

European Association
for Health Information and Libraries

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



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Utrecht: EAHIL Executive Board Meeting January 2001
From left to right: Tony McSeán, Marta Viragos, Arne Jakobsson,
Meile Kretaviciene, Manuela Colombi, Gabriella Poppi,
Suzanne Bakker and Ulrich Korwitz.

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

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Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts either in English or French should be about 3-4 standard (1.50 space) typewritten pages and provided by e-mail or on a diskette. Informative title, short summary and keywords should be provided. References should be expressed in Vancouver style. Authors of submitted papers accept editing and re-use of published material by EAHL.

Les manuscrits, qu'ils soient rédigés en français ou en anglais, devront être présentés sous forme de pages dactylographiées, de standard 3-4 (espace de 1.50) et fournis par e-mail ou sur disquettes. Le titre, un bref résumé ainsi que les mots-clés devront également être joints. Les références devront être formulées selon le "style de Vancouver". Les auteurs ayant soumis des articles acceptent que ces derniers soient édités et utilisés à nouveau dans les publications pour l'EAHL.

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The full membership subscriptions including the subscription to our quarterly Newsletter remain unchanged for 2000. Les cotisations de 2000 comprenant l'abonnement à notre Bulletin d'Information trimestriel restent inchangées.

• Full information regarding the Association, membership fees and advertisements in the Newsletter, may be obtained from the EAHL secretariat in Utrecht.

• Toute information concernant l'Association, les cotisations de membres et les annonces publicitaires dans la Newsletter peut être obtenue au secrétariat de l'AEIBS à Utrecht.

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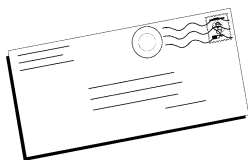
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Dear Everyone,



A very happy and successful New Year to you all. I hope you will find this first issue of the new Millennium interesting and worthwhile. I would like to thank all contributors for their interesting articles and also welcome Constantin Cazin in his role as **Internet Page Editor**. Both he and Giovanna in her **Publications and New Products** pages are providing us with excellent information for our roles as Health and Information Professionals. The two feature articles by Katri Vanttinen and Dr Mutafov respectively offer information on management of two very different subjects. In addition many thanks to the Board members who rapidly managed to complete their reports from the Board meeting on January 27 in order to be included here. Lastly I would like to thank Benoit Thirion who kindly stepped into Monique Cleland's shoes as French Language Editor for this issue and to my colleague Ioana Robu for doing the primary French translation. In the next issue I hope to feature **Lithuania** and especially as we have a co-opted member on the Executive Board, Meile Kretaviciene herself from Lithuania, I would hope we could work together to achieve one or two articles on medical information in her country. The deadline date for Newsletter 55 is **March 26**.

This issue initiates another important year for our EAHIL Association on the occasion of the Alghero Workshop in Sardinia. The Preliminary Programme of the workshop entitled *2001: Cyberspace Odyssey* has been sent by Manuela Colombi in order to be published in this issue and further information can be obtained at <http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm>. I hope that many of you are already thinking of registering for this conference which indeed has some very interesting papers and I look forward to meeting many EAHIL members there.

We also have some important discussions concerning the future of EAHIL and I had hoped we could do some preliminary work on this subject in June in order for the EAHIL Council to be prepared. I would have liked to summarise responses to Tamara Morcillo's article *To Be or Not to be an EAHIL member* EAHIL Newsletter (Nov) 2000; 53:5-6 but in fact I received no comments. Maybe the timing was wrong with the festive period and everyone was so busy! The very valid points raised in this paper prompt discussion and I would like to ask you all again to read and

send comments to the Editorial Board or Council Members who then in turn could debate this subject at the Council Meeting at the Alghero Workshop. There is also another linked subject that should be discussed too, namely the argument *The EAHIL Newsletter: Print Versus Electronic Copy* and I have initiated this discussion on a separate page with the hope that we can receive some responses before the June meeting. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sally Wood-Lamont



Chers Collègues,

*Très bonne et heureuse nouvelle année à tous ! J'espère que vous trouverez ce premier numéro du nouveau millénaire utile et intéressant. Je voudrais remercier ici tous ceux qui y ont contribué et aussi souhaiter la bienvenue à Constantin Cazin en qualité de **rédacteur de la page Internet**. Constantin, ainsi que Giovanna dans les pages de **Publications et Nouveaux Produits**, nous présentent d'excellentes informations, très utiles dans nos fonctions de professionnels de l'information et de la santé. Les deux articles vedettes de Katri Vanttinen et Dr. Mutafov nous informent sur la gestion de deux domaines très différents. En outre, un grand merci aux membres du Comité qui ont réussi rapidement à compléter leurs rapports de la réunion du Comité du 27 janvier pour être inclus ici. Pour finir, je voudrais remercier Benoit Thirion pour la gentillesse avec laquelle il a accepté de remplacer Monique Cleland comme responsable de la rubrique en langue française de ce numéro, et aussi à ma*

*collègue Ioana Robu pour la traduction primaire des textes. Dans le numéro suivant j'espère avoir la **Lituanie** en vedette, surtout que nous avons un membre dans le Comité Exécutif de Lituanie en la personne de Meile Kretaviciene. J'espère que nous pourrons travailler ensemble pour écrire un ou deux articles sur l'information médicale dans son pays. La date limite pour le Bulletin 55 est le **26 mars**.*

Ce numéro commence une autre année importante pour l'EAHIL, à l'occasion du séminaire 2001: Odyssée Cyberspatiale d'Alghero, Sardaigne. Le programme préliminaire nous a été envoyé par Manuela Colombi pour être publié dans ce numéro; pour d'avantage d'information, voir le site <http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm>. J'espère que bon nombre d'entre vous avez déjà pensé à vous inscrire pour cette conférence qui comprendra quelques travaux extrêmement intéressants, et je souhaite rencontrer beaucoup de membres de l'EAHIL à cette occasion.

Nous avons également d'importants problèmes concernant le futur de l'AEIBS et j'avais espéré que nous pourrions entamer des discussions préliminaires en juin pour la préparation du Conseil de l'EAHIL. J'aurais souhaité pouvoir résumer les réponses à l'article de Tamara Morcillo Etre ou Ne Pas Etre Membre de l'AEIBS (EAHIL Newsletter de novembre 2000; 53:5-6) mais je n'ai reçu aucun commentaire. Il se peut que la période des fêtes n'ait pas été trop propice, vous étiez très occupés ! Les problèmes pertinents exposés dans cet article invitent à un débat sérieux et je voudrais vous encourager une encore fois à le lire et envoyer votre opinion au Comité Editorial ou aux Membres du Conseil qui à leur tour pourront débattre de ce sujet lors de la réunion du Conseil à Alghero. Il y a un autre aspect qui doit être analysé, celui du EAHIL Newsletter: imprimé versus électronique. J'ai initié ce débat dans une autre page, dans l'espoir d'avoir quelques réponses avant la réunion de juin. J'attends de vos nouvelles.

Sally Wood-Lamont



Letter from our President / Lettre du Président

What Are Professional Associations For?

This may seem to be a strange question, because having just been elected President of EAHIL for the second time (and having spent the last 12 years working for an extremely large and successful association) it would be reasonable to assume that I had a reasonably clear answer to provide. But sitting down to consider Tamara Morcillo's thought-provoking article things were by no means clear-cut. And our discussion at the first meeting of the new EAHIL Board showed that this was a question that many people find it hard to answer. The obvious and central answer has to be that at the heart of being a member of a profession must lie the enthusiasm for improving and refining what we do — and for sharing ideas about good practice with each other. On a less exalted note we have to develop and protect our profession's reputation and place in the world and where necessary fight for our interests. The original, 19th-century statement of the British Medical Association's purpose summarises this quite elegantly: "to protect the interests and honour of our profession".

To be successful a professional association has to do most or all of these things, reinforcing its members' indefinable but crucial sense of "belonging". How well does EAHIL meet these criteria? On the professional communication side things are very healthy. Each year there is an EAHIL conference or workshop that attracts a large number of members, with presentations and posters which do credit to the professionalism of Europe's health information services. Our *Newsletter* is essential reading, all the more so now that the Editor gives each issue a different national focus which usually shows a diversity of approach to the same old set of problems; and now EAHIL members enjoy a discounted subscription to *Health Information and Libraries Journal* (formerly *Health Libraries Review*). Within the resources of a small organisation EAHIL has done a great deal of valuable work bringing colleagues together from across the continent and

particularly in responding positively to the break-up of the soviet bloc. Only last week there was a good example of EAHIL representing its members' interests when the Board lobbied European Union parliamentarians not to do anything silly over copyright.

However, along with the rest of the Board I am acutely conscious that this is still not enough and that we as an association still have a long way to go if we are to become an organisation that is an essential part in defining the professionalism of its members. This is far from easy to do, and the longer I have served as a member of the Board the more I understand how diverse are the demands of expectations of members from different cultural backgrounds. One group's brilliant idea may be almost an insult to the sensibilities of members from another region. With EAHIL's current financial position far from healthy the pressure is on all of us to

think of new ways we members can work together to make EAHIL a better association, and a valid contributor to our everyday professional life. Both the Board and the Council will be looking at new ideas and activities, but the lesson to be learned from all successful associations is that they are only as strong as their members' determination to make them work. So, please, participate in the forthcoming debate about how EAHIL can be strengthened: post messages on the EAHIL-L message board, write to the Editor or even write to me at tmcsean@bma.org.uk or by ordinary mail at the BMA in London.

In closing, I must take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me become President for the second time. It is a great responsibility as well as an honour, but I am looking forward to working with the new Board and to a happy two years.

Tony McSeán



A quoi bon les associations professionnelles?

Cela peut paraître une étrange question, car ayant été élu Président de l'EAHIL pour la deuxième fois et ayant passé les 12 dernières années à travailler pour cette association si importante et efficace, il eût été raisonnable de penser que j'eusse déjà une réponse assez claire.

Mais après lecture de l'article de Tamara Morcillo et réflexion sur les questions qu'il soulève, les choses ne m'apparaissent plus aussi nettement dessinées. Et les discussions lors de la première réunion du nouveau Comité de l'EAHIL ont montré que c'était là une question à laquelle beaucoup de gens trouvaient difficile de répondre. La réponse évidente et centrale doit être qu'au coeur de l'état de membre d'une profession, il doit y avoir l'enthousiasme pour améliorer et perfectionner ce que nous faisons, et pour partager avec les autres nos idées de bonne pratique. Sur une note moins exaltée, nous devons développer et protéger la réputation et la place de notre profession dans le monde et, si nécessaire, lutter pour nos intérêts. L'énoncé des objectifs de la British Medical Association résume ceci de manière élégante dès son origine (au 19^e siècle) : "protéger les intérêts et l'honneur de notre profession".

Pour avoir du succès une association professionnelle doit atteindre tout ou la plupart de ces objectifs, renforçant le sens indéfinissable mais crucial d'"appartenance" de ses membres. Comment, à quel degré l'EAHIL remplit-elle ces critères? En ce qui concerne la

communication professionnelle les choses vont très bien. Chaque année il y a une conférence ou un séminaire EAHIL qui attire un grand nombre de ses membres, avec présentations et posters faisant honneur au professionnalisme des services d'information de santé d'Europe. Notre

Bulletin est une lecture essentielle, surtout maintenant que notre rédactrice en chef fait que chaque numéro soit concentré sur différents aspects nationaux, illustrant ainsi la diversité des façons d'aborder toujours les mêmes problèmes ; et maintenant les membres de l'EAHIL



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

jouissent d'un abonnement à tarif réduit au Health Information and Libraries Journal (auparavant Health Libraries Review).

A l'intérieur des limites des ressources d'une petite organisation, l'EAHIL a fait un très bon travail en unissant les collègues de tous les coins du continent, et particulièrement en répondant positivement à la dissolution du bloc soviétique. Pas plus loin que la semaine dernière, il y a eu un bon exemple de l'EAHIL représentant les intérêts de ses membres, lorsque le Comité a fait des démarches auprès des parlementaires de l'Union Européenne, afin d'éviter les erreurs concernant le droit d'auteur.

Cependant, avec le reste du Comité, je suis vivement conscient que ce n'est pas encore assez, que nous avons en tant qu'association encore un long chemin à

parcourir pour devenir une organisation digne du professionnalisme de ses membres. Ceci est loin d'être facile à accomplir, et plus longtemps j'ai été membre du Comité, plus j'ai compris la diversité des besoins et attentes de membres provenant de cultures différentes. L'idée géniale d'un groupe peut être presque une insulte à la sensibilité des membres d'une autre région. Avec en plus la position financière actuelle précaire de l'EAHIL, le plus urgent pour nous tous est d'imaginer de nouvelles méthodes de travail en commun pour faire de l'EAHIL une association plus performante et un outil pour notre vie professionnelle de tous les jours.

Le Comité et le Conseil vont examiner de nouvelles idées et activités, mais la leçon à retenir de la réussite d'autres

associations est que leur force n'est rien d'autre que la détermination de ses membres à la faire vivre. Je vous prie donc de participer au prochain débat sur "comment renforcer l'EAHIL" : envoyez vos messages à la liste EAHIL-L, écrivez à la Rédactrice en chef ou directement à moi par courriel à tmcsean@bma.org.uk ou par la poste à l'adresse de BMA à Londres.

Pour conclure, je profite de cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux qui m'ont aidé à devenir Président pour la seconde fois. C'est un honneur ainsi qu'une grande responsabilité, mais ce sera un grand plaisir de travailler avec le nouveau Comité pour deux heureuses années.

Tony McSeán

EAHIL Executive Board meeting in Utrecht 26-27 January 2001

This meeting of the Board was the start of the work of the new Board: Tony McSeán taking over the Presidency of the Association from Manuela Colombi, who will serve as Past-President for the coming years. A warm welcome was expressed by Tony to the new members of the Board: Gabriella Poppi, Marta Viragos and Linda Lisgarten (who was unfortunately not able to attend because of a serious attack of flu) and to Ulrich Korwitz, the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the EAHIL Conference in 2002.

It was decided that:

Arne Jakobsson will continue to serve as Treasurer
Suzanne Bakker will be the First Vice President
Gabriella Poppi will be the Second Vice President
Linda Lisgarten will be Secretary
Marta Viragos will be the Assistant Secretary and Association News Editor

The informal lunch with the NVB Bureau staff was a good opportunity for the new Board members to be introduced as well as for the whole Board to meet the NVB staff: Mr Jan van der Burg, Mrs Annette Kuipers, Mrs Paula Bakker and Mr Ashwani Bali.

On Friday the Board was able to discuss most of the items on the agenda and to take decisions.

Manuela Colombi presented the Presidential report (which will be published in full length on the EAHIL website).

The Treasurer's report 2000 will be a composition of the three reports received: the accounts of the ICP Group from 1.10.1998 till 1.10.2001, the Accountancy's Report over the first three quarters of 2000 and the transaction logs of the NVB Bureau over the last quarter of 2000.

The Treasurer, Supervisor and Senior Secretary of the NVB Bureau discussed the details of these reports and drew conclusions regarding the accounting and filing system to be used for the EAHIL membership registration. The Treasurer's report underlined the importance of the Tamara Morcillo' paper (see EAHIL Newsletter Nov. 2000 ; 53 :5-6) with regard to the major concern of EAHIL finances being the non-payment and cancellation of membership. It was concluded that the President himself will take action towards all EAHIL members to encourage renewal payment. The Board will ask the Council members to be alert and pro-active towards the EAHIL members in their countries. Those of you from whom membership payment will not be received by the end of March-beginning of April, may expect a follow-up by the Council members. The possibility of having an income from future workshops and conferences was discussed, and agreements with future organizers will include items in this report.

A new information leaflet about EAHIL will be produced. These leaflets are to be distributed at meetings in order to promote the Association and to attract new members. In the afternoon Ingeborg van der Burgt joined the meeting in order to discuss the relationship between the EAHIL Board and the EAHIL subgroups, the Pharmaceutical Information Group (PhInfG) and the European Veterinary Librarians Group (EVLG). Gerdien de Jonge, the chair of the latter was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting, but a long phone call on Thursday evening with Suzanne Bakker made sure that there was input from the EVLG in the discussion as well. Both the EAHIL Board and the Board members of the subgroup felt the necessity to have closer contact and to exchange ideas, plans of action and to cooperate in organizing meetings. It was decided that:

- comparison and updating of subgroup membership with EAHIL membership data must take place
- chairs of EAHIL subgroups (or a representative) should have a standing invitation to join part of the EAHIL Board meetings (at least half a day) and participate in the dinner during the winter Board meeting.
- chairs of EAHIL subgroups will receive the minutes of the EAHIL Board meeting
- the EAHIL Board should receive the minutes of subgroup meetings
- subgroups will be offered the possibility



of having their own discussion list and pages (and links) on the EAHIL website

- subgroups will be offered time space and room for their own business and scientific meetings during EAHIL workshops and conferences, provided that attendees register for the whole EAHIL meeting
- subgroups will be offered a location for a poster and a small information desk in the registration or exhibition area during EAHIL meetings
- chairs of EAHIL subgroups will become q.q. member of the EAHIL Council
- if subgroups collect fees, an arrangement with the EAHIL secretariat can be made to collect subgroup fees together with EAHIL membership; EAHIL Treasurer, nor the EAHIL secretariat will be responsible for accounting of subgroup finances, though.
- Subgroups must present their Statutes and Rules of Procedure to the EAHIL Executive Board for approval.

The members of ELISAD, through their former chair Marianne van der Heijden, have expressed interest in cooperation with EAHIL or maybe joining EAHIL. This group will be offered their own meeting during the EAHIL conference in Cologne, provided they register for the conference (or they will all be members of EAHIL).

According to Ulrich Korwitz a closer contact and cooperation is expected between health sciences librarians and biological and agricultural sciences librarians. With recent developments and issues in Public Health and Food production he would like to investigate the possibility of creating an EAHIL subgroup on this subject.

The revision of the EAHIL Statutes, concluded during the General Assembly in London, is almost finished: minor textual corrections had to be made according to Dutch law and the official (Dutch) version is in production. Suzanne Bakker is mandated by the Board to take legal action and to get the Statutes legally registered. It was decided that a PDF

version of the definitive version will be published on the EAHIL website (and only on request available in print from the secretariat).

Ulrich Korwitz reported on the progress made so far in the preparations for the Cologne Conference. Suggestions were made for members to join the International Programme Committee.

From the Oslo-Fund a report was received about the funding for travel and registration to the Sardinia workshop awarded to 4 colleagues.

In line with the discussion about Council membership of Subgroup chairs, it was discussed that groups of countries will be invited to have a joint representative on the Council, representing at least 5 EAHIL members in a specific group of countries. Members of the Baltic, East European, former Yugoslavian and former Soviet countries will be offered to make use of this opportunity to take a more active part in EAHIL plans and work. Due to language, social and possible political barriers the grouping will be discussed with the members concerned.

Manuela Colombi reported on the offer of the organizers of the International Online Meeting in London (always taking place in December) for a reduced entrance fee for EAHIL members. The EAHIL Board accepted this offer with pleasure. The EAHIL secretariat will be responsible for keeping track and reporting (at least once a year in the Newsletter) of the benefits of EAHIL membership in this respect. At the moment of this meeting it is known that EAHIL members are entitled to attend MLA meetings at a reduced rate, buy MLA-publications at the membership rate and also to subscribe to the Health Information and Libraries Journal (continuation of: Health Libraries Review of the UK HLG) at membership rates. As part of the membership of our association to IFLA, EAHIL members are entitled to register for IFLA meetings at membership rate as well (quote membership number

NL-8003). As part of our IFLA membership, EAHIL is entitled to support the candidacy of IFLA Executive Board members; EAHIL Board decided to support the continuation of the term of office of Derek Law as Treasurer of IFLA. Furthermore the EAHIL Board decided to nominate Arne Jakobsson as the representative of EAHIL for election to the Standing Committee of the Section of Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries. Arne is also the representative of the Norwegian Librarians. This year's IFLA annual meeting will be in Boston, next year in Glasgow and in 2003 in Berlin.

Suzanne Bakker asked for suggestions in which way plans and efforts relating to continuing education of medical librarians can become part of EAHIL's plan of action. So far activities have included no more than support and promotion of organizing pre-conference courses. Long-distance learning programmes are known to exist and further investigation and research, with the help of Council members, must reveal whether this will offer special opportunities for EAHIL members.

As mentioned above, several items and subjects require additional work, input, discussion or cooperation with EAHIL Council members. Also a follow up of items discussed with the Council in January 2000 must be conducted. EAHIL Council members will therefore receive further information and requests from the Board on the Council members discussion list (e.g. about Professional issues and ethics; about Links and content on the EAHIL website).

With all these subjects covered and discussed in detail, the Board nevertheless succeeded in closing the meeting on Saturday at lunchtime. Some went directly to the airport to catch their flight back home, others were able to stroll along the canals of Utrecht city centre and to visit museums and do some shopping.

Suzanne Bakker



La Réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'EAHIL à Utrecht, 26-27 janvier 2001

Sur la page de couverture:
de gauche à droite :

Tony McSeán, Marta Viragos, Arne Jakobsson, Meile Kretaviciene, Manuela Colombi, Gabriella Poppi, Suzanne Bakker et Ulrich Korwitz.

Cette réunion a permis la mise en place du nouveau Comité : Tony McSeán prenant la Présidence de l'Association et Manuela Colombi, qui servira comme Ancien Président pour les années à venir. Tony a souhaité un accueil chaleureux aux nouveaux membres du Comité : Gabriella Poppi, Marta Viragos, Linda Lisgarten (qui malheureusement n'a pas pu participer à cause d'une grippe assez sérieuse), et aussi à Ulrich Korwitz, Président du Comité Local d'Organisation de la Conférence EAHIL de l'année 2002. Il a été décidé que :

Arne Jakobsson continuera de servir comme Trésorier

Suzanne Bakker sera le Premier Vice Président

Gabriella Poppi sera le Second Vice Président

Linda Lisgarten sera Secrétaire

Marta Viragos sera Secrétaire adjointe et Rédactrice des Nouvelles de l'Association

Un déjeuner sans cérémonie avec le personnel du Bureau NVB a été une bonne occasion pour les nouveaux membres du Comité de se présenter et aussi pour tout le Comité de rencontrer le personnel NVB: M. Jan van der Burg, M-me Annette Kuipers, M-me Paula Bakker et M. Ashwani Bali.

Vendredi le Comité est parvenu à aborder la plupart des problèmes inscrits à l'ordre du jour et à prendre les décisions nécessaires.

Manuela Colombi a présenté le rapport présidentiel (qui sera publié en texte intégral sur le site web de l'EAHIL).

Le rapport du Trésorier pour 2000 comprend trois parties : les comptes du groupe ICP pour la période 1.10.1998 - 1.10.2001, le Rapport de la comptabilité pour les premiers trois quarts de l'an 2000 et les détails des transactions du Bureau NVB pour le dernier quart de 2000. Les Trésorier, Superviseur et Secrétaire-en-chef du Bureau NVB ont discuté les détails de ces rapports et tiré les conclusions concernant le système de comptabilité et le classement à utiliser pour l'enregistrement des adhésions à l'EAHIL.

Le rapport du Trésorier a souligné l'importance de l'article de Tamara Morcillo (voir EAHIL Newsletter nov.2000;53:5-6) concernant les problèmes financiers de l'EAHIL générés par les factures impayées et le non-renouvellement des cotisations. Il a été décidé que le Président lui-même se chargera d'encourager les membres à renouveler leurs adhésions. Le Comité demandera aux membres du Conseil d'intervenir activement auprès des membres EAHIL de leurs pays. Ceux d'entre vous dont le paiement ne sera pas reçu fin mars ou début avril pouvez vous attendre à un suivi attentif de la part des membres du Conseil. La possibilité d'avoir un budget pour les séminaires et conférences à venir a été discutée et les accords avec les futurs organisateurs vont inclure cet aspect. Un nouveau feuillet d'information sur l'EAHIL sera édité. Il sera distribué à l'occasion des réunions pour promouvoir l'Association et attirer de nouveaux membres. Dans l'après-midi Ingeborg van der Burgt nous a rejoint pour discuter des relations entre le Comité et les sous-groupes de l'EAHIL, le Groupe d'Information Pharmaceutique (PhInfG) et le Groupe Européen des Bibliothécaires Vétérinaires (EVLG). Gerdien de Jonge, président du dernier, n'a pas pu participer, mais a confirmé la contribution de l'EVLG par une longue conversation téléphonique avec Suzanne Bakker. Les membres du Comité et les membres du Conseil du sous-groupe ont exprimé le besoin de resserrer les liens et échanger idées, plans d'action et coopération pour l'organisation des réunions. Il a été décidé que :

- une comparaison et mise à jour de l'adhésion au sous-groupe avec celle à l'EAHIL doit avoir lieu

- les présidents des sous-groupes EAHIL (ou représentants) doivent être toujours invités à une partie des réunions du Comité EAHIL (au moins une demi-journée) et à participer au dîner de la réunion d'hiver

- les présidents des sous-groupes EAHIL recevront les comptes rendus des réunions du Comité EAHIL

- le Comité EAHIL devrait recevoir les comptes rendus des réunions des sous-groupes

- les sous-groupes auront la possibilité d'avoir leur propres listes de diffusion et pages (avec liens) du site web de l'EAHIL

- les sous-groupes auront du temps et des lieux pour se rencontrer lors des séminaires et conférences de l'EAHIL, pourvu que

leurs membres soient inscrits pour la réunion entière de l'EAHIL

- les sous-groupes auront une place pour un poster ainsi qu'un petit bureau de renseignement dans les zones d'inscription et hall d'exposition des réunions EAHIL

- les présidents des sous-groupes EAHIL deviendront membres q.q. du Conseil EAHIL

- si les sous-groupes perçoivent des taxes, on peut conclure un accord avec le secrétariat EAHIL afin qu'elles soient perçues en même temps que la cotisation EAHIL ; néanmoins, ni le Trésorier ni le secrétariat EAHIL ne seront responsables de la comptabilité des sous-groupes

- les sous-groupes doivent présenter leurs statuts et règles de procédure au Comité Exécutif de l'EAHIL pour approbation

Les membres d'ELISAD, par leur ancienne présidente Marianne van der Heijden, ont manifesté leur désir de coopération ou d'union avec l'EAHIL. Ce groupe pourra tenir sa propre réunion pendant la Conférence EAHIL à Cologne, pourvu qu'il s'enregistre pour la conférence (ou que tous leurs membres deviennent membres de l'EAHIL).

Selon Ulrich Korwitz un contact et une coopération plus étroite sont attendus entre les bibliothécaires des sciences de la santé et les bibliothécaires des sciences biologiques et agricoles. Les problèmes récents posés par l'alimentation dans le domaine de la santé publique l'incite à examiner la possibilité de créer un sous-groupe EAHIL dans ce domaine.

La révision des statuts de l'EAHIL, conclue lors de l'Assemblée Générale à Londres, est presque terminée : des corrections mineures doivent être apportées en conformité avec la loi hollandaise et la version officielle (hollandaise) est en cours d'élaboration. Suzanne Bakker a été mandatée pour procéder à l'enregistrement légal des statuts. Il a été décidé que la version définitive sera publiée en format PDF sur le site web de l'EAHIL (et disponible en format imprimé au secrétariat, mais seulement sur demande).

Ulrich Korwitz a présenté un bilan de l'avancement des travaux de préparation de la Conférence de Cologne. Les membres sont invités à rejoindre le Comité International du Programme.



Le rapport du Fond Oslo concernant le financement accordé à 4 collègues pour le voyage et l'inscription au le séminaire de Sardaigne a été reçu.

En accord avec les discussions des membres du Conseil et des présidents des sous-groupes, il a été proposé que des groupes de pays soit invités à avoir un représentant collectif au Conseil, représentant au moins 5 membres EAHIL d'un groupe spécifique de pays. Les membres des pays Baltiques, de l'Europe de l'Est, ancienne Yougoslavie et Union Soviétique auront ainsi une opportunité de prendre une part plus active aux projets et travaux de l'EAHIL. En prévision des possibles barrières linguistiques, sociales ou même politiques, la distribution des groupes sera discuté avec les membres en question.

Manuela Colombi a rapporté l'offre des organisateurs de la Réunion Internationale Online de Londres (ayant lieu toujours en décembre) d'une inscription à tarif réduit pour les membres EAHIL. Le Comité a accepté l'offre avec grand plaisir. Le secrétariat de l'EAHIL sera chargé de suivre et rapporter (au moins une fois par an dans le Bulletin) les avantages de l'affiliation à l'EAHIL. A ce jour, on sait que les membres

EAHIL peuvent participer aux réunions de la MLA, acheter les publications MLA et aussi s'abonner au Health Information and Libraries Journal (continuation de Health Libraries Review du groupe HLG du Royaume Uni) au tarif réservé aux membres. L'EAHIL étant membre de l'IFLA, les membres de l'EAHIL ont le droit de s'inscrire aux réunions IFLA au tarif adhérent (mentionner le nombre d'affiliation NL-8003) et l'EAHIL peut soutenir la candidature des membres du Comité Exécutif de l'IFLA ; le Comité EAHIL a décidé de soutenir la prolongation de Derek Law en tant que trésorier de l'IFLA. En outre, le Comité EAHIL a décidé de nommer Arne Jakobsson comme représentant de l'EAHIL aux élections pour le Standing Committee de la Section des Bibliothèques de Sciences biologiques et médicales. Arne est aussi le représentant des bibliothèques norvégiennes. Cette année la réunion annuelle de l'IFLA aura lieu à Boston, l'année prochaine à Glasgow et en 2003 à Berlin.

Suzanne Bakker a demandé des suggestions sur la façon d'intégrer les projets et efforts de formation continue pour les bibliothécaires médicaux au plan d'action de l'EAHIL. Jusqu'à présent ces activités n'ont inclus que soutien et promotion pour

l'organisation de cours précédents les conférences. On sait que les programmes d'enseignement à distance existent, mais encore faut-il voir avec les membres du Conseil si ceux-ci offrent des avantages particuliers aux adhérents de l'EAHIL.

Comme mentionné ci-dessus, nombre de thèmes et problèmes nécessitent un surcroît de travail, des contributions, discussions et coopération avec les membres du Conseil de l'EAHIL. Il faut aussi être attentif aux problèmes discutés avec le Conseil en Janvier 2000. Les membres du Conseil EAHIL vont donc recevoir davantage d'informations et de demandes du Comité via leur liste de diffusion (par ex. concernant les problèmes professionnels et éthiques ; les liens et contenu du site web de l'EAHIL).

Malgré la quantité des sujets abordés et discutés en détail, le Comité a réussi à clore la réunion le samedi à midi. Quelques-uns sont allés directement à l'aéroport pour prendre l'avion de retour, d'autres ont pu se promener le long des canaux du centre ville d'Utrecht, visiter des musées ou faire des achats.

Suzanne Bakker

News from the Medical Library Association (USA):

● **The MLA's 2001 election results are as follows:**

President-Elect: Linda A. Watson

She will be President Elect May 2001-2002, and President from May 2002-2003. She is the Library Director at the Claude Moore Health Science in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The 2 new members of the 12 member Board of Directors of the MLA are:

Ruth Holst
Diana Cunningham

● **The MLA has launched its Consumer Health Credential for librarians. This new credentialing program is in conjunction with the recent Public Library and Consumer Health conference in Washington, DC, sponsored by the MLA, the Public Library Association, and the National Library of Medicine.**

● **Donna Flake was selected as the Medical Librarian of the Year by the MLA's Mid-Atlantic chapter. Ms. Flake was given a plaque of appreciation at the Awards Banquet at the annual meeting in Roanoke, Virginia.**

The President of MLA's Mid-Atlantic Chapter had this to say about Ms. Flake: "Donna Flake receives this award for her many accomplishments – particularly in the International Medical Librarianship and in Consumer Health"

Some of her international accomplishments include:

- Serving as MLA's Representative to EAHIL for the last 6 years and presenting papers at EAHIL meetings in Prague, Coimbra, Portugal, Budapest, Utrecht, Tartu, Estonia and London.
- Being a prominent member of the International Cooperation Section of MLA and serving as Job Exchange Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Chair and Chair of the Cunningham Fellowship Itinerary Committee.

- Participating in a 6 month Job Exchange with the Wessex Medical Library, University of Southampton, England.
- Hosting Medical Librarians from Romania, The Netherlands, Russia and South Africa who participated in the Cunningham Fellowship.

Donna Flake's deep interest in consumer health information resulted in the establishment of the Coastal Consumer Health Library in Wilmington, North Carolina.

While living in Savannah, Georgia and working as Library Director at Memorial Medical Center, Donna Flake served as President of the Georgia Health Services Library Association.

Donna Flake is Library Director at Coastal AHEC in Wilmington, North Carolina. She is also a Distinguished Member of the Academy Health Information Professionals of the Medical Library Association.



The EAHIL Newsletter : Print Versus Electronic Copy

There have been recent discussions whether it is a viable proposition to continue a printed version of the Newsletter in light of the fact that **a)** income from subscriptions has decreased substantially (1) **b)** production costs have increased and on account of this a reduced budget has been imposed for 2001-2002 (1) and **c)** there is an on-line version on the EAHIL homepage which in fact is available to everyone regardless whether one is a member or non-member (2).

The case **FOR** the Electronic Copy is usually submitted as two major arguments: reduction of production costs and availability to all. I think we all agree that regarding the former it is obvious that production costs of course would be minimal if we decided only on the electronic version. However if we evaluate the latter argument can we be absolutely sure that an electronic copy in fact really means availability to all? For example there are two sides to this here in Romania as in other countries from the Communist Bloc. In theory most, but not all, libraries have access to a computer and Internet facilities but this does not apply to facilities at home where the majority do not have Internet access. Taking the Romanian library facilities into consideration, every academic institution is forced by law to use the national academic network which is *financed* by the Ministry of Education (ME). In practice the ME has very little money and every year there is at least three months when the whole Internet service is stopped until ME finds the money. For the last three months there has been a truly bizarre strategic plan by the ME Administration to reduce costs by stopping Internet at least 6 times a day for 30 minutes, radically slowing down the speed of Internet so that downloading a page almost always *times out* and reducing the e-mail traffic whereby up to 3000 e-mail messages are held back daily in Bucharest and *returned to senders*. In addition specific domain names such as the popular HOTMAIL, EXCITE.com, DEMON.co.uk and other sites, it seems, totally at random, have been outlawed. As you can imagine this means utter chaos for someone like me who has an average of 15 international messages a day apart from

the fact that I have built up a nice dossier of outlawed domain names and accordingly set up other addresses! Finally on the 25 January a message was sent to all academic users stating that in the next few days once again the academic network would be halted "for an indefinite period" because the MF had still not paid RomTelecom. So electronic availability is not a surety here in Eastern European countries and Jelka Petrak from Zagreb has also echoed this:-

Regarding the print versus electronic argument for the EAHIL Newsletter I completely agree (with your points on availability). We all do not really work in the same technologically developed environment. It is a real problem for a number of people working in the small countries where there are not many members of EAHIL. One print copy of the Newsletter is circulating around and is browsed by at least 2-3 librarians.

In this statement Jelka also raises the problems of subscriptions to EAHIL in Eastern European countries whereby there are few members because of financial constraints not only with institutional journal subscriptions but also because of low salaries regarding individual subscriptions: a subscription to EAHIL can be almost equivalent to a month's salary. In this situation, conversely, because of the lack of technology availability, a printed copy has still a better chance of being circulated.

Another well-trodden argument **AGAINST** only having an electronic copy is the utility factor - we can only read it at the computer. For me access to library and/or association journals/newsletters is often out-of-office reading, taking them on train journeys or when I know I will have long waiting periods or time to read them at leisure. Manuela Colombi also agrees with this sentiment:

I think it is good to have both, print and electronic version. Personally I prefer receiving the paper issue on my table and also reading it far from the office. The electronic version can be a good back-up or a way to attract external people.

Moreover regarding the printed version I am personally more receptive to news and information contained in a printed journal and often much more can be digested than if I was reading it on-site in a stressful situation. Suzanne Bakker adds this:-

Several times it has happened that I have laid my hands on an article "by accident" at the right moment. A year ago I received on the day before travelling abroad an issue on exactly the subject I wanted to discuss at this international meeting.

Of course one could argue that one could download it from the website and then print it but then the whole aspect of the printed copy is much less attractive and passing it around to colleagues in this form does not encourage more subscriptions in fact the opposite; it deters. As Suzanne Bakker says:

From my experience with other associations, I know that a newsletter published on schedule is very important to build the "image" of the association, especially as it is seen and experienced as a "proof" of the activity and viability of the association. I think that the friendly way of receiving a nice looking printed copy is a more "human" way of becoming aware to what is going on in the world. There is not enough time and curiosity to pursue the news we do not know exists!

These are just four people's views on this very current debate. What do you think? The EAHIL Editorial Board & Council would be very interested to hear other opinions. Please send them by e-mail to swood@umfcluj.ro or swoodlamont@lamont.ro

Sally Wood-Lamont

Bibliography:

- 1) Tony McSeán. President's report and programme of work. EAHIL Newsletter (Nov) 2000; 53:7-8
- 2) Tamara Morcillo. To be or not to be an EAHIL member. EAHIL Newsletter (Nov) 2000; 53:5-6



Le Bulletin de l'EAHL: imprimé versus électronique

Maintenir ou non la version imprimée du bulletin de l'EAHL? La question est au centre de débats récents, au vu des éléments suivants : (a) le revenu provenant des abonnements vient de diminuer considérablement (1) ; (b) les coûts de production ont augmenté et en conséquence un budget réduit s'impose pour 2001-2002 (1) ; et (c) il existe déjà une version en ligne sur le site web de l'EAHL disponible pour tous, membres ou non-membres (2).

Les arguments POUR la version électronique sont classiques et connus : coûts réduits de production et accessibilité pour tous. Je crois qu'on est tous d'accord concernant le premier point : les coûts seront bien entendu diminués si on garde seulement la version électronique. Néanmoins, si l'on considère l'autre argument, sommes-nous absolument certains que la version électronique signifie vraiment accessibilité pour tous ? Par exemple, ici en Roumanie, comme dans d'autres pays de l'ancien bloc communiste, nous sommes concernés par les deux faces de la médaille. En théorie, la plupart des bibliothèques ont accès à l'Internet, mais les bibliothécaires n'ont pas cet accès à domicile ou bien à de très rares exceptions. Dans le cas de la Roumanie, toutes les institutions du système éducatif sont obligées par la loi d'utiliser le réseau académique national financé par le Ministère de l'Education (ME). En pratique, le ME ne dispose pas de suffisamment d'argent, et chaque année, il y a au moins un mois d'interruption des services Internet, le temps nécessaire pour le ME de trouver l'argent pour payer le fournisseur. Depuis trois mois l'administration du ME a développé un plan stratégique assez curieux de réduction des coûts, en bloquant l'accès à l'Internet au moins 6 fois par jour pendant 30 minutes, diminuant la capacité et donc la vitesse à un point où le réseau devient quasiment inutilisable et réduisant le trafic, ceci ayant pour résultat qu'environ 3000 messages sont retenus à Bucarest et retournés aux expéditeurs. En plus, on met en place des filtres concernant certains noms de domaines très populaires comme HOTMAIL, YAHOO, EXCITE ou DEMON.CO.UK. Pour moi tout cela signifie un chaos total, car je reçois

habituellement plus de 15 messages de toutes provenances par jour, nombre d'entre eux provenant de ces noms de domaines interdits ! Maintenant, depuis le 25 janvier, nous sommes menacés d'un arrêt total, si le ME ne paye pas ses dettes envers ses fournisseurs. L'accessibilité de la version électronique n'est donc pas du tout sûre en Europe de l'Est, et Jelka Petrak de Zagreb s'en fait également l'écho :

Concernant le débat imprimé versus électronique pour le Bulletin de l'EAHL, je suis tout à fait d'accord avec les remarques concernant les problèmes d'accessibilité. Nous ne travaillons pas tous dans le même environnement technologique. C'est un vrai problème pour nombre de gens travaillant dans des pays plus petits où il y a peu de membres de l'EAHL. Une version imprimée du Bulletin peut circuler et être lue par 2-3 bibliothécaires.

Dans son intervention Jelka pose aussi la question des adhésions à l'AEIBS dans les pays d'Europe de l'Est, où le nombre des membres est restreint à cause des budgets réduits des bibliothèques et aussi des bas salaires. Une adhésion individuelle à l'AEIBS est souvent équivalente à un mois de salaire. Dans cette situation, une version imprimée a de meilleures chances de circuler et donc, d'être lue.

Un autre argument fréquemment utilisé CONTRE la version électronique seule est le côté "pratique", nous ne pouvons la lire que sur ordinateur. Pour moi la lecture des revues/bulletins de bibliéconomie et/ou des associations se passe souvent en-dehors de mon bureau, plutôt pendant les voyages en train ou dans des occasions où je sais que j'aurai un long temps d'attente. Manuela Colombi partage tout à fait ce sentiment :

Je crois que c'est bien d'avoir les deux, imprimé et électronique. Personnellement, je préfère recevoir mon exemplaire sur papier et le lire loin de mon bureau. La version électronique peut représenter un bon moyen de sauvegarder la revue et aussi d'attirer des lecteurs externes.

En plus, je suis plus réceptive aux nouvelles et informations contenues dans une re-

vue imprimée ; et je crois que souvent, on peut digérer davantage d'informations sur un support papier plutôt que sur écran et dans une situation stressante. Suzanne Bakker ajoute ceci :

Bien des fois il m'est arrivé d'avoir sous la main un article découvert par hasard au moment le plus opportun. Ainsi il y a un an, j'ai reçu la veille d'un départ pour l'étranger le numéro d'une revue qui traitait exactement du sujet que je devais aborder à cette réunion internationale.

Bien entendu, le débat peut se prolonger avec l'argument que l'on peut télécharger un article du site web et l'imprimer ; mais alors l'aspect de la copie imprimée est moins attractif et la distribution sous cette forme n'encourage pas les abonnements, bien au contraire : elle les décourage. Suzanne Bakker le dit aussi :

De par mon expérience avec d'autres associations, je sais qu'un bulletin publié à terme est très important pour construire l'image de l'association ; ceci est perçu et ressenti comme une preuve de son existence et de son dynamisme. Je crois que recevoir un bel exemplaire imprimé est un procédé plus amical que la mise à disposition en ligne, et que c'est aussi une façon plus humaine de se rendre compte de ce qui se passe dans le monde. Nous n'avons pas assez de temps ni une curiosité suffisante pour suivre les nouvelles qui nous sont cachées.

Ce ne sont que les points de vue de quatre personnes concernant ce débat. Qu'en pensez-vous? Le Comité Editorial et le Conseil de l'EAHL seraient très intéressés de vous lire à ce sujet. Je vous prie de les envoyer par courrier électronique chez slamont@personal.ro ou swood@umfcluj.ro.

Sally Wood-Lamont

Bibliographie:

1. Tony McSeán. *Le rapport du président et programme des activités. EAHL Newsletter 2000;53:7-8*
2. Tamara Morcillo: *Etre ou ne pas être membre de l'EAHL. EAHL Newsletter 2000;53:5-6*



Italy, Sardinia

Alghero

Hotel Calabona

to Angelo Butti, a friend

<http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm> • • • • • • • • • •

- 6.00 p.m. Discussion
6.15 p.m. EAHL General Assembly
8.00 p.m. **Gala Dinner**

June 9

8.30 a.m. **Poster Session**

10.00 a.m. **The remote user**

Chair: Arne Jakobsson

Invited speaker: Dave Nichols
(Hamilton, New Zealand)

Applications of Computer-Supported
Cooperative Work for Libraries

10.30 a.m. V. Fraser, B. Gann (Winchester, UK)
We never close: twenty four hour knowledge
in a twenty first century health service

E. Veronesi, L. Lazzari, P. Civardi, M. Boccato
(Brescia, Italy)

Self-instruction course on the use of Internet
and DataBanks for biomedical organizations

D. Bogliolo (Rome, Italy)

Information-based systems, knowledge-based
systems and Artificial Intelligence in the
learning library

A. Poyner, A. Wood (Tiptree, UK)

Distance learning project: supporting flexible
trainees in psychiatry

L. Lazzari, L. Fruttini, L. Morotti, L. Pittaro
(Brescia, Italy)

The L-Project: Local Information Worldwide
An applied project for dissemination of
scientific contributions produced by Italian
authors in Veterinary Sciences and Agriculture
and its integration with international
information sources

D. Lombello, G. Visintin (Padua, Italy)

A distance learning experience for school
librarians

12.30 p.m. Discussion

1.00 p.m. **Closing Ceremony**

Chair: Laura Cavazza

Invited speaker : Fiona Godlee (London, UK)
Biomedical research on the Internet: divorcing
selection from publication

PHING Preliminary announcement

Within the activities for 2001, on occasion of the
EAHL Workshop "Cyberspace Odyssey" to be held
in Alghero, Sardinia, Italy, 7-9 June 2001 the PHING
co-chairs are pleased to announce the organisation
of a session on

"e-Pharmaceutical information: an open discussion"

Alghero, 7 June 2001, 2-4 pm

you are kindly invited to submit an intervention -
Deadline - March 28, 2001

- please send your proposal : title+ short summary
(10 min presentation)
- suggest topics to the moderator
- prepare an active participation

Giovanna F. Miranda
(giovanna.miranda@sanofi-synthelabo.com)
Luisa Vercellesi
(Luisa.Vercellesi@astrazeneca.com)

Wednesday 6 June 9.30 a.m.
EAHL Executive Board Meeting

Thursday 7 June 9.30 a.m.
EAHL Council Meeting

Friday 8 June 6.15 a.m.
EAHL General Assembly



News from EVLG / Nouvelles de EVLG

As Tom Roper mentioned in the EAHIL Newsletter of November 2000 the Discussion List of the European Veterinary Libraries Group is underway. Now we are able to continue and start our discussion about the European aspects of information services on Animal Health and related subjects via the digital way.

How can we put our efforts together and try to improve the veterinary information services to support the veterinary educational and research institutions?

What role do our different languages play in the possibilities of co-operation in this Year of the Language in Europe?

How can we build a European homepage for Veterinary Libraries beside other homepages with related scopes?

What effort is needed and who are able to support and guarantee the continuity?

The year 2000 was very fruitful in Animal Health Information developments. As in the years before the Discussion List of the Veterinary Libraries, VETLIB-L, offered many new ideas and led to the solving of many questions. Jean Paul Jetté provided us all with information on new veterinary journals available free via Internet. VetGate, the UK's gateway to high quality Internet resources in Animal Health was launched in November 2000, as part of BIOME. In the United Kingdom and Ireland the ASVIN project lead to better co-operation and collaboration between libraries in the animal health and veterinary information field and will have its final seminar on April 25th 2001 in London.

Please forward your ideas regarding the possibilities and developments in information services in Animal Health in Europe or in your language region on the EVLG list (EVLG-L@LISTSERV.KIB.KLSE). To join the list please contact: Tom Roper: t.ropert@rcvs.org.uk

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the EVLG board members:

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Comme Tom Roper l'a mentionné dans le Bulletin EAHIL de novembre 2000, la liste de diffusion du Groupe des Bibliothèques Vétérinaires Européennes est en place. Nous pouvons maintenant continuer par voie numérisée la discussion sur les aspects européens des services d'information de santé animale et les sujets en relation. Comment pouvons-nous unir nos efforts et essayer d'améliorer les services d'information vétérinaire pour soutenir les institutions d'éducation et de recherche vétérinaire? Quel rôle les différentes langues jouent-elles dans les possibilités de coopération dans cette Année de la Langue en Europe. Comment pouvons-nous construire une page d'accueil Européenne pour les Bibliothèques Vétérinaires à côté des autres pages de portée similaire? Quel est l'effort nécessaire et qui pouvons-nous soutenir pour en assurer la continuité ?

L'année 2000 a été très fructueuse pour le développement de l'information de santé animale. Comme les années précédentes, la liste de diffusion des bibliothèques vétérinaires, VETLIB-L, a été le support de beaucoup d'idées nouvelles et a aidé à résoudre bon nombre de questions. Jean-Paul Jetté nous a fourni une information exhaustive concernant les nouvelles revues vétérinaires en libre accès sur l'Internet. VetGate, le portail académique britannique de ressources de haute qualité sur la santé animale a été lancé en novembre 2000 comme partie de BIOME. Dans le Royaume Uni et l'Irlande, le projet ASVIN a permis d'établir une

meilleure coopération entre les bibliothèques concernant l'information vétérinaire et de la santé animale. Son séminaire final aura lieu le 25 avril 2001 à Londres.

Nous vous prions d'envoyer vos idées concernant les possibilités et progrès des services de santé animale en Europe ou dans vos régions linguistiques à la liste EVLG (EVLG-L@LISTSERV.KIB.KLSE). Pour vous inscrire sur la liste envoyez un message à Gunilla Strid : gunilla.strid@SRRI.E

Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à contacter les membres du Comité EVLG:

Gerdien de Jonge
Chair - EVLG

NEW MEMBERS

Individual membership:

- From the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy:
Ms R. FERRARA (Rosalia)
Ms C. MANCINI (Cristina)
Ms C. CALICCHIA (Cristina)
Ms M.G. CORSI (Maria)
Ms A. BARBARO (Annarita)

and

- Ms. P. BOWEN (Pat)
West Middlesex University Hospital
NHS Trust Middlesex, UK
- Ms C. SZABO-BALOGH (Clarissa)
Semmelweis University of Medicine
Central Library
Budapest, Hungary
- Ms. M. GUNNARSOTTIR (Margret)
Landspítali, University Hospital
REYKJAVIK, Iceland
- Ms. B.K. RUSTAD (Bente)
UBO, Library of Medicine and Health
Sciences
OSLO, Norway
- Mrs. S. SCHOSTAG (Sabine)
Det Sundhedsvidenskabelige
AARHUS, Denmark

Institutional membership:

- Ms K. ODELL (Kirsti)
Keski-Suomen SHP
JYVASKYLA, Finland



Annual Conference of the German Association of Medical Librarianship (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für medizinisches Bibliothekswesen (AGMB)) held in Vienna on 11th - 13th September 2000

This year, the annual conference of the AGMB was held for the first time in Vienna. The city's General Hospital hosted the three-day event, which was organised by the Austrian Central Medical Library in Vienna. The theme of the conference, which was attended by over 158 delegates from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, was "Medical Libraries: New Structures - New Challenges". The programme was based on a mixture of plenary sessions, working groups and presentations by companies and was both full and wide-ranging.

Following a long-standing tradition, the AGMB's three specialist working groups met on the afternoon of the first day of the conference.

The Hospital Libraries Working Group, whose session was chaired by *Alena Ittner* (Buch Hospital, Berlin), discussed the issue of library funding and maintenance in the light of changes in ownership status in some hospitals and went on to consider the problem of "Making oneself indispensable".

The Pharmaceutical Industry Libraries Working Group, whose session was chaired by *Wolfgang Kosten* (Scientific Library, Bayer AG, Wuppertal), heard a lecture from *Hans-Georg Rohbeck* (Bayer AG, Wuppertal) on the subject of "Supply and usage of electronic journals in a pharmaceutical company library".

The session devoted to the University Medical Libraries Working Group, which was chaired by *Ralf Brugbauer* (Central Medical Library, Marburg), attracted a large number of delegates and had as its main theme the "Development of new and conventional media in medicine".

The conference was officially opened on 12th September by the Chairman of the AGMB, *Ulrich Korwitz* (German Central Medical Library, Cologne). The AGMB is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and chose for its venue on this occasion one of the most important hospitals in Europe, located in a city which has had a distinguished role in the history of medicine.

Referring to the theme of the conference, Herr Korwitz spoke of the need for change management in response to the new challenges facing medical libraries, such as globalisation, concentration and job cuts.

In his welcoming speech, Dr. *Peter Seitz* (a Head of Department in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture) said that it was an obligation of any social policy to make information media, even expensive ones, available to a wide public.

Prof. Dr. *Reinhard Krepler* (Medical Director of the Vienna General Hospital) described the setting-up of the Austrian Central Medical Library, now the biggest medical library in Austria, and reported that it had led to a threefold increase in scientific output and made the literature more accessible.

Dr. *Armin Prinz* (Institute for the History of Medicine, Vienna University) gave a fascinating talk on "Ethnomedicine: Past achievements and new developments in ethnopharmacology" which explored the function and significance of this interdisciplinary subject.

Dr. *Helmut Leitner* (Director of the Austrian Central Medical Library since 1994) then gave a presentation entitled "The role of the Central Medical Library in the Austrian medical library network". After a historical review of the founding of the library and its development into the Austrian Central Medical Library, Dr. Leitner discussed the library's central and national functions and its place in the overall organisational structure.

Dr. *Günther Olensky* (Director of the Library at Vienna Veterinary University) delivered a presentation entitled "The new Library at Vienna Veterinary University". The University is the only veterinary training institution in Austria and ranks as the third oldest veterinary school in the world. The Library there is the only scientific library in Austria which makes a systematic collection of veterinary literature and it therefore has both central and public roles.

The focal point of the presentation given by Prof. *Henriette Jurasszovich* of Vienna (entitled "Multimedia medical education at Vienna University's Medical Faculty 1992 - 2000: Implementation and evaluation research") was the Computer Learning Studio, which was designed to improve medical education for doctors and students at the University's Medical Faculty by providing computer-assisted learning facilities.

In his impressive presentation entitled "Reflections on the future role of the Internet and multimedia in training and education, with illustrative examples from the field of medicine", Dr. med. *Christof Daetwyler* (Department of Educational Media, Bern University) discussed the increasing importance and usefulness of Internet-based learning programmes. A list of links to learning programmes for German-speaking medical students has been compiled by Dr. Daetwyler and can be accessed at <http://www.aum.iawf.unibe.ch/vlz/MedLinks.htm>.

Dr. *Jörg Nitzsche* (German Central Medical Library, Cologne) gave an account of empirical studies on "The demand for, and use of, medical information and literature". Studies of this nature are important in helping medical libraries to develop user-oriented services.

The first lecture of the afternoon was given by *Renate Passenheim* (Heidelberg Medical Faculty), who reported on "The development and organisation of a medical library at the School of Medicine in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina". Further details of the project can be found on the project's home page at <http://www.med.uni-heidelberg.de/humangen/mostar/main.html>.

On behalf of Dr. Werner Stöber, Dr. *Brigitte Arntz* (German Institute for Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI), Cologne) presented the traditional review of DIMDI's activities over the past year and gave a summary of newly available databases and recent significant developments. DIMDI has moved to new premises in Cologne; the new address is [Waisenhausgasse 36-38a, 50676 Cologne](http://www.waisenhausgasse-36-38a.de).



NEWS FROM EUROPEAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Dr. *Heinz Hauffe* (University Library, Innsbruck) presented a critical review entitled "Are citation analyses an appropriate tool for analysing scientific research?" He examined the issue of whether such analyses, which are often used to assess the quality of journals and the contributions to them, always provide truly valid results.

Prof. *Gerhard Fröhlich* (University of Linz), continuing this theme in his lecture entitled "Output indicators and impact measures as artefacts", warned that an author's scientific activity could not be judged solely by the number of publications s/he produced.

Lisa Schaub (Scientific Library, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma KG) opened the final day of the conference with a report entitled "Customer-centred service provision within a pharmaceutical company library", which provoked a lively discussion. The key issues, she said, were to establish the needs and expectations of customers and to reach a joint understanding of the services that libraries can supply.

In a presentation entitled "The upside and downside of link collections: A critical analysis with examples from the healthcare sciences", *Rüdiger Schneemann* (Technical University of Berlin) looked at the criteria which a good collection of links should meet and suggested that the introduction of a sort of "quality mark" could lead to greater satisfaction for customers and service providers in the future.

Dr. *Oliver Obst* (Medical Branch Library, University and State Library of Münster) gave a futuristic presentation entitled "Media and Information Minister Boris Becker threatens to close the last library: A retrospective from the year 2050", in which he described a totally new journal system developed by the Medical Branch Library in Münster. Following calculation of a price/usage factor for current journals, subscriptions for some less important

journals were cancelled and selected end-users were given the opportunity to order essential articles from these journals themselves, free of charge and just-in-time, using the "subito" document delivery service.

Dr. *Thomas Sycha* (Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Vienna General Hospital) spoke about "The Cochrane Library - Uses and Limitations". The Cochrane Collaboration is a non-profit-making organisation of over 4000 scientists from a wide range of institutions. Its principal function is to prepare and maintain systematic reviews of specific medical problems with the aim of improving decision-making on therapeutic issues.

Ulrich Korwitz (German Central Medical Library, Cologne) then gave his traditional annual "Report on the activities of the German Central Medical Library". The evaluation process carried out by the Scientific Council was successfully concluded in January 2000. It is not yet possible to predict how order volumes will be affected by the new royalty ruling which comes into force on 1st September, whereby direct customers will be charged an additional fixed cost per article to be passed on to VG Wort (the royalty collection organisation working on behalf of German authors and publishers). New projects include CCMed (which involves scanning of tables of contents from approx. 650 German and German-language specialist journals not appearing in Medline) and the development of pay-per-view services in collaboration with DIMDI (which will result in the availability of databases with full-text material from major publishing houses from 2001 onwards).

Dr. *Elisabeth Müller* (German Central Medical Library, Cologne) described "EVA" (Electronic Full-Text Archive) and "German Medical Science", two further projects which are being undertaken by the German Central Medical Library.

In his closing remarks, Herr Korwitz, the Chairman of the AGMB, gave a summary of the principal points arising from the conference and thanked Dr. Leitner and his colleagues for organising the event so splendidly.

At the General Assembly, an interim Managing Committee, to serve until the AGMB is officially recognised as an "eingetragener Verein" (registered association), was elected. The members of the Committee are as follows:

- Ulrich Korwitz (German Central Medical Library, Cologne):
Chairman
- Dr. Oliver Obst (Medical Branch Library, University and State Library of Münster):
Deputy chairman
- Alena Ittner (Buch Hospital, Berlin):
Acting deputy chairman
- Dorothee Boeckh (Medical and Scientific Library, Mannheim Hospital):
Secretary
- Ursel Lux (Central Library, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma KG):
Publications officer and treasurer

The next annual conference of the AGMB will be held in the Anatomy Department of Eppendorf University Hospital, Hamburg, on 17th - 19th September 2001.

The speaker presentations given at this year's annual conference will be published in "Medizin-Bibliothek-Information", the successor to "AGMB aktuell" and "Mitteilungen der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für medizinisches Bibliothekswesen" (see <http://www.agmb.de>).

Trans. 02336/D.J.Parker/15.12.2000

Ursel Lux
Central Library, Boehringer Ingelheim
Pharma KG



LIBRARIES AT THE CENTER OF LEARNING

Polytechnic libraries at the newest link in the Finnish library and information network

Polytechnic Reform

The higher education system in Finland faced significant reforms in the 1990's when polytechnics (or AMK institutions) were established to accompany the universities. The aim of the reform was to raise the general standard of education in Finland. The Ministry of Education stated that more qualified expert professionals were required to fill in competence gaps left by the old vocational education system and universities. Polytechnic degrees were defined as part of the higher education degree system, and in comparison with university degrees, polytechnic degrees are more professionally and practically oriented (1). In the medical and health field there are polytechnic degrees in Emergency Care, Nursing and Health Care, Oral Hygiene, Dental Technology, Radiography and Radiotherapy, Optometry and Biomedical Laboratory Technology.

Image: The regular education system of Finland (source: <http://www.minedu.fi/eopm/hep/grp/gr01.html>)

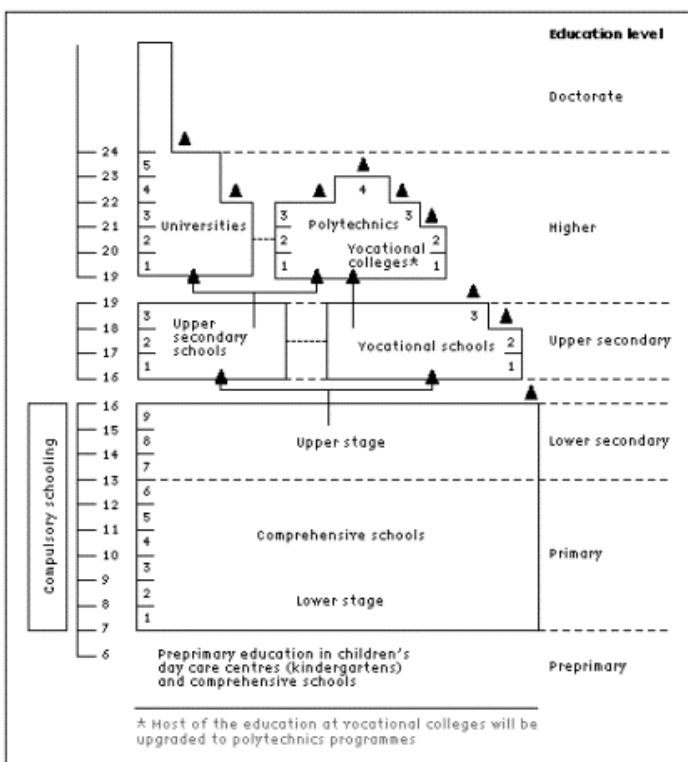
Development Strategies for Polytechnic Libraries

Polytechnics were formed by merging the specialized vocational institutions to form new, multi-disciplinary institutions. The Ministry of Education defined critical development areas for the new polytechnics: demands were made to develop study programmes and study methods as well as to increase education-workplace interaction and opportunities for international studies. Library and information services were among the development areas, too. According to the Ministry of Education's support programme for the polytechnic reform: *As regards library and information services, the aim is for the polytechnics to allocate some 5 per cent of their operational expenditure to these services in the long run.* (2). The polytechnic libraries saw this as a great challenge and a million-dollar chance to raise their profile. But how could a unique role be found for them in the very high-standard library network of Finland where university and other scientific libraries had long-standing traditions and where the public libraries had been the first in the

world to offer free Internet access to citizens? A working group was nominated to organize discussion and to draft a national strategy for polytechnic libraries.

The working group made several surveys and study reports that clarified for instance the educational needs of the polytechnic librarians and the present state of the library IT systems of the polytechnics. The following were named as the main goals for the development: an up-to-date library collection, library infrastructure (facilities, technology), qualified personnel, library's organizational position, networking within the own organization and with other organizations, and quality assessment. The national vision of the polytechnic libraries was articulated as follows: *The library is an essential part of the learning environment. The library offers an open, flexible and networked environment which supports also distance education. The library has a professionally oriented collection, modern facilities and expert personnel who act as tutors and trainers of information skills.* (3)

The regular education system of Finland



Case: Helsinki Polytechnic Library

Helsinki polytechnic was founded in 1996. It was formed from 10 independent vocational colleges and institutions. The ages of the institutions varied from 100 years to 2 years: some of the institutions had libraries and professional personnel, the newest ones did not. In 1999 the institutions were merged to form the Helsinki polytechnic, and the library was organised centrally: one single budget, a single personnel. The library has a networked structure: 8 locations (3 health libraries, 3 technology libraries and 2 music libraries). In addition, there are 3 cooperational libraries, one in the health sector, one each in the cultural and services sector. At present there are over 6000 students in three educational main sectors: Health Care and Social Welfare (2900 students), Technology and Transport (2800 students), and Culture and Services (900 students).

The Helsinki Polytechnic created its own shorter library mission statement based on the national vision, "Information skills belong to everyone's professional expertise." (4) (image source: <http://lib.hkiamk.fi/english/libpresentation2000/goal.gif>)

This simplistic vision has a lot of underlying goals and demands: in order to give everyone a chance to acquire the



FEATURE ARTICLES



information skills, the library personnel need to work in close partnerships with other faculties. In this way the teaching of information skills will be included in study plans throughout the students' learning path and not only librarians will be responsible for the teaching of the information skills. Moreover the library needs to have a reputation as a trustworthy and pedagogically competent partner within the polytechnic. In 2001 the library is offering basic training in information skills for all fresher students and students who are starting their diploma studies. In addition, the health library is offering courses as part of the options that the students can freely choose from. In addition to the partnerships within the polytechnic, Helsinki region offers diverse opportunities for partnerships with other library and information organizations. A close cooperation is essential to avoid unnecessary overlapping. For instance in the health sector, the polytechnic cooperates with Terkko library.(5)

Challenges for the future

In order to support the polytechnic libraries' own strategy work, there are several reports published by the Ministry of Education that boost the development of Finnish information society (6,7). The library development has been mentioned for instance in the development plan **Education and Research 2000-2004: Universities and polytechnics will develop their library and information services and information management in close collaboration. A common basic structure needs to be developed on the basis of which each higher education sector can develop its own special know-how. The information network and library services**

infrastructure will be primarily built with centralised funding. Projects requiring exceptionally large additional resources during the planning period are the renewal of the FUNET backbone network and the common library system. (7)

As part of the development plan, the Ministry of Education is funding a library system project for polytechnics. It will be launched in February 2001 to plan and implement the building of a common library system for the polytechnics that will be linked to the universities' new shared library system, LINNEA2 which will be realized in the summer of 2001 (8)

Last but not least, the polytechnic libraries have actively participated in the FinELib, The National Electronic Library of Finland (9). The project was launched in 1998 by the Ministry of Education aiming at supporting higher education and research in Finland. From the beginning of 2000, the National Library of Finland has been responsible for the following activities. FinELib acquires Finnish and foreign electronic material for Finland, such as scientific journals and reference databases for specialist fields. It is headed by a steering group nominated by the Ministry of Education. Representatives of the polytechnic libraries take part in subject-specific working groups which evaluate and select the electronic materials to be offered through FinELib. One problematic challenge has been to locate information resources that would suit the professionally oriented studies of the polytechnics.

To conclude, the polytechnic libraries have developed significantly during the recent

years. They have found new types of partnerships within their own polytechnics and with other library organizations as well. The polytechnic libraries are gradually taking their position in the Finnish library and information network. A lot of work remains to be done, but we are on our way and looking forward to new partnerships within the country and internationally!

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Services at Helsinki Polytechnic



The Bulgarian drug information system and its printed version Index Pharmacorum Bulgaricus

Medical science and practice is probably the most rapid developing branch of human knowledge. This is especially true for the development of a new powerful and relatively safe drug. Today drugs are a real necessity, which support humans from their birth to their death.

Aiming to respond to the growing informational needs in medicine in the Medical Information Center (MIC) in the Medical University, the Sofia Drug Information System (DIS) has been developed, updating a comprehensive overview of the pharmaceutical products registered for sale in Bulgaria. It is used by physicians, dentists, pharmaceuticals, students and drugs manufacturing or distributing companies.

DIS is structurally unique and extremely exhaustive. For the first time in our country such a rich in information product is available, reflecting the state of our pharmaceutical market and the specific needs of Bulgarian physicians.

The information in DIS is systematized using a 5-level Anathomo-therapeutic classification of the World Health Organization. There are 14 main headings which are subdivided in pharmaceutical groups and subgroups, containing backgrounds explaining the mechanisms of actions and other characteristics of a group. Information on each drug commences with its international nonproprietary name (INN) followed by 9 principal rubrics. Aiming at a more systematized data presentation some subdivisions have been introduced.

Database information may be obtained after a concrete question as a printed version or on diskette, reflecting the achieved *status nascendi* in actualizing the database and containing a different amount information reflecting the needs of data consumer. The database is also available

as db-files or ASCII files together with the supporting program and user guide. Usage of the automated variant (as a single user or in web) makes it easy to refer to or correct or give supplementary information to data.

A printed version (DIS-Print) – The Drug Reference Index Pharmacorum Bulgaricus in 10 vol. was published for DIS users:

Vol. I. Drugs affecting metabolism and the digestive system, p. 498, 1997

Vol. II. Neuropsychotropic drugs, p. 590, 1997

Vol. III. Drugs affecting the cardiovascular system, p. 624, 1997

Vol. IV. Sex hormones and drugs affecting the urogenital system, p. 386, 1997

Vol. V. Antineoplastic agents and drugs affecting the hematopoetic system, p. 458, 1997

Vol. VI. Drugs affecting the respiratory system. Medical devices, p. 358, 1998

Vol. VII. Anti-infective and antiparasitic agents, p. 656, 1998

Vol. VIII. Dermatologicals. Drugs affecting the sensory organs and musculoskeletal system. Various, p. 630, 1998

Vol. IX. Newly registered drugs up to December 31, 1998, p. 600, 1999

Vol. X. Newly registered drugs up to December 31, 1999, p. 430, 2000

In future, the IPB edition will be continued with supplementary volumes.

22 parts of the DIS have been published separately up to now.

Recent Bulgarian pharmacological references, monographs, other databases, as well as information from the

pharmaceutical companies were used for completing DIS. Data are permanently actualized and new registered drugs are included.

In order to optimize users' pharmacological information, equipment is required but there is also the possibility to extract information from traditional and automated sources concerning not only legalized drugs in our country but a variety of data alongside the usual drug references all which go a long way to satisfy the profoundest scientific research.

The field of medicine has enlarged its possibilities, but National Health services incur huge expenditure. Even the richest Health insurance services in the world experience difficulties in the face of enormous costs. It is obvious that we require predominantly to treat seriously ill patients, whereas the light or temporal health disturbances in the everyday life of the modern person must be counteracted by the person himself i.e. using over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. Facing the emerging necessity of awareness to accepted OTC drugs, in 1999 in the MIC "OTC" drugs – a brief version of IBP respectively DIS was published. This book presents information concerning indications, contraindications, side effects, composition, dosage, intoxication, drugs interactions, warnings, i.e. facts necessary for the choice of drugs without a physician's recommendation. Medicines are arranged by their main indication: drugs with the same active substances are grouped accordingly. Finding information concerning a concrete brand name is possible via the alphabetic index added to each chapter as well as by a comprehensive alphabetic index at the end of the book.

**Professor Dr. Chr. Mutafov,
V. Gateva, P. Andreeva-Gateva,
B. Vasileva**



Online 2000 – a short overview, <http://www.online-information.co.uk>

This year's online conference was covered by a range of topics extremely interesting for the medical information community. The topics covered, left few opportunities to visit the large fair which was frequently pointed out by the participants especially those who, for diverse reasons, only attended two full days ie Tuesday and Wednesday).

For me, as an Austrian, as it was in July at EAHIL and at Utrecht, it was impressive to see so many colleagues from the Scandinavian countries and Finland especially. The two pharmaceutical sessions were quite crowded and it was fruitful and interesting that most pharmaceutical companies gave presentations and/or had participants.

The organizing committee had achieved a dense and solid collection of good speakers integrated into a valuable mixture of pragmatic and practical issues, completed by a series of case studies.

In my personal view three topics were focused on throughout the meeting : **knowledge management, communities and linking**. There is another word that very frequently appeared in different presentations representing a shift from subject to ethics: trust – that was defined as the band within communication.

In short – and it might be that other attendees may cover this in more detail within this newsletter – **Knowledge Management** has been characterized by something that is not easy to define and hard to do well. It is related to organisational issues concerning support and leadership. It is critically related to content and predominantly to people – in contrary to the many booths on the fair it is not related to technology. In fact it is an embedded process within the particular organisation that cannot be characterized as a program nor a project peter.chivers@kpmg.co.uk **Communities** another topic focused upon, has been defined as something related to the term *network* and which may be either of a professional, functional, geographical project, customer or special interest group type: (Elizabeth Lank, elank@compuserve.com) in the words of another speaker „focus, focus, focus“ (Neil Bacon, doctors.net.uk). It is crucial to ongoing communities to have a leader or coordinator who keeps things going; a concept which might slightly be altered to the setting either within a corporation, or NPOs and in relation to the target (e.g. instrument for knowledge allocation, marketing, passion etc.). The presented case studies of FreePint, doctor.net, Sfint and others stimulate to invest more time and thoughts into the electronic facilitation of an integral part of human socialization which brings people together.

Linking seems to be an important issue in many areas heavily relying on separate information packages today of which the pharma-medical area is only an example. Though linking-implementation is here nowadays, systems is still in its infancy (S.Johnson 1997, *Interface Culture* German ed. p.141 ff) topics like integration (instead of simple directing/facilitating paths) and resource modeling through SFX (cf: Van de Sompel, H. et al.: **Reference Linking in a Hybrid Library Environment. Part 2: SFX, a Generic Linking Solution**. D-Lib Magazine, April 1999, Volume 5 Issue 4, ISSN 1082-9873 at <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/>

april99/van_de_sompel/04van_de_sompel-pt2.html (acc: 8.12.2000) are encouraging issues which are appearing. Though some of the emperors of today's information-landscape seem to be too static to be part of a user driven world of a dynamically linked information highway, it might be simply due to the lack of business models for this up and coming environment.

Diverse conclusions might be drawn that a heavily technology based communities conference was not able to manage the only multimedia presentation submitted by Nike's design library - when after a video presentation the restart of the ppt-slides could not be facilitated. Additionally I wondered that the organisers of this conference (Learned Information Europe Ltd.) did not take any real opportunity to integrate some of our daily available technology and electronic concepts to enhance the benefits for the attendees. After four years of absence from this meeting it appeared somehow strange that obviously no ideas, practice and theory have been implemented into the performance of this conference. Apart from the beamers for presentation nothing seemed to have changed in the conference-communities business; only the price has reached such increased dimensions keeping many people from the fair instead of being able to participate in it A further personal observation coming from a bias-alerted community, it appeared that the awards being presented at the online dinner party stayed within the English world. This language bias was also present in many of the publications which is in contrast to the global oriented approaches and claims. More optimistically, I recommend readers to take the opportunity to hear speakers like Steve Arnold (<http://www.arnoldit.com>) or Richard Barrington (<http://www.e-envoy.gov.uk/2000/team/biographies.htm>) or Neil Bacon (<http://www.doctors.net.uk/>)

Some News on Search Engines

Search engines are always in the focus of information professionals so I thought it might be of interest to cover the presentation of one of the leading facilitators in our community in this field. Greg Notess of Montana State University, best known for his columns in *Online* and *econtent* (formerly *Database*) presented the recent state of

search engine technology to a crowded auditorium and included ideas how to cope with information searching in the internet regarding technique and behaviour (Susan Klopp of Arthur Andersen LLP, USA)

Using the quotation „to +be +or +not +to +be“ from W. Shakespeare's piece *Hamlet* put into Google resulting into only „+not“ to be searched, Notess introduced the audience to the difficulties of current search engines (SE). Putting stopwords in case of a diversity of concepts, developments and changes is illustrated. While SE's like Google (which is a favourite of experts today) Northern Light (one of the main sponsors of the meeting), Fast and Altavista are increasing their sizes thus covering something between 16-25% percent of the web. All known and popular engines try to develop business models to finance their operations, either by sponsored ranking or licensing their engines or offering wider indexing to the submitted websites. Notess mentions the development of SE for commercial sites to be paid (like GOTO) for sites' submission and inclusion. Notess also points out the many problems the SE's face: many have to deal with enormous loads of spam on their servers: estimates range up to 95% ! It is mostly overlooked that the concept of crawling and spidering result in a „picture of the past“ since it takes several weeks or months until these processes reach websites for actualization again. It is no easy task to set up a SE anyway: the 5000 clustered computers of Google and the 40-50 million queries a day impose heavy duties on such an operation and are not performed easily: not when set up continually. As with the example of Google, Northern Light e.g. faces some problems to use a phrase by Notess “there is a constant wave of changes affecting this area”. While Lycos owns Hotbot it uses the Fast Engine in its US servers and this has not been implemented at the other national sites yet. The Open text index has disappeared and Webcrawler and Magellan have been bought by Excite. There are investigations to enhance the search-power by approaches like the „bow tie theory“ by Altavista to overcome some of the drawbacks of SEs. For further information in this area watch the forthcoming columns of Greg Notess or check his URL at <http://www.searchengineshowdown.com> or take a look at <http://www.searchenginewatch.com/>

Constantin Cazan



Dear Colleagues,



The new millennium has arrived but still librarians and information professional's problems prevail: library costs and quality of health information. The Association of Research Libraries, representing some 120 academic libraries in USA, has protested against the Harcourt sale to Reed-Elsevier (Lancet, 2000, 356, 1664). In spite of this protest, in the last decade the number of major biomedical publishers has decreased resulting in a concentration of ownership of academic journals while the subscription prices continue to increase. Research libraries have trimmed subscriptions by 6%, while spending 170% more on titles (Science 2000, 290, 911).

To improve the quality of health information on the Internet, the World Health Organisation are proposing to sponsor a new top level domain called ".health". As the sponsor, WHO would be able to refuse registration to sites not meeting stringent criteria of quality (Lancet, 2000, 356, 1664).

Giovanna F. Miranda
Co-Editor & Publications

JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of 1st November 2000, the following journal issue of *Health Libraries Review* has been received: **vol. 17, 2000, no. 4**

J. Palmer. Editorial. p. 179.

G. Giles. Report on accreditation learning sets in the West Midlands Region of the NHS. p.181-188.

The evaluation of the first year of a project, which utilized learning sets to support librarians undergoing the accreditation process, in the health libraries.

F. Groen. Canada's national initiative to advance access to electronic journals. p.189-193.

This paper describes a national experiment in the licensing of full text information in journals, primarily in the fields of science, technology and medicine. The project involves 64 universities in all part of Canada to initiate a National Digital Library.

M.G.N. Musoke. Information and its value to health workers in rural Uganda: a qualitative perspective. p.194-202.

A study was conducted in 1998/99 to investigate the accessibility and use of information by health workers in rural Uganda.

T. Yeboah. Improving the provision of traditional health knowledge for rural communities in Ghana. p.203-208.

The article describes the Danfa project, which involved verbal teaching of modern health techniques to illiterate herbalists,

and educating villagers about improved traditional medical practices.

Innovations online. (B. Anagnostelis). p.209.

Brief Communication. p.215.

Research. (A.Booth). p. 232.

BOOKS REVIEW

Traitement de l'information médicale par Classification Internationale des Soins Primaires, deuxième version (CISP-2, an anglais ICPC-2). By M. Jamouille, M. Roland, J. Humbert, J.F. Brulet. 2000. FB 1210 (FF 196) frais de port en sus. Care Edition, Bruxelles. La classification CISP-2, entièrement révisée par le Comité International classification de la WONCA, est maintenant munie de définitions et critères d'inclusion et d'exclusion ainsi que des transcodages à la classification Internationale des maladies 10ème révision. La version électronique de la nomenclature, publiée sous l'acronyme CISP-2, est téléchargeable sur Internet à l'adresse du Comité (<http://www.ulb.ac.be/esp/wicc>) For further information: <http://docpatient.net/care/souscription.html>

Encyclopedia of life sciences (ELS) in both online and print format. By Nature Publishing Group. Online publication date in April 2001; print publication date Novembre 2001. Three thousand signed original articles from 5,000 of the world's leading experts in their fields. For further information: www.els.net

JOURNAL REVIEW

Pédagogie Médicale. Revue Internationale Francophone d'Education Médicale. Est une revue de l'AFDEM (Association Francophone pour le Développement de l'Education Médicale). Four Issues/year. FF 700. For further information: www.pedagogie-medicale.org

PAPERS REVIEW

Librarians seek to block merger of scientific publishing giants. D. Malakoff. Science, 2000, 290, 910.

Research libraries protest against Harcourt sale to Reed-Elsevier. M. Larkin. Lancet, 2000, 356, 1664.

WHO sets dot-health in its sights. K. Morris. Lancet, 2000, 356, 1664.

PubMed Central: government as publisher? D. Gesensway. Ann. Int. Med., 2000, 133 (10), 841.

Measuring the impact of an electronic journal collection on library costs. A framework and preliminary observations. C. H. Montgomery. D-Lib Magazine, October 2000, <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/october00>

On the World Wide Web: where are you going, where are you been? U. Mehta. Internet Reference Services Quarterly, 2000, 5 (1), 51.



PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

Women's health on the web: an overview.
D. Z. Judkins. Health care on the Internet,
2000, 4 (2/3), 1.

INFORMATION SOURCES

..... CD-Rom

Pharmaceutical Excipients 2000. The Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients, Windows version single user £ 180+VAT (overseas £ 190+VAT). A guide to the uses, properties and safety of pharmaceutical excipients. Text and graphics fully searchable.

For further information: rpsgb@cabi.org

..... Web-based

DoIS. Documents in Information Science is a free bibliographic resource of library and information science texts. The database indexes 1000 documents from publication in information science. Users can browse the index by document type or conduct a keyword search.
dois.mimas.ac.uk

LibDex is a new directory edited by the University Saskatchewan Libraries, which indexes library homepages. The site has information on over 12,000 libraries with links to library homepage and web catalogue. It is searchable by country or by keyword. The database is free of charge.
www.libdex.com

Acronym and Abbreviation Server. This is a database of acronyms and abbreviations from all subjects. Researchers from the home page may select three buttons: search for an acronym, search for a word to see the related acronym, and submit an acronym to add to the database. The database is free of charge.
<http://www.ucc.ie/acronyms/acro.html>

participated in the development of a suite of standard licence agreements, available online at www.licensingmodels.com. The licences were designed to be flexible and adaptable to account for the needs of different customers and publishers.
<http://www.ebsco.com>

OVID is developing the capability to integrate CrossRef into its OpenLinks remote full text linking solution. CrossRef is a service run by Publishers International Linking Association, Inc (over 50 publishers participating in the service). Ovid's initial implementation of CrossRef will include links to Elsevier journals. For more information, call Ovid at (800) 950-2035 in the U.S.
www.ovid.com

Swets Blackwell has acquired Munksgaard Direct, the book and subscription service division of the Munksgaard Group. This agreement results in Swets Blackwell becoming Denmark's leading agent within the business of subscription, database and electronic information services.
www.swetsblackwell.com

NEWS FROM EDITORS

EBSCO is creating a web site that contains links to publisher licensing agreements, enabling librarians to review licensing terms of publishers with whom they wish negotiate. In addition, along with John Cox and three other subscription agents, Ebsco



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

22-23 March, 2001, Lille, France EUSIDIC Spring Meeting

For further information: Dagmar Marek, Eusidic Secretariat,
c/o FIZ Karlsruhe, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen.
Fax +49 (0)7247-808-114,
e-mail eusidic@fiz-karlsruhe.de

26-28 March, 2001, London, UK Internet Librarian International

For further information:
<http://www.internet-librarian.com>

22-25 April, 2001, South Carolina, USA 2001: An Information Odyssey

Navigating customer relations, information architecture,
e-records, pharmacogenomics and the web.

For further information:
<http://events.diahome.org/event-detail>

25-30 May, 2001, Orlando, Florida, USA MLA 2001: An Information Odyssey Medicals Library Association Annual Meeting

For further information:
www.mlanet.org

7-9 June, 2001, Alghero, Sardinia, Italy 2001: Cyberspace Odyssey

EAHIL Workshop
For further information:
<http://medicina.unica.it/alghero2001/main.htm>

9-14 June, 2001, San Antonio, Texas, USA 92nd Special Libraries Association Annual Conference

For further information: www.sla.org

16-25 August, 2001, Boston, Massachusetts, USA 67th IFLA Council and General Conference

For further information:
<http://www.ifla.org> and <http://www.congrex.com>

16-21 September, 2002, Cologne, Germany Thinking globally - Acting locally

8th EAHIL Conference

25-29 June, 2003, Oslo, Norway Cross boundaries - Join forces

Nordic-Baltic-EAHIL workshop