

# Journal of EAHIL

## Feature Articles

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# Journal of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries

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## Editorial

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Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a very good Christmas holiday and I would like to wish you all a very happy new year.

This issue does not have a specific theme; articles on any subjects have been accepted and I hope this will make it an interesting issue for all our readers. Articles by Rosalia Ferrara, Ulla Neuvonen and Gabriela Florescu as well as additional articles by Giovanna Miranda, Jukka Englund and Federica Napolitani that were given at the excellent Helsinki conference are featured.

The following subjects have been chosen by the JEAHIL Editorial Board for 2009:

ISSUE	THEME	DEADLINE
May 2009	Social media and collaborative networking in libraries	<b>1 April 2009</b>
August 2009	Dublin EAHIL Workshop	<b>10 July 2009</b>
November 2009	Remodelling your library space in a digital world	<b>15 October 2009</b>

If you would like to submit an article please refer to the *Instructions for Authors* which can be downloaded from the EAHIL site [http://www.eahil.net/journal/jeahil\\_instructions\\_authors.html](http://www.eahil.net/journal/jeahil_instructions_authors.html). I look forward to receiving your articles.

In 2009 we have the EAHIL Workshop in Dublin from the 2-5<sup>th</sup> June with the theme *Working with others: explore, engage and extend* and the Organizing Committee is working hard to offer a very interesting Scientific and Social programme. Early Bird Registration opens on the 27 February 2009 until 27 March so do not forget to register early. Dublin is a wonderful city, steeped in history and culture and I am sure all participants will have a marvellous time.

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medical Librarianship will take place from the 31 August to the 4<sup>th</sup> September in Brisbane, Australia and Early Bird registration will remain open until 18<sup>th</sup> April. The overall theme *Positioning the profession* is reflected well in the numerous program themes with outstanding keynote speakers taking part. With so many associated meetings and conferences built in its program this Congress will certainly attract a worldwide audience. I remember well my first ICML in Washington DC and it was an unforgettable experience and so I urge you all to consider registering for this congress.

# The web 2.0 revolution in library and information services\*



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### Abstract

*Web 2.0 is a dynamic and fast-moving environment and many of the tools currently available have been developed by individuals committed to the open source and free software movement. This paper will try to give some examples of the new services that are on offer and will summarize the advantages and disadvantages of Web 2.0 for librarians and information professionals and users.*

*Key words:* libraries; Web 2.0; social networking.

### Introduction

Officially coined in 2004 by Dale Dougherty, a vice-president of O'Reilly Media Inc., the term Web 2.0 does not refer to an update of some technical specification, but to a perceived second generation of web-based communities and hosted services. In other words, it denotes a change in the ways software developers and end-users are using the Web. Web 2.0 is a dynamic and fast-moving environment and many of the tools currently available have been developed by individuals committed to the open source and free software movement. Web 2.0 is a read-write web. Social-networking sites, social bookmarking, blogs, wikis and folksonomies facilitate collaboration and data sharing between users. The result is a more socially connected Web where everyone is able to add to and edit the information space. The principles of Web 2.0, also applicable to libraries, are interactivity and scope for user contribution. This new scenario is changing the behaviour of those involved in the biomedical information sector, both the “providers” and the “users”

of this information, and it has forced library and information services departments to adapt and transform their services. Librarians and information professionals must go where the users are. They need to adapt to the new mindset of users, linking information and people. With the advent of the “Web 2.0 age” users can do a lot for libraries: creating additional information and content and generating knowledge. Social tagging, social bookmarking, and Wiki services are facilities greatly appreciated by users. Thus, the benefits of the Web 2.0 environment can be considered reciprocal. We can already cite two examples of this great cultural change: the Library of Congress offers two sets of digitized photos through Flickr, giving users the opportunity to tag them, and some scientists have suggested to “wikify” the GenBank, allowing researchers who discover inaccuracies in the database to append corrections.

### Library services

The dynamism and the impulse imparted by Web 2.0, and the scope it offers for more personalized tools and

\*This paper was presented at the 11th EAHIL Conference in Helsinki, Finland, 2008

**Table 1.** Advantages and disadvantages of Web 2.0

WEB 2.0		
	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Librarians &amp; Information Professionals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collaboration - Customization</li> <li>● Communication - Knowledge</li> <li>● Sharing - Updating</li> <li>● Flexible tools - Speed</li> <li>● Reduction of costs - Training</li> <li>● Facilitates experimentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Too many different tools</li> <li>● Doubts over the reliability of tools</li> <li>● Difficulties in standardization</li> <li>● Low level of security and privacy</li> <li>● Low level of cataloguing information</li> <li>● Doubts over the longevity of tools</li> <li>● Confidentiality concerns</li> <li>● Ownership of data issues</li> </ul>
<b>Users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Requires little technical expertise</li> <li>● Reduction of costs</li> <li>● Flexibility</li> <li>● User involvement</li> <li>● Time saving</li> <li>● Reduces information overload</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rumours</li> <li>● Security and legal issues</li> <li>● Dependence</li> <li>● Second-hand information</li> </ul>

functions, not only offers librarians and information professionals new service openings, but also presents them with some problems (Table 1).

**“Participatory” services**

Web 2.0 gives users the opportunity to play an active, participatory role in the services offered by libraries. Users can help to tailor library services to meet their own specific needs. These “social tools” encourage users not only to share their knowledge, but also to return, because folksonomy and resource collections are evolving all the time.

- *Blog* (web-log). A simple webpage consisting of brief paragraphs divulging opinion, information, personal diary content, etc., arranged chronologically with the most recent first. It serves to provide commentary or news on a particular subject and, thanks to rapid feedback from users, allows easier updating with new information.
- *Wiki*. A “social writing” software, a webpage that can be easily edited by anyone who is allowed access. Its purpose is to give the user the opportunity to develop ideas in collaboration with others, since others are allowed to add pages of content themselves.
- *Social bookmarking systems*. These systems allow users to create lists of bookmarks or favourites, to store them centrally on a remote service, and to share them with other users of the system. They are thus used as means of creating and sharing a set of resources with other users.

- *Social tagging and folksonomy (folk taxonomies)*. Classification of a digital object (website, picture, video, etc.) using an informally assigned user-defined keyword to describe it. Users tag documents, choosing and adding uncontrolled keywords that allow them better to identify the documents from their own point of view.
- *Social networking* is a service allowing communities of people who share the same interests to build their own online social networks.

**Personalized Services**

Technological advances in Web 2.0 have enabled libraries to create personalized new services that were previously impossible or difficult to implement. Web 2.0 is boosting the trend for personalization in order to meet the needs of users, even of the single user.

- *Spread information and news* on particular topics. *RSS* is a family of formats that allow users to find out about updates without actually having to go and visit the relevant sites. *RSS* makes it possible to spread information, replacing traditional e-mailing lists and reducing e-mail overload; it also allows users to read all its news in one place. *Instant Messaging*. This is a means, via networked computers or mobile devices, of sending online images, audio and video files and other attachments, in real time.

- *Set up a customized search engine.* Rollyo is used to create entirely new search engines. Librarians or information professionals identify up to 25 authoritative key websites in a particular area, and add them to Rollyo, thereby creating a new, customized search engine.
- *Set up and share a customized library.* H2O playlists provide shared lists of readings and other content about particular topics. *LibraryThing*, an easy, library-quality catalogue, is a means of creating one's own online reading list. It is possible to enter a reading list or the whole library. *LibraryThing* also connects users with people who read the same things.
- *Data "mash-ups".* Used to combine data and/or functionality (maps, tags, etc) from different sources into a single integrated tool. Customized (user-defined), clickable markers are displayed showing points of interest and related information on an interactive web map.
- *Develop "collabulary".* Classification specialists help users to develop expert vocabularies to improve the tagging of subjects, sites, etc.
- *Multimedia sharing.* Facilitates the storage and sharing of multimedia content (presentations and slides, photos, videos, and audio recordings). *Slideshare* to share presentations with the world, *Flickr* to share photos, *You Tube* to share videos, and *Odeo* to share audio recordings.
- *Social networking.* Social networking services enable users to share information within a network of colleagues through user profiles, linking users to others posting similar information.
- *Podcasting & videopodcasting.* Distribute audio and video files to users. Podcasts could be a novel medium in user education. Facebook can be used to distribute photos and videos.

### Pros and cons for librarians and information professionals

The Web 2.0 technology allows libraries to help and to serve their users more efficiently and to reach a new audience. While the advantages are heavily touted by proponents of Web 2.0, there

are also those who feel that this technology will do more harm than good. Librarians and information professionals may start to feel uneasy about their own inability to keep up with the rapid changes in technology and they may start to feel that they are losing control of the environment in which they are training and supporting users.

### Pros

- *Tool flexibility.* Flexible tools facilitate and speed up the spread of updated information, allow existing resources to be used more efficiently, and offer user-friendly supports for collaboration.
- *Customization.* The information can be personalized to meet the needs of our customers, even of a single user.
- *Low costs.* All Web 2.0 services are free.
- *Training.* Integration of a variety of technologies in teaching-learning activities.
- *Communication.* Web 2.0 facilitates communication with users.
- *Knowledge generation.* The additional information and content added by users, which pull pieces of the web together in different ways and for different purposes, generate knowledge.
- *Easier experimentation.* The rapid evolution of the technology, which does not require a lot of hand-holding and support, facilitates the experimentation of new tools and generates new ways of spreading and sharing information.

### Cons

- *Too many new tools.* Users may be using a whole range of freely available tools and services, many of which the information professional may not be personally familiar with.
- *Reliability and longevity of tools.* It appears risky to rely on services that, given the unavailability of support contracts, may disappear at any time. Web 2.0 is a dynamic and fast-moving environment. Many of the tools currently available have been developed by individuals

who are committed to the open source and free software movement, but who may lack commercial backing; these same individuals may have a tendency to lose interest and move on to other things when an exciting new piece of technology comes along.

- *Difficulties in standardizing keyword/ classification schemes.* The social tagging provided by users is very powerful but could also make it difficult to catalogue sources. The lack of any control over the vocabulary used could generate problems even at a basic level, for example word form, plural or singular, transliteration, etc.
- *Low level of security, confidentiality and privacy.* The low level of data protection, together with the potential for data loss or misuse, creates the risk of widespread leaking of confidential information and data.
- *Legal concerns.* Copyright, ownership of data, reliance on third parties with whom there may be no contractual agreements.
- *Risk of spread of low quality information.* A peer review analysis is not very often offered.

#### **Pros and cons for users**

Web 2.0 is a powerful resource that will allow our users to receive information from many sources, to be actively involved in creating content and generating knowledge, and to communicate with each other and spread ideas. These advantages bring with them certain risks, such as low quality of information, loss of data, security and legal issues.

#### **Pros**

- *Low level of complexity.* The tools are user-friendly.
- *Saved time and reduction of the information overload.* Flexibility and easier and faster access to information through RSS, personalized libraries, bookmarks, and search engines.
- *Idea sharing & knowledge generation.* Users have control over their personal data and information and are actively involved in creating content and generating knowledge, and in

sharing this online.

- *Social tagging (or folksonomy).* Users contribute to the tagging of documents, choosing and adding uncontrolled keywords to render documents, from their point of view, more readily identifiable.
- *Communication.* Web 2.0 allows our customers to communicate with each other and to spread their ideas.
- *Organizing and sharing of references.* Connotea, for instance, a free online reference management tool produced by Nature Publishing Group, allows researchers, clinicians and scientists to save, organize and share their references.

#### **Cons**

- *Rumours.* Risk of spread of low quality information. Web 2.0 encourages “amateurishness”, i.e., the generation, by users, of content of no real value.
- *Security and legal concerns.* Potential security and legal concerns, e.g. copyright, data protection, etc.
- *Data loss.* Potential for data loss or misuse.
- *Dependence.* One of the main problems with Web 2.0 is dependence.
- *Risk of sourcing second-hand information.* Users are not sure of the source of the information.

#### **Discussion**

Web 2.0 is an evolution of Web 1.0 more than a revolution, but it is changing the way in which services are supplied to customers and has forced library and information services departments to adapt, to change, and to conform to the new mindset of users, based on the linking of information and people. With the advent of the “Web 2.0 age”, users can do a lot for libraries, creating additional information and content, and generating knowledge; hence, the Web 2.0 environment can be considered mutually beneficial. Technology is important in Web 2.0, but it is not an end in itself; it favours social networking and cooperation. Libraries can use some of these new tools to engage users, providing them with more interactive experiences, and becoming more efficient in the process of delivering

information. The key is to get things out quickly to users. This requires a willingness to be flexible and confidence in the ability of users to cope with rapid change without requiring a lot of hand-holding and support. Also, feedback from users should play a role in the generation of new services and the modification of old ones.

Libraries and information professionals need to look at emerging trends and changes in users' online expectations, and at how they can meet those expectations. They can turn many of the perceived drawbacks of Web 2.0 to their own advantage by taking a proactive approach, to ensure that their own services are integrated with Web 2.0 tools where appropriate. They can improve access to information, share their expertise by filtering the material chosen by users and organizing it in their standardized keyword and classification schemes, and developing expert vocabularies. Users can receive their personalized information from multiple sources, allowing them to

make better decisions.

### Conclusions

The basic skills and professional expertise of librarians and information professionals are perfectly compatible with these new tools: RSS, for example, is a form of alerting, tagging is a form of indexing, and customization has always been an aim of their services. The quality assurance of sources is among their core competences and they are thus ideally placed to help and/or teach users to judge and select them. There are also some new roles now emerging within organizations that can increase the value of their services: the management of datasets, digital preservation, and greater involvement in managing intellectual property rights. Librarians and information professionals must go where users are and see the Web 2.0 as a new opportunity, not as something they need be afraid of getting involved in. They also need to work together to share ideas and experiences, implement developments and learn from each other. Librarians and information professionals can rise to the challenge of the "Web 2.0 era" it is just a question of

### Suggested reading

Anderson P. What is Web 2.0? Ideas, technologies and implications for education  
JISC Standards and Technology Watch. February 2007  
<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/techwatch/tsw0701b.pdf>

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# The Italian National Institute of Health Library in its role as a WHO Documentation Centre



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### Abstract

*The Italian National Institute of Health - Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) - has always cooperated with the major international players in the field of public health, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO). Since its inception the ISS Library has acted as a WHO Depository Library and since 1991 as a WHO Documentation Centre (WHO DC). This paper focuses on the activity of the ISS Library in its role as WHO DC through the period 2005-2008 concluding that the ISS Library successfully took advantage of this role by increasing its visibility in the information environment and by improving the services it offers to the benefit of both those involved in the field of public health and the diverse population it serves.*

*Key words:* documentation; information centers; Italy; libraries, medical; World Health Organization.

### Introduction

The increasing complexity of contemporary age forms the background within which cooperation has become essential for organizations to be able to operate effectively. The Italian National Institute of Health – Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) – has always cooperated with the major international players in the field of public health, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO). Since its inception, the ISS Library has acted *de facto* as a WHO Depository Library, officially appointed in September 2007, and since 1991 as a WHO Documentation Centre (WHO DC). The Centre supports the activity of the World Health Organization by promoting in Italy the distribution of documentation produced by the offices of WHO Headquarters, WHO Europe and other WHO Regional Offices. The Centre gathers and files such documentation, retrieves on request bibliographic references, offers a reading service as well as a local and remote reference service and supplies users with the original documents. This paper aims to describe the Centre's activity during the years 2005-2008. Over this

period some services have been upgraded in order to satisfy a constantly growing request for information from consumers and users operating in the public health field. Given the major role played today by Internet in the spreading of information, the WHO DC website has come to acquire a central position in collating information on the Centre's activities in order to contribute to promoting public health issues in Italy.

### Background

The WHO Documentation Centres are designated by the WHO Regional Office for Europe with the aim of promoting and disseminating information on its activities as widely as possible in each Member State. First centres were established in 1989 (1): their functions were outlined by the Berlin Workshop in 1990 (2) and better defined by the following WHO DC meetings: Copenhagen 1993 (1), Copenhagen 1998 (3), Wien 2002 (4). Today the WHO European network of documentation centres includes 45 centres in 37 European countries (5), two of which are located in Italy: one is in Rome at Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS)

(6); the other one in Caltanissetta, Sicily at the Centre for Training and Research in Public Health (CEFPAS) (7).

The Italian WHO Documentation Centre at ISS was officially designated in 1991. It is located within the ISS Library which is specialized in scientific documentation in the biomedical and public health fields (8). The focal point of the ISS WHO DC is the Library which carries on its activities with the support of the Documentation, Publishing and Data management sectors.

**Italian WHO Documentation Centre at ISS**

During the years 2005-2008 the activity of the Centre has been devoted above all to improve the services and to increase the accessibility to WHO documentation.

information or specific enquiries, directing the users to relevant WHO sources. Internal and external users may also ask the reference staff for assistance by phone or in person during opening hours. The document supply service can be accessed by both internal and external users, who can obtain WHO documents, original or copy, free of charge in accordance with the current agreements between ISS and WHO.

Some data referring to the *Ask@librarian* service are shown in the graphs below. The first graph shows the kind of requests processed by the Library in the period 2005-2008 (*Figure 1*); the second graph shows the user categories in 2008 (*Figure 2*).

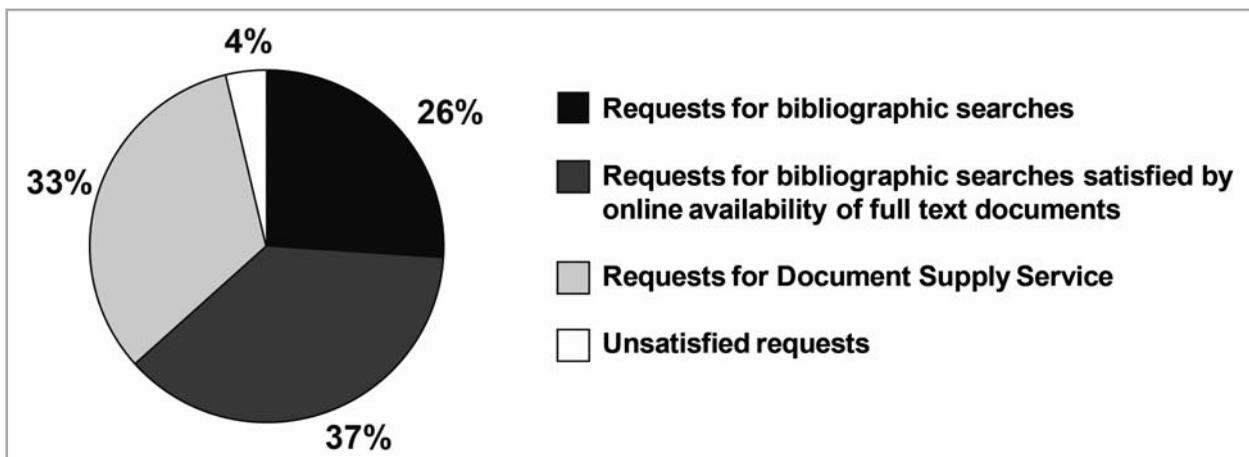


Fig. 1. *Ask@librarian* service: processed requests (2005-2008).

*Collection of WHO documents*

The Centre holds the most comprehensive paper collection in Italy of documents edited and/or published by the WHO (Headquarter or Regional Office for Europe) or other Regional Offices and Joint Committees. It is one of the special funds held by the ISS Library and consists of more than 4,500 documents including monographs, journals and series. This collection is open to both internal and external users and can be freely accessed in a room specifically dedicated to WHO documents. In the period 2005-2008 the expansion of this collection has lessened because of the increasing number of WHO documents freely available online.

*Reference service and Document supply service*

The new free e-mail reference service *Ask@librarian* (biblio.whodc@iss.it) was introduced by the Library in 2008. It is provided by experienced librarians who answer quick questions, requests for general

*Database of the Italian Translations*

The Database of the Italian Translation (DBIT) was launched in June 2005 with the aim not only of supplying users with a tool to aggregate this material but also of contributing to a more effective distribution of public-health related information in Italy (9). DBIT is an in-house database freely available online which was designed to search documents in both the original language and Italian. It is updated on a regular basis and currently consists of over 400 references. Most translations are available from the ISS Library, even if, since January 2007, the full texts of Italian documents are gradually being made freely accessible on the Net, in compliance with copyright laws. Today the ISS Centre acts as the national reference point for Italian translations originating from all parts of Italy and DBIT offers the most effective means of searching and obtaining translations in Italian language.

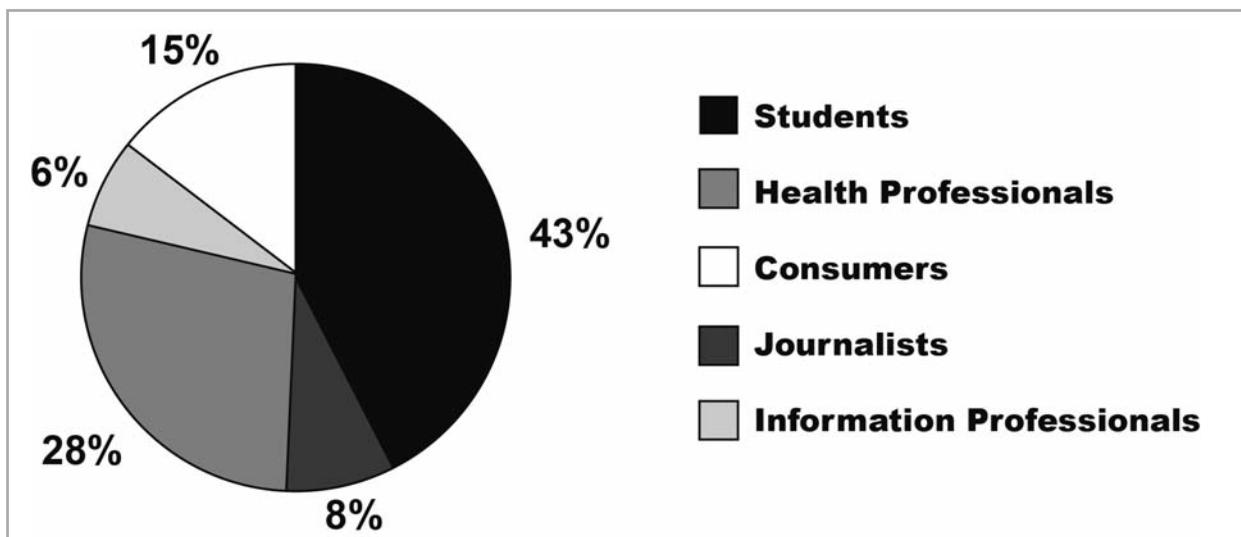


Fig. 2. Ask@librarian service: user categories (2008).

#### Reviews of WHO documents

The Centre translates into Italian language the reviews of selected WHO documents included in the WHO Catalogue of Publications. These translations are published in *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità* in the column "WHO Publications" (10). They have been available online in full-text since 2000 and since 2008 have been included in the ISS WHO DC site, *Library Bookshelf* section.

#### Courses and training

Since its inception user education and training has been considered an important task by the ISS WHO DC as a tool for the promotion of the WHO information resources. Two different kinds of initiatives can be distinguished in this field:

- *continuing medical education courses*. These courses, devoted to external users, have been organized by the Library since 1994 to offer support in accessing and selecting pertinent and qualified public health information available on the Web, also focusing on WHO resources. The courses are held at least once a year and are specifically aimed at people working in Italian National Health Service, research institutes, universities and biomedical libraries;
- *individual training sessions*. These sessions, open to both internal and external users, are specifically devoted to WHO resources. They are free of charge and can be arranged on request.

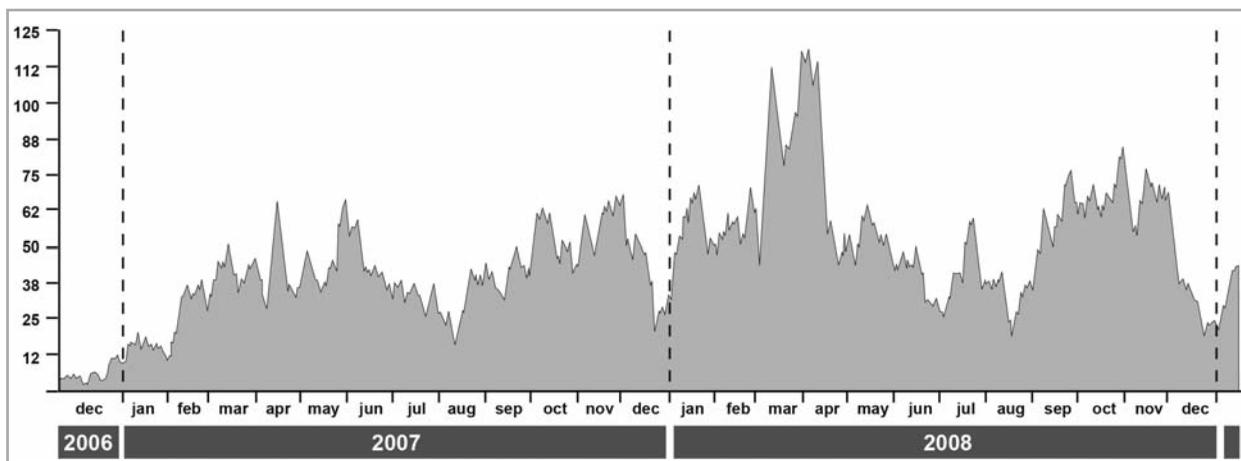


Fig. 3. WHO DC website accesses (2006-2008).

### Website

The WHO DC website was developed in June 2001 and through the years has had several graphical and content changes. The last edition was launched in June 2008: it includes the new logo of the Centre and the complete and updated English edition. The following two new sections were also added:

- *new books*. This section contains the list of the new books published by WHO and acquired by the ISS Library;
- *library bookshelf*. This section contains the list of the translations of the WHO reviews published in *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità* in the column "WHO Publications".

Data referring to the use of the WHO DC site through December 2006-December 2008 are shown in the graph (Figure 3).

### Conclusions

This paper has presented the activity of the Library of the Italian National Institute of Health in its role as a WHO Documentation Centre during the period 2005-2008. In these years the Library has aimed at consolidating its role as a WHO DC by improving and completing the initiatives according to WHO recommendations. In conclusion, it is possible to evaluate positively this cooperative experience for the many benefits it has produced:

- increased visibility of ISS Library in the information environment;
- increased capacity for response to information needs about WHO documentation;
- increased services to the benefit of the Library users.

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### Promoting scholarly publishing through libraries\*



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#### **Abstract**

*Terkko – the National Library of Health Sciences, Finland has done pioneering work to highlight scholarly publications in medicine and health sciences. The Scholar Chart, a mashup initiated in Terkko, combines FeedNavigator RSS feeds, Impact Factors and SCImago Journal Ranks in a highly unique way. It lists ca. 550 Finnish medical scholars and their article publications in real time and helps Finnish medical scholars to make their contributions more visible and accessible to the global community of medical scholars..*

*Key words:* libraries; bibliometrics; Finland; publishing.

#### **Introduction**

Scholarly publications are the end product of research workers. In most cases the budgets of research groups rely on the productivity of the group members i.e. how many articles have been published and what are the Impact Factors of the journals? Therefore the scholars strive for maximum visibility and impressiveness for their publishing efforts. Terkko – National Library of Health Sciences, Finland have done pioneering work to highlight scholarly publications in medicine and health sciences at the faculty, university and national level in Finland through innovative library services.

*The Virtual Journal of Helsinki Medical Research (VJHMR) (1) was a monthly multijournal compilation of the latest research at the University of Helsinki. It was published from 2000 until 2005. At that time the publication was a good overview of the scholarly publishing of the faculty. It had a major influence on the development of comparable services; for example Lund University published *Lund Virtual Medical Journal* from 2002 until 2007 (now *Lund Medical Faculty Monthly*) (2).*

#### **The past**

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) technology prepared the way for more rapid and automatic alerting of new articles. A web feed is a data format used with frequently updated content, such as the bibliographical data of scientific articles published in scholarly journals. RSS formats are specified using XML, the Extensible Markup Language (3). FeedNavigator (4), a web feed aggregator made in Terkko, downloads about 4000 medical and health sciences feeds and offers sophisticated tools for the end users to customize the interface. In addition, FeedNavigator downloads the feeds of the University of Helsinki scholars from the PubMed (5) database: it is possible to subscribe to the Helsinki Medical Publications channel (6) or individual feeds of more than 200 University scholars (7) and keep track of the publications in real time.

*\*This paper was presented at the 11th EAHIL Conference in Helsinki, Finland, 2008*

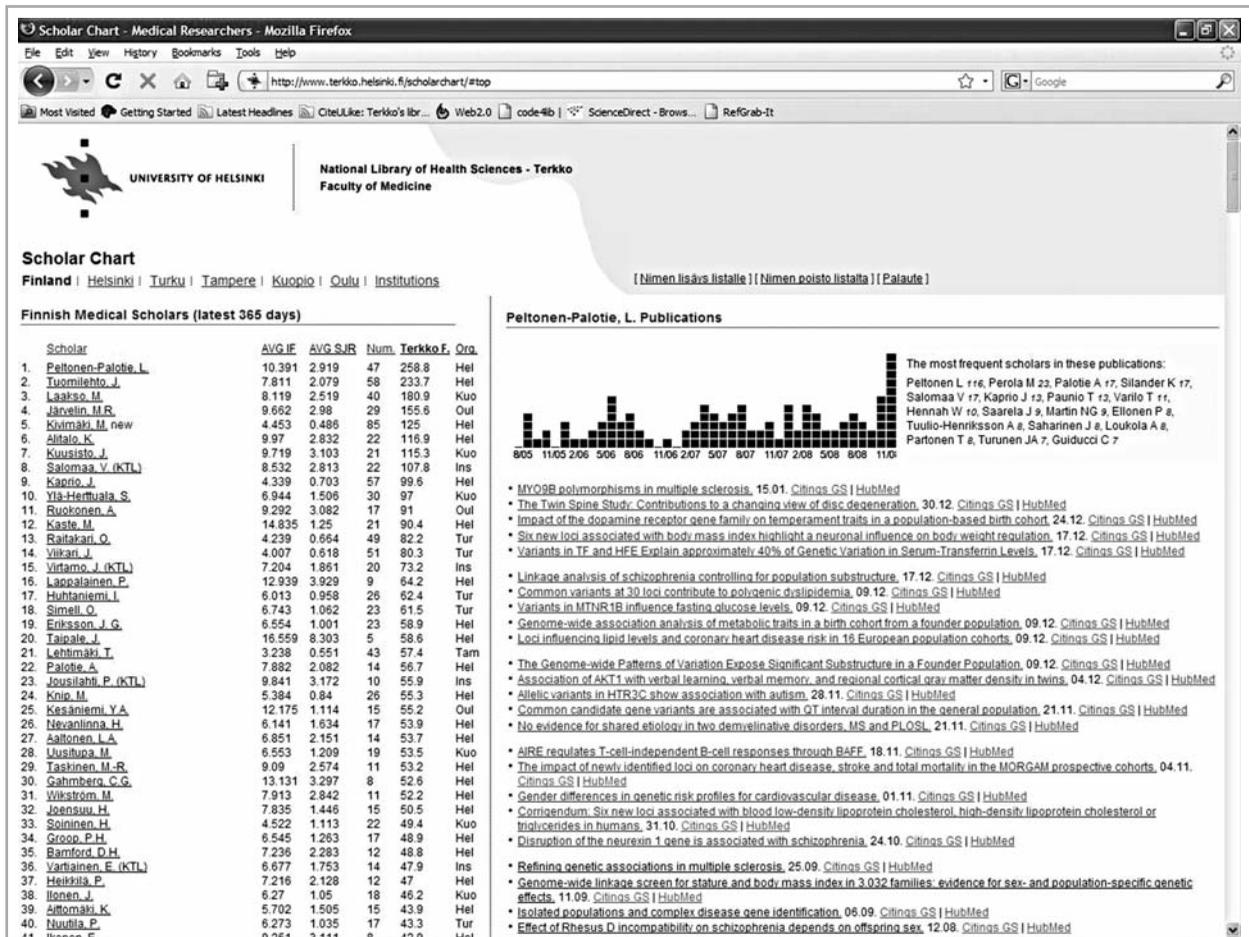


Fig. 1. The Scholar Chart in the National Library of Health Sciences

## The present Scholar Chart

How could we find out who is the Helsinki University medical scholar whose output has the most articles over the last year? What are the average Impact Factors of these publications? And who is on top of the Terkko Factor list this week? The Scholar Chart (8) (Figure 1), a mashup done in Terkko, combines FeedNavigator RSS feeds, Impact Factors (IF) and SCImago Journal Ranks (SJR) in a highly unique way. A mashup is a web application that combines data from more than one source into a single integrated service. Scholar Chart lists ca. 550 Finnish medical scholars and their article publications in real time.

The following set of values are represented: the absolute number of publications, the mean value of journals' (in which the scholar has published) Impact Factors, the mean value of journals' (in which the scholar has published) SCImago Journal Ranks and Terkko Factor [Square Root (Average Impact Factor x

Average SJR) x Number of Publications]. The lists can be sorted by all of these fields. The data is provided for the last 365 days.

## Impact Factors

Journal Citation Reports® (JCR) (9), is a database from Thomson Scientific that provides quantitative tools for ranking, evaluating and comparing journals. An example of the tools, the Impact Factor (IF) is a measure of the citations to scientific journals. These measures apply only to journals, not to individual articles of scholars.

## SCImago Journal Ranks (SJR)

The SJR is an indicator that expresses the number of connections that a journal receives through the citation of its documents divided between the total of documents published in the year selected by the publication, weighted according to the amount of incoming and outgoing connections of the sources (10).

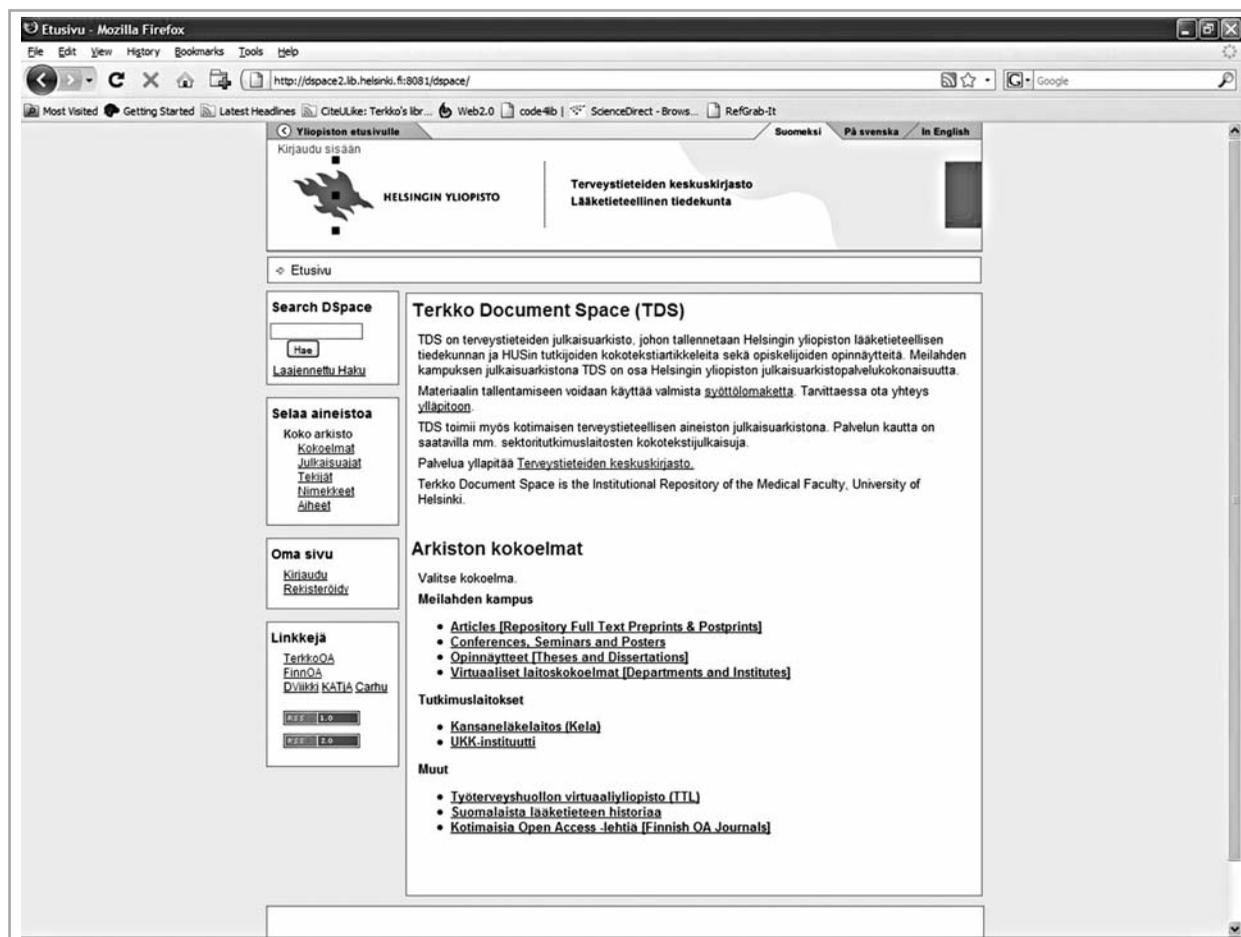


Fig. 2. Terkko Document space: the Institutional Repository of the Medical Faculty, University of Helsinki

### Terkko Factor

Terkko Factor, listed exclusively on the Scholar Chart website, is a combination of the absolute number of publications and the Impact Factors and SCImago Journal Ranks of the journals of these publications.

### H-index

H-index (by Jorge E. Hirsch) is based on the distribution of citations received by a certain scholar's publications. The h-index reflects both the number of publications and the number of citations per publication. It is supposed to be a tool to evaluate individual scholars (11). H-index is added manually to Scholar Chart.

In addition to the set of values mentioned above, the Helsinki Scholar Chart offers alerting of new citations to scholars' publications. RSS feeds from the ISI Web of Science database are used for this. Also, article level linking is used for Google Scholar and PubMed citations. Scholar Chart is an innovative, constantly auto-updating alerting tool. It is an easy to use system to keep count of Finnish medical publications in the best international journals.

### Terkko Document Space (TDS)

Terkko Document Space (TDS) (12) (Figure 2) is the Institutional Repository of the Medical Faculty, University of Helsinki. The metadata of published articles and dissertations are collected automatically from various sources. If possible, the full text is added on to the metadata. In order to make the top scholars more visible and promote their exceptional standard of workmanship, we are planning to use a community called Principal Investigator Profiles. TDS is a work in progress, and existing tools are planned to be used for promoting scholarly publishing of the Faculty beyond the normal repository boundaries.

### The future

Mashups, like the Scholar Chart service, offer new possibilities for libraries to innovate and create unequalled services. However, in addition to RSS feeds, access to database APIs is needed. An application programming interface (API) is a source code interface that an operating system or service provides to support requests made by

computer programs. An access to API should be a requirement when libraries are negotiating with database vendors. For example, the Scopus™ database (by Elsevier) is actively offering its application programming interface to be used with library mashups (13).

### Conclusions

The vision of the Scholar Chart service is to promote scholarly publishing done within the medical and health

sciences discipline in Finland. It is freely open to everyone, and it is updated almost completely automatically. In addition, it offers highly interesting, at the same time somewhat controversial, rankings of various measures, such as average Impact Factors and SCImago Journal Ranks. In conclusion, Scholar Chart is helping Finnish medical scholars to make their contributions more visible and accessible to the global community of medical scholars.

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# The CSE Global Theme Issue initiative: a collaborative information environment to promote public health\*

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### Abstract

*The Global Theme Issue initiative of the Council of Science Editors (CSE) is a successful example of a strategy to create a collaborative information environment and increase international cooperation. The initiative will be described and evaluated in this brief paper. Similar projects developed in recent years will also be reported. A possible application of this strategy will be suggested for health librarians and information specialists.*

*Key words:* international cooperation; publishing; libraries.

### The CSE Global Theme Issue Initiative

Among the many different services, innovative projects, virtual communities aimed at creating a collaborative information environment, the CSE initiative is certainly to be mentioned as a valuable tool to increase international cooperation and will certainly have a promising future.

The initiative consisted of the simultaneous online publication of original articles, reviews, editorials, perspectives, news, and other types of contributions relating to a specific subject. In the last edition of the initiative, this subject was: Poverty and Human Development (1).

The aim was to raise awareness, disseminate information, stimulate interest and research on these topics of worldwide concern and also to foster international cooperation and develop a synergy of strengths.

The participants:

- 37 countries agreed to participate;
- 238 science journals were involved;
- 750 research papers were published;
- 111 countries were examined within the published papers.

**Table 1.** List of countries of publishers participating in the CSE Global Theme Issue initiative, grouped by Human Development Index

<b>High</b>	Iceland, Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Japan, USA, Spain, UK, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Argentina, Croatia, Cuba, Mexico, Malaysia, Brazil, Puerto Rico*
<b>Medium</b>	Venezuela, China, Lebanon, Fiji, Iran, Palestine, Egypt, South Africa, India, Ghana, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Iraq*
<b>Low</b>	Nigeria, Tanzania, Malawi, Mali

\*Predicted Human Development Index (2)

\*This brief note was presented at the 11th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries (EAHIL) "Towards a new information space: innovations and renovations", 23-28 June 2008, Helsinki (Finland) as a poster.

On the common date of Monday 22 October 2007, all the papers were made freely available online. Each participating journal was asked to render its own articles relating to the Global Theme Issue freely accessible online which was a small but important step towards open access. Some commercial publishers had to change their access policy for this particular occasion.

A big event was also held at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda) on the same day to promote this initiative and highlight some of the best research published. These involved the following topics: childbirth safety, HIV/AIDS, malaria treatment, food insufficiency and sexual behaviour, environmental and nutritional interventions to improve child survival, physician brain drain from the developing world, and altered immunity and influenza's impact on poor children.

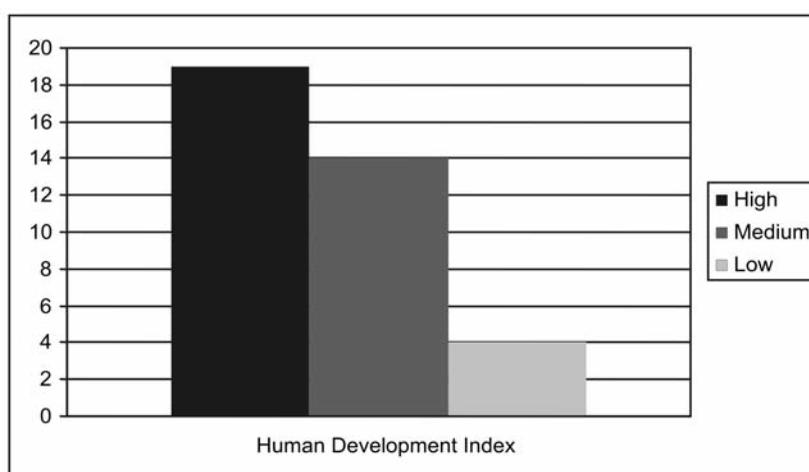
Table 1 lists the countries participating in this initiative. The authors grouped them according to the classification of the UNDP Report (2) where each country in the world is classified as having a high, medium or low human development index (HDI). HDI is an index which combines measures such as life expectancy, literacy, education and GDP (gross domestic product) per capita and ranks countries by level of "human development". This determines whether a country is developed, developing or underdeveloped (3).

*Contribution of the ISS official science journal Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*, the official peer-reviewed science journal of the Italian National Institute of Health, was one of the 238 science journals throughout the world that agreed to participate in this international collaboration. Among them: *British Medical Journal (BMJ)*, *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)*, *Science*, *The Lancet*, *Health Information and Library Journal* and many others published in developing and in underdeveloped countries.

*Annali* contributed four papers (4):

1. Inequalities in health: access to treatment for HIV/AIDS. *Marina Giuliano and Stefano Vella*
2. Extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis: an old and new threat. *Lanfranco Fattorini, Giovanni Battista Migliori and Antonio Cassone*
3. Poverty, human development, environmental and health risks: the role of precaution and cautionary policies. *Carlo Petrini*
4. Infectious diseases and governance of global risks through public communication and participation. *Nico Pitrelli and Giancarlo Sturloni*

As we can read in the Preface "Only the combined effort of international cooperation and synergy of strengths, policies, intents, researches, institutions – governmental



**Fig. 1.** Human Development Index of the 37 countries of publishers participating in the CSE Global Theme Issue initiative.

Figure 1 shows that the majority of the participating countries (as listed in Table 1) had a high HDI which is probably due to the fact that most science journals are in fact published in developed countries. But it also highlights the great interest and the commitment given by publishers and editors worldwide.

and non governmental, both from developed and developing countries – could have an impact on the betterment of social life conditions, the improvement of public health, the survival of the ecosystem (threatened by an ever-growing world population) and the decrease of health disequities" (4).

### Other global health initiative

The age in which we are living is characterized by a growing integration and interdependence of people, which have brought about the progressive increase of cooperative actions and initiatives which aim at improving health conditions throughout the world, transcending national identities and boundaries.

In this context, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2005 established a Global Communications Center (GCC) to provide a “CDC’s message portal to the world for emergency and ongoing broadcast communication” (<http://www.cdc.gov/gcc/>). Since the same year the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CDSH) has been gathering prominent scientists and practitioners from 20 geographic areas of the world, to collect and analyze evidence on policies improving health, within the goal “to help build a sustainable global movement for action on health equity and social determinants, linking governments, international organizations, research institutions, civil society and communities” ([http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/about/en/](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/about/en/)).

In Europe we are moving in the direction of more coordination between national research programmes. Within the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Community, in fact, collaborative research is one of the main points of the Cooperation programme, which supports all kinds of research activities carried out in trans-national cooperation, with the objective to develop joint programmes and actions between the Member States ([http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home_en.html)).

The need to fight health disparities and inequalities between countries, has been addressed with various activities promoting the dissemination of timely and up-to-date information on health topics in resource-poor countries, as the access to relevant and reliable

information is essential to policy makers, healthcare providers, practitioners, and all those having to make well-informed decisions on health. Among many similar initiatives, the AED Satellite Center for Health Information and Technology (United States) is bringing together over 100,000 persons in 120 countries involved in the delivery and sharing of knowledge, through multiple approaches (newsletters, free email publications, chat groups, etc.), in over 130 developing countries (<http://www.healthnet.org/>).

Also in the field of education in life sciences, major changes are occurring in response to the increasing interconnection of the world. A large number of American universities, in fact, provide a new Certificate in Global Health which, by means of field experiences and academic and professional partnerships with colleagues in foreign countries (especially resource-limited ones) help students to understand public health issues in a new interdisciplinary and international dimension.

### Conclusions and perspectives

The progressive increase in the number of participating journals registered from the first Global Theme Issue experience in 1996 (on Emerging and Re-emerging Global Microbial Threats), to the second in 1997 (on Ageing), to the third in 2007 (on Poverty and Human Development) shows a promising future for these kind of projects which could find an application also in other fields related to the scientific community, for instance the health information and libraries’ environment.

With the collaboration of other library associations worldwide, publishers, organizations and the CSE, a new global theme issue could eventually be launched by librarians and information specialists. There are many themes which could be proposed, but one might be the objective: to translate health information into a practical application for the benefit of all.

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### **Healthcare information for all by 2015**

Healthcare Information For All by 2015 (HIFA2015) brings together more than 1900 librarians, publishers and health professionals from 118 countries worldwide, committed to a common goal: By 2015, every person worldwide will have access to an informed health care provider. The campaign was launched at the 10th biennial congress of the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa, in Mombasa, Kenya, on 26th October 2006. The campaign highlights the link between the lack of availability of relevant, reliable information for healthcare providers in developing countries, and the daily toll of tens of thousands of deaths in developing countries.

Members share expertise and experience in two dynamic email communities: HIFA2015 and CHILD2015. Together we are developing a web-based resource that summarises the existing literature on healthcare information needs and ways of meeting those needs. In 2009 the campaign will include a special focus on the information needs of nurses and midwives in low-resource settings.

To join HIFA2015 and CHILD2015, send your name, email, organisation and brief description of interests to: [hifa2015-admin@dgroups.org](mailto:hifa2015-admin@dgroups.org)

Further information:

[www.hifa2015.org](http://www.hifa2015.org)

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# Rural health information in Romania

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### Abstract

*The study's objective was to evaluate whether there was any medical information in rural libraries in Transylvania and what were the specific barriers that rural inhabitants have to deal with in order to access it. Another aim of this study was to find out what were the alternative sources of information for rural inhabitants: access to internet, subscription for medical reviews, family doctor or nurse.*

*Key words:* public health; rural; access to information.

### Introduction

Among the important factors influencing the health status is the medical education of citizens, meaning the existence of profile information in urban and rural areas and their effective rate of access. Thus, more emphasis is placed on possessing quality information about the overall health state of the population, as this is a factor with a decisive influence over the social and economic evolution of a country. Therefore the public health field and the librarian, both of which have developed progressively in the past ten years, have joint responsibility for access to medical information by the rural population.

Recent comparative studies regarding the access to medical information have revealed surprising results from the perspective of well-known explanatory models. Thus, the essential dimension of the demographic capital, rural morbidity, has recorded significant values. The high risk regarding the health of the rural population is evidenced by an increase in mortality rate of 1.8% in the period of 1990-2004, due to the precarious structure of the medical system in rural areas, the high number of patients in the care of one doctor and the poor access to medical information. In 2004 a medical doctor in the rural area, had 1736 people in his care, opposed to a national average of 463 people/doctor (282 people/doctor – urban average) (1).

In rural settings, medical information can barely penetrate through the education offered in schools. The research paper *Study regarding life quality in Romania* (2) in 2006 has shown that in rural settings there is a concentration of population with a low level of

education: 67% only have primary studies, middle studies or have not graduated from any school. For example, only 62% from the number of those who used medicines in July 2000 were using it at the recommendation of the doctor.

According to library legislation (Law 334/2002), each community should have at least a library and a librarian, a library being one of the sources of culture in rural areas. In addition the number of volumes which must be acquired is growing yearly from 25 to 50 per each thousand inhabitants. Although it was adopted in 2002, this library legislation has not been applied in rural areas, the potential causes being lack of money, of qualified persons to occupy the position of librarian and the lack of interest of decision-makers.

A pilot study initiated in Satu Mare, Salaj, Bistrita-Nasaud and Cluj counties, Transylvania, Romania, sought to test the hypothesis that:

1. rural populations have little access to medical information due to the lack of medical books;
2. the rural population has a low degree of interest towards medical information even when it is available;
3. ethnic and religious minorities, as well as people with disabilities living in the rural parts of Transylvania have special needs regarding their access to medical information, needs which cannot be addressed by the present rural infrastructure;
4. in rural areas of North-West Romania, no intervention programs were developed by primary care doctors during the previous year, in order to promote health.

### Methods

The study included 213 villages, with a total population of 677,364. The Roma community represents around 20% of the total population. The tools for collecting data that were used in this study were structured interviews and document analysis. The fundamental research consisted mostly of telephone interviews with the librarians, the mayors and the community doctors.

The evaluation of the access to information was performed by considering the following variables:

- whether there was a library;
- whether the library was accessible in terms of functioning hours and location;
- the frequency and consistency of informative material acquisition;
- whether there were any (digital or analogical) materials in the medical field;
- an account of the people who in the past 6 months had requested access to the library's materials in the health field;
- an account of the materials requested that were not in the library;
- if there was internet access in the commune;
- access to medical and informative services: if there were qualified medical staff, hours of work and if the clinics had health related material;
- if there had been any health promoting campaigns;
- how many people had taken part in such campaigns;
- the community's ethnic structure;
- if there were materials and health information campaigns in their native tongue and whether they had been adapted to their specific order, abilities/inabilities.

### Results

Regarding access to Internet, most of the villages benefited from it, but usually the connections were through the townhall, school, or medical units. In 50% of the cases, internet was available in people's homes, whilst in 3.76% internet connections did not exist at all. There was a library in 95% of the cases, though in 4.23% the inhabitants were unable to benefit from this public service.

#### *Librarians*

The next set of questions was addressed to the librarian. In 32% we could not find any librarian. In almost half the villages, the library was open to the public 8 or more hours a day, while in 20% the library was open 4 to 6 hours.

Access to the library was possible only with a reader's card but it was absolutely free in 47% of the cases.

When asked about the possession of medical information, 63% stated that it existed but only in the form of books and 5.56% answered that they did not have any medical information available. The librarians were asked to fax the list of medical materials they had and the document analysis showed that all these books were edited between the 70's and 80's during the Communist regime, were out of date and all of them were in Romanian. 42% of the interviewed librarians declared that during the past 6 months there had been requests for medical information but in 19% no one had asked for this material. The average percentage of the people who requested medical materials was 1%. Only half of them actually found and borrowed the materials they needed.

The librarians were asked to describe the content of the materials available in their libraries: 12.2% libraries had materials for all categories of readers; 63.3% mostly for general information; 4.5% for all categories and specialists; 6.1% only for specialists and 13.7% did not know what to answer. In 90% of the libraries, there was no internet connection.

#### *Doctors*

In most villages a doctor was present between 4 and 8 hours daily while in 13% a doctor was permanently resident. Out of the 158 answers received from doctors, 41% had organized health promotion campaigns and the participation was between 10 and 700 people. The average number of campaigns organized by a dispensary was 6 and their themes comprised: contraception, cancer prevention, alcohol and tobacco consumption. According to the doctors' answers, the interest of population was high in 55% of cases, medium in 25% and low in 20% of cases.

### Limitations of the study

The telephone approach for interviews did not allow the collection of qualitative data. For example, we know that in 49% of the villages there is an internet connection in people's houses as well, but we could not find to which extent these were used for medical information.

The great number of villages participating rendered the on-site collection of data practically impossible. For example, the research team only received 12 lists of medical books held in village libraries out of a possible 213 villages in the study. Consequently, it is not known whether other village libraries do or do not have medical books in their stock.

### Conclusions

The study confirms the first hypothesis, that the access by the rural population to medical information is reduced due to the lack of up-to-date materials. Also the percentage of population for which health promotion campaigns were organized is still unsatisfactory.

The citizens have a very low interest towards medical information (1%) provided by libraries, but a high interest concerning the audio-video materials available during the health campaigns organized by the doctors.

The third hypothesis is also confirmed, as no medical material was found to be written in languages of the minorities living in Romania.

The study has also proven that the requirements of law 334/2002 are not applied in all the villages of the North-West region as 32% of the librarians were not at their work place and in 4.32% of the cases there was no library functioning.

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Helen reunited with a new Marimekko bag

### EAHIL Helsinki 2008 conference bags - desired and treasured

The Local Organising Committee of the 11th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries already knew that Marimekko was a well known brand and that their bags are desired designer products. Certainly the LOC members during the conference heard many thanks and praise for the choice of bags by the conference delegates. Still, it was a surprise to realise how much the bags were coveted, and how sorry the delegates would be if their bags were lost or damaged. In October 2008, Helen Robinson from Burwood, Australia, contacted the organisers by e-mail, saying:

*"I have had an accident with the Marimekko bag which I was given at the EAHIL 2008 Congress and it's been very badly torn. I don't think it can be repaired. It had become a very favourite bag and many people have commented on its fine Finnish quality. Is it possible to obtain a replacement as I treasured the bag and am very disappointed that it has been torn."*

As there luckily were a few extra bags, Katri Larmo, the secretary of the LOC, was more than happy to post a bag to Helen. On Wednesday 29th October, Katri received an e-mail from Helen, saying: *"The bag arrived today. I am very grateful and overjoyed to receive it so thank you so much."* In return, the LOC also received a photo of the happy reunion of Helen and a new Marimekko bag.

**Tuulevi Ovaska**



# EAHIL WORKSHOP

## 2009

Dublin Castle, Ireland  
2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**Working with Others: Explore, Engage, Extend!**

*Céad Míle Fáilte go Baile Átha Cliath* **One hundred Thousand Welcomes to Dublin**

Dublin is a modern, vibrant European city with an ancient and literary history. The EAHIL Local Organising Committee has chosen some of Dublin's most beautiful and historic buildings for the EAHIL Workshop to make your visit as memorable as possible.

The theme of the Workshop is Working with Others: Explore, Engage Extend! We promise you an interactive and thought-provoking scientific programme, and the opportunity to explore and engage with your Irish and international colleagues on all aspects of cooperation and collaboration in health librarianship.

In addition, we hope you will take the time to explore the city of Dublin and take advantage of the many opportunities to visit our cultural and historic sites. The Local Organising Committee and our professional conference organisers, Conference Partners, will be on hand during the Workshop to offer advice on where to visit, where to eat and how to get there. The historic centre of Dublin city is relatively compact, and delegates should be able to tour the city on foot or avail of the hop-on hop-off bus tours. Visitor information will also be available on the EAHIL Workshop website, so do check the website regularly.

### **Wednesday 3 June 2009 (evening)**

Welcome Reception in Dublin City Hall, hosted by Dublin City Public Libraries. Join us in the beautiful Rotunda Room of Dublin City Hall and take the opportunity to meet your EAHIL colleagues in a relaxed environment, make new friends, and catch up with old friends.



Rotunda Room, Dublin City Hall

### **Thursday 4 June 2009 (Late afternoon)**

#### **Small group tours of Dublin's historic libraries**

*These tours are free of charge. Spaces are limited so early booking is advised!*

In the true spirit of cooperation and collaboration, our Dublin colleagues have offered to provide unique tours of the city's historic libraries to EAHIL delegates. Libraries include:

#### **•National Library of Ireland**

The mission of the National Library of Ireland is to collect, preserve and make available books, manuscripts and illustrative material of Irish interest.

- **Royal Irish Academy**

The Royal Irish Academy library houses a unique manuscript, pamphlet and early printed book collection. The manuscript collection includes the largest corpus of Irish language manuscripts in a single repository, the oldest surviving Irish manuscript, the Cathach, or Psalter of St. Columba, and other important early texts.

- **Royal College of Physicians of Ireland**

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland has had a library for almost 300 years, and also houses a substantial archive.

- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) includes Schools of Medicine, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy and Nursing. For over two hundred years, the College has played a role in Irish surgical and medical education. The Library holds a modern print and electronic collection to support medical education and a collection of rare books, manuscripts and archives.



Royal College of Physicians

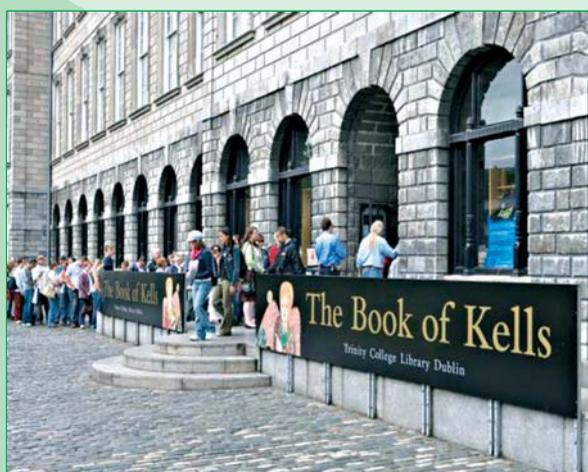
- Marsh's Library  
Marsh's Library was the first public library in Ireland and celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2001. The library's collection includes books from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, covering medicine, law, science, travel, navigation, mathematics, music, surveying and classical literature.

- Trinity College Library  
The Long Room of Trinity College Library is nearly 65 metres in length, and houses around 200,000 of the library's oldest books. The old Library also houses the famous illuminated manuscript, the Book of Kells.

#### Thursday 4 June 2009 (Evening)

In addition, delegates will have the opportunity to participate in the following events on Thursday evening.  
*Note: these events involve an additional charge.*

- The Merry Ploughboys Pub. Delegates will enjoy a night of Irish Music, Song, and Dance at The Merry Ploughboys Pub. The night starts with a three course dinner and drinks, the entertainment commences with Ireland's leading traditional Irish music group The Merry Ploughboys and All-Ireland and World champion Irish Dancers from Dublin and beyond perform a specially commissioned show. After the dancing, the Irish music kicks off again and the musicians really up the tempo for the final part of the evening. Both musicians and dancers involve the entire audience in this electric performance.

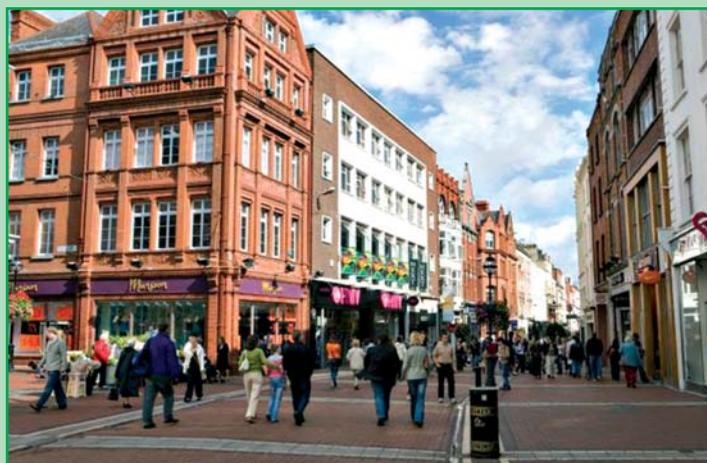


Trinity College

- Dublin Literary Pub Crawl. Dublin Literary Pub Crawl is a pub tour with two actors who introduce Dublin writers such as Joyce, Beckett, Behan, Mary Lavin, and Oscar Wilde and perform scenes from their works. The tour lasts approximately 2 1/4 hours.
- If you decide not to avail of these excursions you have a free evening in Dublin to go shopping (shops stay open until 8pm on Thursday nights), join your colleagues for dinner or visit the theatre. The LOC will provide lists of local restaurants and popular pubs where you are likely to bump into your EAHIL colleagues!



Bewley's Café



Shopping in Grafton Street



Dining in Dublin



Gaiety Theatre



Round Room



Mansion House

### Friday 5 June 2009

#### Gala dinner in the Round Room, Mansion House

Located in the heart of Dublin city, the Mansion House provides an elegant setting for our Gala dinner. The Round room was built in 1821 for the much-anticipated visit of King George IV. On the 21st of January 1919, the first Dáil Eireann (Irish Government) was held in the Round Room. The first meeting of the Library Association of Ireland took place in the Oak Room of the Mansion House on 28 October 1928, so it is most fitting that we should meet here to celebrate with our European colleagues. This evening will commence with a drinks reception, followed by a sumptuous 5 course dinner. Irish dancers and musicians will provide entertainment, and following the meal, EAHIL delegates are invited to dance the night away to the music of a live band.

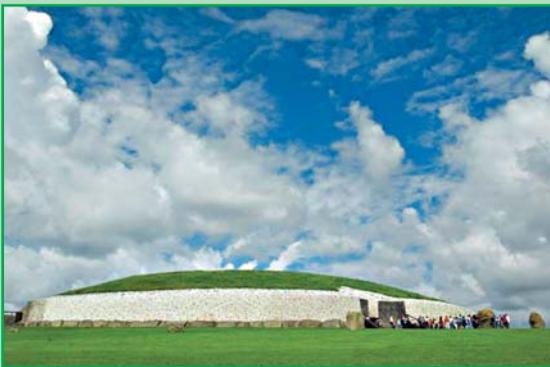
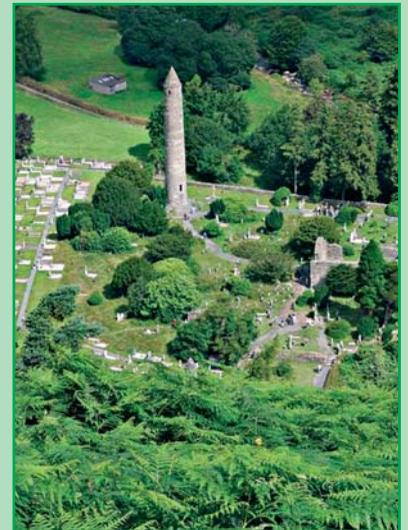
### Saturday 6 June 2009

#### Optional post-workshop tours

*Note: these events involve an additional charge.*

#### Wicklow

Take this opportunity to visit beautiful Glendalough-the Glen of Two Lakes, in the heart of Wicklow, and less than an hour outside Dublin city. Glendalough is one of Ireland's most important monastic sites, and was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th Century.



#### Newgrange

In the heart of the Boyne Valley, Co.Meath, Newgrange is one of the finest examples of a prehistoric passage tomb. The tour visits the Brú na Bóinne visitor centre where the archaeological heritage of the Boyne Valley, including the megalithic passage tombs of Newgrange and Knowth will be illustrated.

#### Important Dates:

Early Bird registration will open on **Friday 27th February 2009.**

Regular registration will open on **Friday 27th March 2009.**

Visit [www.eahil2009.ie](http://www.eahil2009.ie) to stay up to date with information about the EAHIL Workshop 2009.

#### For further information please contact:

Louise Farragher (Health Research Board)  
Chair of the Local Organising Committee.  
Contact: [info@eahil2009.ie](mailto:info@eahil2009.ie)

Paul Murphy (Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland)  
Chair of the International Programme Committee

All photographs are courtesy of Tourism Ireland



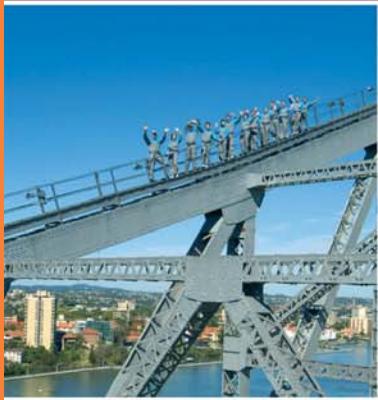
# 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medical Librarianship

31st August - 4th September 2009

[www.icml2009.com](http://www.icml2009.com)



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## Open Access at the University of Helsinki

**Ulla Neuvonen**

National Library of Health Sciences  
University of Helsinki, Finland  
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### Abstract

*The open access policy of the University of Helsinki is described in this brief note. The University profile regarding open archives requires the deposit of manuscripts or articles into an institutional repository. According to the University of Helsinki Rector's decision (May 2008) researchers should deposit their journal articles (not monographs but other material may be included) in the University Library open repository from the first of January 2010.*

*Key words:* Access to Information; Duplicate Publication as Topic; Universities.

Rector Ilkka Niiniluoto, as one of our national philosophers, made his decision with good ideological reasoning: "The traditional contract between science and society includes the principle that knowledge is a public good. Scientists enjoy academic freedom in their pursuit of truth. By publishing the results of their research in scientific journals, researchers open their contributions for critical discussion and evaluation within the scientific community, and as a reward they gain international fame among scholars. Public information satisfies the need of correct information among citizens and other social agents, and thereby improves the public understanding and support of science."

There are also many pragmatic reasons for OA: the desired visibility and impact of research, and the organization and management of science. More money than ever is required, not only for research, but also for acquisition of publications. In Finland 3.5% of GDP is used for R&D. All this growing amount of research needs informatics, bibliometrics, and scientometrics: we need to have tools to measure and manage this information explosion.

The OA movement has expanded; the OECD made recommendations for OA publishing in 2004 and also the Ministry of Education in Finland in 2005. Rector Niiniluoto sees multidisciplinary universities as the

central organs for basic research and as sources of innovation. That is why they should be forerunners in founding institutional OA repositories as well as discussing profits gained by big commercial publishers.

The publication repository at the University of Helsinki will be created by an open source solution of DSpace. At the same time the new Research@UH - system will be implemented, using the Danish PURE-solution. Metadata for publications will be created only once, via PURE. Also full text files to DSpace will be attached via PURE. The tailoring of these systems together is continuing.

Many issues are still to be discussed. Copyright contracts with journals: publishers may refuse parallel publishing or they might have no policy for it yet. Information about publishers' copyright policies and self-archiving in SherpaRomeo is still incomplete. The University should be able to give assistance to researchers. Should the University finance the full cost for OA publishing? The University has no authority over its personnel – they have the freedom of research, and the right to choose where to submit articles. The authors also have rights to their personal work. Should open access archiving be an obligation or a recommendation? In the OA movement more universities mean more power!

*The former Rector of the University of Helsinki, Ilkka Niiniluoto had a keynote presentation at the Nordbib workshop on "Research visibility - managing quality for better evaluation" in Elsinore, Denmark 27 - 28 October 2008*  
<http://www.nordbib.net/Initiatives---Reports/Workshops/Workshop-2008/Programme.aspx>.

## Brief note

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# The scientific archive patrimony of the Italian Animal Health Institutes

**Maria Luisa Passeri<sup>1</sup>, Anna Marchesi<sup>2</sup>,  
Elisabetta Piras<sup>2</sup>, Antonio Arrigo<sup>2</sup>**

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### Abstract

*This paper concerns the role the Animal Health Institutes in Italy have had during the 90s with regard to the veterinary public health sector, cattle-breeding hygiene and livestock production. The Animal Health Institutes, with almost one hundred years of history, have guaranteed the highest level of homogenous sanitary conditions throughout Italy. The general objective of the retrieval and valorisation project of the scientific archive patrimony is to render the Institute archive documents accessible and usable in order to facilitate dissemination of information.*

*Key words:* scientific archive; documentary patrimony.

During the 90s, the Animal Health Institutes have had a basic role with regard to veterinary medicine, epidemiologic surveillance functions, technical scientific support for the drug-supervision veterinary action, carrying out oriented research to study in depth, topics regarding the veterinary public health sector, cattle-breeding hygiene and livestock production. The Italian Animal Health Institutes, with almost one hundred years of history, represent an exemplary model, because the basic elements for building a national network of Veterinary Public Health services have been the integration of their excellence structures (national reference centres), which have guaranteed the highest level of uniform sanitary performances throughout Italy. The general objective of the retrieval and valorisation project of the scientific archive patrimony is to render the Institute archive documents accessible and usable in order to facilitate dissemination of information. These documents satisfy a practical and an administrative interest in the initial phases as they assume a role linked to past research. The latter aspect needs another archive documentation

tool, which identifies every archive item with absolute precision, otherwise the archive is not usable and the documentation not safeguarded, protected and valued. In order to accomplish this, the documentation must be able to offer evidence of both breeding traditions and institutional practices. The conservation of the documents relies on the computerization in the archive sector. The saving and computerization process will give advantages such as:

- automated archives starting from the earliest documents to the present;
- coordinated supervision;
- the participation of all institutional subjects from the archive sector including national and international cooperation.

When the project is completed, the documentary patrimony will be promoted through the archive made available on the internet and through cooperation with schools and universities regarding research and academic theses.

## Take a Look!



**Benoit Thirion**

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[Benoit\\_Thirion@yahoo.fr](mailto:Benoit_Thirion@yahoo.fr)

The goal of this section is to have a look at references from non-medical librarian journals, but interesting for medical librarians (for lists and TOC's alerts from medical librarian journals, see: <http://www.chu-rouen.fr/documed/eahil67.html>)

### Free full text

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**Evidence Based Library and Information Practice** [Internet].2008 [cited 2008 Nov 4];3(4):82-88  
*Brodman previously had questioned the use of citation analysis for journal subscription purchase decisions. Postell's retrospective cohort study produced further evidence against basing subscription purchases on citation analysis. Postell noted that the citation analysis method "cannot always be relied upon as a valid criterion" for selecting journals in a discipline...*  
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2. Harvey PJ, Goodell KJ. **Development and evolution of an information literacy course for a doctor of chiropractic program**  
**Communications in Information Literacy** [Internet].2008 [cited 2008 Nov 4];2(1)  
*The authors report on the development and evolution of a required one-credit course in information literacy for a doctor of chiropractic program. Our experience can serve as a model for planning and designing information literacy courses for doctor of chiropractic and other graduate health sciences programs...*  
Available from: <http://www.comminfolit.org/index.php/cil/article/view/Spring2008AR4>
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**College & Research Libraries News** [Internet]. 2008 [cited 2008 Oct 16];69(7)  
*Recently while listening to Talk of the Nation on National Public Radio, I heard a doctor comment on how his patients were turning to the Internet to conduct research on their health. My thought, "Welcome to my world." As a reference and instruction librarian, I have continually been faced with students who use the Internet as the end all and be all of their research...*  
Available from:  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/2008/jul/qualityresearch.cfm>

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**Journal of the American Society for Information Science** [Internet]. 2008 [cited 2009 Jan 13];60(2):264-74  
*A significant fraction of queries in PubMed are multiterm queries without parsing instructions. Generally, search engines interpret such queries as collections of terms, and handle them as a Boolean conjunction of these terms. However, analysis of queries in PubMed indicates that many such queries are meaningful phrases, rather than simple collections of terms. In this study, we examine whether or not it makes a difference, in terms of retrieval quality, if such queries are interpreted as a phrase or as a conjunction of query terms. And, if it does, what is the optimal way of searching with such queries...*  
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*Many studies have already reported that document supply service has decreased as a result of electronic journal bundles provided by consortia, but this study shows the matter in a new light. The author performed an analysis to verify the direction that DSS has moved in the past five years at South Korean medical libraries, especially among KMLA (Korean Medical Library Association) members...*  
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*Collection management librarians seek to refine an approval plan in order to minimize the number of returns. The University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Libraries created a new plan and spent 18 months evaluating and fine tuning the plan so that returns could be reduced. After that time, it was decided that, given the amount of literature in the health sciences, that the goal of no (or few) returns is not achievable*  
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*The present paper presents a study in which a print health education document was varied systematically in accordance with the Information Mapping method, to examine the effects of heading frequency and information order on participants' search speed and their evaluation of the text layout...*  
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*In this article, we analyze the citations to articles published in 11 biological and medical journals from 2003 to 2007 that employ author-choice open-access models. Controlling for known explanatory predictors of citations, only 2 of the 11 journals show positive and significant open-access effects...*  
Available from: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121421651/abstract>
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**Journal of the American Society for Information Science** [Internet]. 2008 [cited 2008 Dec 15];60(1):123-34  
*One of the most significant recent advances in health information systems has been the shift from paper to electronic documents. While research on automatic text and image processing has taken separate paths, there*

is a growing need for joint efforts, particularly for electronic health records and biomedical literature databases. This work aims at comparing text-based versus image-based access to multimodal medical documents using state-of-the-art methods of processing text and image components...

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*Although billions are spent each year on health research, much of this research is not reported adequately in the literature. This seriously undermines the usability of reported findings and misleads clinicians, researchers, policymakers and, ultimately, patients. The EQUATOR Network is a new international initiative...*  
Available from: <http://uksg.metapress.com/openurl.asp?genre=article&id=doi:10.1629/21183>
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*This article presents a collaborative project undertaken by a group of veterinary librarians as an attempt to deal with the problematic nature of grey literature...*  
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*Although a number of investigations have been conducted on the information behavior of family historians, we know little about the degree to which they systematically collect information on the causes of death and major illnesses of ancestors. Such information, if reliable and accessible, could be useful to family physicians, the families themselves, and to epidemiologists. This article presents findings from a two-stage study of amateur genealogists in the USA. An initial state-wide telephone survey of 901 households was followed by in-depth interviews with a national sample of 23 family historians...*  
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*The desire to consolidate resources into one website, that of the Public Health Agency of Canada, was behind the decision to close the Canadian Health Network (CHN) in April 2008. Although CHN set new standards in online health information, this decision was made for a variety of reasons, including to better reach both a professional audience and the general public. The Public Health Agency of Canada recognizes the contributions made to the CHN from librarians and has committed to work closely with all of the CHN's stakeholders and partners to consider new ways to provide health information online*  
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*In this paper the authors integrate influence factors of journal prices analyzed in different previous studies in a unified regression model based on current data. Three different models are calculated. In the first model (overall market) the largest influence was found for the size of the journal...*  
Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.serrev.2008.06.010> (Science Direct)

## RSS – The Swiss Army Knife of the Internet



**Oliver Obst**

Central Medical Library  
University and Regional Library  
Münster, Germany  
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### What is RSS?

You will find several meanings for the acronym RSS – I stick to “Really Simple Syndication”. RSS is being used to distribute information. In contrast to HTML web pages or PDF documents, RSS-style information can be easily managed, manipulated, mixed or re-arranged and allows therefore for the syndication and synchronization of web pages.

RSS has experienced a widespread use in the last years. It is unique in contrast to other forms of web-based information such as HTML, Flash or PDF because you can subscribe to it. RSS is based on XML and, according to Wikipedia, it is one of the first applications of the Semantic Web. After the advent of desktop publishing in the 80s and the web pages in the 90s, RSS is considered the most important Internet technology of the 2000s. With RSS it is possible to control the flow of information far more effectively than with E-mail: with a click of the mouse you can subscribe/unsubscribe and so determine which information is “fed” to your desktop. RSS has become commonly used for dissemination of information in the scientific setting too. Some examples include:

- RSS feeds of newspapers, news and broadcasting agencies such as the Nature news feeds (1), Reuters consumer health eLine service (2), Yahoo health news (3) (with in depth subject categories) or the feeds from the National Library of Medicine, USA (4);
- PubMed searches can be subscribed as RSS feeds as well;
- scientific journals offer table of content services via RSS;
- libraries use RSS to inform their customers on opening hours, new services or acquisitions.

If you are looking for a directory of 6,000 medical RSS feeds, give Medworm a chance (5).

RSS feeds can be read by modern browsers, but to make the most out of RSS you should use a RSS reader such as Bloglines or Google reader. Please note that frequently RSS readers allow the up - and download of RSS feeds as so-called OPML files. This universal archiving format makes it easy to down- and upload comprehensive lists of RSS feeds.

### How to create your own RSS feeds?

The easiest way to offer your own RSS feeds is to write a blog at platforms such as [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) or [blogger.org](http://blogger.org). These services automatically generate RSS feeds of your blog entries. So even if you do not promote the weblog as such, you could offer a RSS feed of the entries.

### How to publish other people's RSS feeds?

Because of the universal nature of RSS you can embed RSS feeds in any web page you like. For instance, the Google reader allows not only for easy reading of RSS feeds, but also for remixing and republishing them. Go to "Manage Subscriptions" and assign a folder name to some of the feeds you have subscribed to. You can choose from existing folders or create new ones (Figure 1).



Fig. 1. Example of RSS feeds in folders.

Each feed can be assigned to more than one folder. Once this is done, go to "Folders and Tags" where you will find your folders listed with three options:

1. public page;
2. e-mail link;
3. add a clip to your site.

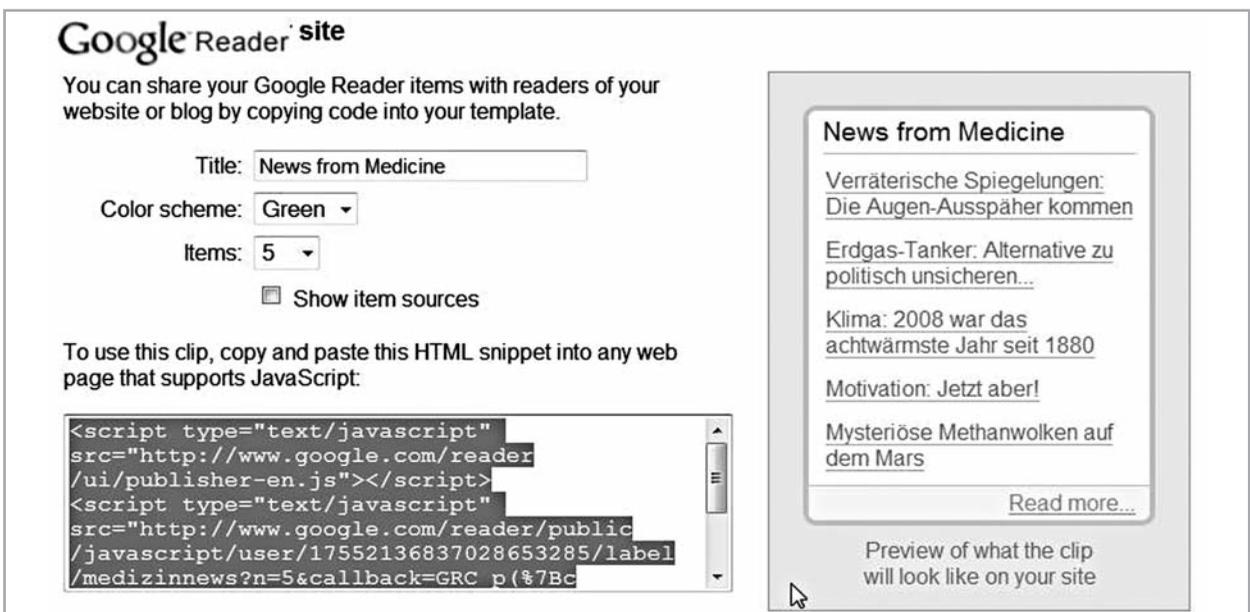


Fig. 2. Example of Google Reader HTML code.

The “public page” lists all entries of the specific folders on a dedicated web page. The second lets you mail around the link to this page, and the third provides you with a HTML code, which you can embed in any web page you like (Figure 2). This code creates a window or a box with the collected news entries from the very folder you have chosen – whether it contains one RSS feed or hundreds. They are nicely sorted by date and you can choose from a number of layouts. The German Central Medical Library shows on its homepage an example of such a “news box” (Figure 3). You will find another example at the sidebar of the blog of NVB-BMI (6).

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Medizin (ZB MED). The main header reads "DEUTSCHE ZENTRALBIBLIOTHEK FÜR MEDIZIN ZB MED Wissen für Mensch und Umwelt". Below this is the tagline "Ihre Zentrale Fachbibliothek Medizin. Gesundheit. Ernährung. Umwelt. Agrar." and the logo for "MEDPILOT.DE" with the slogan "Eine Seite. Alles Wissen.".

On the right side, there is a section titled "Aktuelle Informationen" (Current Information) with several news items, each preceded by a small square icon:
 

- Datenbank UpToDate
- Wartungsarbeiten am Bibliothekssystem der ZB MED Köln
- Neues Urheberrecht – neue Lieferkonditionen seit 1.1.08.

 Below this is a link for "Ältere Meldungen" (Older News) and "im Archiv" (in the archive).

At the bottom right, there is a "News" widget containing three news items:
 

- Verräterische Spiegelungen: Die Augen-Ausspäher kommen
- Erdgas-Tanker: Alternative zu politisch unsicheren...
- Klima: 2008 war das achtwärmste Jahr seit

On the left side, there are several navigation menus:
 

- Recherche** (Search):
  - Datenbanken
  - IVS-Recherche
  - Fachinformationsportale
  - Katalog Medizin. & Ihr Konto
  - Katalog Ernährung. Umwelt. Agrar.
- Elektronische Bibliothek** (Electronic Library):
  - E-Journals
  - E-Books & E-Learning
  - E-Semesterapparate
- Service**
- Über uns** (About us)

Fig. 3. Example of a “newsbox” on the German Central Medical Library homepage.

With this method you can easily enhance your library’s homepage or your blog with additional information which are updated dynamically without any further involvement of you. At our campus we promote two such news feeds:

- a feed of ongoing activities in our faculty, merged from news items from the university clinic, the Dean, the students and the library;
- a feed of medical news from all over Germany, merged from various resources such as scientific newspapers, blogs, and press agencies.

Our customers love this kind of service because previously they had to monitor dozens of web pages to find the information we now offer all in one place.

## References

1. <http://www.nature.com/webfeeds/>
2. <http://www.reutershealth.com/eline.rss>
3. <http://health.yahoo.com/news/rss/>
4. [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/listserv/rss\\_podcasts.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/listserv/rss_podcasts.html)
5. <http://www.medworm.com>
6. <http://biomedbiblog.blogse.nl>

### Letter from the President



**Suzanne Bakker**

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At the time of writing this letter, Barack Obama has not yet taken office. Although it is not usually EAHIL's policy to refer to politics, there seems to be reasons to refer to a new period of time, whether it is the US Presidency or the melt-down of the financial markets. For many people 2009 will be an interesting year. In some cultures the saying "interesting times" refers to difficulties, challenges and serious concerns. And we must be aware of the fact that notwithstanding (or maybe because of...) the European Union, the socio-economic and political developments will bring an extra burden to many in Europe, be it individually or institutionally; some institutes will struggle with finances for the plans in the year to come, some libraries will face staff reduction, or will be confronted by mergers and reduction of storage space or even closures.

At the same time we are all aware that information plays the most important role ever: be it in evidence-based medicine and evidence-based practice or by the mere endless possibilities of information and communication technologies. There is an important role for information professionals; it is no longer the library-as-a-collection but the library-as-a-service. For my own institute, the restructuring of the library is foreseen in the coming years. I will rely on the many examples I have seen and heard from you during the conferences, workshops and courses to prepare my plan of reforms. The new paradigm for library services will be built on licensing, access, do-it-yourself, interaction and web-tools, and all in the most integrative way.

Client centred services, such as patient centred services: driven by needs and demands, not by collection, procedures and offerings. This means that we need to know even better what our library users expect from our services. At the same time we must inform our users about the many possibilities and opportunities of new technologies. And we must give advice on integrating information systems and services, on information management and support training in information skills.

The Dublin workshop will be an important event for those of you who will be able to attend: the organizers have put a strong emphasis on interaction, between the audience and the speakers, among the delegates, for the course leaders with course participants. This reflects the new approach: not one view, not one mainstream, not one procedure will be sufficient to improve cooperative action and the outcome of our efforts.

“The sum in total is more than its constituent parts” this is certainly true for EAHIL and EAHIL members and the European biomedical libraries. By cooperating, communicating and convening we are able to improve our professional skills, knowledge and attitudes in aiming for a better biomedical information service, locally and globally. It will not be enough to make a statement, but we will work on evaluating tools in this respect.

In the meantime the context of our profession is changing, not least by the Open-Access movement, by online-only subscriptions and package deals for e-journals and e-books. More and more libraries have become involved in publishing, as a partner in open access, institutional repositories or shared (bibliographic) services and digitized archives. These developments seem to depend on technology and fees, and to deal with restrictions of network firewalls and constraints of interfaces. But I am convinced that the major change in our professional context is not so much budget, nor technology but the complicated legal aspects of licensing, contracts, copyright and intellectual property.

By integrating hospital information systems we already face the security and privacy protection issues. The openness of academic knowledge sources is hard to connect and difficult to combine with the highly secured patient records data. The solution must be found in anonymization, in order to act within the restrictions of the law and to prevent legal accountability and pursuit. License agreements for access to information sources will become dominated by legal issues e.g. what will be allowed, what is forbidden. How shall we deal with the library tradition of sharing services and document delivery? There is an important difference between the Anglo-Saxon jurisdiction and the legal systems on the European continent, where there is a legal exemption for libraries regarding interlibrary loans and document (photocopied) deliveries. How will you implement and organize your e-collection to support open and public access but at the same time acknowledge intellectual property rights and copyright clearance? Authorization, user groups, access in context, it is all about managing rights. For those of us involved in advanced management of shared networked sources (e.g. Sharepoint services) it is already known that it is no longer just publishing items on the net, but defining at the same time user groups, authorization schemes and conditional access. The sources, the connections, the access points, user accounts and data transference, at all levels of information management there are options for regulating access and usage.

EAHIL is in favour of open-access. Sharing knowledge and information is conditional to research, democracy and improvement of health services. Better-informed physicians and better-informed patients is a major contribution to a better quality health care. The biomedical library community has much to do with sharing services, sharing experiences and knowledge. Within EAHIL we very much promote these aspects of sharing. The biomedical library community supports all kinds of shared infrastructure, databases and systems. The most important example and model of shared knowledge systems is PubMed. Most biomedical libraries have built their systems and services around the perusal of this bibliographic database. Several European countries contribute to this system or are building complementary national databases. The monopolization of information is in sharp contrast to (biomedical) library tradition. It is clear that these different angles of views on information sources require further debate. Probably not between librarians and publishers - or their sales representatives - no, publishers are for making profit. And if it is in their interest to control access to unique items, they will do so, as long as the law will permit them to do so.

Libraries are for deliveries of documents and access, as much as the law will permit them to do so. The same law cannot serve both public and commercial interests. I do hope that we, members of EAHIL will continue the discussion on rights management and application and interpretation of the law. Conservation of sources, re-use of data and securing access for future generations are all libraries' concerns, not publishers'.

The changes in economy can be advantageous for this debate. Trust and confidence in market forces has declined faster than any philosopher or prophet could have dreamed of. A lesson learned from the failure of market economy is that it should not be left to the market to regulate itself. Governments and/or the European Commission should formulate the limits and develop regulations to the benefit of public interest on the short *and* on the long term.

Creative common grounds, fair use, shareware, open access, they all depend on the principle of the mutual advantage of exchange and cooperation. Of course we will try to convince sale representatives of our interpretation of the law and we will try to adapt license agreements in that aspect. But in order to make important steps forward we should prepare ourselves to approach governmental bodies and the European commission about the consequences of monopolization of scientific information and biomedical knowledge resources. It is only by law that we can influence publishing firms to act accordingly. The financial market has magnified what was already known from experiences by the public of the consequences of privatization of public transport systems and power supply. The market of scientific publishing industries has remarkable similarities. With reference to Obama's plans to change politics, I would like to state that we, EAHIL, can make a difference as well. With the National Library of Medicine at our side - yes, we can!

### **EAHIL affairs**

With the Board elections in early 2008 there will be a change in the membership of the Executive Board: by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January Lotta Haglund and Ivana Truccolo as a co-opted member will take office as elected Board members. The two co-opted Board members, Meile Kretaviciene and Enrica Veronesi will leave the Board. Meile has been active in the Board for many years. She played a pivotal role in extending EAHIL contacts towards the East. Especially as part of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation she has contributed to better relationships with colleagues in the Baltic States and in Russia. Thank you Meile for all the work done, and we are happy to know that you will stay active in EAHIL.

Enrica Veronesi joined the Board only recently, after Linda left and Benoit became a full member of the Board. It was good to get to know you better and I am sure there will be other opportunities to continue our cooperation. Thank you for your contributions to the Board discussions.

Tony McSeán decided to leave the Board for several reasons: he has been a very long time serving the EAHIL Board. But also his career switch after leaving the publishing industry is an important factor contributing to this decision. Tony, it is a pity that you were not able to attend the last conference and workshop. We missed you not only in the Board meetings but as much during the Scientific programme and the social events. Your decision came after the Helsinki conference therefore we were not able to thank you in the General Assembly for all the work for EAHIL over the years. In the privacy of the Board's discussion list we already said farewell to each other. If not within EAHIL I am sure we will stay in contact somehow, because working in harmony together for so many years is only possible if there is a good understanding and friendship involved. Thank you very, very much for your support to EAHIL and the Board!

In November 2008 the Council elections took place for those countries with vacancies in the Council. Some countries were allotted a second or third seat due to their growth of membership; for other countries the Councillors reached the end-of-term of office in the Council. EAHIL Board wants to thank all leaving Councillors for their contributions to EAHIL, to the discussions in the Council meetings and to their assistance and support to extend EAHIL membership all over Europe. The results of the Council elections bring no surprises as there were the exact number of candidates for the vacant seats. Thanks to the work of the Nomination committee, Eva Alopaeus, Sally Wood-Lamont, Ronald van Dieën and Margarida Meira, there were sufficient candidates to vote for.

Croatia:	Lea Skoric
Czech Republic:	Dana Zdenkova
Estonia:	Sigrid Prank
Finland:	Tuulevi Ovaska
France:	Marie Teissier
Greece:	Artemis Chaleplioglou
Hungary:	Judit Szabo Szavay
Italy:	Federica Napolitani Cheyne
	Gaetana Cognetti
Lithuania:	Margarita Zelve
Netherlands:	Gerdien B. de Jonge
	Jacqueline Limpens
Poland:	Barbara Niedzwiedska
Portugal:	Margarida Meira
Switzerland:	Tomas Allen

Elected or re-elected to the Council for the term of office 2009-2012 are:

The EAHIL Executive Board will meet in February in Milan for the winter business meeting. In that meeting we will deal with the “normal” affairs such as distributing tasks and duties of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President. Furthermore, there will be the annual reporting and the preparations for the Council and Board meeting in Dublin. Proposals for future events will be considered and we will decide on a policy for implementing, using and promoting Internet tools for the EAHIL community. EAHIL finances are healthy and therefore permit continuation of the present organization (by web registration without fees) and activities such as the publication and distribution of the *Journal of EAHIL* and the running of a website, web database and discussion lists.

I look forward to meet you all in Dublin in June for the EAHIL workshop.

Wishing you all a prosperous and healthy 2009!

### The Scientific Consultation Group (SCG) Meeting of Pan-European Public Health Associations, Federations, Societies and Organisations



**Päivi Pekkarinen<sup>1</sup>**



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*Paivi Pekkarinen and Sue Thomas, Co-Chairs of the Public Health Information Group were invited by EAHIL President Suzanne Bakker to attend this meeting. The meeting took place at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) 2-3 December 2008 at ECDC in Stockholm.*

#### **Introduction**

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control was established in 2005. As an EU agency it aims to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases by providing research evidence, guidelines and standards and also to inform European health policy makers. ECDC collaborates closely with WHO, in particular with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, see for instance:

[http://www.euro.who.int/surveillance/news/20080916\\_2](http://www.euro.who.int/surveillance/news/20080916_2).

[http://www.euro.who.int/mediacentre/PR/2008/20081128\\_2](http://www.euro.who.int/mediacentre/PR/2008/20081128_2)

You can find out more about ECDC on the web at

<http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/>

This was the second ECDC meeting on networking in public health. The previous meeting was in Stockholm in February 2007. For this meeting ECDC had invited many more public health groups, so that more than 40 European scientific groups were represented.

Broadly those participating were specialists in infectious or communicable diseases, including the European Network of Infectious Diseases, European AIDS Clinical Society. However, in addition to our representation, the European Federation for Medical Informatics, the European Health Management Association, European Public Health Alliance and European Institute of Health of the Academy of Sciences and Arts were also present.

The purpose of the meeting, as set out by ECDC, was primarily to advise them on their developing role, and whether there was a need for a Scientific Consultation Group, and therefore how this should be constituted and how it could work.

The papers presented at the meeting mainly considered research in infectious diseases in Europe, and on day two, there were in-depth lectures on the development of guidelines and standards.

All participants were required to prepare a short power point presentation about their organisation. [The one we presented on the Public Health Interest Group will be made available as a resource on our web pages. We would be interested in having any feedback on this, and any changes that you think we need to make to it. Once we have all agreed the presentation this can then be used by any member of our group to let others know what we do. We will send out an email to the discussion group as soon as this is live on the web].

### Issues

A number of areas were identified by the ECDC in the meeting which could be of interest to our group. These were stated as possible future roles for the ECDC

- develop systems to verify and share EU-relevant guidelines for the benefit of all;
- provide a simple EU guideline repository/library;
- ECDC Expert database;
- ECDC to determine what to collect? How to share? What to share? How to evaluate?

Clearly we as library and information specialists in public health have expertise that we can contribute to these possible future roles. It was agreed that initially the officers of our group would contact the information officer at ECDC to explore possibilities, and in line with all the other groups represented at the meeting we would consult with our members to agree a way forward.

### Conclusions

It was a useful meeting to attend to market what EAHIL and our special interest group delivers. All copies of the *Journal of EAHIL* were snapped up, so maybe there is a message here!

ECDC are also keen for us to get further involved. We need to look carefully at this, carry out a consultation, and discuss the results of this and our recommendations at our public health business meeting in the EAHIL Workshop in Dublin in June 2009.

If you want any further information or copies of any of the presentations from this meeting then please email us.

### Medical Library Association report for EAHIL



**Bruce Madge**

MLA representative to EAHIL  
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With May only months away it's time to begin to think about attending the MLA conference in Hawaii between May 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2009. Registration is now open and the programme and schedule has been published and is available at <http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2009/index.html> The keynote speakers look pretty impressive as always with Michael Homan, a great friend and colleague, giving the annual Janet Doe lecture and Adam Bosworth, formerly of Google Health as the McGovern Lecturer. I am already planning my trip!

President-elect Connie Schardt has also published her draft priorities for her Presidential year that starts in Hawaii. They can be found on the MLA Connections blog in detail but the outline of her overall theme "Building our Community" are as follows:

**1. Cultivating new leaders**

Priority: to establish an "emerging leaders" program to develop mid-career members and bring them into MLA leadership positions at an earlier point in their careers.

**2. Educating new members**

Priority: to create an online core curriculum that addresses the major competencies. This will help new graduates enhance their educational portfolios and help academic libraries in providing training for new hires.

**3. Connecting at the annual meeting**

Priority: to use technology to make the annual meeting more accessible to all members while balancing the need to generate significant revenue for operating costs.

**4. Connecting for committee and task force meetings**

Priority: to provide access to web conferencing software for MLA committees and task forces. This would promote virtual meetings, over the web throughout the year to conduct association business.

**5. Connecting for professional development**

Priority: to provide a platform for individuals to maintain their own ePortfolio to track professional development activities, AHIP points, and CE activities.

On December 11, 2008, the 2009/10 MLA election results were certified and notarized by staff at Survey and Ballot Systems. There were 1,504 ballots cast (via web voting and paper ballots) from 3,550 eligible members. The election had a participation rate of 42.37%. Results: *President-elect*: Ruth Holst, AHIP, FMLA; *Board of Directors* (2009–2012): Cynthia L. Henderson, AHIP; (Kathleen) Ann McKibbon. *Nominating Committee*: Karen M. Albert, AHIP; Brian Bunnnett, AHIP; Dixie A. Jones, AHIP; Michelle Kraft, AHIP; Julie Kuenzel Kwan, AHIP; Sandra I. Martin, AHIP; Gabriel Rios; Anne K. Seymour; Eileen H. Stanley, AHIP. Mark Funk, AHIP, MLA's 2008/09 immediate Past President, will chair the Nominating Committee.

Finally, if you are a member of MLA, the November/December issue of *MLA News* is now available online.



**Giovanna F. Miranda**

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Dear Colleagues,

Excellent news! A report commissioned by the National Library for Health recommended the appointment of a Chief Knowledge Officer at Board-level within each NHS body in the UK. Librarians should be as much a part of healthcare as doctors, nurses and other clinical support staff (L. Smith. *Information World Review*. 2008;250:6). The information professionals have dealt with disintermediation, the commoditisation of information, outsourcing and taking the long view. They will deal with the current economic crisis (T. B. Owen. *Information World Review*. 2008;251:10).

**Giovanna F. Miranda**

### Journal issues

Since the *JEAHIL* of November 2008, the following journal issues of *Health Information and Libraries Journal* has been received:

#### Vol. 25 Issue 4

**D. Fanner, C. Urquhart. Bibliotherapy for mental health service users Part 1: a systematic review.** p. 237-252.  
Library services could serve the rehabilitation needs of mental health service users through bibliotherapy (the use of written, audio, or e-learning materials to provide therapeutic support). Part 1 of a two part article describes a systematic review of the evidence for the effectiveness of bibliotherapy in mental health services.

**L. Callaghan, A. Doherty, S. J. Lea, D. Webster. Understanding the information and resource needs of UK health and social care placement students.** p. 253-260.

Students on health and social care degree programmes spend 50% of their time on practice placements. The aim of this investigation was to understand the needs of placement students in terms of accessing resources whilst they are in the field in order to inform a guide to meet these needs.

**L. O'Grady. Meeting health information needs of people with HIV/AIDS: sources and means of collaboration.** p. 261-269.

Internet-based applications have great potential to meet information needs. The purpose of this study was to determine in what ways PHAs collaborate to meet treatment information needs and what role Internet-based computer-mediated communication played in meeting this goal.

**M. Wakeham. From UHSL to UHMLG: the evolution of a group for health librarians in higher education.** p. 270-277.

The University Health Sciences Librarians Group (UHSL) merged with the University Medical Schools Librarians Group (UMSLG) to form the University Health and Medical Librarians Group (UHMLG). This paper traces the course of health librarianship in the UK which led to this event, from the perspective of the UHSL.

**W. Nwagwu. Levels of consciousness and awareness about evidence-based medicine among consultants in tertiary health care institutions in Nigeria.** p. 278-287.

This study examines the level of consciousness and awareness about EBM of consultants in tertiary health institutions in Nigeria.

**P. Thomas, P. M. Rutter. A computer literacy skills profile of pharmacists residing in two counties of England.** p. 288-294.

The objective of this paper was to gain a better understanding of pharmacists' basic computer skills and their ability to use standard software.

**R. M. Sladek, J. Tieman. Applying evidence in the real world: a case study in library and information practice.** p. 295-301.

The aims of this study were to explore the impact of decisions made in the development of a palliative care search filter and to consider the implications for implementation.

#### **Volume 25 Issue S1. Special Issue: 25th Anniversary Celebratory Issue**

In this special issue many interesting articles are published on the following topics:

- the evolution of the Journal;
- 25 years of learning and teaching in action;
- 25 years of information technology in libraries;
- 25 years of using evidence in practice;
- widening panoramas: incorporating health informatics and international perspectives;
- future perspectives;
- some views from our readers.

#### **Books review**

**Librarians of Babel. A toolkit for effective communication.** Ed. P. De Castro. Chandos Publishing, Oxford, England, 2008. £ 39.95 Paperback ISBN 1-84334-378-9; £59.95 Hardback ISBN 1-84334-379-7. p. 200. In order to achieve effective communication through different media, the book outlines the main elements of professional writing, conference or workshop organization, power point presentations.

**Pharmaceutical substances. Version 3.1 (Thieme Publishing Group)** is a reference guide to every significant pharmaceutical compound and includes all FDA approved active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). With 51 completely new and some 1,300 fully updated drug monographs, Pharmaceutical Substances provides a compendium of 2461 APIs of interest to the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. The Pharmaceutical Substances is available, both print and on-line version, from <http://www.thieme.de/connect/en/>

**Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions.** The 5.0.1 version of the Handbook, edited 30 September 2008, provides guidance to authors for the preparation of Cochrane Intervention reviews (including Cochrane Overviews of reviews). A Glossary is available to accompany the Handbook <http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook/>

**L'économie de la santé pour non économistes. Une introduction aux notions, aux méthodes, et aux écueils de l'évaluation économique en santé.** Ed. L. Annemans. Academia Press, Gent, Belgium. 2008; 29€, ISBN 978-90-382-1252-4, p. 104. This book presents to people non specialized in economy, some tools to participate in discussions and debates on choices with regard to health.

**ASLIB directory of information sources in the United Kingdom.** 15<sup>th</sup> Edition. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2008; £ 395.00, Hardback, ISBN 978-1-85743-488-0, p. 1400. The book provides access to listings of 6,800 associations, clubs, societies, companies, educational establishments, institutes, commissions, government bodies, and other organizations which provide information freely or on a fee-paying basis. The Directory also contains a comprehensive index of acronyms and abbreviations and a substantial subject index.

### Papers review

#### **Librarians set to be NHS cure.**

L Smith. *Information World Review*. 2008;250:6

#### **How will you cope in the crisis?**

TB Owen. *Information World Review*. 2008;251:10

#### **Topics and features of academic medical library tutorials.**

RP Anderson et al. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*. 2008;27(4):406

#### **The misused impact factor.**

K. Simons. *Science*. 2008;322:165

#### **Why current publication practices may distort science.**

N S Young, JPA Ioannidis, O Al-Ubaydli. *PLoS Med*. 2008;5(10):201

<http://www.niso.org/publications/rp/RP-8-2008.pdf>

#### **Tag gardening for folksonomy enrichment and maintenance.**

I Peters, K Weller

<http://www.webology.ir/2008/v5n3/a58.html>

### News

**The ARROW Project** (Accessible Registries of Rights Information and Orphan Works). The European Commission and the ARROW consortium made up of 16 partners in 10 European countries (Italy, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom) signed the contract for the launch of ARROW. The programme involves a broad range of European national libraries, publishers and collective management organisations, also representing writers. ARROW aims in particular to support the EC's i2010 Digital Library Project by finding ways **to clarify the rights status of orphan and out of print works**, so they can be cleared for digitisation and inclusion in the Digital Library. It is a project which sets out to realise and test the solutions developed by the European Commission's High Level Expert Group. The project also seeks to enhance the interoperability of rights information (i.e. exchange of information) between rightholders, agents, libraries and users. Solutions envisaged by the venture include the establishment of systems for the exchange of rights data, the creation of a registry of orphan works and a network of rights clearance centres.

[http://www.ifrro.org/upload/documents/ARROW%20Press%20release\\_contract%20signing.pdf](http://www.ifrro.org/upload/documents/ARROW%20Press%20release_contract%20signing.pdf)

### Information sources... web based

**Dandelon.com** is a semantic, crosslingual, independent, Scientific Search Engine for 547,296 books with TOC, 19,259 eBooks and 592,206 articles. The content is produced by libraries in currently 5 countries. It integrates multiple library catalogues but generates its own content and indexing data. Dandelon is based on tables of contents, scanned and machine indexed Books, articles scanned, imported or spidered and machine indexed, with access to fulltext articles. Dandelon is based on intelligentSEARCH. All queries are linguistically analyzed, semantically enriched and results weighted. A rich number of topics is visualized graphically.

<http://www.dandelon.com/>

**VigiBase** is a collection of international drug safety data. It is developed and maintained by the UMC on behalf of the World Health Organization. The data is available in a wide range of services, from advanced neural network analysis to basic case report retrieval. The VigiBase services helps to find useful information about the safety profile of products. The services are used to get data on ADR profile, signal detection, updating PSURs (Product Safety Update Reports). The data held is collected from countries participating in WHO Programme for International Drug

Monitoring. In April 2007, 82 countries participate in this programme. VigiBase comprises more than 3.8 million case reports, to which around 50,000 new reports are added quarterly.

<http://www.unc-products.com/DynPage.aspx?id=4910>

**ENCePP** (European Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance). A new website, hosted by the European Medicines Agency, launched to inform EMEA partners and the public about the work of the European Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance, a network set up to strengthen the monitoring of authorised medicines in the European Union.

<http://www.encepp.eu/>

**e! Science News.** A Canadian graduate student has created a news aggregator especially for scientists. The news aggregators display headlines and snippets from other media sources, but don't produce their own content.

<http://esciencenews.com/>

### **New journals**

**Library and Information Science Critique: Journal of the Sciences of Information Recorded in Documents.**

The Journal is a bilingual (Spanish-English) open access online journal. It has been created at the Research Centre in Information Recorded in Documents at the School of Philosophy and Letters at the Nuevo Leon Autonomous University, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Contributions to LIS Critique must analyse, synthesise, and propose (in a critical fashion) sound alternatives to the barriers which currently deprive humankind from a free, free of charge, democratic and egalitarian production, organization, dissemination and use of information recorded in documents, either in library and information science, or archival science, or information science, or in other sciences of information recorded in documents. Initially LIS Critique will be published twice a year (Jan-Jun & Jul-Dec).

Volume 1, n. 1, July-December 2008.

<http://critica.bibliotecologica.googlepages.com/liscritique>

### **News from publishers**

**The Authors Guild, the Association of American Publishers (AAP), and Google** announce a groundbreaking settlement agreement on behalf of a broad class of authors and publishers worldwide that would expand online access to millions of in-copyright books and other written materials in the USA from the collections of a number of major USA libraries participating in Google Book Search. The agreement, reached after two years of negotiations, acknowledges the rights and interests of copyright owners, provides an efficient means for them to control how their intellectual property is accessed online and enables them to receive compensation for online access to their works.

<http://www.publishers.org/main/Copyright/Google/Release.htm>

**Elsevier and Thieme Publishers** announce that they have secured a significant victory against an international piracy scheme involving the unlawful copying, sale, and distribution of their scientific journals. In September 2007, the publishers became aware that an unknown person had sent unsolicited e-mail advertisements to academic professors informing them that journals were available for sale on the Internet. Recipients were also Elsevier and Thieme authors, who have been instrumental in gathering the evidence. To stop this illicit scheme, the publishers engaged a law firm that, working in conjunction with USA and international investigators, filed an action in federal court on behalf of the publishers and identified the copyright infringer in Vietnam. The infringer has paid a substantial fine, including repayment of illegal profits garnered from the sales as well as penalties for copyright infringement under Vietnamese law.

[http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/authored\\_newsitem.cws\\_home/companynews05\\_01068](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/authored_newsitem.cws_home/companynews05_01068)

## Forthcoming events

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**26 February 2009, University of York or 4 March 2009 Cochrane Centre, Oxford, UK**

**Getting the best out of search filters**

**YHEC (The York Health Economics Consortium) Training Event**

For further information:

<http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/yhec/?q=news/yhec-training-event-getting-the-best-out-of-search-filters-university-york-26-february-09>

**23 - 25 March 2009, Berlin, Germany**

**EuroMeeting**

**Drug Information Association**

For further information: <http://www.diahome.org>

**1- 4 March 2009, Venice-Mestre, Italy**

**Best Practices in Patent Information Management and Searching**

**IPI-ConfEx 2009**

For further information: <http://www.ipi-confex.com/>

**23 - 27 March 2009, La Habana, Cuba**

**From papyrus to digital library**

**5th Ibero-American Conference**

For further information: <http://papiro.casadelasamericas.org/>

**27 - 28 April 2009, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

**Search Engine Meeting**

For further information: [www.infonortics.eu](http://www.infonortics.eu)

**30 May - 3 June 2009, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada**

**The Sky's the Limit / Horizons illimités**

**The Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé**

For further information: <http://www.chla-absc.ca/?q=en/node/268>

**29 June - 3 July 2009, Stockholm, Sweden**

**Bridging the Gap**

**5th International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Conference**

For further information: <http://blogs.kib.ki.se/ebli5/welcome.html>

**23 - 27 August 2009, Milan, Italy**

**Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage**

**World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council**

For further information: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/index.htm>

**31 August - 4 September 2009, Brisbane, Australia**

**10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML) 2009**

For further information: <http://www.icml2009.com>

**27 September - 2 October 2009, Corfu, Greece**

**ECDL2009**

**13th European Conference on Digital Libraries**

For further information: <http://www.ecdl2009.eu/>

**Giovanna F. Miranda**

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