

Report from the International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists ICAHIS Satellite Day

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Abstract

The International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists (ICAHIS) held a Satellite meeting ahead of the joint EAHIL+ICAHIS+ICLC Workshop in June 2015. This brief report summarises the day and gives a synopsis of the presentation given by the invited speaker.

Key words: librarians; information services; evidence-based practice; veterinary information; education, veterinary.

The International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists (ICAHIS) meets every two to five years. Alongside being a partner in the EAHIL+ICAHIS+ICLC Workshop ICAHIS held a Satellite Day to discuss some specific animal health themes. The day was hosted by AHIS (UK and Ireland) and 30 attendees from nine different countries (across three continents) met at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (known as the Dick Vet) at the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush Campus, seven miles outside Edinburgh. ICAHIS would like to thank AHIS (UK and Ireland) for making the Satellite Day possible. We would also like to thank everyone involved in organising the EAHIL+ICAHIS+ICLC Workshop. The day opened with a presentation from Tim King, Deputy Head of the Dick Vet. Tim welcomed delegates and gave an overview of the teaching and research carried out by the Dick Vet and by Roslin Institute. He spoke about some of the School's collaborations, such as with the Edinburgh College of Art where veterinary and art students are encouraged to work together on joint projects; and some of the innovative use of new technologies, for

example with 3D printers and with QR coding of resources around the School.

The invited speaker was Kristen Reyher from the University of Bristol. She gave a veterinarian's perspective on evidence-based veterinary medicine and spoke about the GROEL (A Global Resource for Online EBVM Learning) project. The GROEL project is an international collaboration to provide open-source learning which will align with existing resources, such as the RCVS Knowledge (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) EBVM Toolkit <http://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/ebvm-toolkit/>. The project includes veterinary librarians and aims to build a community of practice.

There were presentations from delegates on evidence-based veterinary medicine, information services, the 3Rs and research support. The fascinating and thought provoking presentations led to further discussions during the day and over dinner in the evening. These presentations are available on the workshop website at: <https://eahil2015.wordpress.com/icahis/>

Over lunch there was a tour of the Teaching

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Building. The building was opened in 2011, bringing the Dick Vet together on one campus. Prior to this it had been split between the Easter Bush Campus and the Summerhall building in Edinburgh. The tour took in the teaching and learning spaces such as the teaching labs, clinical skills suite, dissection room and post-mortem viewing room. The latter allows students to view the post mortem room without having to enter, meeting biosafety and biosecurity concerns. The two-way intercom and moveable camera allows interactions with the pathologists. The post mortem table is

custom built and adjustable, to take animals of all sizes. The tour also visited the Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library and the Study Landscape, which has specimens and veterinary equipment which students can use to help improve their understanding.

The day ended with dinner at Howie's restaurant on Waterloo Place in Edinburgh. The building which is now Howie's restaurant was originally the Calton Convening Rooms and it was here that William Dick, the founder of the Dick Vet, gave his founding lectures in 1823.



Figure 1. ICAHIS Group



Figure 2. Stained glass at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies