the only "tormented" person.

**Mariateresa Azzolini Chiarabelli**

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### "ERRATA-CORRIGÉ"

From personal experience, I know that despite of careful proofreading, mistakes in publications still occur. In a way the computer processes have worsened the phenomenon, because attention in proofreading has decreased.

I wonder if there is anything published on the subject. I plan to run a literature search. I think that professional information associations should establish a contact also with the Vancouver group to see if they have debated the topic and made any recommendations.

In the meantime, I am afraid that constraints on resourcing restrict the

possibility of inserting notes on "Errata Corrigé", at least this is the situation in my information centre.

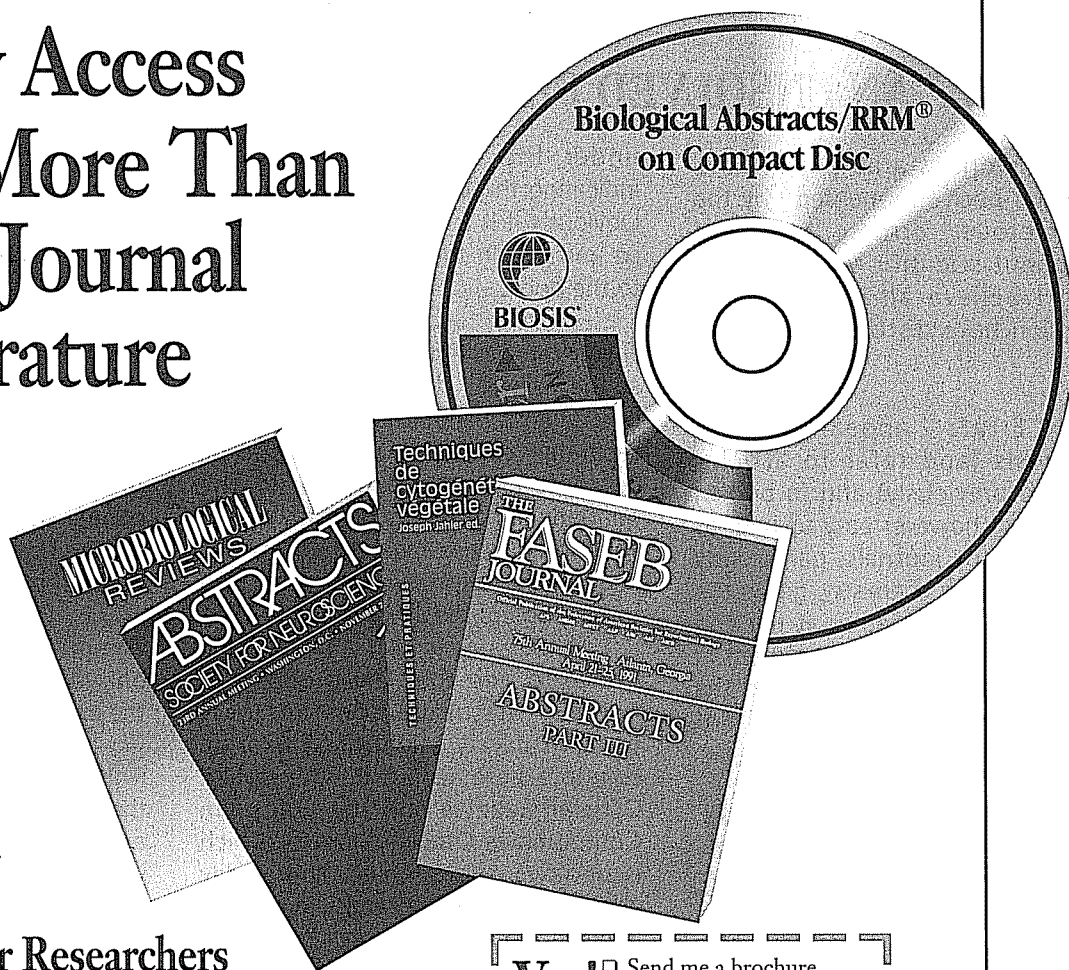
And the trend is such that we can't hope for an improvement. Is it perhaps feasible for us to educate our library users to cooperate in this task; I mean that any time a user finds an "Errata Corrigé" put a note on the corresponding publication?

Perhaps general notices in the library could help, while we debate among ourselves and with publishers.

**Luisa Vercellesi**

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## PUBLICATIONS



### THE JOURNAL ISSUE IN DEPTH

**Health Libraries Review vol 12 no 1 1995**, devoted to the theme of continuing professional development (CPD).

**J. Van Loo, From his editorial:** "CDP has to be one of the major issues facing the profession today, for individuals (what job will I be doing in 15 years and how do I obtain the skills to prepare myself for it?), managers (how do I develop my staff to fulfill new and changing roles?), educators (how do we teach today what staff will require in 15 years time?) and professional groups (how can we make the most of the enormous market for training courses and consultancy which is being created?)." *p 1-2.*

**J Nasir,** Education for a generation hence. The author examines various theories of learning and looks at what happens when applied to information specialists. Reflection is emphasized so that innovation and behavioral change may occur prior to necessary changes in the workplace. *p. 3-11.*

**M. Redfern,** The condition is critical: continuing professional development of library and information services staff. The UK Library Association has published a Framework which supports the preparation of a Personal Development Plan. At the same time it encourages the employer as partner in the process. Before describing the Framework some definitions of CDP are given. *p. 13-21.*

*It is my great pleasure to acknowledge the many favorable comments for the last Newsletter's Publication Section, most of them via e-mail.*

*Thanks to everybody for the interesting and encouraging remarks. Please, continue sending all the items you want to see included in this Section.*

*At this point I am particularly interested in new products.*

*I can be reached via e-mail (wilhelm@ubaclu.unibas.ch) or at Mohrhaldenstrasse 166A, CH - 4125 Riehen. (FAX: ++41-61-6410875).*

**Beatrice Wilhem**

*Editorial Board - Publication section*

**R. E. Webb,** Platform for change: the Medical Library Association's response to the professional development challenge. The MLA (US) Task Force on Knowledge and Skills looked at what may be needed for the 21st century. The findings as well as subsequent educational policy statements and initiatives are introduced. *p 23-27.*

**H. Dyer and J. Rolinson,** In the right vein? How adequately are departments of information and library studies educating for health care information management and library services in a changing health service? The results of a survey and discussion of possible future developments. *p. 29-37.*

In the Brief Communications part of this journal issue various training programmes in use are represented:

**D. Stewart** Staff training and developments in the (Oxford) Health Libraries and Information Network. *p. 53-58.*

**P. Kitch,** A framework for continuing professional development in the South West Region. *p 58-60.*

**C. Pinder,** Induction programme for new learning resources staff at Humberside College of Health. *p 60-63.*

**L. Cavazza,** Training courses for medical librarians in Emilia-Romagna (Italy): a first evaluation. *p 63-65.*

**F. Van der Auwera and J. van Borm,** Training Uia library staff in the use of

computers. *p.65-67.* (A contribution from Antwerp, Belgium).

### ALSO IN THE JOURNAL LITERATURE

**L.A. Potter (1995)** A systematic approach of finding answers over the Internet. The method outlined involves 5 steps: gather information and tools, learn the terminology, assemble a manual, write a strategy and make bookmarks, and is applied to medical reference scenarios. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 83(3): 280-285.*

**P.L. Thibodeau & S. J. Melamut (1995)** Ergonomics in the electronic library. Libraries can prevent some of the common problems that appear in the digital workplace by paying attention to basic ergonomic issues when designing workstations and work areas. Monitor placement, lighting, setup and seating may prevent occupational problems associated with computers. Staff training will further reduce the likelihood of ergonomic problems. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 83(3): 322-329.*

**D. Ugolini & G. Alloro (1995)** Thoughts on cooperation among biomedical libraries in Genova, Italy. An examination of Italian libraries reveals various problems stemming from both the lack of a policy aiming at the optimization of natural resources and the inattention of authorities endorsing the establishment of systems that would

enable exchange of information among libraries. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 83(3): 357-359.

**B. Bauer (1995)** Die Errichtung der Zentralbibliothek fuer Medizin in Wien. Centralisation of the libraries of more than 80 clinics and university institutes. The central library is supporting patient care and medical research as well as the curriculum of medical students. It is the depository library for WHO publications since 1990 and will function as ILL center for medical information in Austria. (in german) *Bibliotheksdienst* 29(4/5):656-663.

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**R. Gimson (1995)** Electronic paper - can it be real? This article looks at how

far we have come towards replacing the printed page by the electronic medium. It concludes that in terms of information content, readability, distribution, manipulation and aesthetics electronics offers compact, lightweight means of storage, ease of lookup, support for animation to illustrated educational texts and possibilities of interaction. Nevertheless, paper in its quality and universality has a future. *Aslib Proceedings* 47(6): 139-143.

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Document Delivery** - the average delay is...Data from a survey carried out amongst the 1000 National Members of the European Online Group on their document delivery services reveals that the average delay between order and delivery of documents was 7 days +/- 3 days. *From the June 15, 1995 Press Release of EUSIDIC. The full report is available from EUSIDIC, PO Box 1416, L-1014 Luxembourg (FAX: +352-250 750 222), price ECU 150 (\$ 200).*

**A Researcher's Guide to Health Statistics.** The National Health Service. ISBN 1898439109. £ 50. Available from Europulse Limited, PO Box 508, reading RG5 3YZ, England.

**International Healthcare News** is a new monthly newsletter from FT Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Publishing providing features examining worldwide health systems, as well as the business practices that have been adopted to achieve cost savings and quality improvements. It reports and analyses the latest events and activities across the worldwide health care industry. *Available from Pearson professional Ltd, Maple House, Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LL (FAX +44 (0) 171 896 2276). L 500.*

Also from FT Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare Publishing: **Process Improvements in the Health Industry : Management Strategies in Response to Healthcare Reform** by E.G. Feldbaum and L.A. Kratz (1995). Introduces and compares the health systems of the UK, US, Canada and Germany, outlines government

regulations and reform and looks at process improvements in the pharmaceutical industry, health insurance, and hospital industry. £ 300.

Le premier numéro de la lettre de **l'Unité Télécom Télémédecine (U.T.T.)** du Centre National de l'Equipment Hospitalier (C.N.E.H.) vient de paraître contenant des nouvelles de technologies de l'information et de la communication dans les systèmes de santé et télémédecine. *Adresse de la rédaction: 166, bd du Montparnasse, 75014 Paris (FAX: 40 44 15 33) 350 F pour 4 numeros.*

**Evidence-Based Medicine.** A new journal launched by the BMJ Publishing Group. Published bi-monthly, Evidence-Based Medicine will survey a wide range of international medical research papers that are scientifically valid and relevant to practice. *BMJ Publishing Group, P.O. Box 299, London WC1H 9TD, UK.*

**Guide pour la Gestion d'un centre d'information : La Maîtrise des Chiffres Clés.** B. Chevallier, D. Doré, E. Sutter. Ce guide a été conçu pour aider les professionnels de l'information, quelle que soit leur fonction, à se familiariser avec les aspects économiques et financiers du management d'une unité documentaire. *2è édition, 270 pages. (Collection Sciences de l'Information, série Etudes et Techniques, ISSN 1160-2376) ISBN 2-901046-82-7 : 280 F. F.*

### EAHIL Publications available

Proceedings of the 4th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries, Oslo, June 1994.

**"Health Information - New Possibilities"** Ed. T. Mc Seán and J. Van Loo, 1995 pp. 281 Price : Bf. 3.300

**Proceedings of the EAHIL Symposium** on cooperation of Medical Libraries, **Prague**, September 20-21, 1995. Ed. J. Drbálek and O. Pinkas, 1995 pp.159. A few copies are available, free of charge. *Contact : The EAHIL Secretariat*



## INFORMATION

From this issue, we will approach the different tools of Internet. The first is the most widely used - Electronic Mail (Matrix Information and Directory Services - MIDS -, situation : Oct. 94) :

- **Core Internet:** 7.8 million users (people) of 2.5 million computers that can \*provide\* interactive services: TELNET, FTP or WWW
- **Consumer Internet:** 13.5 million users of 3.5 million computers that can \*use\* the interactive services supplied by the core Internet.
- **Matrix:** 27.5 million users who can exchange electronic mail with other users in the Matrix.

## Definition

**Brendan P. Kehoe** : *Zen and the Art of the Internet, 1992* : "The desire to communicate is the essence of networking. People have always wanted to correspond with each other in the fastest way possible, short of normal conversation. Electronic mail (or email) is the most prevalent application of this in computer networking. It allows people to write back and forth without having to spend much time worrying about how the message actually gets delivered."

## Email systems and features

There are a lot of different email systems (e.g. DOS systems : Pine, Elm; Windows systems : Eudora). Some of them have additional features improving the sending and the receipt of messages :

- **Attach documents.** Any document can be sent attached to basic text mail.
- **Make** (blind) copies
- **Reply.** Automatic reply to the address of the sender
- **Forward.** Forward the message to other people
- **Archive** in folders.
- **Save an addressbook.** Save addresses of most used addresses.

- **Send to a group.** Several addresses are resumed by one
- **Sign automatically.** Adds previously saved text at the end of the message to be sent (often signature)

And a lot more...

To send a message, you just need to know the email address of the correspondent.

## Structure of addresses

**Brendan P. Kehoe** (*Zen and the Art of the Internet, 1992*) : "Like postal addresses, computer addresses have also a structure. The general form is: a person's email address on a computer: user@somewhere.domain  
a computer's name: somewhere.domain

The user portion is usually the person's account name on the system. somewhere.domain tells you the name of a system or location, and what kind of organization it is.

The trailing domain is often one of the following:

- com** : company or other commercial institution or organization. (e.g. compuserve.com).
- edu** : educational institution (e.g. New York University, named nyu.edu)
- gov** : government site (e.g. nasa.gov)
- mil** : military site (e.g. Air Force, af.mil).
- net** : gateways and other administrative hosts for a network (e.g. belgium.eu.net)
- org** : private organizations (e.g. Electronic Frontier Foundation, eff.org)

These also have sub-domains things like ac.uk for academic sites and co.uk for commercial ones."

## InterNetwork communication

Without making part of it, a lot of networks made their address compatible by Internet. For example, CompuServe is not part of the

Internet; but a user from Internet and a user from CompuServe can exchange messages. Hereafter are listed the methods to reach some of the most known networks with a gateway (based partly on Inter-Network Mail Guide, Scott A. Yanoff, 1995) :

**aol** : 'user@aol.com' (all lower-case, remove spaces)

**applelink** : 'user@applelink.apple.com'

**bitnet** : 'user%site.bitnet@gateway' where 'gateway' is a gateway host  
REMARK: most sites have also an alternative Internet address

• **compuserve** : e.g. "71234,567", '71234.567@CompuServe.com'

• **fidonet** : e.g. "john smith at 1:2/3.4", 'john\_smith@p4.f3.n2.z1.fidonet.org'

• **Prodigy** : 'userid@prodigy.com' For example: 'abcd01a@prodigy.com'

• **KR Data-Star** : 'user@dm.rs.ch'

• **Micforum** : 'FirstName\_LastName@micforum.ki.se'

## Discussion lists

Discussion groups (and electronic journals) are the most interesting feature of electronic mail :

What is a Discussion Group ? (based on Martin Raish : Network Knowledge for the Neophyte, March 1993) : Discussion Groups (or lists) are specialized mail systems used by people who share a common interest to exchange messages.

These groups are more than bulletin boards; something like multi-participant party line telephone conversations. Every person who joins a list (or "subscribers") can send a message to the host computer that then re-distributes it to every subscriber. The program that operates discussion groups is known as LISTSERV. Other similar programs exist on the Internet

Subscribe to them, read carefully the "welcome note" and save it ! : it will precise the scope of the list, the things-to-do-and-not-to-do. After a

few days of reading the postings, do not hesitate to select the "digest" or "index" mode, if the scope seems interesting but too expensive in time : it will only give you a selection of messages or the title of them. Do not hesitate also to quit ("unsubscribe" "sign off") if you feel it isn't worth the time : it's easy to become a list addict...

## References

- **Kehoe, Brendan P.** : *Zen and the Art of the Internet. A Beginner's Guide to the Internet* (revision 1.0 of February 2, 1992)  
gopher gopher.usask.ca  
"Computing" "Internet information"
- **Matrix Information and Directory Services (MIDS).** MIDS Press Release: New Data on the Size of the Internet and the Matrix www : <http://tig.com/IBC/demo/pressbig.html>
- **Raish, Martin** : *Network Knowledge for the Neophyte*, March 1993  
email [listserv@bingvmb.bitnet](mailto:listserv@bingvmb.bitnet)  
Body: get netknow neophyte bi-l
- **Yanoff, Scott A** : *Inter-Network Mail Guide* (Last Update: 2/15/94)  
ftp ftp.csd.uwm.edu - www <http://alpha.acast.nova.edu/cgi-bin/inmqg.pl>

## RESOURCES

Some lists for health librarians are listed hereafter. They are usually open to everybody interested in the topics covered by the list. You will also find some lists with a more regional subject focus.

Practically all lists are archived. Address to consult the archives is given with subscription welcome note. If not, try the "contact address".

**MMATRIX-L.** Amia Internet Working Group discussion list. Internet health and medical resources.

email : [listserv@ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu](mailto:listserv@ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu)  
body : subscribe HMATRIX-L Your first name & last name

**MEDLIB-L.** Medical & Health Science Librarians Discussion list. Traffic is quite high (30 messages / day).

email : [listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu](mailto:listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu)  
30

body : subscribe MEDLIB-L Your first name & last name

**CANMEDLIB.** Canadian libraries and librarians list.

email : [listserv@morgan.uccs.mun.ca](mailto:listserv@morgan.uccs.mun.ca)  
body : subscribe CANMEDLIB Your first name & last name

**LIS-MEDICAL.** University Medical Schools Library Group list.

email : [mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk](mailto:mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk)  
body: subscribe LIS-MEDICAL Your first name & last name

**MEDIBIB-L.** German Speaking Health Science Librarians Discussion List  
send a subscription request to [medibib-l-request@uni-muenster.de](mailto:medibib-l-request@uni-muenster.de)

**CADUCEUS** is intended for the members of the Association of Librarians in the History of Health Sciences (ALHHS) and other individuals interested in medical history collections. Compiled postings.

send a request :  
[caduceus@utmbeach.bitnet](mailto:caduceus@utmbeach.bitnet)

**BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS BULLETIN.** Send a subscription request to David Morse:  
[dmorse@hsc.usc.edu](mailto:dmorse@hsc.usc.edu)

**CHMINF-L.** Chemical Information Sources E-conference.

email : [listserv@iubvm.uccs.indiana.edu](mailto:listserv@iubvm.uccs.indiana.edu)  
body : subscribe CHMINF-L Your-first-name Your-last-name.

**DENTALIB.** The Dental Section of the Medical Library Association.

email : [listserv@vm.usc.edu](mailto:listserv@vm.usc.edu)  
body : subscribe DENTALIB Your first name & last name

**VETLIB-L.** Veterinary Medicine Library Issues and Information.

email : [listserv@vtvm1.cc.vt.edu](mailto:listserv@vtvm1.cc.vt.edu)  
body : subscribe VETLIB-L Your first name & last name

**AGELIS-L.** Medical Library Association Special Interest Group on Gerontology and Geriatrics

email : [majordomo@SFU.CA](mailto:majordomo@SFU.CA)  
body : subscribe AGELIS-L

**BACKMED.** Back Issues and Duplicate Exchange SERVICE - Medical (both serials and books).

email : [listserv@sun.readmore.com](mailto:listserv@sun.readmore.com)

body : subscribe BACKMED first name lastname

**J-JRNL.** Monthly electronic newsletter consisting of news and announcements, book reviews, and interviews and articles.

email : [listserv@sjvm.stjohns.edu](mailto:listserv@sjvm.stjohns.edu) (Internet)

body : subscribe J-JRNL (your first and last name)

**SLA-FAN.** Special Libraries Association--Food Agriculture and Nutrition.

email : [listserv@ukcc.uky.edu](mailto:listserv@ukcc.uky.edu)

body : sub SLA-FAN your name

**QUICKDOC-L.** Discussion of QuickDOC medical-library ILL software.

email : [listserv@library.ummed.edu](mailto:listserv@library.ummed.edu)

body : sub QUICKDOC-L your name

**JMEDCLUB.** Med. J. Discussion Club.

email : [listserv@brownvm.brown.edu](mailto:listserv@brownvm.brown.edu)

body : sub JMEDCLUB your name

**RLML.** Ruth Lilly Medical Library Database List.

email : [listserv@indycms.iupui.edu](mailto:listserv@indycms.iupui.edu)

body : sub RLML your name

**PANET-L.** Medical Education and Health Information Discussion Group.

email : [listserv@yalevm.cis.yale.edu](mailto:listserv@yalevm.cis.yale.edu)

body : sub PANET-L your name

**BABSON.** Discussions on Organizational Design of Academic Medical Libr.

email : [listserv%harvarda.bitnet@listserv.net](mailto:listserv%harvarda.bitnet@listserv.net)

body : sub BABSON your name

**ADMIN-L.** Nys department of health administrative information.

email : [listserv@health.state.ny.us](mailto:listserv@health.state.ny.us)

body : sub ADMIN-L your name

**Vincent Maes**

Pfizer S.A.

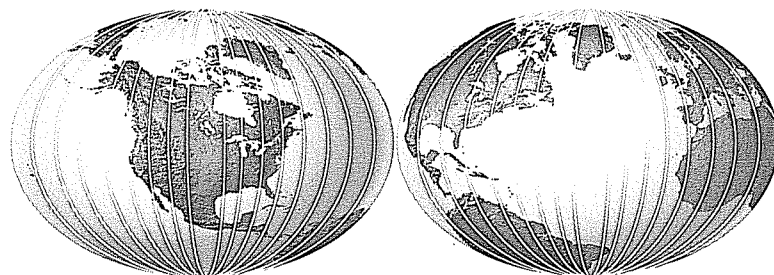
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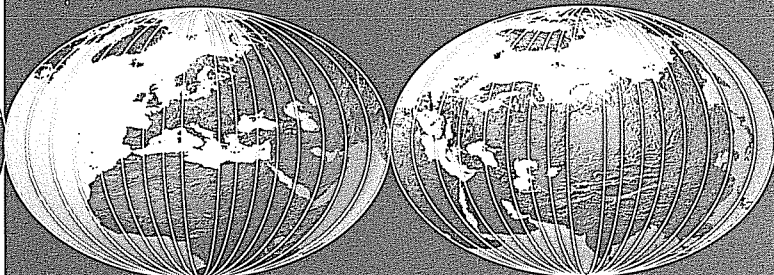
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