

European Association  
for Health Information and Libraries

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



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Under the co-operation agreement between the Norwegian Library Association Section for Medicine and Health, the Union of Danish Librarians and the Kaunas University of Medicine Library, the courses "Transfer of Knowledge" for Medical Librarians in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were held in the Kaunas University of Medicine in March 20-24, 2000.

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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 EAHIL.

*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'EAHIL.*

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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 EAHIL 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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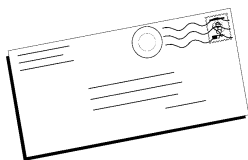
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## Dear Colleagues



First of all I would like to thank Anne Parrical from the University Medical Library, Lausanne and my colleague Denisa Marineanu for stepping in at the last moment to help with the French translations for this newsletter.

I do hope you all had a lovely Easter and for most of you there was time for some rest too. This issue features *Highlight.... on Lithuania*, comprising two very interesting articles on another Baltic state. *News from Finland* also features an article about a joint Finnish/Russian project, all three reflecting similar evolutionary problems of post communist countries that sadly will take possibly another decade, or more, to completely eradicate. These difficulties and others permeate daily in my current work here in Romania but I would also like to reiterate along with all three writers that though the changes are slow and painful sometimes, the skills and the enthusiasm of the librarians themselves bring other dimensions to the field of librarianship, consisting of courage, constancy and competitiveness. Suzanne Baker sent this quote to me. Johan Crujff - the famous Dutch soccer player and trainer said

the following: *Everything advantageous has its disadvantages*. I liked it for its simplicity and for its irony as in today's world of high technology even though vast sums and people are expended in the name of progress, so much can still be uncountable.

In EAHIL Newsletter 56 we shall be featuring *Highlight on ..... Iceland* and I was pleased to see Margret Gunnarsottir from the University Hospital in Reykjavik as a new member of EAHIL. I met Margret with five of her colleagues on the Thames cruise last year at the ICML conference and on that wonderful evening the decision was made to do this feature in issue 56 and I look forward to receiving their contributions.

We also say farewell to Donna Flake who has been a valued and integral part of EAHIL for the past six years. Many EAHIL members will want to thank Donna for her dedication and her valuable assistance throughout her term of office and for her work in the new Bilateral Agreement between MLA and EAHIL. I especially have been grateful for her regular and interesting contributions to this Newsletter over and above the immediate friendship offered whenever we have met or corresponded by e-mail.

However I would now like to extend a very warm welcome to Eve-Marie Lacroix as the new MLA representative whom many of you will have heard of in her role as Chief of the Public Services

Division at the National Library of Medicine. I look forward to working with you!

Many of our members will be busy preparing their presentations for the EAHIL Workshop, Alghero. The Italian Organizing Committee has been working hard to make the final arrangements. I wish everyone success and look forward to meeting you all in *sunny* Sardinia.

Sally Wood-Lamont



## Chers Collègues

Tout d'abord j'aimerais remercier Anne Parrical, du Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois à Lausanne et ma collègue, Denisa Marineanu d'avoir accepté d'assurer au pied levé les traductions en français du présent numéro de notre bulletin. J'espère que vous avez tous passé des fêtes de Pâques agréables et que la plupart d'entre vous auront pu également se reposer. Au sommaire de ce numéro « Pleins feux sur la Lithuanie » qui inclut deux articles dignes d'intérêt sur un autre état de la Baltique. « Les Nouvelles de Finlande » nous présente un projet conjoint entre la Finlande et l'URSS. Ces trois articles reflètent les problèmes d'évolution similaires que vivent les pays de l'après communisme ; problèmes qui, malheureusement, mettront probablement encore une décennie ou davantage pour se résorber

complètement. Ces difficultés et d'autres encore imprègnent quotidiennement mon activité professionnelle en Roumanie. J'aimerais cependant ajouter ma voix à celle des auteurs des trois articles pour dire que même si les changements sont lents et parfois douloureux, les talents et l'enthousiasme des bibliothécaires eux mêmes donnent à la profession des dimensions autres, faites de courage, de ténacité et d'émulation.

Suzanne Baker m'a envoyé la citation suivante : « Tout ce qui présente des avantages possède aussi ses revers. J'ai apprécié cette phrase pour sa simplicité et aussi pour son ironie, car nous vivons une époque de technologie avancée ou malgré les sommes colossales qui sont dépensées au nom du progrès, il reste tant et tant à faire.

Dans le bulletin numéro 56 il sera question d'un « Pleins feux sur l'Islande ». C'est un plaisir de compter parmi nos nouveaux membres d'Eahil Margret Gunnarsottir du Centre hospitalier Universitaire de Reykjavik. Nous avons pu faire connaissance de même qu'avec cinq autres de ses collègues au cours de la croisière sur la Tamise pendant le congrès ICML de l'an passé. C'est alors qu'a été prise la décision de publier le numéro 56 du bulletin sur l'Islande et je me réjouis à l'avance de leur contribution.

C'est un au revoir que nous disons à Donna Flake, membre de valeur qui a fait partie intégrante tout au long de ces six années passées de la vie d'EAHIL. De nombreux membres aimeraient la remercier pour son dévouement, son aide précieuse tout au long de son mandat,



ainsi que pour le travail qu'elle a effectué en vue d'élaborer l'accord bilatéral entre la MLA et EAHIL. Je suis pour ma part spécialement reconnaissante à Donna de ses contributions régulières et intéressantes à notre bulletin et surtout du lien amical qui s'est établi spontanément au travers de nos rencontres et de nos échanges par courrier électronique.

J'aimerais également offrir une chaleureuse bienvenue à Eve Marie Lacroix, notre nouvelle déléguée MLA, que beaucoup d'entre vous connaissent déjà grâce à son travail de Chef des Services Publics à la NLM. Je me réjouis de travailler avec Eve Marie.

Beaucoup de nos membres sont actuellement en pleine rédaction de leur

communication pour les ateliers EAHIL d'Alghero. Le comité d'organisation italien a travaillé de façon soutenue en vue des derniers préparatifs. Je souhaite à chacun un franc succès et me réjouis de vous retrouver tous sous le soleil de la Sardaigne.

Sally Wood-Lamont

## Letter from our President

### Should EAHIL Set A Standard?

It seems that our whole professional world has changed since my first term as EAHIL president in the early 1990s. To give just one example, email has developed from a novelty into an everyday necessity and - to judge by the 327 unread emails that were waiting for me after the Easter break - now is threatening to take over the whole day.

It has transformed the way that EAHIL is managed. Ten years ago the Board met twice a year, meetings that would sometimes be a desperate scramble to cover all the important topics. In between meetings much of the decision-making had to be left to the discretion of the president because there was no practical way of getting every Board member's opinion in less than two weeks and no way at all to discuss things and arrive at a constructive consensus. In 2001 the Board meetings are still important, but with the Board discussion list we are able, in effect, to be in constant session and to discuss ideas, see drafts of letters and generally share the responsibility. I enjoyed this while I was Board secretary, and am even more grateful now as president.

So email has made great and beneficial changes to the way the Board and Council function, but for me one of the benefits of the internet is the opportunities it provides for organisations like ours to become much more democratic and participatory. At the moment we have the EAHIL-L email list, and I would urge every member with internet access to surf over to [www.eahil.org](http://www.eahil.org) and sign up to EAHIL-L. But this is one example where technology is running ahead of our ability to get the best out of it and, like every list I belong to, EAHIL-L is taking longer to warm up than an old fashioned television.

So EAHIL's elected representatives do still find it difficult to find ways to find out the opinion of the whole membership on new ideas and initiatives that may come forward for consideration from time to time. This is an important consideration in any organisation but especially so in EAHIL, which fully reflects the cultural and economic diversity of a region that encompasses Lapland and the Canaries, Iceland and Kazakhstan. There are many, many valid

definitions of what constitutes "professional conduct" amongst EAHIL members and only the naive and the daft will try to ignore this. Which brings us to the point of this column:

#### Should EAHIL "Certify" Members?

One of EAHIL's main objectives is to foster the development of professionalism in European health information services. One way we could do this is by defining the minimum levels of qualification and experience necessary to deliver a good professional standard of work and then acknowledge those members who have achieved that standard through some process of official certification. Useful parallels to this are the UK Library Association's *Charter* scheme and MLA's *Academy*.

As I mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, the Board is looking for ways to make EAHIL more relevant and valuable to us as members, and the questions I want to ask here is would this be useful to you in your professional life and would you like the Board to set up a project team to look at the feasibility. To set up such a scheme

would take up a lot of the limited volunteer time available to EAHIL so what we need to do more than anything is to make sure that we don't pour a lot of energy into something that would be an irrelevance or even an definite turn-off for a significant part of our members and potential members..

Please let me know what you think, positive and negative. I would suggest using EAHIL-L if you can get access to it, since this might get a constructive discussion going. Otherwise please write to me at EAHIL or the BMA, or intercept me during the workshop in Alghero and, as we say, bend my ear with your views. As I write this in mid-April, wet snow is falling onto the streets of London and melting miserably. England has had the wettest winter in living memory, geese are swimming on the cricket grounds of London and an extended bout of SAD is leaving me without any professional inspiration. Believe me, Alghero cannot come too soon for me.

Tony McSeán



### Lettre du President

#### L'EAHIL devrait-elle fixer un étalon?

Il semble que tout notre environnement professionnel ait changé depuis le début des années 1990, où j'ai été pour la première fois président de l'EAHIL. Pour donner juste un exemple, le courrier électronique s'est transformé d'une nouveauté en une nécessité et maintenant – à en juger d'après les 327 messages qui m'attendaient à la fin des vacances de Pâques – il menace d'occuper toute la journée.

Il a transformé la manière dont est gérée l'EAHIL. Il y a dix ans, le Comité se réunissait deux fois par an, réunions qui devenaient parfois un combat désespéré pour couvrir tous les sujets importants. Entre les réunions, beaucoup de décisions devaient être laissées à la discrétion du président car il n'y avait aucun moyen d'avoir l'opinion de chaque membre du Comité en moins de deux semaines, aucun moyen de discuter des problèmes ou d'arriver à un consensus constructif. En 2001, les réunions du Comité sont encore importantes mais, grâce à la liste de discussions du Comité, nous sommes capables de maintenir un contact permanent et de débattre, de voir les brouillons des lettres et de partager les responsabilités. J'ai apprécié cela lorsque j'étais secrétaire du Comité et j'en suis encore plus reconnaissant maintenant, comme président.

Donc le courriel a apporté des changements importants et profitables au fonctionnement du Comité et du Conseil, mais pour moi l'un des bénéfices de l'Internet est dans la possibilité qu'il offre à des organisations comme la nôtre de devenir beaucoup plus active et démocratique. A présent, nous disposons de la liste e-mail EAHIL-L et je voudrais inviter chaque membre ayant accès à l'Internet à naviguer sur [www.eahil.org](http://www.eahil.org) et à s'abonner à EAHIL-L. Mais c'est un exemple où la technologie dépasse notre capacité à l'exploiter au maximum et, comme toute autre liste à laquelle je souscris, EAHIL-L met plus de temps à s'échauffer qu'une télévision démodée. Donc, les représentants élus de l'EAHIL éprouvent encore des difficultés à connaître l'opinion des membres à propos d'initiatives ou d'idées nouvelles. C'est une considération importante dans toute organisation mais surtout dans l'EAHIL, qui reflète toute la diversité culturelle et économique d'une région qui comprend la Laponie et les Canaries, l'Islande et le Kazakhstan. Il y a

de nombreuses définitions valables de la "pratique professionnelle" parmi les membres de l'EAHIL et seuls les naïfs et les fous pourraient chercher à l'ignorer. Ce qui nous amène au sujet suivant :

#### L'EAHIL devrait-elle "certifier" ses membres?

L'un des objectifs principaux de l'EAHIL est d'encourager le développement du professionnalisme dans les services européens de l'information de santé. Une solution serait de définir les niveaux minimums de qualification et l'expérience nécessaire pour acquérir un niveau professionnel satisfaisant et ensuite de certifier les membres qui ont obtenu ce niveau par un processus de certification officielle. Deux exemples similaires sont les projets Charter de l'UK Library Association et l'Academy de MLA.

Comme je l'ai mentionné dans le dernier bulletin d'informations, le Comité souhaite que l'EAHIL réponde mieux aux besoins de ses membres aussi je voudrais vous demander si une certification vous serait utile dans votre vie professionnelle et si vous souhaiteriez que le Comité crée un

projet pour en examiner la faisabilité. La création d'un tel projet prendrait une place importante du temps limité dont dispose l'EAHIL ; il nous faut donc être certain que l'on n'investira pas d'énergie dans quelque chose d'inutile ou dépourvu d'intérêt pour une partie significative de nos membres et membres potentiels...

Je vous prie de me faire connaître vos opinions, positives et négatives. Je vous suggère d'utiliser EAHIL-L si vous y avez accès, car cela pourrait générer un débat constructif. Sinon, je vous prie de m'écrire à l'EAHIL ou à la BMA ou de me contacter pendant le séminaire d'Alghero et, comme on dit, rebattez-moi les oreilles de vos opinions. Pendant que j'écris à la mi-avril, la neige tombe sur les rues de Londres et fond misérablement. L'Angleterre a eu l'hiver le plus pluvieux de mémoire d'homme, les oies nagent sur les terrains de cricket et une crise de mélancolie me laisse sans aucune inspiration professionnelle. Croyez-moi, Alghero arrive à temps pour moi.

Tony McSeán

### LATEST NEWS FROM SARDINIA!

On March 30, there were 153 registered participants!

The Local Organizing Committee has ordered : sunny weather, mild wind and a calm sea.

The scientific presentations are under control, and we expect the full text of the presentations and posters by May 2nd.

See you all in Alghero at the Calabona Hotel!

Manuela Colombi

### New Members

#### Individual Membership:

1. Ms. D. GENTILI (Donathea), Istituto Superiore de Sanita, ROME, Italy
2. Ms. M. ZEDDA (Monica), Istituto Superiore de Sanita, Rome, Italy
3. Mr. M.E. MUTKA (Martin), Library Consortium of Health Institutions in Buffalo (LCHIB) Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, U.S.A.
4. Ms. J.A. SIESS (Judith), Information Bridges International, Inc. / The One Person Librarian Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A

#### Institutional Membership:

1. Mr. J. BEATON (James), The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, GLASGOW, Scotland (U.K.)



## Farewell To Donna Flake, MLA Representative to EAHIL, 1996-2001

As of May 2001, my term as your MLA Representative will come to an end. I want to express my thoughts on serving in that role for the last six years. First, let me say this role has indeed been an absolute highlight for me. EAHIL is a superb and inspiring organization. It is impossible for me to tell you the joy, adventure, and delight in fulfilling my duties, doing this important work and getting to know the fabulous librarians of EAHIL. Your organization helps European medical librarians in so many ways. Some of the ways include:

- ♦ European librarians belong to the wider global village of Europe
- ♦ Librarians within EAHIL feel a professional identity
- ♦ Librarians network and are willing to help each other (many of you have answered reference questions for me that deal with your individual countries).
- ♦ Librarians of EAHIL make friends with librarians in many European countries
- ♦ Librarians of EAHIL support one another
- ♦ EAHIL's wonderful continuing education courses

We made some significant progress in the last 6 years in furthering the communication and commitment between MLA and EAHIL. One example of this is the new Bilateral Agreement between MLA and EAHIL which allows MLA members to attend EAHIL at EAHIL member rates, and also allows EAHIL members to attend MLA at MLA member rates.

I have attended every annual EAHIL workshop and every EAHIL conference during my six years as your representative from MLA.

Here are some of my very favorite memories of my term as your representative:

1. \* Otokar Pinkas meeting Shane Godbolt and me at the airport as soon as we arrived in Prague and giving us the tour of Prague.
  - \* At the EAHIL workshop in Prague, all of us singing the songs of many countries and dancing at the beautiful Czech Academy of Sciences.
  - \* Arne Jakobsson taking me to the Prague castle.
  - \* Seeing Elizabeth Husem's smile!
2. \* At the Coimbra, Portugal conference closing session the male university students dressed in traditional university dress singing Portuguese folk songs.

- \* Dancing to music of the Portuguese Folk band in that huge tent at the party.
  - \* Ending the Coimbra conference with a feeling of affection among all of us colleagues, and a certainty that we would meet again.
  - \* The Gala Dinner at the former royal palace with Fado music.
3. \* At the Budapest workshop, taking the funicular up the 130 foot-high plateau to Castle Hill and seeing gorgeous fountains, and often fierce warrior statues on our way to the meeting in the National Library.
    - \* Celebrating EAHIL's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday at a huge party as we drank the potent Palinka. There were many toasts to EAHIL that night! Again, I felt such a feeling of warmth and caring among all EAHIL members.
    - \* Arriving in Budapest on the Danube on a 6-hour boat trip from Vienna.
    - \* So many friendly Hungarian faces!
    - \* Having a great Hungarian dinner under the stars with Ioana Robu and Sally Wood-Lamont
  4. \* At the Utrecht conference, walking the quaint Dutch streets with my family.
    - \* As soon as I arrived at the conference site to pick up my registration, I saw so many EAHIL friends and I must have received 15 hugs! These are friends and colleagues of mine whom I care about and our lives linked together. I recall feeling so very thankful for my role as MLA Representative to EAHIL and to have the great benefit of attending EAHIL and getting to know all of you wonderful Europeans!
    - \* Going to Sieb Bohiken's house for tea.
    - \* The farewell party at the Romanesque basilica dating from 1050, talking to Anita Verhoeven and so many EAHIL members, and enjoying the warm hospitality.
  5. \* The most adventurous and unusual EAHIL workshop was certainly the "travelling meeting", which started with tours in Helsinki, continued as EAHIL members enjoyed each other's company on the ship - The Fantasia - as we traveled to Tallinn, Estonia. The caring and generous Estonian Librarians greeted us with smiles and welcome banner as we exited passport control.
    - \* This particular EAHIL workshop meant so much to me because I met Velta Poznaka from the Medical Research Library of Latvia and visited



her library in Riga. After returning to the US, when the International Section of MLA was looking for a sister library, I recalled the Latvian library's needs and, now MLA is linked to Velta's library in a partnership program.

- \* I must not leave off one last special memory of this trip and it was Shane Godbolt, Liisa Salmi, Liisa's husband, and me visiting St. Petersburg, and then spending several days on Liisa's island in the Finnish Archipelago.
6. \* EAHIL met during the course of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Medical Librarianship. Again, here I had the opportunity to visit with EAHIL colleagues and renew friendships.

So, as my time as your MLA representative ends, I must tell you I believe in EAHIL and its goals and endeavors. I adore spending time in Europe and seeing your wonderful countries. I will forever remember the wonderful librarians of EAHIL and treasure the friendships I made. I look forward to being an EAHIL member and hope to be able to attend some of your EAHIL meetings in the future....

Your new MLA Representative to EAHIL is Eve-Marie LaCroix from the US National Library of Medicine. She shares with me a keen interest in international medical librarianship. She will do a great job in this role.

So I now say au revoir my dear colleagues and friends.

**Donna Flake**  
Director, Coastal AHEC Library



## Donna Flake, déléguée de la MLA auprès d'EAHIL 1995-2001

A la date de mai 2001 mon mandat en tant que déléguée de la MLA auprès de EAHIL touchera à son terme.

J'aimerais vous exprimer ce que j'ai ressenti en accomplissant mes fonctions pendant ces six années : En premier lieu ce rôle a été pour moi une source permanente d'enrichissement.

EAHIL est une formidable association, également porteuse d'idées

Il m'est presque impossible de trouver des mots pour exprimer les joies, les sentiments d'aventure et de bonheur que j'ai ressentis en accomplissant mes tâches, et en faisant cet important travail qui m'a donné l'occasion de rencontrer les bibliothécaires talentueux d'EAHIL

Votre association apporte une aide aux bibliothécaires médicaux d'Europe de multiples manières:

Voici quelques exemples:

- ♦ Les bibliothécaires européens appartiennent au village global le plus grand d'Europe
- ♦ Au sein d'EAHIL ils et elles ont conscience d'une véritable identité professionnelle:
- ♦ Les bibliothécaires travaillent en réseau et sont désireux de s'entraider. (Beaucoup d'entre vous m'ont procuré les réponses aux questions de référence que j'ai posées sur les différents pays)
- ♦ Les bibliothécaires d'EAHIL se font des amis parmi leurs nombreux collègues de pays d'Europe.
- ♦ Les bibliothécaires d'EAHIL se soutiennent.
- ♦ Les cours de formation d'EAHIL sont très intéressants.

Au cours de ces six dernières années, nous avons réalisé des progrès significatifs afin de resserrer les liens entre la MLA et EAHIL. J'en veux pour exemple l'accord bilatéral MLA/EAHIL qui permet aux membres de la MLA d'assister aux congrès EAHIL au tarif des membres EAHIL de même que les membres de EAHIL peuvent assister aux congrès de la MLA au même tarif que les membres de cette association.

J'ai participé à chacun des congrès et ateliers EAHIL durant les 6 années de mon mandat.

J'aimerais évoquer ici mes souvenirs préférés de cette époque:

1. \* Dès notre arrivée à Prague, Otokar Pinkas est venu nous chercher Shane Godbolt et moi-même à l'aéroport, puis nous a montré la ville
  - \* Au cours de l'atelier de Prague, tous nous avons entonné des chants de nombreux pays et avons dansé dans la magnifique académie des sciences tchèque.
  - \* Anna Jakobsson m'a accompagnée faire la visite du château de Prague.
  - \* Et Elizabeth Husem souriait.
- 2 \* Lors de la séance de clôture de la Conférence de Coimbra au Portugal, nous avons entendu des étudiants habillés en costume universitaire traditionnel nous chanter des chants du répertoire traditionnel portugais
  - \* Nous avons dansé sous cette immense tente à la réception au son d'un orchestre traditionnel
  - \* La conférence de Coimbra s'est terminée dans un sentiment chaleureux général et nous étions certains que nous nous retrouverions.
  - \* Le repas de gala à l'ancien palais présidentiel et la musique de fado sont d'excellents souvenirs
- 3 \* L'atelier de Budapest a été l'occasion de prendre le funiculaire jusqu'à Castle Hill colline d'une hauteur de 130 pieds et de voir ses magnifiques fontaines. De même en me rendant au lieu de travail - la Bibliothèque Nationale- j'ai pu admirer souvent les statues de fiers guerriers.
  - \* Le dixième anniversaire d'EAHIL a été célébré au cours d'une grande réception où l'on a servi la puissante palinka: de nombreux toasts ont été portés à EAHIL ce soir là. A nouveau j'ai ressenti beaucoup de chaleur et de gentillesse parmi les membres.
  - \* Il m'a été possible d'arriver à Budapest par le Danube en six heures dans un bateau en provenance de Vienne
  - \* Il y avait tant de visages hongrois amis
  - \* Souvenir d'un souper hongrois délicieux sous les étoiles en compagnie de Ioana Robu et de Sally Wood-Lamont.
- 4 \* A la conférence d'Utrecht, j'ai pu parcourir en famille les pittoresques rues hollandaises.

\* Ce fut un plaisir à mon arrivée à la banque d'enregistrement du congrès de voir tant de visages amis d'EAHIL. J'ai reçu au moins quinze accolades à ce moment là venant d'amis et de collègues que j'apprécie beaucoup et avec lesquels je sens mon existence liée.

\* Je me suis sentie très reconnaissante du mandat qui m'avait été confié de représenter la MLA auprès de l'EAHIL. C'est ce qui m'a permis d'assister à tous les congrès et de faire la connaissance de vous tous et toutes, bibliothécaires hors pair d'Europe.

\* Souvenir d'un thé à la maison de Sieb Bohiken

\* La réception d'adieu à la basilique romane -datant de 1050- était pleine d'hospitalité et de chaleur et m'a donné l'occasion de parler à Anita Verhoeven ainsi qu'à d'autres membres d'EAHIL

5 \* Parmi les ateliers de travaux EAHIL, le plus inhabituel et aventureux fut très certainement la "réunion en voyage" qui démarra avec la visite d'Helsinki et se poursuivit avec les retrouvailles des membres d'EAHIL sur le bateau le Fantasia qui naviguait vers Tallinn en Estonie.

\* Là, les bibliothécaires estoniens nous accueillirent avec sourires et banderole de bienvenue à la sortie du contrôle des passeports.

\* Cet atelier EAHIL fut particulièrement significatif pour moi car j'y fis connaissance de Velta Poznaka de la Bibliothèque Médicale de recherche de Latvia et visitais sa bibliothèque à Riga.

\* De retour aux Etats Unis, quand la section internationale de la MLA se mit à chercher une bibliothèque "sœur", je me suis souvenue des besoins de la bibliothèque de Latvia et, à présent, la MLA est reliée à la bibliothèque de Velta par un programme de partenariat.

\* Il m'appartient de ne pas laisser de côté un souvenir particulier de ce voyage: Nous avons, Shane Gotbold, Liisa Salmi, son mari et moi-même visité ensemble Saint Pétersbourg. Ensuite nous avons fait un séjour de quelques jours dans l'île de Liisa située dans l'Archipel Finnois.



6 \* *Pendant le 8ème Congrès International des Bibliothèques médicales les membres de EAHIL purent tenir une réunion. J'ai pu à nouveau à cette occasion rencontrer des collègues de EAHIL et entretenir nos liens amicaux.*

*Maintenant que mon mandat de Déléguée MLA auprès d'EAHIL touche à son terme, je peux vous dire ceci: je fais confiance à EAHIL, à ses objectifs et aux efforts entrepris.*

*J'adore venir en Europe et visiter vos magnifiques contrées.*

*Je me souviendrai toujours des bibliothécaires épatant(e)s d'EAHIL et entretiendrai les amitiés créées.*

*Je me réjouis de devenir membre d'EAHIL et espère pouvoir participer à quelques unes de vos futures conférences.*

*Votre nouvelle Déléguée de la MLA auprès d'EAHIL se nomme Eve Marie LACROIX, de la National Library of Medicine, Etats Unis.*

*Elle partage avec moi le même intérêt soutenu pour la profession de*

*Bibliothécaire Médical(e)vue sous son aspect international.*

*Elle fera du très bon travail dans ce poste.*

*Il est temps maintenant de vous dire au revoir mes chers collègues et ami(e)s.*

**Donna Flake**

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## Welcome to Eve-Marie Lacroix, M.L.A. Representative to EAHIL, 2001-2004

Eve-Marie Lacroix is Chief of the Public Services Division of the National Library of Medicine. She directs NLM's programs to provide access to the extensive NLM collection including the onsite Reading Room and the DOCLINE interlibrary loan network, centralized Reference and Customer Services, and NLM's main Web service. Most recently she has led the development of MEDLINEplus.gov, an extensive Web resource organizing health information for consumers. Eve-Marie has

been at NLM since 1985, coming to NLM from the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) in Ottawa.

Eve-Marie is a long time member of the Medical Library Association, and is a member of the International Cooperation Section and Sister Libraries Committee. She joined EAHIL in 1999 and attended the EAHIL Workshop in Tartu, Estonia, and the 8ICML in London.



**Eve-Marie**

### Dear Colleagues,

It is both an honor and a pleasure to have been appointed as the MLA representative to EAHIL for the next three years. I was fortunate to attend the EAHIL meeting in Tartu, Estonia and pre-conference in Helsinki in 1999 where I enjoyed not only an excellent meeting,

but also the wonderful hospitality of many European librarians. I am looking forward to working with you to find new ways to strengthen the bonds between EAHIL and MLA.

### Eve-Marie Lacroix, représentante de la MLA auprès de l'EAHIL 2001-2004

*Eve-Marie Lacroix est Chef de la Division des Services Publics de la National Library of Medicine. Elle gère les programmes NLM pour assurer l'accès à la collection étendue de la NLM comprenant la Salle de Lecture onsite et le réseau de prêt entre bibliothèques DOCLINE, les Services centralisés de Référence et des Relations Publiques aussi bien que le service principal Internet de la NLM. Très récemment elle a dirigé le développement de MEDLINEplus.gov, une ressource Internet étendue organisant*

*l'information dans le domaine de la santé au service des clients. Eve-Marie travaille à la bibliothèque depuis 1985 et elle vient du Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) d'Ottawa.*

*Eve-Marie est membre de longue date de la Medical Library Association et de l'International Cooperation Section et de Sister Libraries Committee. Elle a joint l'EAHIL en 1999 et elle a participé au Séminaire de l'EAHIL de Tartu, Estonie, aussi bien qu'au 81e CML de Londres.*

### Chers Collègues,

*C'est un honneur et un plaisir pour moi d'être nommée représentante de la MLA auprès de l'EAHIL pour les trois prochaines années. J'ai eu la chance de participer à la réunion de l'EAHIL de Tartu, en Estonie, aussi bien qu'à la pré-conférence d'Helsinki en 1999, où j'ai joui non seulement d'une excellente réunion mais aussi de la merveilleuse hospitalité de nombreuses bibliothèques européennes. Je suis impatiente de travailler avec vous pour trouver de nouveaux moyens de consolider les liens entre l'EAHIL et la MLA.*

**Eve-Marie**





### Librarians' Professional Skills Acknowledged At Last?

Bibliothecarii Medicinae Fenniae reorganised its spring meeting. In addition to the annual meeting, a seminar was held for the hospital libraries' subgroup. This seminar and the annual meeting of BMF were held in Mikkeli, central eastern Finland, and the home pages and portals of the North Karelia Hospital District in easternmost and the Vaasa Hospital District in westernmost Finland were presented. In Finland there are five university hospitals, some 20 central hospitals and the remainder are either regional or special hospitals. All these hospitals have current and common questions for the acquisition of databases and e-journals through consortia and joint licenses. The Ministry of Education strongly supports the university hospitals, but the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has not been very enthusiastic in financing or supporting these acquisitions in the hospital libraries, which are its responsibility.

The Finnish Medical Society Duodecim is building a portal of its own, offering its members access to a couple of e-journals. This portal has also been sold to hospitals, and some 20 e-journals are included in the price, most of them in medicine but also a few in nursing. So it seems for the time being that the hospital libraries are buying their e-journals through a society for physicians. The National Health Sciences Library in Helsinki collaborates technically in a sophisticated way with Duodecim in offering these e-journals and they have also organised an accessible document supply service from the library via the same portal.

There are two big book store chains in Finland, and their representatives presented their latest developments in database supply and ordering tools. The most popular vendors of health sciences databases in Finland are SilverPlatter and Ovid, though Medline is mostly accessed via PubMed.

In this time of vigorous networking, it was very interesting to hear a user's point of view at the seminar. One of the hospital physicians pointed out that their biggest problem is the conflict between the vast amount of information and the very limited amount of time they have for searching relevant information. He stressed the importance of the librarians' role in selecting and organising the best and reliable sources for the hospital staff's use. There is a strong trend now to network all documents and information sources in hospital districts, and the value of librarians as specialists in acquiring, organising and distributing relevant information is now being acknowledged. Therefore it is our chance now to make ourselves indispensable, after a period when all other professionals thought that Internet might replace libraries and librarians!

**Liisa Salmi**  
liisa.salmi@kuh.fi

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## NEWS FROM FINLAND

The European Union has financed a project in Russia called "The TACIS Russia Health Care Project" since 1998. There are a number of subcomponents in the project, comprising experts from many countries, including Finland who was invited as a short-term expert for planning health promotion networking in Russia. The aim is to establish an information centre for health promotion in Moscow. The Institute for Preventive Medicine there has a library and the new centre was established in connection with it. Although the location is physically at this institute, the ultimate aim was to create a network by looking for interested libraries. The network facilitates the exchange of information between all institutes in the field and also contributes to all forms of collaboration. The time for the subproject runs out this spring, so it is time to evaluate the results.

### Network

I made three trips to Moscow during 1998-2001 and worked for two weeks in Finland for the project. There were also two other experts from Finland, and the three of us worked together with the librarian of the Institute of Preventive

Medicine, Ms. Natalia Kisseleva in Moscow. In addition to this, we tried to involve other health science libraries in Moscow in the project, but this turned out to be rather difficult. There are, however, two other institutes now cooperating in the network: the Semashko Research Institute of Social Hygiene, Economics and Health Management has already agreed and negotiations with the Russian Medical Academy Resource Center are still going on.

### Activities

During the project, the TACIS Programme by the EU acquired some 80 books on health promotion, public health, epidemiology and prevention of diseases and subscriptions of 10 scientific journals for 1999-2001. Two PCs were bought as well, and one Internet connection was subscribed to the end of 2001. A Russian library system software was purchased, after testing some international software. This turned out to be the only solution because of linguistic and transliteration problems.

Representatives of the Russian participating institutes visited Finland for a week to

become acquainted with the Finnish health sciences information systems in Tampere and Helsinki. The Finnish Electronic Library system, where material is bought by joint licences for library consortia with the support of the Ministry of Education, especially aroused their interest. In March 2000 the home page of the institute, designed by Finns, was opened at <http://webcenter.ru/~infcent/en/index.html> After the project is complete, the institute will continue by developing the web pages themselves. The staff of the participating institutes were also trained in Internet searching.

The current year has been used to disseminate information about the new centre in the form of brochures and presentations, and some further tasks have already been outlined.

Over the three year period, the centre has received a lot of visitors not only from the participating institutes but also from other parts of Russia. This is a very good thing because in the beginning, "outsiders" were not very well received. The librarian is carrying out searches on PubMed and on the Ebsco medical data-



bases, which are free for some time for the institute.

### Conclusion

It was not very easy to “intrude” into the Russian library community. The Nordic idea of the open-to-all library was not self-evident, information was considered someone’s property, and the idea of networking was considered odd and a certain competitiveness was realised. The

basic work is, however, the same all over and the librarians are highly skilled and enthusiastic. Although the time was brief, links were forged and at least a model has been constructed as a base on which a future might be built. The lack of everything remains the greatest concern, and the future of the health promotion information centre after the TACIS project is completed is worrying. There is a possibility of future cooperation with the

American International Health Alliance (www.aiha.com).

**Birgitta Järvinen**  
Information Specialist  
UKK Institute for Health Promotion  
Research  
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## BOOK REVIEW



# Evidence based symptom control in palliative care: systematic reviews and validated clinical practice guidelines for 15 common problems in patients with life limiting disease

Arthur G. Lipman, Kenneth C. Jackson II, Linda S. Tyler (eds). - New York; London; Oxford: Haworth Press, 2000 (co-publ. as: J Pharm Care Pain Symptom Contr 0 1999;7(4)+2000;8(1))

ISBN 0-7890-1014-3 (pb) / 0-7890-1013-5 (hb) . - Outside USA: \$36.00 (pb) / \$72.00 (hb)

Evidence based medicine is sometimes called “cook book” medicine: guidelines and decision trees must be followed, and these will be replaced by computer aided programs in the near future.

This mechanistic view of medicine is misleading many people and is undermining the faith and trust in the medical profession. Doctors base their decisions on the best evidence available, which sometimes is no more than pathophysiological understanding, clinical insight, case reports and professional experience.

Symptom control in palliative care is predominantly individual oriented and not an easy subject for methodological full-proof studies. The book presents an overview of studies collected, which have several degrees of evidential value.

The authors are all pharmacists, therefore it is not surprising that all interventions reviewed are pharmaceutical, but the book includes references to the circumstances of the terminally ill patient. Each chapter starts with an evaluation of possible underlying causes, and implementation of supportive therapy.

The symptoms discussed in this book are: anorexia & cachexia, anxiety, bleeding, constipation, delirium, depression, diarrhea, dyspnea, fatigue, oral mucosal problems, nausea & vomiting, nutrition & hydration problems.

In their preface the authors underline that: “the research findings and the guidelines presented here must be integrated with clinical experience and patient and family wishes. This includes considering total

care, physical, emotional, social and spiritual, and including the family and lay carers as part of the unit of care.” The recognition of the latter century shift from care to medical techniques, has led to the development of hospice and palliative care.

With this book the editors certainly have done a good job in reviewing the evidence available in a sensible and practical way, in order to aid the physician in practising supportive care.

**A.P.E. Vielvoye-Kerkmeer and  
Suzanne Bakker**



## HIGHLIGHT ON LITHUANIA

### Staff Professional Development and Training in Lithuania

In this time of rapid change in academic Library and Information Services, staff development and training is increasingly recognized as a key tool in enabling staff to cope with the changes they are facing in order to keep abreast of their users.

Inevitably, as information technology use increases, more reference queries relate to the use of electronic information sources. Librarians are required to have skills in the use of electronic information sources, to be able to create an electronic resource themselves, to produce teaching materials and provide training for staff and users

Staff professional development and training has many different facets: conferences, short courses, seminars, training programs, publication of professional journals and provision of study grant opportunities.

Because of the restricted budget situation in Lithuania participation at conferences and seminars or subscription to western professional periodicals can be problematic.

Courses and seminars which have been organized in Lithuania until now have not met the specific requirements of medical library information services. Therefore in order to keep abreast of changes in information technology the library administration of the Kaunas University of Medicine developed its own library staff education program. Under the project "Medicine and Internet" of the Open Lithuanian Fund, two web-based training programs were issued by library staff. : The Course "Medicine and Internet" <http://medint.osf.lt/kursai/InfoInternete/index.htm> and "Medical databases on the Internet:", <http://www.info.kma.lt/kma/biblioteka/projekta/pradzia.htm>

The first one was designed primarily to meet the needs of medical librarians and information specialists and provides the means for learning about and accessing relevant information sources. Hyperlinks within the courseware itself provide an interactive and flexible learning tool.

"Medical databases on the Internet" course material was designed for a wide variety of medical information users: physicians, healthworkers, students, teachers, scientists, nurses, medical

librarians. Using web-based course material described above, 'hands on' courses for Library staff were organized at the Library.

Training of library users in information technology became inevitable because library information services and help-desks are capable of consulting indivi-

dually only a limited number of users. The courses on "Medical databases and searching" were held for over 1000 Physicians from 26 Health Institutions in Kaunas and its surroundings. Now we have a new training programme for Public Health specialists, which is sponsored by the George Soros Foundation and in fact we must complete courses for 550 specialists before the summer holidays. User training naturally encourages staff to take greater responsibility for their own personal development. Under the Open Lithuanian Fund program "New Information Technology for Public Health" we are busy in creating a Virtual Library for Public Health, which will be published in May.

**The stimulation of our professional development has been on account of the collaboration agreement with the Nordic Association for Medical Information and Lithuanian medical libraries. We have had a close relationship since 1994, when 2 of our librarians attended the EAHL Conference in Oslo. In addition under the co-operation agreement between the Norwegian Library Association Section for Medicine and Health, the Union of Danish Librarians and the Kaunas University of Medicine Library, the continuing educational courses "Transfer of Knowledge" for Medical Librarians in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were held in the Kaunas University of Medicine in March 20-24, 2000. These courses were sponsored by a grant from the Nordic Council of Ministry. Courses were held on the following topics which are considered current for medical librarians: Evidence-Based Medicine /Cochrane Library, Reference Manager, PubMed, free Medline on the Internet, and Medical**



**Internet Resources. In order to make the course material more available to all medical librarians it has been translated into Lithuanian and put on the Library homepage.**

The project "Knowledge Transfer" II is continuing also and Librarians from Lithuania have been invited for a study tour to Norway for a week in order to visit medical libraries, meet colleagues and obtain professional knowledge. Among important aspects of the tour, making personal contacts with the libraries, providing free article copies and visiting their interlibrary loans departments would be of great value and interest to us.

As participants of the first program have expressed a great need for further education we are hoping to organize together with the Nordic Association SMH and Union of Danish Librarians, continuing educational courses in autumn in Lithuania for medical librarians from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Such cooperation is extremely useful for all Lithuanian librarians, because we can disseminate our newly acquired knowledge ourselves, running courses for colleagues unable to participate in the educational program. Finally we hope to become competent in teaching important subjects to medical professionals, enabling health specialists to find and use current and correct medical information in their research and clinical practice.

**Meile Kretaviciene**  
Director of the Kaunas  
University Library  
[Meile@KMU.lt](mailto:Meile@KMU.lt)



## The Changing Library in the Changing Environment

The winds of freedom that began blowing at the start of the last decade of the previous century brought great hopes for positive changes in the social and economical life of each country and the individual. Open borders, freedom of expression and movement were new, fresh and so exciting for us – two generations that had lived in a totally controllable society for about fifty years.

Hunger for all kinds of information was felt in all spheres of life. In the middle of all this the Western world initiated discussion of problems relating to the Information Society. For us, living in the centre of Europe, the first personal computers arriving at our workplaces filled us with enthusiasm.

Between 1995 – 98, some computerization projects in the Lithuanian Library of Medicine enabled us to quicken our steps towards attaining links with the Information Society. The most important one was full internet access – a joint project with NLM, the Vilnius University and our library. Full internet and online access to medical and health – related databases markedly improved health science information services with regard to the speed and quality of services.

The second important step was the program of the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS), the main objective of which was to create a Union Catalogue (UC) of the country, as a combined effort with research and academic libraries to develop local automated networks in every collaborating library. Acquisition, cataloguing and interlibrary loan subsystems had been already put into operation. Since 1999 our library has been exporting electronic bibliographic records to UC in UNIMARC format following the cataloguing rules based on ISBD's and conforming to the European cataloguing tradition. The same year computerized subject indexing was introduced, based on our own vocabulary arrangement under MeSH. The ultimate step is an automated circulation subsystem which will be put into practice this year.

An interlibrary loan subsystem helps to fill the gaps in the supply of primary sources when annual subscriptions for periodicals and book acquisition continue to decrease. In addition users are not always satisfied

with receiving only abstracts from medical databases - they require full text information. Last year we had 1032 international loan requests for journal articles and books: this figure would be increased tenfold if our users were able to pay for the service. The Baltic-Nordic inter-library loan project

ensures that Norwegian libraries sends us articles free of charge and this service and the constant support of Nordic libraries in further education and qualification improvement including participation in conferences and in other spheres of library activities, is very much appreciated.

The Public Medical Internet Reading Hall with six workstations, a local Windows NT network, a server and four remote workstations in major hospitals in Vilnius, funded by the Open Lithuanian Foundation, is very popular and always filled with younger library users, students and physicians, who can navigate in Internet on their own. Users who require staff assistance are served by the Information Division where searches are made on Internet and CD databases and search results are downloaded on diskettes or printed on paper.

From 1999 the library created its WWW site, which has become the nucleus of all kinds of useful information for users: new acquisitions, available services and events: <http://www.lmb.lt>

Health care reforms, that began at the start of nineties, required a solid information base showing how services are organized, how doctors practice and patients are treated and what medical technology is available worldwide. More sophisticated information searches are now being performed in evidence-based medicine and health technology assessment databases.

An increasing need became obvious for accurate, relevant and information for health policy makers on resource management, legislation, quality



indicators, standards and guides for good practice. The library benefited much from becoming a WHO Documentation Centre and depository. We started to form and enlarge the collection of WHO – produced documents, a continual source of information for policy makers and administrative workers bearing in mind that Health for All policy served as a basis for the Lithuanian Health Concept, the backbone document of all reforms.

Information literacy of users and medical librarians is a principal concern in a library's performance. Various forms of professional development are now normal practice: workshops, courses, participation in different programs. In a three-year period about 60% of all our staff were involved in continuing education programs.

We have experienced the benefits of new technology and rapid access to global information. In the constant search for information resources, we understand that our future developments depend not only on the institution's financial situation, but on our resourcefulness too as well as our professional skills and capability to change in the changing environment.

**Salvinija Kociene, Director**  
Lithuanian Library of Medicine  
[director@lmb.lt](mailto:director@lmb.lt)



## Serial Information Sources For The Medical Internet

It is common knowledge in the sociology of science, that current journals are a compelling indicator for the establishing of new specialities and subjects. Thus it is interesting to see that despite the multiple tools for the distribution of information within the internet, a growing number of printed journals and letters and newsletters are appearing. I shall concentrate on these this time .

When initiating presentations on medical information on the internet a few years ago just one publication was available within my distributed bibliography. This was in some way the forebear of the well known newsletter by Luis Pareras *Internet Medicine* (<http://www.internetmedicine.com/>). This Newsletter published by [www.lww.com](http://www.lww.com) is now in its 6th year. Still edited by Luis Pareras of Barcelona, Spain it has set more or less the standard for this sort of publication. In addition it not only refers to medicine but deliberately views the implications of new technologies for the medical field thus stimulating physicians to cope actively with contemporary applications (e.g. web radio, page design, wireless etc) A very nice feature for those working as, or talking to, subspecialists in medicine are articles summarizing 10-12 top sources in an area (e.g. 12 clicks to neurology sources) facilitating the possibility to quickly promote the importance of the internet for CLINICAL information needs. The regular reader may notice one thing which seems to be imminently characteristic of new and growing fields like this still very new subject: the somewhat lack of topics and contributions. Putting it down to facts and professionalism, it is clear that still most of the content presented is only about the repackaging of information. Still it is obvious that most people writing about and engaged in medical issues AND internet are educated "paper-ies" whose intellectual approach to electronic presentation is guided by our all paper focused culture.

*Medicine on the Net* by <http://www.corhealth.com/motn/MOTNHome4.asp> has an approach quite comparable to these above, possibly distinguished by

presenting more sites, drifting to something like a printed version of a commented link list supplemented by a cover topic that will be discussed in more detail in the future. This feature is quite important as it alerts the reader to important issues worth dealing with and thinking of. Its advantages and drawbacks at the same time is something which is quite common for all of the serials presented here. In contradiction to the World-Wide-Web-spirit, many of us are fascinated with the many published sources in this field as they are very closely linked to their own language landscape. The enforced language bias of the Anglo-American world seems not be challenged by the world-wide approach. As *Healthcare on the Internet* by [www.haworthpressinc.com](http://www.haworthpressinc.com), these serials seem to be limited by an invisible link border creeping into the world-web. While this journal frequently publishes very voluminous issues on highly interesting topics like spinal cord injuries, HIV or female healthcare and their coverage on the net, its value is limited by its US bias. In addition though it is defined even more by its many pages as a proceedings, it clearly is possibly placed as a review journal to readers

*He@lth Information on the Internet* (<http://www.rsm.ac.uk/hii/toc20.htm>) sponsored by the Wellcome Trust, UK and published by the Royal Society of Medicine Press Ltd. is a well-written and compact newsletter for people with limited-time. Closer to the European audience and affected by the same language bias and constraints for a wider audience, its direction might have been simply as a tool to stimulate and inform the members of the Royal Society of Medicine, UK physicians and interested people to cope and use these new technologies thus preparing the ground in this field. In addition to the topical range of the lww-title, it reviews articles with medical internet contents in the common everyday medical journals and features internet related topics like how to cope with email, viruses or homepage design. Not for the information professional, it is very much targeted to the time limited UK

based physician but thus also of value to those who like the practical approach though they are physicians or not. It may be subscribed to in print form but its back issues are available free on the net in PDF.

There is another newsletter *Health on the Internet*: the Newsletter of Health Information Sources, of which I only have copies from October and November 2000 and which now is also already in its sixth volume. It is published by [www.medecal.com](http://www.medecal.com) and seems to have a slight different pattern than the other sources discussed. Covering also only English language sources it offers a wealth of different short articles on diverse medical sub specialities, possibly targeted to people working or dealing more professionally with the internet itself, like medical webmasters or physicians or managers writing for marketing such sites. It might also be an interesting title for a medical library to offer a journal in this field to a broader range of medical sub specialities.

Finally there is a German title originally offered as a regular free supplement from the German publisher Springer in Heidelberg with its medical journals. *Medizin Online. Beilage für Ärzte* gives basic clearly written introductions to medical sources on the internet enriched with well edited and coloured screenshots of medical sites. It offers a long list of links to diverse general and medical-pharmaceutical topics. As far as I understand it appears four times a year, each number dedicated to a specific subject and separately charged (?). References, ordering and pricing???

It must be emphasized that all sources mentioned above are not very cheap. Nonetheless people professionally involved in this domain should have access to one or other of those titles. It seems reasonable that there are a wealth of other printed publications/serials in this field in other countries. Readers are invited and welcomed either to e-mail information on such titles to [100016.2752@compuserve.com](mailto:100016.2752@compuserve.com) for review or submit their reviews themselves (particularly if these are NOT in German, French, English or Romanian).



***Internet Medicine: A Critical Guide***  
Vol.6 (2001) 12 p. ISSN 1086-5691  
monthly from Lippincott Williams &  
Wilkins - www.lww.com .  
Subscription rate US\$ 115 (pers.) US\$  
171 (inst.) US and foreign

***Medicine on the Net Vol.7 (2001)***  
28 p. ISSN 1085-3502 monthly from  
COR Healthcare Resources -  
www.corhealth.com  
Subscription rate US\$ 147 (pers.US) US\$ 187  
(inst.US) US\$ 199 (outside US and Canada)

***Health Care on the Internet: a Journal  
for Medical Professionals, Consumers***

***& Librarians.*** Vol.5 (2001) 100 p. ISSN  
1089-4187 4 issues per Volume (including  
single monographs) by Hayworth Press Inc.  
www.haworthpress.com  
Subscription rate US\$ 40.50 (pers.) US\$  
99 (inst.).

***Health Information on the Internet***  
www.hioti.org Number 19 (Feb.2001) 12  
p. ISSN 1460-4140 6 times a year;  
published by the Royal Society of  
Medicine Press www.rsmppress.co.uk  
Subscription rate 34GBP (Europe,UK);  
US\$ 57 (USA) Elsewhere 36 GBP UK  
students 10 GBP ; Members of the  
Brit.Healthcare Internet Assoc. 29 GBP

***Health on the Internet. The Newsletter  
of Health Information Sources.*** Vol.6  
(2001) 20 p. ISSN 1367-0393 (print)  
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Medecal Ltd. www.medecal.com  
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170 anywhere.

available as a searchable database with  
monthly updates into any internet based  
webservice.

**Constantin Cazin**



## Dear Colleagues,



An animated debate on electronic publishing, free access to scientific information, and publishers' costs is going on. The publishers have been challenged by a group of researchers who are threatening to stop buying, publishing in or reviewing for any journal that refuses to place its research papers in a proposed, freely available, database, The Public Library of Science, within six months of their initial publication (Nature, 2001, 410, 502).

The Fourth International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations, held in March 2001, concluded with a call for more academic institutions to make theses and dissertations available online (BioMed Central News and Comment, 2 April 2001).

On the topic of the quality of health information in Internet there is bad news. The World Health Organisation's proposal to create a ".health" Internet address for health information sites that meet quality and ethical standards has been rejected by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (Scrip, 2000, n.2601, 17).

A new policy of PubMed Central to encourage a wider participation of publishers. PubMed Central is now offering publishers the option of depositing material for archival purposes without making the full text viewable. Searches for this material at Pubmed Central would lead users to the full-text articles at the publisher's site (Nature, 2001, 410, 740).

**Giovanna F. Miranda, Co-Editor & Publications**

### JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of February 2001, the following journal issue of *Health Libraries Review* has been received: **vol. 18, 2001, no. 1**

**J. Palmer. Editorial.** *p. 1.*

**P. Griffiths and L. Riddington. Nurses' use of computer databases to identify evidence for practice-a cross-sectional questionnaire survey in UK hospital.** *p.2-9.*

A questionnaire survey of 114 nurses working in five teaching UK hospitals to investigate the general use of computers and databases.

**P. Flor, A. Jakobsson, I. Mogset, S. Taylor, S. E. Aasen. A controlled vocabulary for nursing and allied health in Norway.** *p.10-19.*

A working group appointed by BIBSYS attempt to improve the quality of searching health literature. The group recommends the development of a Norwegian thesaurus based on a translation of parts of Mesh and CINAHL Subject Heading List.

**P. Deacon, J. B. Smith, S. Tow. Using metadata to create navigation paths in the HealthInsite Internet gateway.** *p.20-29.*

The objective of this study was to evaluate the HealthInsite topic query technique, which uses a dynamic database search to assign resources to a topic.

**B. Glitz, C. Hamasu, H. Sandstrom. The focus group: a tool for programme planning, assessment and decision making: an American view.** *p. 30-37.*

The paper describes the focus group process used with hospital librarians in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region, in the library setting to plan programmes around identified needs.

**R. Rook, F. Adshead. Postgraduate training in Public Health Medicine: St. George's Hospital Medical School Library Public Health Information Service.** *p. 38-44.*

The article examines the development of the St. George's Hospital Medical School Library public health information service.

Innovations online. (B. Anagnostelis). *p.45.*

Brief Communication. *p. 54.*

Research. (A.Booth). *p. 60.*

### BOOKS REVIEW

**The International Yearbook of library and Information Management 2000-2001: Collection Management.** By G.E.

Gorman, 2000, Library Association Publishing, London. ISBN 1-85604-366-5. £ 60 + postage and packing charge (less 20% LA Member discount).

This book is a thematic annual publication covering the field of library science and information management worldwide. It includes chapters covering current issues, emerging debates and trends and models of best practice and likely future developments. The first volume is focused on the theme of collection management.

### JOURNAL REVIEW

**Journal of Hospital Librarianship.** Ed. C.M. Gilbert, The Haworth Information Press, Binghamton, New York. Volume 1, No. 1 Spring 2001. Quarterly (4 issues per year): Subscription: Individuals \$ 36, Institutions and Libraries \$ 48.

This journal offers practical and innovative suggestions and strategies on administrative issues, new technologies, and relevant products.

### PAPERS REVIEW

**Electronic publishing in science. The revolution is only just beginning** R. Smith. *BMJ*, 2001, 322, 627.

**Publishers challenged over access to papers.** M. Wadman. *Nature*, 2001, 410, 502.

**E-access to science.** *Nature*, 2001, 410, 613.

**PubMed Central decentralized.** E. Sequeira et al. *Nature*, 2001, 410, 740

**The power of electronic thesis.** A. Chakraverty. *BioMed Central News and Comment*, 2 April 2001  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/news>

**WHO's Internet address proposal rejected.** *Scrip*, 2000, n.2601, 17

**Current awareness using PubMed: current web services and possibilities for local solution.** M. Eberle. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 2000, 5 (2), 21



## PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

**Web site design resources for the librarian: a selective annotated bibliography.** C. E. Long. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 2000, 5 (2), 31

**The Cochrane Library and Cochrane Collaboration.** R.B. Fitzpatrick. *Medical References Services Quarterly*, 2000, 19 (4), 73

### INFORMATION SOURCES

#### ..... Web-based

**OMIM** The Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man. This database is a catalogue of human genes and genetic disorders authored and edited by Dr. Victor A. McKusick and his colleagues at Johns Hopkins and elsewhere, and developed for the World Wide Web by NCBI, the National Centre for Biotechnology Information. The database contains textual information, pictures, and reference information. <http://www3.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim/>

**Norina** is a database compiled by the Laboratory Animal Unit, Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Oslo. The primary purpose of the database is to offer an overview of possible alternatives or

supplements for the use of animals in student teaching, at all levels from schools to university. The database consists of approximately 3500 entries, including computer programs, CD-ROMs, interactive videos, films and more traditional teaching aids such as slide series, 3-D models and classroom charts. <http://oslovet.veths.no/>

**The Poxvirus Bioinformatics Resource** provides access to information about a dozen complete genomes of poxviruses, such as variants of vaccinia, two strains of variola major, fowlpox and others. <http://www.genome.uab.edu/pox/>

### NEWS FROM EDITORS

**The National Library of Medicine** is ready to begin the phase-out of Internet Grateful Med. The NLM expects that Internet Grateful Med will be officially and completely retired by the end of June 2001. *NLM Technical Bulletin*, January 25, 2001 ([www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull)).

**Wolters Kluwer** announces it will acquire SilverPlatter Information. Wolters Kluwer already owns OVID Technologies; his main objective with the acquisition and

integration of SilverPlatter is to create a comprehensive channel for medical and scientific information.

**Ovid** announces that OpenLinks, the full-text linking software, is expanding to offer subscribers links to the more than 3700 journals available from CrossRef member publishers. The total number of OpenLinks will increase from 2100 to more than 5000. Ovid will access the CrossRef database daily to provide the most recent range of links to the OpenLinks customers. [www.ovid.com](http://www.ovid.com)

**Ebsco Subscription Services** has reached an agreement with BMJ Publishing Group and with Lippincott Williams & Wilkins to link to the full text of 26 BMJ journals and 49 LWW journals from Ebsco Online. This should make it much easier for many end users in institutions to gain access to BMJ and LWW journals.

**Ebsco Online** users can now purchase articles in online journals that are viewable on Ebsco Online, even if they do not have a subscription to the journal. The new pay-per view feature is available both to registered users of Ebsco Online as well as to users linking from Ebsco Online's linking partners. [www.ebsco.com](http://www.ebsco.com)



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**29-31 May, 2001, Paris, France. IDT Net 2001**  
Salon de l'information et de l'Internet  
For further information: [www.idt.fr/idt](http://www.idt.fr/idt)

**30 May-1st June, 2001, Reykjavik, Iceland**  
**11th Nordic Conference on Information and Documentation**  
For further information: <http://www.bokis.is/iod2001/>

**25-30 May, 2001, Orlando, Florida, USA**  
**MLA 2001: An Information Odyssey**  
**Medical Library Association Annual Meeting**  
For further information: [www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org)

**7-9 June, 2001, Alghero, Sardinia, Italy**  
**2001: Cyberspace Odyssey. EAHL 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](http://www.sla.org)

**13-17 June, 2001, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, CLA 2001.**  
**Canadian Library Association Annual Conference**  
For further information: [www.cla.ca](http://www.cla.ca)

**14-20 June, 2001, San Francisco, California, USA**  
**ALA Annual Conference**  
**American Library Association**  
For further information:  
[www.ala.org/events/ac2001/index.html](http://www.ala.org/events/ac2001/index.html)

**9-11 July, 2001, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK**  
**28th Annual AIOPI Conference**  
**Pharmaceutical Industry Librarians**  
For further information:  
[www.aiopi.org.uk/conference.htm](http://www.aiopi.org.uk/conference.htm)

**16-25 August, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**  
**IFLA General Conference**  
For further information: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67>

**1-5 October, 2001, Ljubljana, Slovenia**  
**Interlending & Document Supply**  
**Organised jointly by the National and University Library, Ljubljana and the IFLA Office for International Lending**  
For further information: [ifla@bl.uk](mailto:ifla@bl.uk)

**10-14 October, 2001, Frankfurt, Germany**  
**Frankfurt Book Fair**  
For further information: [www.frankfurt-bookfair.com](http://www.frankfurt-bookfair.com)