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# JOURNAL

OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES

**SPECIAL ISSUE**



**PALERMO WORKSHOP 2005**

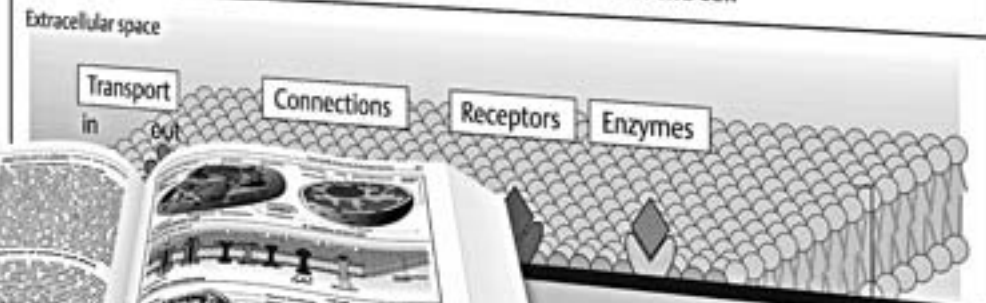
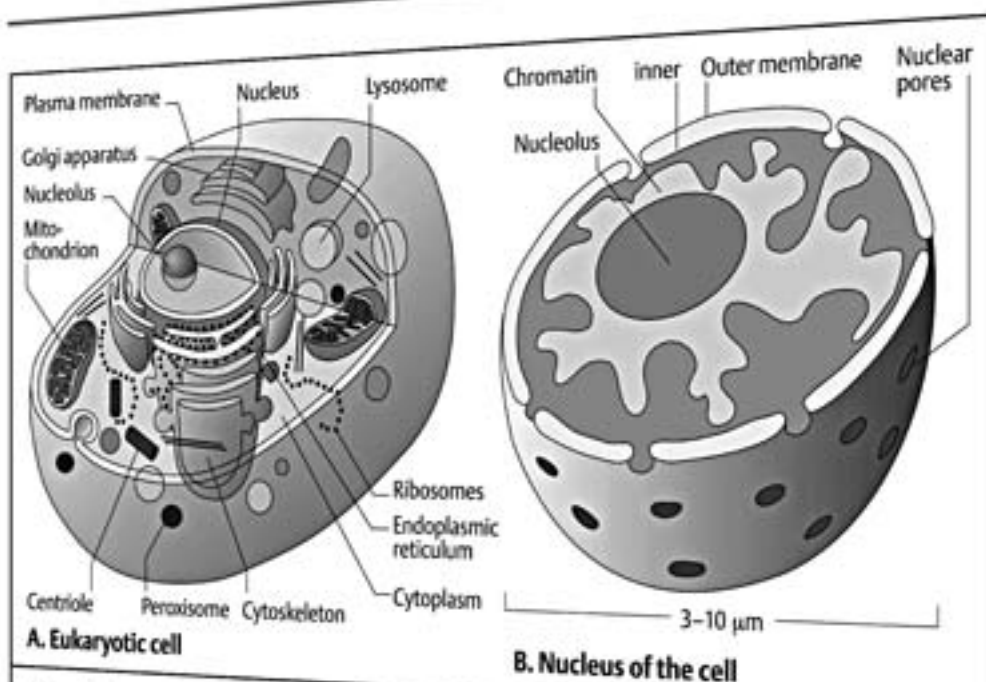
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        - Genes and Mutation
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# Journal of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries

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## Editorial

Hello Everyone

It was so nice to see so many of you in the vibrant city of Palermo. For myself, as half Sicilian, I knew

I had arrived home again, when ordering a white coffee at the airport I was asked whether I wanted a coffee with milk or milk with coffee!! It's the latter for me - a glass of frothy milk topped with a small Italian espresso, unparalleled anywhere in the world.

Warmest congratulations to Manuela and the team from the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia especially Paolo Tronca for the excellent organization of this workshop. In fact all our Italian colleagues could not have been more helpful. (Who can forget Antonio who seemed to be everywhere in his role as helper, facilitator and welcomer!) The Palazzo dei Normanni, which has been the seat of the Regional Sicilian Assembly since 1947, was a wonderful location. The spectacular *Cappella Palatina* was an added bonus and it is sufficient to quote the famous French writer Guy de Maupassant who defined it as "the most beautiful in the world, the most surprising religious jewel ever dreamt of by man". In the courtyard the vendors praised the location of their booths, enjoying exhibiting their wares *al fresco* and similarly the marvellous catering on the elegant terrace was enjoyed by all participants. The organization of

the prompt bus service for both the scientific and social seemed to me one of the best I have experienced. I thought it especially thoughtful that they had also arranged a bus back to the hotels on Saturday afternoon for those not going on the Cefalu trip. Our Cluj conference in 2006 has a great example to follow!

This issue is dedicated to the Palermo workshop and I do hope you will enjoy the photos and impressions as well as the reports of all the business meetings and the EAHIL Board and Council. My thanks to everyone who sent in their photos especially Joyce Backus, Suzanne Bakker, Eve Hollis and Ronald van Dieen.

The theme for the November issue has now been changed to **Open Access** which seems to be the **buzz** theme lately. There will be a report of the excellent IFLA satellite meeting in August organized by our President Arne Jakobsson and other relevant articles and reports.

Please also take a little time to read our **Call for Papers** for the Cluj conference in 2006 and to note the **Important Dates** for submission of abstracts and for registration. The Local Organising Committee as well as the Scientific Programme Committee intend to keep you well informed for the next 14 months with features in every issue of the *Journal of EAHIL*.

**Sally Wood-Lamont**  
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# News from our Association

## Letter from the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President



At least 120 colleagues will look back to a wonderful workshop in Palermo: well organized, good quality papers on very relevant subjects, stimulating discussions and renewed friendships. At this moment we are looking forward to the IFLA meeting in Oslo, especially the *Open Access* symposium organized by the colleagues of the medical library of the Oslo University.

EAHIL-activities include more than the annual meetings and a side-event at IFLA or ICML: scholarships, awards and continuing education courses are current tools in order to promote quality in our profession and to direct further development. The work of the Committee on Certification, chaired by Tony McSeán, will be important for the policy and future plans of our association.

In the last couple of months the EAHIL Executive Board was represented at meetings of CERTIdoc and LIBER. CERTIdoc is an EU funded project in which the (national) library associations of France, Germany and Spain have initiated a cooperation in order to create a system and infrastructure to certify information professionals. For EAHIL it is important to relate the plans on certification to similar initiatives, like CERTIdoc and to investigate further the possibility of cooperation. In the same way it is important to keep in touch with LIBER. This association of research libraries has invited EAHIL to discuss options for cooperation on a European level: especially if the library community would like to raise a (one?) voice with the European Committee on relevant subjects. In the same way as EBLIDA is lobbying on matters of copyright, LIBER would like to lobby for the benefit of the research libraries community. MLA has adopted a strategy on international issues (see also *News from MLA* by Eve-Marie Lacroix in this issue) which includes strengthening cooperation with EAHIL.

These above mentioned subjects will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting in January 2006 and proposals will be prepared for the General Assembly in Cluj.

It is vital that we communicate and discuss on many issues in order to shape the future of medical librarianship health information services in Europe.

**Suzanne Bakker**  
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# News from our Association

## EAHIL Membership Database launched.



The EAHIL Membership Database was launched on Thursday 26th May 2005. All EAHIL membership records have been imported from the EAHIL Secretariat to the new membership database. It is very important that your membership record is correct. The information in the database will be used for mailing Journal of EAHIL and for communicating with all members via e-mail so it is vital that both your mail address and your e-mail address are correct.

Every member has been assigned a temporary personal username and a temporary password to access his/her membership record. You must change both your username and password the first time you login. An e-mail was sent to all EAHIL members on the 26th of May asking the members to login to the database and check/update their membership record. Many members have not yet checked/updated their record.

### **Could you please login to the membership database and check/update your membership record!**

There is a link from the EAHIL homepage ([www.eahil.net](http://www.eahil.net)) to EAHIL Membership Database.

Have you lost your username and password?

Click on *Forget your password* on the membership database login page. Type your e-mail address to receive an e-mail with your username and password. If the e-mail address you type in matches with your e-mail address in the database you will receive an e-mail with your username and password.

54 members did not have an e-mail address in their membership record. I have asked all council members to check if any member(s) in their country are lacking an e-mail address in their membership record and contact all members without an e-mail address. If you have not received an e-mail about updating your membership record you may be one of the 54 members or your e-mail address might be wrong. Please contact your council member or our developer/super user Morten Pedersen [morten.pedersen@ub.uio.no](mailto:morten.pedersen@ub.uio.no). Council users will be able to update all records within their own country/countries. Super users will be able to update all records.

You can upload a picture that will be shown together with your membership record. We really hope that everybody will upload a picture so that one can combine a name and a face.

All the information stored in the database is just for EAHIL members. No one from outside can view any information on these sites.

**Arne Jakobsson**  
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# News from our Association

## Report of the Meeting of the EAHIL Board in Palermo, 22nd June, 2005



The meeting of EAHIL's new Executive Board took place in Palermo, Italy, on June 22, 2005, at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia. Only Tony McSeán was unable to attend the meeting.

President Arne Jakobsson greeted those present (Board Members: Suzanne Bakker, Linda Lisgarten, Meile Kretaviciene, Márta Virágos, Helena Bouzková, Manuela Colombi and *Journal* Editor Sally Wood-Lamont and Piirjo Rajakiili by invitation). The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2005 were agreed upon as a correct record of the proceedings. One copy was signed officially by the President for the Archives. Two matters not otherwise covered by the agenda came up: the proposal of the award of the best conference paper and the representation of EAHIL at the LIBER Annual Conference.

Concerning the President's Report, Arne Jakobsson had previously circulated his report by e-mail to the Board. The President, with the agreement of the Board, considers it very important to promote new and active people to take EAHIL forward, and Council members were best placed to find such people in their respective countries. One of the matters that came up for discussion at the Council meeting in Palermo was the setting up of a Nomination Committee. There were no special comments pertaining to the Report, which will be made available to all EAHIL members on the Web.

Suzanne Bakker, Supervisor of the Secretariat reported that most of the work since Santander had been checking the membership list and correcting the data for the new membership database. The membership database at present

contains 444 valid records. Fees for 2005 have been received from 393 members, in accordance with the following breakdown: 227 individual, 152 institutional, 4 collective, 4 affiliated members, and 1 retired member. Suzanne also reported that the work had substantially improved. The invoices for 2005 had already been sent out. The Board decided to publish an announcement in the *Journal* to urge members to keep their membership and to pay the fees.

Invoices for a series of advertisements will now be sent out after the publication of the first issue of the year for all 4 advertisements. Fees for advertisements were increased, with an extra sum for prime space without any comment received. The President, the Treasurer and the Supervisor are planning a visit to the Secretariat this autumn to settle an agreement for the work to be done by NVB for EAHIL in the years 2006 and onwards.

Regarding the EAHIL *Newsletter*, Sally Wood-Lamont reported that as of January 2004 the printing of the *Newsletter* moved to Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The aim was to reduce the printing costs, thereby making the *Newsletter* self-sufficient and in 2004 this objective was achieved. From January the EAHIL *Newsletter* was replaced by the *Journal of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries*. The thematic issues that began in 2004 have proved a great success. The thematic issues in the second part of 2005 will be the "Palermo Workshop" (issue 3) and "Open Access" (issue 4). The cost of mailing the *Journal* continues to be sponsored by EBSCO and the Editor-in-chief has managed to cut the cost of printing the journal by 50 percent. The advertising income has more than covered all the four issues and in fact an overall profit has been achieved. Finally she thanked Eva-Marie Lacroix, Giovanna Miranda and Benoit Thirion

# News from our Association

Márta Virágos

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for their regular columns, Márta Virágos and Arne Jakobsson for their regular Board news, and Suzanne Bakker for her valuable advice. The Board expressed unanimous agreement.

Concerning the EAHIL Membership Database, Arne Jakobsson reported that the University of Oslo Library, Library of Medicine and Health Sciences, had agreed to develop and host a web-based membership database in which all EAHIL members can access and update their own membership record. This will in the future significantly reduce the administrative work load of the EAHIL Secretariat. The membership database is ready now to be launched. The database has 3 authorisations level: (1) a normal for the regular members to check and modify their own data, (2) the level of council members: they can check and modify the data of their own country's members and (3) the supervisor's level. The membership database has many good features: through the database there will be a possibility to send letters (e-mail) to all the members, or create special list groups (eg. national lists). From now on the labels for the Journal posting will be printed out from the database. Arne Jakobsson reported that there are 54 members without e-mail addresses. The Board will ask Council members to find these members. It was agreed that from January 2006 there will be only the web-based membership database. Those who would like to apply for membership should get approval from their own national Council members. The Board will receive notice about the new members and a list will be published regularly in the *Journal*.

With respect to the EAHIL Website it seems that a favorable solution has been found, as Benoit Thirion, Council member from France, has undertaken its development and maintenance. The Board agreed that the EAHIL web page had improved considerably since Benoit took over.

As regards the EAHIL Subgroups, Linda Lisgarten reported that there would be a PHING business meeting in Palermo and they will publish a report in the next issue of the *Journal*. The EAHIL European Veterinary Libraries group has a discussion list EVLG-L with 44 members. EVLG will organize a business meeting in Palermo also. As for the EVLG and the WHO Documentation Centers, the Board decided to adopt them as Special Interest Groups of EAHIL. It was also agreed that the Chairs of Special Interest Groups have a standing invitation to the Council meetings.

Regarding the EAHIL nominations committee and arrangements for electing EAHIL Board members and Councillors, the Board agreed that the nomination process should be improved. A nomination committee should be set up at the Council meeting in Palermo. For the future of EAHIL it is important to find new talent. The Board's other concern is to make the work of the Council more productive. It was also agreed that on the EAHIL web page, the date of the term of each Board and Council member should be specified.

As for the EAHIL Scholarships, the Board would like to continue to give at least the same number of grants for future conferences. The Board decided to support 1 or 2 librarians to represent EAHIL at ICML. The Board agreed





# News from our Association

## Report of the Meeting of the EAHIL Board in Palermo, 22nd June, 2005

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that more sponsorship should be open to support professional development.

As for the request from Elsevier that EAHIL should take part in a free trial of the search engine SCOPUS and database EMBASE, the Board agreed that as an Association EAHIL does not support such activities. Elsevier has the possibility to advertise in the Journal or to set up a booth at EAHIL conferences.

### **FUTURE EVENTS:**

**2005 Workshop Palermo:** Manuela Colombi reported that the International Program Committee had a meeting on 10-14 December for the purposes of selecting the oral presentations and the posters from the 60 submitted contributions. For the conference there were 270 delegates and 30 accompanying people. 15 sponsors supported the Workshop. The Local Organizing Committee with the International Program Committee did an excellent job. The Board expressed unanimously their appreciation to their Italian colleagues who organized an EAHIL event for the third time.

**2005 9ICML in Brazil:** Tony McSean as the member of the International Program Committee put together an afternoon session for EAHIL. There have been three papers contributed up till now. It was also stated that there had not been much progress in the program.

**2005 IFLA Conference in Oslo:** EAHIL with the Nordic Baltic Group of Medical Librarians together with the IFLA Biomedical Session will organize a satellite event on the issues of Open Access. Already there are 120 registrations. A reception in the library will follow the workshop.

**2006 EAHIL Conference in Cluj-Napoca:** Sally Wood-Lamont distributed the outline of

the conference program. The 10th EAHIL Conference will be held on September 11-16, 2006. The venue of the conference will be the University of Babes-Bolyai's Collegium Academicum. Sally reported that the International Program Committee chaired by Benoit Thirion met on 8 April 2005 to inspect the conference sites and to discuss the conference program. The report has been published in the May issue of the Journal of EAHIL. Eva Alopaeus and Patricia Flor are in charge of the Continuing Education courses. Sally reported also that she had applied for a Soros East-East Grant to fund Central and East European medical librarians travel and hotel expenses for the Cluj conference.

**2007 EAHIL Workshop in Cracow:** Barbara Niedzwiedzka, chair of the International Program Committee reported that the date of the conference will be 12-15 September 2007. A welcome page has already been opened. The IPC fixed the workshop theme which will be *The Education, Training and Continuing Development of the Health Library and Information Workforce*. The organizers would like a real workshop with a few introductory papers and small-group discussions.

**2008 EAHIL Conference in Helsinki:** Piirjo Rajakiili reported that the Finnish Medical Library Association has accepted the invitation to host the 2008 EAHIL Conference. She suggested 23-26 June for the date of the conference. There are four prospective conference sites (the Marina Conference Center, the Finlandia House, the Biomedical Center and the Technical University).

**Márta Virágos**  
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# News from our Association

Márta Virágos

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## Report of the meeting of the EAHIL Council

The EAHIL Council meeting was held in the magnificent Palazzo dei Normanni from 9.00 a.m. to noon on Thursday, 23 June. President Arne Jakobsson greeted those present, new and old members. This was followed by a brief introduction from every member.

The new members of the Council are:  
Hungary: Livia Vasas was reelected  
Switzerland: Minielle Brasey

The first part of the meeting was devoted to a round-table discussion on the future shape of EAHIL and the role of the EAHIL Council. President Arne Jakobsson gave a detailed presentation of the new and working EAHIL membership database. This will be a web-based service and structured to 3 different levels:

1. The **personnel** level is for the new and the former members. Existing members can check and modify their own data. From January 2006, a new member can ask for a membership account. The system will send an e-mail message to the applicant's national Council representative because it will be the responsibility of the latter to approve the suitability of the new member. The Board will also get a message about the applicant. The form is very easy to complete, the member can decide what data - personal or professional - he/she wishes to make public. The system is password-controlled but there is a built-in *forget password* help. The President reported that there are 54 registered persons without an e-mail address and it is an urgent responsibility of the councillors to check the list and find

these persons. Peter Morgan recommended that there should be a note on the web-page as to what background is a prerequisite to qualify somebody as an EAHIL member and probably the best solution is to include this in the application form itself.

2. The **councillors** level: it is the councillors' responsibility to approve the eligibility of a new member. They have the possibility to check and modify the data of their own country's members. Arne also suggested that the approval should not take a long time.

3. The **supervisor** level is for the database administrators. As for the database size, Arne reported that the number of users is 400 and up to the date of the Palermo Workshop 100 members had registered. Suzanne Bakker reported that there would be a transfer of data only for members whose membership fees have been paid for 2004-2005. It is the respective member's duty to renew their membership once a year.

Council members find the new EAHIL membership database user-friendly, with a lot of good features (good search possibilities, printing out possibility from the Pdf File, the possibility to create lists of special interest groups, etc.)



# News from our Association

## Report of the Meeting of the EAHIL Council in Palermo, 22nd June, 2005

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The Council member from Germany asked the President how EAHIL would manage the growing number of members requesting the printed version of the Journal. Is it necessary to send the Journal to each person from the same library? Having discussed this matter, the Council agreed that there would be no need for multiple copies when there are members from the same library.

Arne Jakobsson reported that the Board discussed the future role of the Secretariat. It was decided that the President, the Treasurer and the Supervisor will compose a *Procedures and Activities* text for the Secretariat.

The second part of the Council meeting was devoted to discussing the new role of councillors in the nomination procedure. The Board agreed that the role of the councillors should be more important in the future. In view

of the fact that even now it is sometimes very difficult to find a candidate for a post, it is very important to set up a Nomination Committee with 4 members representing the different parts of Europe. The Rules of EAHIL requires the nomination of a candidate with two signatures. The Nomination Committee could replace this and present the list of nominees to the General Assembly, which is the voting body. The Council also decided that after January 2006 the election of Council members per country would be the following quota:

5 members - 1 councillor  
25 members - 2 councillors  
50+ members - 3 councillors

The Minutes of the previous Council Meeting in Santander were approved.

**Márta Virágos**  
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## Report of the General Assembly Meeting of EAHIL Members, held 24th June 2005 at 17.15 hrs. in the Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo, Italy.

### **Present:**

35 EAHIL Members.

**President's Introduction:** Arne Jakobsson welcomed members to the Meeting. He explained that as the meeting was not quorate, it would be necessary to hold over substantive business, such as the approval of the Minutes of the 2004 General Assembly, until the next G.A. meeting at the conference in Cluj in 2006, which was fully expected to be quorate. Instead, he suggested that the

present meeting took the form of an *Open Forum*, where members might like to discuss issues of interest. He had two important topics that he would like to discuss with members, namely the new Membership Database and the idea of a Nominations Committee to find and encourage new potential Council and Board Members. He stressed that the meeting would be both open and informal and therefore if anyone had any questions or points they wished to raise, they should not hesitate to do so.

# News from our Association

Márta Virágos

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First, Arne explained that the idea of a **Nominations Committee** had been discussed and welcomed by the Board and Council members at their earlier meetings. The plan was to have members from North, South, East and West Europe, who would actively seek out and encourage active EAHIL members to stand in Council and Board elections. Of course, this would not preclude any two "ordinary" members from nominating anyone; it was just an extra measure to try to encourage new people to come forward and to revitalise the process. Members present agreed that it was a good idea. Volunteers had been found from the North (Eva Alopaeus); the West (Bruce Madge) and the East (Sally Wood-Lamont), so it just remained to seek a representative for Southern Europe.

Second, Arne talked about the **new EAHIL Membership Database**. He explained that the old membership database which was previously kept by the Secretariat in the Netherlands will be closed at the end of the year and the new online database will take over completely on 1st January 2006. All existing records had been transferred. He urged everyone to enter the new database now to check their personal record and also to let him know of any problems. He had written an explanatory article about the new membership database in the *Journal of EAHIL* (February 2005, pages 6 - 8) and had sent out an email message to all members inviting them to check their own details online, although as yet many members had not done so. Council members had viewed a demonstration of the new database at the Council Meeting and had been very impressed by the system. Council members would have an important role in vetting new membership applications from

their national colleagues. In answer to questions from the floor, Arne also explained that the new database would be based on individual membership status, and therefore the institutional membership category would cease to operate, although affiliated membership would be allowed for certain sponsors, and of course membership fees would still be payable by those wishing to join EAHIL from outside Europe. It had also been agreed at the previous Council Meeting that it would be a good idea to put some details about EAHIL, its aims and objectives, and, importantly, an outline of the criteria necessary to join the association (e.g. an active interest and involvement in health care librarianship/information work) onto the website and the database. There would also be a *welcome* message and fuller information on EAHIL given when new members are accepted. It was planned that all members would receive the printed Journal of EAHIL, although there would be an option on the membership list to elect not to receive copies if, for instance, it meant that multiple copies would be sent to the same address. Arne stressed that the new database would continue to develop and he urged everyone to look at it and let him know of any problems or ideas for changes. It was also agreed that it would be a good idea to advertise the new *Virtual EAHIL* on the various national listservers, etc., at the end of the year.

There being no further discussion or questions, Arne thanked everyone for their participation in the General Assembly, and the meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

**Márta Virágos**  
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# News from our Association

## Treasurer's Report June 2005

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Manuela and Marta in Palermo

First of all I would like to thank Suzanne for her supervision activities and for sending us all the information which allows an evaluation of the EAHIL financial situation. EAHIL is financially healthy and this is very important as from 2006 we will no longer receive membership fees. Today (June 2005) the members are 472, of which 444 have paid.

The final balance sheet for December 2004 is below:

the higher income in 2004 compared to 2003 comprises the conference levy, some more membership fees and the advertising, which increased by about 50%. Good work!

As far as the expenses are concerned we have a very interesting reduction in the journal's printing costs (very good, Sally!) and a much higher expense for scholarships, which again is very interesting because one of the scopes of the Association is to promote education of members.

At this time of the year the treasurer needs to know in detail, what are the activities of the Secretariat in order to evaluate the provisional expenses for 2006 and to be able to define a Standard Working Procedure, as required by the President. The amount to be allocated yearly for scholarships has to be defined in a more precise way.

The Treasurer will be requesting a quarterly report, within ten days after the term closure (i.e. July 10, October 10, January 10) in order to strictly monitor expenses.

The President, the Treasurer and the Supervisor are programming a visit to the Secretariat next autumn.

**Manuela Colombi**  
mcolombi@jacit.jnj.com

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Euro</b>
ABN AMRO account	21,606.00	Balance end 2003	57,253.00
ABN AMRO savings	34,583.00	Outcome 2004	20,745.00
Postbank account	2,834.00	Reserve PHING	355.00
Postbank savings	15,498.00	Fees received in advance	1,005.00
Accounts receivable	12,241.00	Account payable	7,404.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,762.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,762.00</b>

# News from our Association

## Report of the Pharmaceutical Information Group (PHING) in Palermo

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### **Outreaching Pharmaceutical Information to All**

The Business Meeting held at the EAHIL Workshop in Palermo provided a chance for old friends to meet and for new friendships to be made. In a relaxed atmosphere, and in the wonderful setting of the historical Palazzo dei Normanni, the Group was able to discuss some important issues and make some firm decisions to move the Group forward. Chaired by Giovanna Miranda and Linda Lisgarten the emphasis was very much on helping medical librarians from all types of organisations, and from all countries, utilise pharmaceutical information.

The group's Web pages have been launched and can be viewed at [http://www.eahil.net/pharmaceutical\\_information\\_group.htm](http://www.eahil.net/pharmaceutical_information_group.htm). They contain a wealth of information, including free e-journals and databases. Our grateful thanks go to Benoit Thirion, EAHIL Webmaster, for doing such a good job of placing our pages online. We will be constantly updating this site and any suggestions are most welcome; please post them to Michelle Wake at [michelle.wake@ulsop.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.wake@ulsop.ac.uk).



Looking ahead the group will soon begin evaluating pharmacy databases, a project we envisage being of interest to all members of EAHIL, and plans are being made for a PHING parallel session at the 2006 EAHIL Conference in Cluj, Romania.

The Business Meeting was followed by a lunchtime reception, which was generously sponsored by Swets Information Services, in the parliamentary gardens overlooking Palermo. The food and wine gave us a taste of Sicily and

the views of the surrounding city and hills were magnificent. Together with the business meeting, the reception made a truly useful and enjoyable start to the Workshop.

**Michelle Wake**  
PHING Secretary  
Deputy Librarian  
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# News from our Association

## Report of the EVLG Meeting in Palermo

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**Palazzo dei Normanni, June 24th, 14.00 to 14.30 hrs**

**Present:**

*Coda, Fulvia*; Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sardegna, Sassari  
*D'Orazi, Augusta*; Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia, Palermo  
*Gradito, Patrizia*; Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle regioni Lazio  
e Toscana

*Piras, Elisa*; Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sardegna, Sassari  
*Di Trapani, Teresa*; Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia, Palermo  
*Arrigo, Antonio*; Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sardegna, Sassari  
*Rump, Friedhelm*; University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover.

The meeting was not a group meeting in the true sense of the word, as the only member present was the undersigned. The participants were eager to be members, however.

Under these conditions it seemed necessary and practical to give a short outline of the history and the aims of EVLG in the context of EAHIL. The benefits of having a discussion group and a homepage were talked about, and a demonstration of help with queries and internet search strategies was given. The participants found these convincing.

A further topic was the ambitious aim of creating a European meta-union-catalogue of veterinary holdings. For this a commercial software solution utilizing the Z.39.50 interface exists in the library of the University of Veterinary Medicine at Hannover. The Italian colleagues expressed that they were willing to discuss the matter with their computer specialists and possibly join. For this purpose they were promised a detailed product description and an example of a Z 39.50 target description which they have received in the meantime.

**Friedhelm Rump**

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# News from our Association

Lia Ferrara

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During the EAHIL Workshop held in Palermo last 23-25 June, a Business meeting of the EAHIL Special Interest Group of WHO Documentation Centres (WHO DC SIG) was scheduled

in the afternoon of Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup> between 2.00-4.00 pm before the Opening Ceremony.

## Aim

The Business meeting was organized with the purpose of defining the structure and the organization of the new WHO DC SIG according to the items included in the agenda:

### 1. Origin of the European WHO DC SIG

- New WHO policy
- Santander report
- Approval by the EAHIL Board meeting Jan 28, 2005

Contact Special Interest Groups new Coordinator Linda Lisgarten

### 2. Organization

- Election of Chairs (suggestion there could be two co-chairs)
- Election of Secretary / Treasurer
- Definition of duties

### 3. Mission statement

- Goals/Objectives
- enhance communication
- facilitate networking between the WHO DCs
- facilitate sharing experiences in managing WHO information
- Guidelines draft by Gabriella Poppi and Lia Ferrara

### 4. Members

### 5. Communication

- Listserv
- Web page.

## Participants

The session was chaired by Pina Frazzica, representative of the Italian WHO Documentation Centre in Caltanissetta - Sicily (Italy), and was attended by the following people:

- *Helena BOUZKOVA* (Czech WHO DC - National Medical Library, Prague)
- *Lia FERRARA* (Italian WHO DC - Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome)
- *Pina FRAZZICA* (Italian WHO DC - CEFPAS: Centre for Training and Research in Public Health, Caltanissetta-Sicily)
- *Arne JAKOBSSON* (EAHIL Executive Board President)
- *Gabriella POPPI* (Italian WHO DC - Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome).

## Session work

Pina Frazzica opened the session commenting that a low number of WHO DC colleagues were attending the Business meeting. She underlined that the absence of a WHO EURO representative in the Palermo meeting could be evidence of the role which WHO has been playing in this matter.

The following items were discussed during the session: *WHO EURO involvement in the activity of WHO DCs*

It was stressed that communication with WHO EURO ought to be enhanced in order to favour real cooperation between the WHO DCs and Copenhagen. Above all it was underlined how important it is that the WHO EURO supports



# News from Palermo

## Report of the Business Meeting of the European WHO Documentation Centres Special Interest Group.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005.

more effectively the activity of its Centres. Speaking of this, Frazzica proposed to set up an *ad hoc* questionnaire aimed to collect perceptions, activities and projects of any single DC to present to WHO EURO in order to:

- represent the initiatives and activities carried out by each Centre;
- propose a more active participation of WHO EURO in the life of the DCs;
- develop a strategic and operational plan to include a dynamic communication strategy within DCs and with WHO EURO.

### *WHO DCs cooperation*

It was underlined that a proactive role of WHO DCs is essential both in order to strengthen the cooperation among the Centres themselves and to share some operational issues. Every Centre - it was noted - has experience to share with other partners and this could be a good method for optimising the limited resources available. It was also said that an information channel for the WHO DCs is essential and the EAHIL site was proposed as an appropriate tool for exchanging news, opinions and suggestions. In connection with this, the EAHIL President, Arne Jakobsson, suggested the development of a Web page devoted to the new Group, which could be included in the section "Sub-groups" of the EAHIL site. He suggested that this initiative could be useful not only for the dissemination of information about the WHO DC SIG but also for attracting new members. It was underlined how valuable the Net is regarding cooperation and as a communication tool because of its potentialities.

### *WHO DC SIG structure*

As a consequence of the low number of attendees at the WHO DC Business meeting, it

was decided to delay the definition of the SIG structure and its organization until a later date and Pina Frazzica was appointed temporary coordinator of the new group. Frazzica stated that she would be agreeable to assume this role definitively, but in a more representative context. It was pointed out that the new group, which will act as a section of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries must:

- be officially approved by the EAHIL Board as soon as representatives were appointed;
- not duplicate the WHO work.

It was also suggested to organize a meeting specifically devoted to the WHO DCs, such as the Vienna 2002 one, in order to attract more people in this field, to discuss specific items of common interest and to plan for future developments.

### **Conclusions**

In conclusion - considering the work carried out so far by the WHO DCs and their vital role in the European context - all participants confirmed the necessity of DCs continue to exist and operate. Nevertheless - taking note of the present situation - it was decided to postpone any possible initiative until a later date, trusting Pina Frazzica with the task to represent the requests and needs of the Documentation Centres on the occasion of the next meeting she will have with a WHO EURO representative. Above all, the importance to develop sustainable plans for the future of WHO Dcs - according to Copenhagen was emphasized.

**Lia Ferrara**  
lferrara@iss.it

# News from Palermo

Marie Källberg,  
Eva Alopaeus

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**Nordic Baltic Association  
for Medical and Health  
Information.  
Board Meeting in Palermo,  
June 2005.**

*The Association's objective is to increase collaboration between Nordic and Baltic professional groups, thus strengthening the specialist knowledge and encouraging the development of Nordic and Baltic librarians, specialising in bio-medical areas, or within the health services.*

**Present:** Pirjo Rajakiili, Jouni Leinonen (Finland), Elisabeth Husem, Elisabeth Akre (Norway), Conni Skrubbeltrang, Hanne Christensen (Denmark), Keiu Saarnit (Estonia), Meile Kretaviciene (Lithuania), Velta Poznaka (Latvia), Marie Källberg, Eva Alopaeus (Sweden);

**Absent:** Gudrun Kjartansdottir, Elin Eiriksdottir (Iceland).

Our new member, Jouni Leinonen, from Finland was welcomed. Jouni has taken Liisa Salmi's place on the board now that Liisa has retired. The board members were especially pleased to note that all three representatives from the Baltic states were present. Unfortunately no representative from Iceland was able to come. A short report from each country, with the emphasis on the state of consortia solutions regarding electronic resources to our health care systems, was given. Comments were made on the fact that a solution with hospitals and universities having

the same electronic resources may not be the best solution for our health care systems. A focus on medicine and health related resources appears to be more cost effective.

The new web site of the Nordic-Baltic Association [www.nordbalt.no](http://www.nordbalt.no) was discussed. The site has recently moved from a server in Stockholm to Oslo where it is hosted by the Norwegian Library Association. Section for Medicine and Health. Elisabeth Akre was complimented on her excellent work with the new website and it was decided that we write more about the history of the Association before the background falls into oblivion.

The cooperation with St Petersburg, Russia, was discussed. The courses in St Petersburg in June 2004 had a follow up this spring when six librarians from St Petersburg visited Oslo in Norway or Göteborg or Stockholm in Sweden. The plan is to continue both the courses and the study tours but lack of funding has put the project on hold - for the moment. We were all encouraged to apply for money wherever possible.

It was decided that Eva Alopaeus would represent northern Europe in a new EAHIL nomination group with a mission to suggest new members for the EAHIL Board and EAHIL President. Our next meeting will be at the Cluj conference in September 2006.

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Sweden

# News from our colleagues

## News from MLA

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### MLA '05

In May, MLA held its 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas with nearly 2,500 members, exhibitors, and guests in attendance, and 54 of our international colleagues from Antigua Barbados,

Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan, Malawi, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, St. Kitts Nevis, Trinidad Tobago, and the United Kingdom joined us for the meeting. The annual International Cooperation Section reception had more than 50 international colleagues and section members in attendance.

The International Cooperation Section planned a session on *Futuro Magnifico: Finding Ways of Connecting the World to Medical Information and Resources*. The program featured presentations by Christine W. Kanyengo of the University of Zambia on *Improving Access to Information for Health Workers in Zambia*; Bruce Madge of the British Medical Association on *The Global Review on Access to Health Information in Developing Countries: Progress So Far*; Lenny Rhine of the University of Florida Health Science Center Library on *The Impact of Information Technology on Health Information access in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Divide within the Divide*; and Ellen N. Sayed of the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library on *Making Magnificent Connections*.

### Global Initiatives Task Force

The MLA Board of Directors established the Global Initiatives Task Force in May, 2003, charging the group with reviewing MLA's

current and prior programs, developing an overall strategy for these programs, and identifying new activities, partnerships, and strategies that MLA should pursue now and in the future. [For more background on the Task Force, see Bruce Madge's article in the EAHIL Newsletter August 2004, p.11] The final report included 17 recommendations, which were reviewed by the MLA Board in May. What follows is a summary of the recommendations approved by the Board. Specific actions taken or planned by the Board are in italics. MLA Board members, the International Cooperation Section (ICS) and others will now work to put the new structure and activities in place.

1. Designate an International Affairs Officer (from existing Headquarters FTE) to coordinate all international programs including, but not limited to the following: information clearinghouse functions, liaison with international partners, liaison with library association international programs (e.g., ALA, EAHIL, IFLA), editorial review of association international pages on MLANET, Cunningham Scholarship coordination, bilateral agreement activities, and other activities designated as "association level" international activities by the MLA Board of Directors. *This will be done by the Office of the Executive Director; Carla Funk will take the lead.*

2. In collaboration with the International Cooperation Section, refocus the mission of the section to emphasize a supporting role related to association international activities. The mission should include liaison and communication programs and initiatives that complement or support

# News from our colleagues

Eve-Marie Lacroix

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association-level MLA international activities and programs, and do not conflict or compete with association level activities.

3. Create visibility within MLA and internationally and build on an ICS initiative by establishing a new MLA International Award for Excellence in International Service in which either an individual(s) or an organization (U.S., Canada, International) could be honored for significant and broad contributions to improvement in international health information provision. *The development of the criteria and establishment of the jury will happen in 2005/2006 in cooperation with the ICS and the Awards committee.*

4. Center responsibility for development, official sponsorship and promotion of a MLA sister library program at the association level coordinated by the proposed International Affairs Officer. Define MLA's sister library program as one similar to that promoted by ALA, but health related, and based on library-to-library relationships at the grass roots level rather than on "official" sponsorship and central control by the ICS or by the association.

5. Adopt the spirit of the fact sheet developed by the task force entitled "Tips for Becoming a Sister Library" as the basis of final content and a key feature on the proposed international web site for MLANET. *MLA and ICS will develop a sister library brochure based upon the "Tips" sheet developed by the Task Force. It will also be on the Global Initiatives Website.*

6. Design and implement a new international Web site on MLANET as a

content-rich site that aggregates all MLA international policy, programs, newsletters, and activities in one place. *Work on this will begin in Summer, 2005.*

7. Promote sustainable collaborations at the association level that provide maximum exposure with international agencies and organizations which have health improvement and health literacy goals that intersect those of MLA.

8. Change the international news column published in MLA News from members-only to open access to encourage international readership and cooperation irrespective of MLA membership. *This will be implemented as soon as possible.*

9. Continue to provide complimentary registrations to the MLA annual meeting for chairs or presidents and official representatives of medical library associations with which MLA has a formal relationship. Continue to grant MLA member rates for MLA annual meetings to members of those medical library associations with which MLA has a formal relationship.

10. Widely promote the MLA member discount for the *Journal of EAHIL* and the *Health Libraries and Information Journal* (HILJ).

11. Develop strategies for closer collaboration between *JMLA* and *HILJ* via editorial board activities and manuscript submission procedures. The following motions were amended and then adopted by the Board:

# News from our colleagues

## News from MLA

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12. Adopt the following as MLA's international strategic statement: MLA believes that key elements in improved health for all peoples are the ability of each nation to strengthen and build health sciences information capacity through qualified health sciences librarians, implementation of supporting technological infrastructure, and access to quality information. MLA supports capacity building programs at the association, section, chapter, and individual member areas. MLA believes that building capacity will be most effective and long-lasting when partnerships are created with groups sharing similar goals, particularly partnerships with international agencies where shared goals intersect with available expertise and infrastructure. *This will be included in MLA's Strategic Plan.*

13. In collaboration with partners (e.g., IFLA, CHLA, EAHIL, AHILA, WHO) plan and implement a global health information service called "Librarians without Borders" that provides information assistance for those responding to disasters anywhere in the world.

14. Encourage development of programming for the annual meeting to highlight the international scope of library resources, systems and programs (e.g. NLM, CISTI, WHO, British Library).

15. Study the development, criteria, and funding of a travel grant program supporting attendance of librarians from developing countries at the MLA Annual Meeting. *The Board will consider how to do this at its Sept 2005 meeting.*

16. The task force recommends the adoption of the following measures for MLA annual meetings. The measures listed below were adapted from an earlier list supplied to MLA in advance of the 2004 annual meeting and contained in the task force 2003/04 annual report:

- President's Event: Include the ICS chair, chair-elect, and proposed International Affairs Officer.
- President's Reception: Continue to invite one representative from each international health library association or their official designee.
- International Visuals at General Sessions: Highlight MLA international activities by including photographs of the past Cunningham Fellows, MLA members attending IFLA and EAHIL conferences and other international meetings.
- International Reception: MLA officers including the three presidents, and the Executive Director should play a visible and important role in this ICS-planned and vendor-sponsored event to underscore the association's commitment to international outreach and service. It is an ideal opportunity to highlight international activities of the association and international activities of sections, chapters, and members.

**Eve-Marie Lacroix**  
MLA Representative to EAHIL  
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# News from our colleagues

Bernard Barrett

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I am delighted to have this occasion to describe for EAHIL members, the work that is being done by the Irish Health Sciences Libraries group (HSLG), together with some of the challenges that we face, and the initiatives that we are taking, to ensure the continued growth and relevancy of our sector of the profession.

## Who we are

We are a group/section of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI), which is the recognised professional body for all library and information staff in the Republic of Ireland. We try to play as full a part as possible in our professional association, and have done so these last few years, by having representation on the Executive Board of the LAI. Elections to this are held every year, and it is where most major decisions affecting the LAI are made. Representation on the board gives us the two fold advantage of:

- Being able to have a broad understanding of what is occurring within the profession generally, and
- When necessary, having access to key players within the LAI, in respect of significant decisions for our own group.

## Setting the scene

These are difficult and transformational times for Irish health science information professionals. We are at present caught up in a major re-organisation of the health care delivery system within the state.

Prior to last year, most of us had been employed either by Independent privately run hospitals and organisations, or as is the case with the many of us, by the State health services, in a number of different capacities. The principal unit of the

health care delivery system for the state were the *Health Boards*, which were established through the 1970 Health Act, and of which eight existed until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December last year. Each health board covered a large geographical area, and delivered an equally diverse range of responsibilities from the management of hospitals, the delivery of primary and community care services, to the provision of facilities for registry office weddings!

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005, the health boards officially ceased to exist, and we have seen the advent of a completely new organisation called the "Health Service Executive" (or HSE) into which most of us have now been assumed. An interim period from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 15<sup>th</sup> of June ensued, and while all is by no means settled, (understatement of the year!) we have now fully made the move to being a part of the new HSE. The new HSE is intended to bring uniform and consistently high standards to the health care delivery system throughout the country, and there are three main components of the new system:

- A National Hospitals Office
- A Primary. Community and Continuing Care Directorate
- A National Shared Services Office

Those of us who work within the state health services, will now find our work located within one of these three components.

## Place of work:

There are now well in excess of 100 members of the HSLG and we find ourselves working in a variety of settings. These include:

- Hospital Libraries (in both state and privately run hospitals)
- Health Service Executive Regional Libraries (in regional offices)

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## Preparing for Change and Empowering For Excellence.

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- National Organizations such as the Health Research Board and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre
- Independent organizations such as Barnardos

There has been a welcome move in some parts of the service, to recognise that the skills and abilities of health service librarians are not limited purely to the physical library environment. A number of us are based in care groups such as Disabilities and Mental Health. Not all of us are described as Librarians, but rather as Information Scientists and Information Specialists. Those of us that work outside of libraries can be engaged in areas such as:

- Website construction and maintenance
- Service planning
- Statistical analysis
- Clinical guideline development
- Application of freedom of information legislation
- Health outcomes

### **The HSLG committee**

The Health Sciences Libraries Group committee tries to work in as collaborative a way as possible with its membership, and is elected each year at the annual general meeting of the group, which usually occurs in September of each year. For the last two years we have had a committee of between 12 - 14 people, and a great deal of commitment from committee members, to driving forward a process of planning and development. The committee officers are:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Communications Officer
- International Liaison Officer
- Cochrane Library Liaison Officer.

The committee meets on a bi-monthly basis, usually in different locations each time. We tend to have three meetings in Dublin and three outside of Dublin. Our agenda consists of a number of fixed items (such as reports from committee officers and others) as well as other items put forward for discussion and decision.

### **How do we work?**

While the committee does have a leadership role, we do, as stressed above, try to exercise this in as collaborative way as is possible. To be completely honest, it is often very difficult to do this work. All of us have demanding full time jobs and it is through the generosity of our employers, that we are given leave to attend meetings, and deal with the ever growing volume of work, that our involvement with the group seems to engender.

We are very conscious of the responsibility we have as committee members to:

- Develop the understanding our employers have (or ought to have) of our professional competencies
- The need for planning and development
- The requirement to speak with one voice
- The need to empower and develop ourselves.

We have taken a number of measures to try and make the above points a reality.

### **Working Groups**

First is the creation of what we call "working groups". We very deliberately chose the name "working group", to make it clear that there was work to be done, and to do away with any misunderstanding that can come from different titles such as sub-committee, working party etc, all of which we had fallen prey to in the past.

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Each working group has:

- Very clearly defined terms of reference, and
- Is normally led by a member of the HSLG committee.

The purpose of each of these is to attempt to involve the membership and expertise of the HSLG as fully as possible. Currently we have four Working Groups, which are:

- Continuing Professional Development (or CPD) which over the course of the last eighteen months has developed a very successful programme of training courses at reasonable prices for HSLG members
- Web Site, the results of which are now available to see
- Standards for Irish Health Care Libraries, which has just been established to oversee the development of future editions of this publication
- Annual Conference 2006, which likewise has just been formed.

## Strategic Planning Process

Second, is the Strategic Planning process we embarked on early last year, and which was also the focus of our 2004 annual conference. As part of this, we have tried to establish a clear and instantly recognisable logo for ourselves, through the creation of our own logo (which you will see on our website, and which is now being used on all group communications). We have also agreed and adopted a mission statement, which is that:

*The Health Sciences Libraries Group is committed to empowering all our members to excellence in the field of information management, and by doing so, advancing health for all.*

One of the strengths of our last conference was the

degree to which it encouraged participation and input from all who attended. Committee members left the conference with a large number of flipcharts, and a mission to collate all the gathered information into a set of goals for the group. This has now been done, and we have a set of seven goals, which set out where we want to be in three years time - the life cycle of our planning process. The next step has been to work out precisely how we will get to where we want to be, and this is what we have been working on over the last few months. This has involved us in drafting objectives and then ensuring that these are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound). This has been the most difficult task of all so far. While we are often clear and unanimous about what we want, we do not always seem to have a clear idea of how to it. Our current task therefore, is to take all the things of want to do, and ensure there is a clear framework for:

- Ensuring an objective is deliverable
- Learning from the work that we do for the future.

The goals and objectives will be collated into a single planning document (via an agreed template) by the beginning of August, and the plan as a whole should go live as of our AGM in September.

## Policies and Procedures

Despite all this work and growth, unlike groups similar to ourselves, we have never had a formal document, which describes the processes and procedures by which we as a group operate. This includes the election of the committee, its officers, their term of office etc. Over the course of the last year, a great deal of work has gone into drafting such a document. The document does not contain anything radically new - much of what is there is simply what has been done in the past or is currently being done. The



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document does however set everything out clearly in black and white, so that in the event of dispute, or as a result of the group continuing to grow, there is a clear understanding of what constitutes clear policy and procedure for us all. A ballot of all HSLG members is shortly to take place to confirm the acceptance of the document.

### **Standards for Irish Health Care Libraries**

An article in the previous edition of the Journal of EAHIL<sup>1</sup>, described the work that has been leading up to the publication of the second edition of this document, which we intend will be at our annual general meeting in September of this year. We have recently established a standards working group, the purpose of which, is to reflect on the future direction of this document, and its frequency of publication.

### **How do we communicate?**

We have our own discussion list called hslg, membership of which is open to all who have an interest in health science librarianship, or who want to know what we are up to! The list can be joined by visiting the following link <http://lists.hslg.ie/listinfo.cgi/list-hslg.ie> and following the instructions contained therein. This page is part of our new web site at [www.hslg.ie](http://www.hslg.ie), which we have officially launched as of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. We have used an open source content management system, which we are hoping will encourage as many people as possible within the group to generate content for the web site - but this will of course take time and encouragement. We also produce our own quarterly newsletter called "HINT" (short for Health Information, News and Thinking) and the most recent edition of HINT can be downloaded from our web site.

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### **References**

1. N. Lacey & A. Murphy : Standards for Irish Healthcare Library and Information Services 2nd Edition. Journal of EAHIL May 2005; 1(2): 8-12

### **Annual Conference**

We have to date held three annual conferences, each one more successful than the last. The last conference attracted in excess of one hundred participants, and we are already looking forward to the next one, which we plan to hold in early February 2006. As well as a chance to learn and discuss as a sector, it's a great opportunity for us to all come together and meet. Although the theme of this year's conference will be a little broader than in the past, it will nonetheless be forward looking, rather than purely celebratory, and aims to equip all of us for the challenges that the profession faces in the future.

### **In Conclusion**

As you will see, an enormous amount of work is being done, and we are grateful for the encouragement we receive from many members of our group. Much remains to be done. In particular, there is a real need, however uncomfortable it is, to begin to think the unthinkable, and not simply aim to preserve the order of things as they are. It is a hard reality of life, that there is only one way, and that is forwards - as well as upwards! Whether it is through fear or self-preservation, if we refuse to face this, the likelihood is that we as a profession will stagnate, and as is increasingly the case, have much of the relevancy of our role called into question. The only way forward is to become reflective practitioners, who plan for change and growth - and the Health Sciences Libraries Group have begun to take the first steps towards this.

**Bernard Barrett**

Chairperson

Health Sciences Libraries Group

Library Association of Ireland

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# News from our colleagues

Elisabeth Akre, Eva Alopaeus,  
Elisabeth Husem, Astrid Müller

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## Summary

As part of the Nordic-Baltic-Russian partnership programme for medical libraries (<http://www.norskbibliotekforening.no/site/baltic/>), six librarians from St. Petersburg came to Sweden and Norway on a study tour in April 2005.

## Keywords:

Medical libraries, Partnerships

## Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region Continues

In October 2003 a Nordic group together with Meile Kretaviciene, our main partner from Kaunas in Lithuania, went on a study tour to St Petersburg where we visited several medical libraries. The libraries we visited were situated in old, historic buildings and the librarians expressed a great pride in the history of their institutions and their libraries and in their collections of unique old and rare books.

During the visit the Nordic group met with representatives from the medical libraries in St Petersburg and a dialogue was initiated regarding the expectations and hopes of our St Petersburg colleagues. There was expressed a strong desire to participate in relevant courses, and the first course was held one week in June 2004. However, more than anything else our colleagues wanted to take part in various study tours in order to gain inspiration from our Nordic libraries. Earlier activities of the partnership programme have been described in EAHIL Newsletter no 68, 2004.

## Study tours

Study tours to Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo were arranged to take place in April 2005. All six participants from St. Petersburg had attended the courses held by the partnership programme in St.Petersburg in June 2004.

We arranged for the guests to stay and have most of the meals in our homes. This also helped to stretch a limited or practically non-existent budget, of course! The hosts in Oslo were Elisabeth Husem, Elisabeth Akre, Astrid Müller and Hilde Strömme. Eva Alopaeus was the host in Gothenburg and Marie Källberg in Stockholm.

## Study visit to Oslo 20-24 April 2005.

Galina But, director of the Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies Library (MAPS), and Galina Kovalchuk, director of Pavlov Medical University Library, came from St.Petersburg, and Meile Kretaviciene, director of Kaunas Medical University Library came from Lithuania. Meile had the important and demanding task of being interpreter and facilitator. Our colleagues from St. Petersburg and Kaunas had two very busy days, working from early morning to late afternoon. The first day concentrated on the Library of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Oslo, where they received an introduction to the daily work in the various departments as well as to ongoing projects.

The second day they visited several different types of libraries:

- The Norwegian Institute of Public Health
- Ulleval University Hospital, Medical Library
- Ulleval University Hospital, Health Information Centre
- The Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs

At the end of the second day an informal reception was organized at the Norwegian

# News from our colleagues

## Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region Continues

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Directorate for Health and Social Affairs for medical librarians from the Oslo area and others interested in Russian-Norwegian cooperation. Galina But and Galina Kovalchuk presented their libraries to an interested audience. The conditions for their two libraries seemed to be quite different, MAPS having far better financing resources than Pavlov



Sightseeing in Oslo.

Meile Kretaviciene, Astrid Müller (back), Galina Kovalchuk, Galina But, Arne Jakobsson, Elisabeth Husem.

University Library. The last day was spent sightseeing in Oslo. In spite of some language difficulties, communication was very successful, and hopefully we shall look forward to continuing the cooperation. Professionally, user access to open shelving in the libraries and working with electronic access were important issues, as well as the organization of user services and user-education. The concept of patient information was new to the visitors. The letters below, which we are publishing with permission from the authors, will tell you the impression taken away by our guests.

### Letter from St Petersburg:

*Dear colleagues!*

*Thank you very much for your cordial welcome!  
We have learned a lot of interesting and*

*received the helpful information on work of Norwegian medical libraries. We have liked every aspect: the fund structure and organization, simplicity of administration, the richness of services, new electronic technologies. Your strategy of open free access to information for all patrons is very important indeed. The organization of work is an evidence of your deep attention to your user's needs, your readiness to introduce new forms of work, it is confirmed integration of library in educational and medical activity of University. We have been impressed a lot by the great amount of electronic resources, guaranteed drive delivery of materials and multi-level system of educational courses for users for their acquaintance with new technologies. The creation of Electronic Archive of articles published by the staff of University will open their achievements to the whole world. The program of cooperation with patients and their relations is very attractive. Doubtless such a new approach to compliance has a great response in society. It is felt that each of the librarians is included in supplying specialists and students with scientific information. Their personal responsibility for every step, maintenance of seniority and the library ethics code defines the quality of library work. Considered regimentation and documents of the Directorate for Health, the participation of the Directorate in international projects indicates the vigilant care of the Directorate about library problems and informatization of the society.*

*We thank all our wonderful colleagues - Arne Jakobsson, Elisabeth Husem, Elisabeth Akre, Hilde Stromme, Sigrune. Aasen and others for their desire to share their knowledge. We believe that now they have become our friends.*

# News from our colleagues

Elisabeth Akre, Eva Alopaeus,  
Elisabeth Husem, Astrid Müller

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*We express our gratitude to all members of the Directorate for Health for giving us an opportunity to take part in such an important project. And we hope for its continuation in favor of our common work.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Galina Kovalchuk and Galina But*

## **Study visit to Gothenburg**

Eva Alopaeus and the hospital libraries at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg were host to two colleagues from St Petersburg for a few days in April. Natalia Livshits, from the Fundamental Library of the Pavlov State Medical University, and Elena Ganina, from the Library of the Medical Academy for Postgraduate Studies, visited five hospital libraries and the Biomedical library at the University, including the library's Learning Resource Center. Both Natalia and Elena were old acquaintances from the project's teaching sessions in St Petersburg last June, and Elena also came to Oslo for the EAHIL workshop in 2003 within the framework of the project. Meals and accommodation were provided in the home of the head librarian of the hospital libraries. Guests were invited one evening, and that evening turned into an interesting discussion about modern Russian literature. We also managed to squeeze in a visit to the newly opened World Culture Museum in Gothenburg - on the way to the airport.

## **Letter from St. Petersburg:**

*Dear colleagues!*

*Thank you again for your wonderful hospitality!*

*The time spent in Gothenburg, Sweden, was unforgettable. We received a lot of new helpful information and learned different aspects of*

*library work in Sweden. It is very difficult to single out the most interesting features of your work. We liked very much the principle of open shelves in all libraries; it is very convenient both for readers and for staff. And besides that, such a principle trains readers to be self-dependent. In this connection we were greatly impressed by the librarians' accounts about "lunch & learn" for staff at Sahlgrenska universitetssjukhuset/Östra and Sahlgrenska universitetssjukhuset/Mölndal. We could imagine this picture quite clear. It is a brilliant idea for a busy hospital staff to be informed by the library while eating.*

*We would like to mention that all five libraries of Sahlgrenska universitetssjukhuset were very comfortable and with a cosy and homelike atmosphere. Our visit to the Biomedical Library of the Göteborg University was also very interesting. Especially we liked the Learning Resource Center for the three year education for nurses. The atmosphere speaks for itself, it is made for a PERSON and every reader could find there his (or her) own comfortable place. The special studio for dyslexic students provoked a kind of emotional shock. Not because of the equipment but by the humane approach to the problems of the individual. The same approach could be seen at the Silent Rooms and the Group Study Rooms. We would like to say that the Electronic catalog of Biomedical Library (we saw its version in English in St Petersburg) is very suitable and besides that is very aesthetic, especially it's scanned part.*

*The whole program was very comprehensive. The acquaintance with different libraries and librarians brought us a lot of food for thoughts. We realize quite well that some time our*

# News from our colleagues

## Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region Continues

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*decisions depend not on our financial opportunities but on our mentality. With kind regards and thanks for your patience,*

*Yours sincerely,  
Natalia Livshits and Elena Ganina"*



Elena Ganina and Natalja Livshits  
with host Eva Alopaeus in Gothenburg

### Study visit to Stockholm

Larisa Zhmykhova, from the Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies (MAPS), and Tamara Monakova, from the Leningrad Regional Scientific Medical Library, stayed with Marie Källberg. They visited the medical library at the Karolinska University Hospital and Danderyd's public library one day, as well as the Karolinska Institute University library and the library at the Stockholm Söder Hospital for a couple of hours each. On the last day the Russian-speaking librarian Natalia Berg at the Karolinska University Hospital

showed them two other libraries and Stockholm.

Having international guests requires planning and an open mind and is a very rewarding experience.

Our experience from our cooperation with the Baltic countries proves that mutual study visits are of great value to all of us involved in a partnership, both on a professional and a personal level. We have learnt that a personal relationship is an important part in developing a good and continuing professional cooperation. It is also important to exchange information about the countries and national cultures of each of the participants.

Report from the study visits will also be published on:

<http://www.norskbibliotekforening.no/site/baltic/>

**Elisabeth Akre,  
Eva Alopaeus,  
Elisabeth Husem,  
Astrid Müller,**

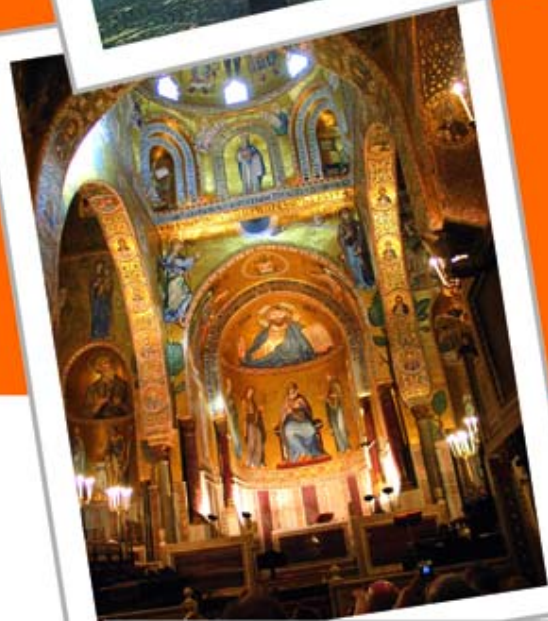
The Norwegian Library Association.  
Section for Medicine and Health. Baltic Sea  
Region Cooperation Committee  
The Nordic Baltic Group for Medical and  
Health Information

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### References:

1. Husem Elisabeth, Alopaeus Eva. Partnerships in the Baltics. Transfer of Knowledge: a Nordic-Baltic-Russian partnership. EAHIL Newsletter 2004; 68: 25-29.
2. <http://www.norskbibliotekforening.no/site/baltic/>

Palermo  
2005





# Cefalù

The trip to Cefalù, the very last item on the agenda of the EAHIL Workshop in Palermo was fantastic!

After our last delicious workshop lunch, 3 buses departed eastward. In my bus we had a marvellous guide, Gino, who told us a lot of interesting things about the villages that we passed by, agriculture, history, the landscape, etc. Some people missed this information while they fell asleep, because of tiredness, heat or the extensive lunch. But everyone was on the spot when the bus made its first stop for a beautiful panoramic view on the coast and Cefalù.

After we finally arrived at this little town, Gino guided the whole group through the narrow streets to the medieval washing place, the old harbour and finally the cathedral. This building from the twelfth century, with its Norman exterior and Byzantine mosaics inside was very impressive. Gino gave us an extensive explanation about the two towers (with many more differences than at first glance), about the family of Roger II (under whose reign the cathedral was built), and about the interior. After this guided tour we could continue the sightseeing in Cefalù. Those who wanted to return by bus had to be back at the parking place at 6 pm.

Knowing that there was a good railway connection to Palermo, some excursionists extended their trip. My small group of 4 persons visited the beach (where some of us took a swim) and enjoyed a good meal with a view on the parading tourists. The train was on time according to its schedule and the return to Palermo in the dark was a good conclusion of a wonderful trip.

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# Reminiscences from the EAHIL Workshop, 2005 Impressions of Palermo...

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## **Impressions of Palermo ...from America**

It was an honor and a pleasure to attend the Palermo Workshop as my first EAHIL meeting. The contributed papers covered the themes of quality systems and evidence-based librarianship well. They provided useful experience, advice, and insight for all medical libraries, whether in Europe, or here in the U.S. I am grateful for the warm welcome of the EAHIL members and especially of our Italian hosts. Palermo's narrow streets crowded with speeding scooters and autos were quite a contrast to the quiet grandeur of the Palazzo dei Normanni, its chapel, courtyard and garden and I appreciated both aspects of the Workshop.

The excursion to Cefalu was particularly memorable. Gino, our knowledgeable "bus number three" guide, described the landmarks from Palermo to Cefalu and put the many peoples who have governed Sicily over the centuries into political, agricultural, gastronomic, and architectural perspective. After Gino led us on foot to the magnificent cathedral and described its history and architecture, we were free to shop, explore and visit the beach. The warm weather made my "gelato limone" very refreshing and there was even time for a drink by the Mediterranean before taking the seaside highway back to Palermo. The town of Cefalu provided a relaxing conclusion to a thought provoking Workshop.

**Joyce Backus**

National Library of Medicine  
backusj@mail.nlm.nih.gov

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## **Impressions of Palermo ...from Australia**

Library and information professionals are well known for their tenacity, perseverance and determination. These attributes were certainly tested by this Australian who travelled by air for over 20 hours, covering more than 16,000 km to get to the epicentre of all things quality in Palermo. As a first time participant at an EAHIL workshop, this effort was duly rewarded.

A truly international experience, the opportunity to meet and learn from peers from Europe, Scandinavia, UK and the USA was enjoyable, inspiring and revitalising. The opportunity to share good and best practices is

critical to ensure that our libraries are seen to be of value and credible partners within our parent institutions. Forums such as the EAHIL workshop ensure that we can remain at the leading of emerging practices that are of benefit to our organisations and more importantly to our profession as a whole. The range of presentations ensured that there was something for everyone. Overall, for me the opportunity to network was a key outcome. The venue was superb; the delegates were friendly and engaging and we were spoiled for choice with food! EAHIL 2005 will go down as a memorable experience.

**Margie Jantti**

University of Wollongong Library, Australia  
www.library.uow.edu.au



# Reminiscences from the EAHIL Workshop, 2005 Impressions of Palermo...

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## **Impressions of Palermo ...from Hungary**

The scientific programme of this year's EAHIL Workshop reflected the need for evaluating our services in order to meet international standards.

We could also express our restless interest in evidence-based librarianship.

Among the new inventions I found most interesting was VIKO (The Development and Implementation of an E-learning Tool for Information Literacy) and the implementation of a modern digital library portal as their webPAC by Henk Cloosterman et al. Arne Jakobsson's presentation on the e-print

repository for the Oslo University attracted numerous comments and questions. Some of the exhibitors managed to come up with interesting new products (e.g. Thieme's e-book library, Elsevier's Scopus).

Palazzo dei Normanni added a special atmosphere to the scientific events of the conference and the organizers managed to make the best of the island's many attractions for the social programmes. Finally Sicily's beautiful capital city with its Mediterranean spices, sights and way of life provided a background for the whole of our stay in Palermo.

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## **Impressions of Palermo ...from Estonia**

I was very grateful for the opportunity to participate in EAHIL workshop in Palermo and attend a course necessary for my future work.

I arrived in Palermo with my colleague two days before the workshop, which gave us time to look around in Palermo. We were greeted by nice sunny weather, but a little unexpected extreme heat for a northerner. We did a little sightseeing in Palermo where we saw beautiful old artifacts, kept until now in good condition. Especially conspicuous was our workshop location - Palazzo dei Normanni.

Before the workshop started, I participated in the course *E-learning. New opportunities for librarians*. Ms. V.Comba gave us an overview about different kinds of virtual learning, especially aspects of e-learning, about project management and communication facilities in e-learning. E-learning platforms were of a great interest to me, but unfortunately because of the lack of an internet connection we were not able to see any working e-learning systems. The course was very informative and understandable.

Over the following two days I took part in the EAHIL workshop scientific program. I was very pleased with the arrangements and organization of the workshop. All the oral presentations and speeches were interesting to listen, specially the presentations from our

# Reminiscences from the EAHIL Workshop, 2005 Impressions of Palermo...

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close neighbors - Lithuania and Poland, as their problems and issues are very similar to ours. The most exciting poster for me was about handhelds as our library is at present trying to explain to physicians the advantages of PDA and its usefulness. The social programme was also very exciting - the Welcome dinner and the Gala Dinner in an amazingly beautiful palace "Palazzo Butera". Unfortunately I could not go on the tour to Cefalu, because my flight was scheduled earlier that day.

The workshop was very useful for me as I acquired new knowledge and skills, which I will definitely pass on to my colleagues. I really enjoyed the time in Palermo workshop where I met a lot of pleasant people with whom I hope to collaborate in the future.

**Marika Rosenthal**

Estonia

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## **Impressions of Palermo ...from Poland**

Palermo with its extreme landscape (high, bare mountains and dry land) surprised me with its unbelievable architecture - a mixture of Roman, Arab, Norman and

Catholic culture, which coexist with one another without any conflict. It was a real pleasure to be able to attend such a scientific event in the beautiful historic interior of the Palazzo dei Normanni.

As a topic for the three-day (June 23-25) Palermo workshop, organizers chose *Implementation of Quality Systems and Certification Of Biomedical Libraries*. On the first day all the participants were greeted by Arne Jakobsson, EAHIL President, Dr. Andrea Antonio Riela, General Manager of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia and Salvatore Fleres, Vice President of the Assemblée Regionale

Siciliana. Next the Workshop theme was introduced by Roswitha Poll in her lecture *Quality and Quality Systems in Libraries* that gave a good general overview on quality in libraries. The first day ended in the Palazzo's gardens at the welcome dinner, which gave us our first impression of the splendid Sicilian food to follow.

The second day was filled with lectures - in the morning presentations concerning *User's needs* and in the afternoon the first part of *Quality of Provided Services*. User's needs were looked into from different points of view; certain techniques about how to learn about user's needs and there was also a broad presentation of user's education topics. After the coffee break we attended the vendors' sessions, all of whom had been generous sponsors of the workshop.

*Quality of Provided Services* was taken into consideration after lunch. It was a natural continuation of the morning session as it touched on the next step of making users

# Reminiscences from the EAHIL Workshop, 2005 Impressions of Palermo...

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content with their library services. Presentations then focused on Evidence Based Librarianship topics and critical appraisal as the heart of EBL. The most interesting for me as a person working in the bibliography department was the presentation of the scientific publication database of the Kaunas University of Medicine, Latvia. Then we had time to observe the posters prepared for the Workshop, from which the majority were presentations of databases and web-based projects. That same evening, participants were invited to the gala dinner at Palazzo Butera - a palace that is an outstanding example of Sicilian architecture, where on the terrace we were able to feel a sea breeze and taste an excellent Sicilian meal with accompanying music.

The last day started with the previous day's topic; lecturers discussed data collecting and performance indicators. After the coffee break we moved to Session three, about building and using international standards and guidelines. At the beginning of the closing ceremony authors of the best presentations and posters were presented with the Luigina Lazzari Awards. Anne Brice's *Fusion or Confusion?: Challenges in Applying Critical Appraisal Methods to the Health Library Literature* won the prize for the best oral presentation while the second was awarded to the authors of the best poster Vittorio Ponzani and Donatella Gentili: *E-Journals Vs Databases? An Evaluation Study on Users' Behavior in a Research Library*. Arne Jakobsson summed up the workshop

and bade farewell to the participants. Though the official part of Workshop ended there were still one more attraction for the participants. After the farewell lunch everyone was taken to Cefalu - a town on the scenic Sicilian coast.

To sum up, the topic of the Workshop was very up-to-date and timely, because libraries have become modern firms, which have to be efficiently managed. All presentations showed that librarians are aware of this and understand the need of quality systems. Tools used in this matter are not necessarily based on librarianship; very often they have arisen from economics, statistics or other areas. This is the reason why Evidence Based Librarianship is such a fast developing movement. Librarians have to be open to new and non-traditional methods of working.

As a debutant in this event I was not prepared for anything I encountered: first of all a large number of enthusiastic librarians was something remarkable; then the high level of prepared oral and poster presentations and the vast range of topics discussed. For me it was a very important experience; it opened my eyes to many library topics I had not known before and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet more experienced librarians from the whole of Europe and further.

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# Reminiscences from the EAHIL Workshop, 2005 Impressions of Palermo...

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## **Impressions of Palermo ...from Lithuania**

The sky without clouds, scorching hot, the sea and the mountains, the large palms and fig trees, wonderful flowering bushes - these are the first unforgettable things which I saw in Palermo. It was so beautiful but so unusual for me, a stranger from northern Europe, where we have no mountains, sun only every few days, and raining often. These senses of enjoyment remained with me throughout my stay in the wonderful city of Palermo.

Other sensations greeted me at the conference location: the excellent facilities, the careful attention, the welcome and pleasing coolness inside the Palazzo dei Normanni - the conference hall where the EAHIL workshop was held. From a professional viewpoint, all the presentations were interesting and informative; all topics covered in the workshop were significant and current. As an information specialist, I was offered great opportunities to advance my professional knowledge. User's needs and the quality of provided services - the essence of my everyday work, and information literacy were all of the highest interest to me. Participation at this event was very useful on account of learning the new trends in modern librarianship, new possibilities and the varied methodology for solving the same problems. It is possible to see only one's own surrounding problems in one's everyday

working place. Every speaker demonstrated their daily work, so, it was very useful to see the problems and their solutions as a whole. This is a very important package of knowledge for my future work.

In Palermo I also met my old colleagues from Baltic and Nordic countries, with whom we have had the experience of a 10 year close collaboration, as well as new colleagues from the various European countries. Even though many of them I saw I was meeting for the first time, everybody was very friendly and helpful. I enjoyed the atmosphere of the workshop and felt very well among my new colleagues. It is very important to feel a part of this large enthusiastic group, to be a member and a true colleague of the international librarian's family. Our colleagues from Italy made everybody welcome. Many thanks to all of you! I spent wonderful days in Palermo.

Finally I am very grateful to the EAHIL President Arne Jakobsson and his colleagues for giving me the possibility to participate in the Palermo workshop. Also, I thank my Norwegian colleagues for their continued support.

**Lina Šaferiene**  
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# Reminiscences from the EAHIL Workshop, 2005 Luigina Lazzari Awards

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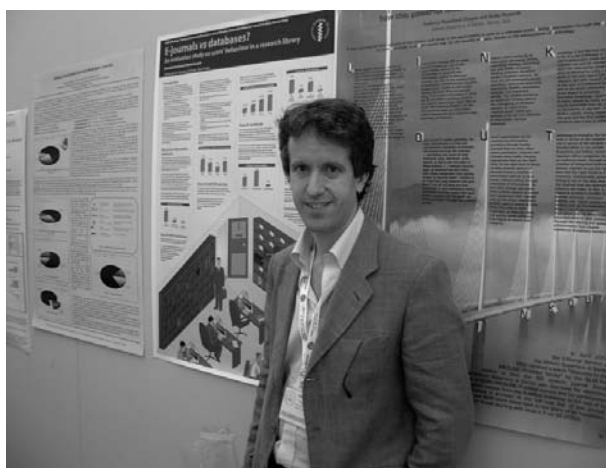
Luigina Lazzari - second from left

The Lombardy Region's Consortium of Health Libraries (SBBL) wishes to keep alive the memory of Luigina Lazzari, who was Head of the library of the Istituto Zooprofilattico in Brescia and played an active role in the creation of SBBL itself, from the beginning. Many of us still remember her smile, her aptitude for listening, her professionalism, her enthusiasm, devotion and zeal.



Anne Brice with her award

Luigina was very interested in the development of new professionals in the field of librarianship and to actively contribute to her initiatives, SBBL decided to award a prize for the best oral communication and the best poster at the Palermo workshop. An International Committee of well-known



Vittorio Ponzani beside his poster

colleagues (L. Cavazza, U. Korwitz, T. McSeán, T. Morcillo, A. Pereira, F. Ribes Cot) coordinated by Idalia Gualdana, representative for SBBL, had a difficult job evaluating all the papers.

During the Closing ceremony Professor F. Clementi, President of SBBL presented the award to Anne Brice for the best oral presentation and to Vittorio Ponzani for the best poster. We congratulate the winners and wish them well.

**Manuela Colombi**  
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# EAHIL Workshop, 2005

## Donatella Gentili, Vittorio Ponzani

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### **E-Journals Vs Databases? An Evaluation Study of Users' Behaviour in A Research Library**

In the last decade remote access to electronic information resources has deeply affected library use, modifying patrons' behaviour in information retrieval. This study provides an evaluation analysis on the use of electronic resources available on the web site of the Library of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS):

- a selected list of OVID bibliographic and full-text databases focused on specific subject areas
- electronic journals available through CASPUR (Consorzio interuniversitario per le applicazioni di supercalcolo per universita e ricerca) the consortium service *Emeroteca Virtuale*, which allows access to a wide collection of journals published by several biomedical publishers.

The evaluation study is based on the 2001-2004 statistical usage data of the CASPUR service and OVID databases compared with the results of a survey, carried out by the ISS Library in 2004, about user's information-seeking behaviour and attitudes. The aim of this study was to assess if and how the e-journals have changed usage patterns of other electronic information resources and to measure the impact of e-journals on the use of the ISS Library.

#### **Electronic information resources**

The ISS Library allows access to the following bibliographic and full-text databases through the OVID platform:

- Drug Information full-text
- Embase
- Evidence Based Medicine reviews (full set)
- Food Science and Technology Abstracts (FSTA)
- YourJournals@Ovid (selected list of titles)
- Medline
- Medline In-Process
- NTIS.

It subscribes to about 4400 electronic journals, about 3000 of which are from multiple publishers (American Chemical Society, Elsevier Science and Kluwer Academic Publisher) through CASPUR. These journals cover different subject areas with special attention to STM and social science fields. The CASPUR platform offers in addition features such as article alert service and remote access.

The survey carried out in 2004 by the ISS Library reveals that bibliographic databases' usage has significantly decreased following the acquisition of online journals.

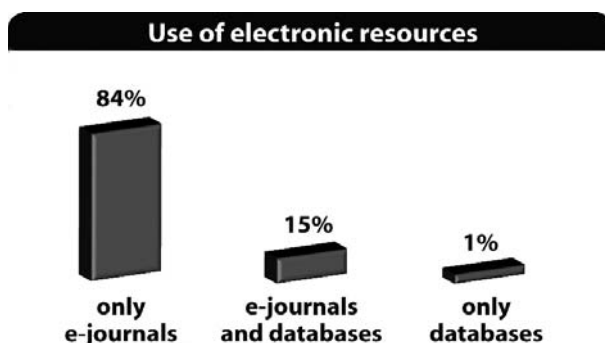


Figure 1 : Use of electronic resources

# EAHIL Workshop, 2005

## E-journals vs. Databases?

### Use of OVID databases

The overall use of OVID databases declined in the period 2001-2003 and this could have been due to the introduction of the CASPUR electronic journals library. Users in fact prefer to use the CASPUR platform, which provides full-text documents, instead of the traditional bibliographic databases. It means that the full search potentialities of CASPUR platform are used by ISS users, but it means also that the bibliographic databases are underutilized, even when databases focused on specific subject areas could guarantee a more effective information retrieval.

On the other hand, since 2004, the use of OVID databases has increased and this reversal may depend on two different factors:

1) the Library's new policy aimed at accessing an increasing number of OVID bibliographic and full-text databases, with some relevant e-journals.

2) the new advanced OVID search features such as:

- Open Link (linking technology which brings the users directly from database citation to a full-text journal article);
- Multifile search (selection and search on more than one database);
- Deduping (removing of duplicates from the resulting search set).

These different aspects have been successful, changing users' behaviour towards a more awareness of OVID databases, even if researchers still prefer the CASPUR platform.

### OVID databases: number of research sessions

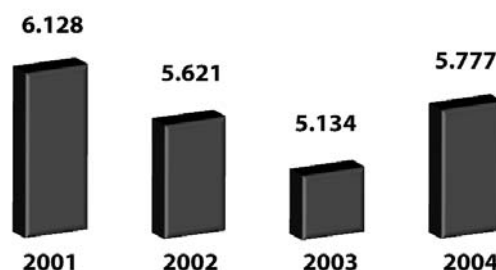


Figure 2: OVID databases: number of research sessions

### Use of the CASPUR service

The steady increase of the CASPUR service is due to the availability of a wide collection of e-journals in STM and social science fields and their added value features. At the same time the usage of print journals has decreased significantly with the introduction of online access, which affected journals available only in print form. Library statistics show that fewer users came to the library as more resources became available online and the users gained access from their desktop.

### CASPUR: number of articles downloaded

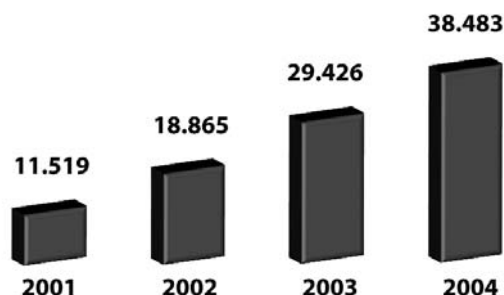


Figure 3: CASPUR: number of articles downloaded

# EAHIL Workshop, 2005

## Donatella Gentili, Vittorio Ponzani

### Search methods

Users seem to prefer the single citation and keyword approach in their searches whether they use OVID bibliographic databases or CASPUR electronic journals, even if more sophisticated tools such as thesauri are available which guarantee a more effective information retrieval. The basic search strategies adopted reveal that users tend to use only what is easily accessible on the Net. As a matter of fact users seem to adopt the same search strategies whether they use an Internet search engine (like Google) or an e-journals platform (like CASPUR) or a specific databases platform (like OVID).

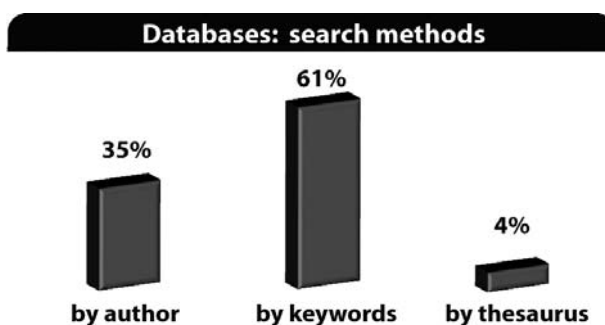


Figure 4: Databases: search methods

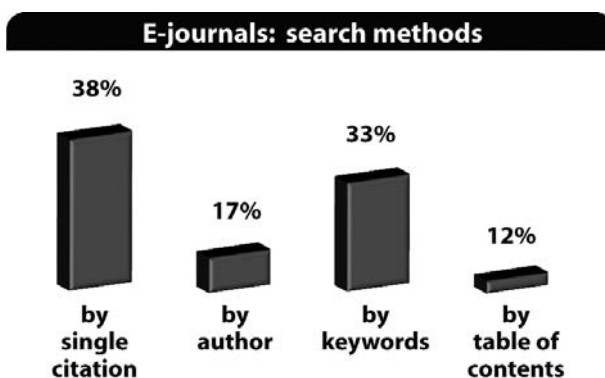


Figure 5: E-journals: search methods

### Medline/Pubmed vs Medline/OVID

A users' behaviour analysis revealed that they prefer resources that guarantee full-text access

such as CASPUR, instead of specific disciplinary bibliographic databases that guarantee more effective results with advanced search strategies. The survey has also shown that ISS users prefer Pubmed, the freely available interface to Medline by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) located at the U.S. National Library of Medicine, instead of OVID Medline. Pubmed is popular probably because of its natural language search capabilities and its user friendly interface, while OVID Medline offers a more complex search interface. Patrons use Pubmed because they prefer Internet resources that provide fast and easy access to information through simple interface (e.g. Google). They tend to adopt a relatively unsophisticated approach to searching.

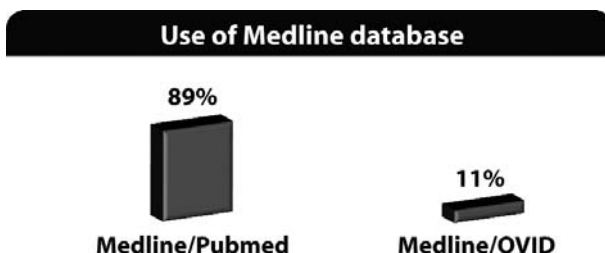


Figure 6 : Use of the Medline database

### Conclusions

In this context disciplinary databases appear to be underutilized by users even if they cost a great deal for the Library. Consequently it is important to assess if more resources should be spent in user training in order to assist the adequate use of more sophisticated research tools.

**Donatella Gentili and Vittorio Ponzani**

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europe@ovid.com

# News from our colleagues

Velta Poznaka

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## Update on Latvia Medical Libraries

There are 3 medical libraries in Latvia: the Medical Library of Latvia, which serves physicians, nurses, students while Riga Stradins University and

State University of Latvia both have Medical faculties and their users comprise students and academic staff of these universities. According to statistical data there were 6 libraries of medical colleges or schools (under Ministry of Education) and 15 hospital libraries in Latvia at the beginning of the year 2005. Last year 5 hospital libraries were closed. 4 hospital libraries have only 1 computer each and only 3 of them have Internet connection.

The Latvian National Library Project is one of the most ambitious and spectacular modern library projects in Europe, if not the world. The project encompasses a new multifunctional information centre in Riga (The Castle of Light) and a national on-line library information network (**Lightnet**) which electronically links all of Latvia's municipal libraries with the new central library and academic libraries. The Saeima (Parliament of Latvia) has passed a Law on the Realisation of the National Library of Latvia Project. The Latvian Government is itself committed to raising the estimated \$130 million required to construct the new library building and create the Lightnet.

Latvia and Estonia collaborated in a joint Ovid journals subscription. The Medical

Library of Latvia is still a sister library to the Coastal Area Health Education Center Health Sciences Library in USA. A consortium of libraries exists in Latvia which includes 3 medical libraries. It is maintained by a state agency under the Ministry of Culture. Computer delivery, managing of informative systems as well a project of subscription of electronic publications are maintained by this state agency. There is no separate network for medical libraries. Now the Medical Library of Latvia has to activate the work of these libraries.

There are two main information systems in Latvia, based on ALEPH (Israel) and ALISE (Latvia). Eight ALEPH libraries are working on one server. Union catalogues are made in different parts of Latvia based on ALISE.

Due to changes in legislation independent libraries have to be changed to state agencies. Last year this process begun. The first library which was changed was the Medical Research Library of Latvia, now renamed the Medical Library of Latvia.

Last year registration of all libraries began: this is the first step leading to the accreditation process which was initiated at the end of last year. All libraries must be accredited: as a result a library will become a state library, a main regional library or a local library. To date 3 libraries have been accredited, one of them the Medical Library of Latvia being named a state library.

**Velta Poznaka**  
vpoznaka@mzb.lv

# News from our colleagues

## Visit to Sierra Leone

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Sierra Leone, currently one of the poorest countries in the world, is still recovering from a civil war which destroyed 70% of the infrastructure. As a result electricity and water supplies are only available

for a couple of hours a day even in the capital, Freetown. Transport, connectivity and health facilities throughout the country have been devastated by the destruction of people's lives and property.

In February 2005 I visited Sierra Leone to evaluate the achievements of the library partnership between the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), University of Sierra Leone and the University of Cardiff Library Services\*, and to discuss with them how they needed to go forward.

Personnel in the state services, which includes University and Health Service staff, are poorly paid in comparison with private practice and salaries in developed countries. Working in rural areas, where even the basic facilities are non-existent, is deeply unpopular; so of the 70 graduates from COMAHS last year only 17 have remained in the country. If one assumes that the opportunity for professional development within Sierra Leone might be a factor (albeit a small one) in retaining the services of newly qualified graduates (not only in medicine but in nursing and the paramedical professions) then the development and

accessibility of library services is of paramount importance to the health of the people of Sierra Leone. These, under present circumstances, are best provided by the librarians at COMAHS, which is the only reasonably well-resourced health science library in the country.

The teaching facilities of the COMAHS are somewhat scattered. The main Library is close to the lecture rooms for the Pre-Medical students and on a hill some distance away from other teaching facilities in the rest of Freetown, where the nearest library would have been at the Connaught Teaching Hospital (at the time of my visit the whole hospital was closed for refurbishment). A new campus is being built at Kossoh Town (some miles from Freetown). This extensive site currently houses only student hostels and teaching laboratories, but a library and a teaching hospital are planned. A temporary library and internet facilities may be set up in one of the hostels, if finances allow.

The library stock in the main library is reasonable, but wholly reliant on donations from Book Aid International, the University of Wales/Cardiff College of Medicine and others (Elsevier in the near future), though more-up-to date student texts would be desirable.

Several of the top American journals are sent in batches by the National Organization of Sierra Leone Students in America. Though not absolutely up to date and sometimes with issues missing, they provide coverage of recent advances in "western" medicine and research

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\* Initiated and supported by Partnerships in Health Information (Phi) with the University of Wales College of Medicine Library (now a branch of the University of Cardiff Library Services). Funding for the partnership was obtained from the U.K. Department of International Development through the Higher Education Link Programme - a three year project which ended in March 2005.

# News from our colleagues

Jean G. Shaw

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on important topics, though these may not always be relevant to the situation in Sierra Leone.

The partnership between Wales and Sierra Leone has provided training in evidence-based health care and information retrieval not only to the library staff, five of whom visited Wales for this purpose, but to members of the Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association during the visits of Mr. Steve Pritchard, and Dr. Alison Weightman from Cardiff.

## *Major problems*

The temporary closure of the library at the Connaught Hospital and problems regarding official sanction for the decommissioning of books and equipment have created enormous space problems, since none of the existing library facilities is very large. Every spare corner in the main COMAHS library is filled with boxes of books and out-of-date equipment.

The central catalogue is in disarray, since the library can no longer type catalogue cards. With library and information facilities currently required at four sites a computerized catalogue, leading to full a fully automated library system, would be an immense advantage to staff and students. This is a problem for the whole University and one on which they are gathering data and advice. The question is "how long will this take?" and should one look at an interim solution - one that can be converted to the system eventually chosen.

A generator now provides electricity for the main COMAHS library for a good part of the day, but it can go off unexpectedly. However, our repeated attempts to access an article from *The Lancet* were unsuccessful, because the dial-up telephone service was so slow. It disconnected us so many times that the HINARI\* username and password were lost in the hour long process; hence we received the message to the effect that the username and password were "invalid". HINARI, *African Journals On Line*, images and teaching aids may be accessed free of charge by low-income countries. But reasonable access to the internet is essential. The wealth of information that the HINARI initiative represents is as good as that accessible to many libraries in developed countries! But there are two problems:

- Publications emanating from the developed world (most of those in HINARI) tend to deal primarily with the diseases of developed nations; MEDLINE also reflects this bias. The abstracts service *Global Health*, that covers research in developing countries more comprehensively than MEDLINE, is subscription based - \$600 per annum, the reduced rate for developing countries - financing this has so far proved impossible.
- The time, expense and frustrations of access through the dial-up system.

There are wireless-based internet provider services other than the dial-up service. The national telephone service, was affected by

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\* The Health Information Network Access to Research Initiative provides the electronic version of journals of nearly 3000 major health journals free of charge to low income countries.

# News from our colleagues

## Visit to Sierra Leone

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wartime destruction, but other providers are more expensive. The University, which gets almost all of its funding from the government, is unable to finance much more than staff salaries (even these are paid late). And it must be remembered that most of the computers are donated - when the donating institution is upgrading its own computers. They therefore have a shorter life and are expensive to repair and maintain.

The University of Sierra Leone is looking at a variety of connectivity options for the future. One of these is a wireless option that could provide widespread coverage and link with the new Njala University situated near the second city of Bo, but though the capital investment from a donor may be possible, running costs including the generation of electricity, are likely to depend on an economic upturn.

### *Looking forward - positively!*

Africa has much to offer - both in established and the best of traditional medicine. The *Sierra Leone Medical Journal* is about to recommence publication and the properties of medicinal plants\* found in Sierra Leone are being investigated in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. It is therefore important that research and contributions to health care from developing countries are documented. Contributing to *African Index Medicus*, which is once again being supported by WHO AFRO, is an important library function, which has been faithfully carried out by COMAHS library staff over a number of years. Currently a part of the Sierra Leone database is on a back-up CD-ROM, whilst the

rest is on paper, since at the time of my visit they no longer had the programme - CDS-ISIS (or until recently a working computer) to mount the database properly and make it searchable. (This Phi has been able to rectify.) Publications from a number of institutions are collected and documented, including those of the Sierra Leone Ministries of Health and Sanitation, and Social Services.

The staff prepare *Topical files* - newspaper cuttings arranged by subject on various aspects relating to health. In the past they proved very popular with students, but were discontinued due to the cost of newspapers, photocopying and paper; an effort to restart them has now been made.

The partnership has been able to deliver training not only to library staff, but to health personnel. The training provided to library staff enables them to create *Health Bulletins* modelled on the *Health Evidence Bulletins*\*\* produced in Cardiff - provided internet access and a photocopier were made available. Small sums of money from Phi and donations of computers and UPS from their partner, the British Council and other donors, have enabled library staff to make as much progress as possible in using the training they have received. So the ground has been prepared. All that is needed is the equipment to reap the benefits - and finding a donor must be Phi's priority.

Despite the unreliability (indeed absence sometimes) of the postal services delivering outreach services from internet resources to

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\* Turay BMS. Medicinal plants of Sierra Leone: a compendium. Edmonton: University of Alberta, 1997.

\*\* <http://hebw.uwcm.ac.uk>

# News from our colleagues

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upcountry professional health practitioners and to the community would be possible through library organizations such as the local Chapter of the Association of Health Information and Libraries in Africa and the Sierra Leone Association of Archivists, Librarians and Information Specialists. These are, perhaps, two of the strongest assets of the health information system in Sierra Leone - a human network, which reaches out not only to those in Freetown but has links to rural areas, where the

need for health information is so important and so scarce. It is a tribute to the people I met and who have lived through terrible times that they are so determined to better the future of their nation.

**Jean G. Shaw**

Partnerships in Health Information  
registered charity in U.K. no. 1031674  
jgshaw@supanet.com

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## List of Users without an Email Address in the EAHIL Webdatabase

Mr. Dhimitraq Stratoberdha (Albania)	Mrs. Danute Kazlaus Kiene (Lithuania)
Mrs. Anna Shirinian (Armenia)	Mr. Jean-Claude Muller (Luxembourg)
Mrs. Nailia Hasanova (Azerbaijan)	Mrs. Lenka Danevska (Macedonia)
Mrs. Eugenia Gorelova (Belarus)	Mrs. Brito (Portugal)
Mrs. Katrien Alewaeters (Belgium)	Mrs. Maria Manuela de Pina da Silva (Portugal)
Mr. Gilbert Roelants (Belgium)	Mrs. Irma Eva Csiki (Romania)
Mr. Arif Smajkic (Bosnia-Herzegovina)	Mrs. Eva Hulinova (Slovak Republic)
Mr. Andreas Savva (Cyprus)	Mrs. Elisabet Dohnfors (Sweden)
Mrs. Alena Drdulova (Czech Republic)	Mrs. Leena Persson (Sweden)
Mr. Jarka Vesela (Czech Republic)	Mrs. Emmanuelle Kuntschen (Switzerland)
Mrs. Dana Zdenkova (Czech Republic)	Mrs. Natascha Largo Robertini (Switzerland)
Mr. Margus Vaher (Estonia)	Mr. Rudolf Voegeli (Switzerland)
Mrs. Arlette Pailley-Katz (France)	Mrs. Judith Cianci (Switzerland)
Mr. Pinta (France)	Mrs. Nazira Poulatovna Artykova (Tajikistan)
Mrs. Daniele Struber (France)	Ms. Michelle RusbRidge (Netherlands)
Mr. Tinatin Kacharava (Georgia)	Mr. Sunday Uner (Turkey)
Mr/Mrs. Kyriaki Apaki (Greece)	Mr. Anatoly Uvarenko (Ukraine)
Mrs. Zsuzsanna Szekeres (Hungary)	Mr. Kimber (United Kingdom)
Mrs. Luisa Lazzaretti (Italy)	Mr. Bill Cohen (USA)
Mr. Maratbek Bozgunchiev (Kyrgyzstan)	Mrs. Faina Bolkunova (Uzbekistan)

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Please contact the EAHIL Supervisor ([s.bakker@nki.nl](mailto:s.bakker@nki.nl)) or the Council member from your country in order to update your record in the webdatabase!

# News from Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA

## The 10<sup>th</sup> EAHIL Conference, 2006

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### The 10<sup>th</sup> EAHIL Conference Themes

**The members of the International Programme Committee met in  
Palermo on 23 June 2005  
to establish the following Conference Themes for the  
Cluj Conference:**

#### **1. Access to health science publications:**

Open access

- Where are we? Benefits, drawbacks, projects, trends, the future of OA
- The role of librarians in promoting and managing OA

Repositories for institutional publications

Current projects and models for improving access

- Projects for developing countries (e.g. HINARI)
- Partnerships and "sister-library" projects

New tools for libraries: Scopus, Scirus, Google Scholar, Google print

Access to e-journals

- Purchasing models: what to choose? Pay per view? Consortium?

#### **2. Information policy:**

- What type of library for what type of services? Patients, students, health professionals, others. How wide should we open our doors? For free or for a fee?
- Organization of libraries: space, "new agora", "new buildings", "new needs", "new facilities", how far should we go to become virtual.

# News from Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA

## The 10<sup>th</sup> EAHIL Conference, 2006

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### 3. Our profession:

- Accreditation & Quality Management
- Continuing Professional Development  
Mentoring
- State of the health librarianship profession in various countries

### 4. User education:

- Methods: web-based teaching/learning packages, e-learning
- Integration into the school curriculum
- Measuring learning outcomes

### 5. Library informatics:

- Metadata, structure of information, knowledge management, the semantic web.

### 6. History of medicine, of medical libraries

### 7. Patient/Consumer Information



Cluj-Napoca



## Call for Papers

The *abstract submission form* as well as the guidelines for the submission of abstracts will be on-line and active, beginning **1 September 2005**. The abstracts will be submitted online, both for oral and poster presentations, and will be evaluated for acceptance by the members of the International Programme Committee. Please refer to the conference site:

**[http://www.eahilconfcluj.ro/call\\_for\\_papers.html](http://www.eahilconfcluj.ro/call_for_papers.html)**

### Important dates

1. Deadline for abstracts submission: **15 January 2006**
2. IPC meeting to discuss submitted papers:  
**end of February, beginning of March 2006**
3. Deadline for sending confirmations of paper acceptance to the authors: **15 March 2006**
4. Deadline for receiving confirmation of participation from authors:  
**15 April 2006**
5. Deadline for submission of full text of papers: **31 July 2006**

# Internet Page

Benoit Thirion

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The PubMed subsets ([http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/pubmed\\_subsets.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/pubmed_subsets.html)) are far from covering all the medical specialties. In a brief series, the Internet Page of JEAHIL will attempt to compensate for this deficiency by indicating MeSH terms as well as journals and major web sites concerning the different medical specialties.

## 1. The MeSH terms (unique or "parent" headings):

*hemodialysis units, hospital*  
*hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome*  
*kidney*  
*kidney, artificial*  
*kidney diseases*  
*kidney function tests*  
*nephrectomy*  
*nephrology*  
*nephrostomy, percutaneous*  
*renal agents*  
*renal artery*  
*renal circulation*  
*renal replacement therapy*  
*renal veins*

These terms may be used to create a strategy in PubMed with the help of MyNCBI (<http://myncbi.nlm.nih.gov>), such as:

hemodialysis units, hospital OR hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome OR kidney OR kidney, artificial OR kidney diseases OR kidney function tests OR nephrectomy OR nephrology OR nephrostomy, percutaneous OR renal agents OR renal artery OR renal circulation OR renal replacement therapy OR renal veins

or go to URL: <http://nephrology-in-PubMed.nlm.nih.gov>

## 2. The journals:

The list of journals indexed in PubMed concerning the domain of nephrology may be retrieved by the following syntax applied to the Journal Database:

renal \* OR nephr\* OR kidney\* OR dialys\* or URL: <http://nephro-journals.nlm.nih.gov>

# Internet Page

## Nephrology: MeSH Terms, Journals & Directories. Hints & Tips

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Displaying the full record allows the check of the journal status, especially if the journal is current or not:

*Advances in chronic kidney disease.*  
*pISSN: 1548-5595*  
*eISSN: 1548-5609*  
*MEDLINE Abbr: Adv Chronic Kidney Dis*  
*Publication Start Year: 2004*  
*Publisher: W.B. Saunders,*  
*Language: eng*  
*Country: United States*  
*NLM ID: 101209214*

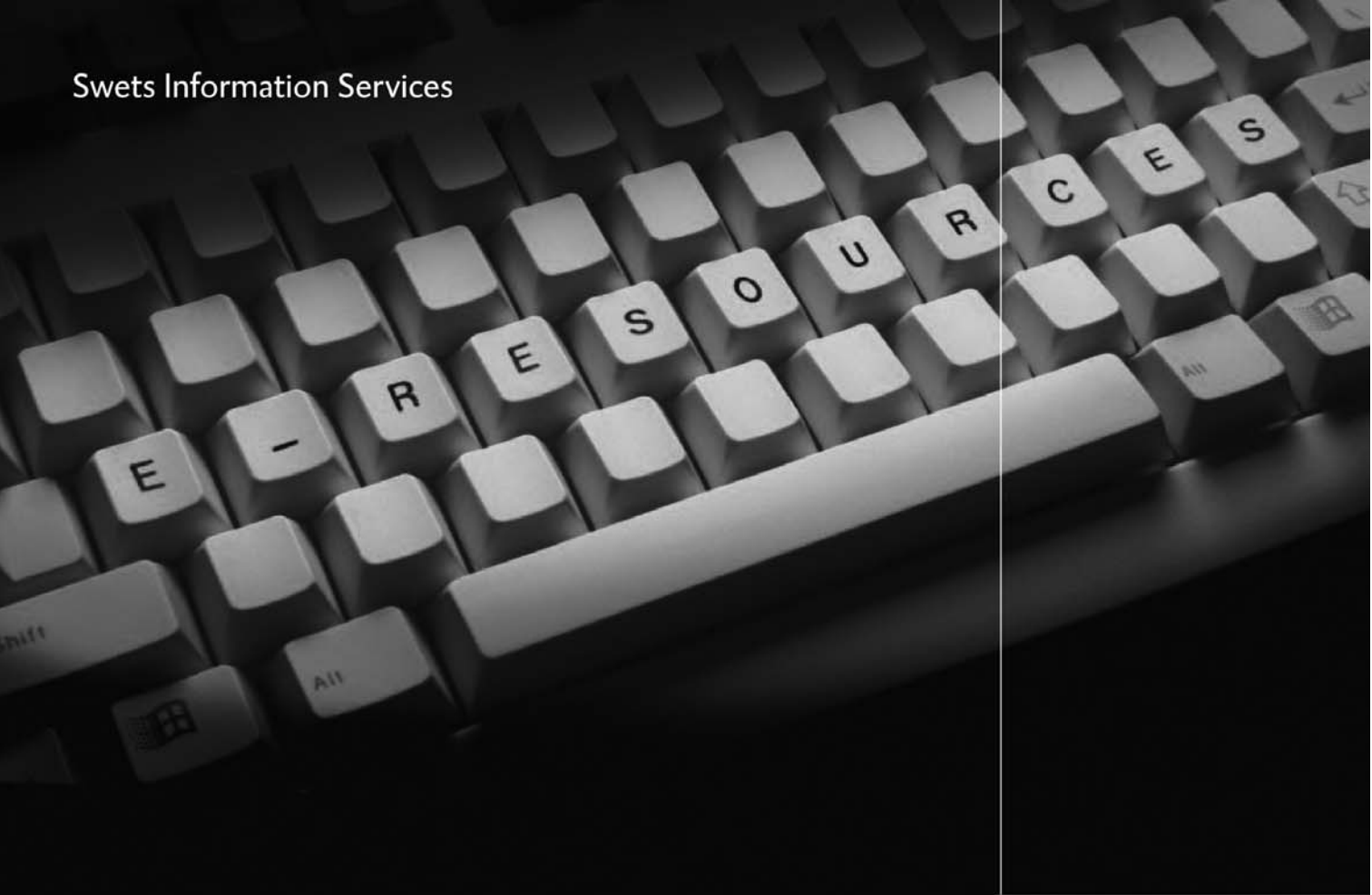
The current journal titles may also constitute a search profile in MyNCBI (<http://myncbi.nlm.nih.gov>), which may be added to the previous one by using the syntax: "Adv Chronic Kidney Dis"[Journal] OR "Adv Ren Replace Ther"[Journal], etc ...

### To know more about Nephrology on the Internet:

1. Diseases, Disorders and Related Topics (SE): Kidney diseases  
(<http://www.mic.ki.se/Diseases/C12.777.419>)
2. Hardin MD (US): Kidney Diseases  
(<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/md/nephrol.html>)
3. National Guideline Clearinghouse (US): Kidney Diseases  
(<http://www.guideline.gov/browse/browsemode.aspx?node=14661&type=1&view=all>)
4. MedlinePlus (US): Kidneys and Urinary System Topics  
(<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/kidneysandurinarysystem.html>)
5. Omni (UK): Kidney diseases  
(<http://omni.ac.uk/browse/mesh/D007674.html>)

An HTML version of this page is available at the URL: [http://www.chu-rouen.fr/documed/eahil\\_nephrology.html](http://www.chu-rouen.fr/documed/eahil_nephrology.html)

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# Publications and New Products

## Publications and New Products

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### PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

Dear Colleagues,

Good news on Open Access initiative and accessibility of scientific articles, but bad news on life-science databases. European research organizations, i.e. institutes and funding agencies, are starting to build and connect institutional and even nationwide public archives (**G. Vogel and M. Enserink. *Science*, 2005, 308, 623**).

For recent articles, the probability that an article could be found online at a non journal website correlated with the journal impact factor: the higher the impact factor of the publishing journal, the more likely it is that the article can be found online at a non-journal website (**J.D. Wren. *BMJ*, 2005, 330, 1128**).

Driven by easy Internet access life-science databases have proliferated over the past decade, but now, due to a lack of stable funding, biology's core databases are in crisis (**Z. Merali and J. Giles. *Nature*, 2005, 435, 1010**).

**Giovanna F. Miranda**  
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### JOURNAL ISSUES

Since the Newsletter of May 2005, the following journal issues of Health Information and Libraries Journal have been received: Vol. 22, 2005, n. 2.

B. Toth, J.A.M. Gray and A. Brice. The number needed to read - a new measure of journal value. **p. 81**.

**Guest Editorial.**

A. Wales. Managing knowledge to support the patient journey in NHS Scotland: strategic vision and practical reality. **p. 83 - 95**.

**This article outlines the principles and priorities underpinning the first strategy for development of knowledge services to support the National Health Service in Scotland.**

H. Korjonen-Close. The information needs and behaviour of clinical researchers: a user-needs analysis. **p. 96 - 106**.

**The aim of this paper is to assess information needs and gaps in knowledge and resources of the professionals who are members of the Institute of Clinical Research in UK to ensure the right strategy is applied when setting up the information services.**

J. Cooper and C. Urquhart. The information needs and information-seeking behaviours of home-care workers and clients receiving home care. **p. 107 - 116**.

**The main objective of this paper is to study information needs of home-care staff and their clients, in one urban setting and discuss the research findings relevant to health information and library services.**

S. Rockliff, M. Peterson, K. Martin and D. Curtis. Chasing the Sun: a virtual reference service between SAHSLC (SA) and SWICE (UK). **p. 117 - 123**.

**This paper describes a trial project named *Chasing the Sun*: a service that will make**

# Publications and New Products

Giovanna F. Miranda

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**use of time-zone differences between the UK and Australia, so that librarians at work in another country will be able to answer urgent patient-related queries that cannot wait until normal office hours.**

E. Lappa. Undertaking an information-needs analysis of the emergency-care physician to inform the role of the clinical librarian: a Greek perspective. p. 124 - 132.

**The primary focus of this pilot study is to gain a better understanding of the information needs of emergency-care clinicians. The secondary focus is to compare the traditional current practice of information provisions within other emergency departments in Greek hospitals, with the new model of clinical librarianship.**

A. Thain and A. Wales. Information needs of specialist healthcare professionals: a preliminary study based on the West of Scotland Colorectal Cancer Managed Clinical Network. p. 133 - 142.

**This study is focused on a single subject, with the aim to provide evidence for the provision of specialist, tailored information in a defined subject area in a cross-boundary context.**

Brief communications p. 143.

## NEW JOURNALS

**BMC Veterinary Research** an Open Access peer-reviewed journal launched by BioMed Central covering all area of veterinary science and medicine.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com>

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A Guide to Developing End User Education Programs in Medical Libraries.** Ed. E. Connor. The Haworth Information Press and The Haworth Medical Press, Binghamton, N.Y. USA 2005. \$24.95 soft, ISBN 0-7890-1725-3; \$39.95 hard, ISBN 0-7890-1724-5; pp. 244. This book describes a set of education programs developed in medical libraries. Eighteen case studies of more than fifteen private and public institutions in the USA and the Caribbean are presented.

**Research, Reference Service, and Resources for the Study of Africa.** Eds. D.M. LaFond and G. Walsh. The Haworth Information Press, Binghamton, N.Y. USA 2005. \$29.95 soft, ISBN 0-7890-2509-4; \$39.95 hard, ISBN 0-7890-2508-6; pp. 299. The book offers all information on the study of Africa and present practical solutions to frequently occurring problems including Internet accessibility problems. It has been co-published simultaneously as *The Reference Librarian*, Number 87/88, 2004.

## PAPERS REVIEW

**Europe steps into the Open with plans for Electronic Archives.**

G. Vogel and M. Enserink. *Science*, 2005, 308, 623.

**New era of public access to federally funded trials begins.**

J. Lenzer. *BMJ*, 2005, 330, 988.

**Open Access and openly accessible: a study of scientific publications shared via the Internet.**

J.D. Wren. *BMJ*, 2005, 330, 1128.

# Publications and New Products

## Publications and New Products

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### **Databases in peril.**

Z. Merali and J. Giles. *Nature*, 2005,435, 1010.

### **Google Scholar: the pros and the cons.**

P. Jacso. *Online Information Review*, 2005, 29, 208.

### **Clients, agences, éditeurs, comment gérer ensemble les abonnements aux périodiques.**

Vade-mecum élaboré par ADBS, ADBU, FNPS, GFII et S.N.I.E.L.. Juin 2005.

[http://www.gfii.asso.fr/documents/vademecum\\_abonnement.pdf](http://www.gfii.asso.fr/documents/vademecum_abonnement.pdf)

### **INFORMATION SOURCES... WEB BASED**

**The European Library Portal.** The European Library web service is a portal that offers access to the combined resources (books, magazines, journals.... - both digital and non-digital) of the 43 national libraries of Europe. It offers free searching and delivers digital objects - some free, some priced. The European Library has been launched as a Beta or Pilot version.

<http://portal.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/index.htm>

**Copyright and culture** is a new website with the objective of contributing to the knowledge of the copyright in libraries, museums and archives, public administration and companies, to the correct management of the material protected by law. The different subjects covered are: Copyright, Privacy, Cultural Heritage, European projects, The Open Access, News and lobbies.

<http://www.copyrightandculture.com>

**LPSN.** Compiled by microbiologist J. P. Euzéby of the École Nationale Vétérinaire in Toulouse, France, the List of Prokaryotic Names with Standing in Nomenclature includes, alphabetically and chronologically, the nomenclature of bacteria and the nomenclatural changes as cited in the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names or validly published in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology* or in the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology*. Access is free of charge.

<http://www.bacterio.cict.fr/>

### **NEWS FROM PUBLISHERS**

**The Association of American Publishers** has asked Google to stop scanning copyrighted books published by the association's members for at least six months while the company answers questions about whether its plan to scan millions of volumes in five major research libraries complies with copyright law. <http://chronicle.com/free/2005/06/2005062101t.htm>

**Oxford Journals**, a division of Oxford University Press, has announced its latest Open Access project, *Oxford Open*. Commencing July 2005, it will offer an optional author-pays model to authors of accepted papers in a range of Oxford Journals titles. Oxford Journals has also amended its post-prints policy to be compliant with the latest National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy. Both of these announcements further support Oxford Journals' central remit, as a leading not-for-profit publisher, to bring the highest quality research to the widest possible audience.

<http://www.oxfordjournals.org/jnls/press/2005/05/04/index.html>

# Publications and New Products

Giovanna F. Miranda

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**Blackwell Publishing** recognize the importance of the Open Access debate for scholarly communications and its aim to deliver access to academic research to all those who seek it. Blackwell publishing now allows the author to retain the copyright of their article while granting Blackwell exclusive right to publish it. The authors after the embargo period stipulated by the journal has been passed (e.g. 6 months or 12 months) may self-archive their final version of the article on personal website or institutional repositories, while providing a link to the definitive published version for users to refer to:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/static/selfarchive.asp>

**Ovid** and **Elsevier** announce exclusive partnership to offer **EMBiology**, a new resource option for bioscience research. The database EMBiology contains more than four million bibliographic records dating back to 1980 and provides the most up-to-date biological research covering biochemistry, microbiology and molecular biology, genetics and biotechnology, etc.

[http://www.ovid.com/site/about/press\\_release20050606.jsp?top=42&mid=52](http://www.ovid.com/site/about/press_release20050606.jsp?top=42&mid=52)

**EBSCO**. Articles from more than 100 open access journals available from BioMed Central are now available via **EBSCOhost** @ **Electronic Journals Service** (EJS). Access to this content - more than 8,700 articles from over 100 journals - is available to customers who sign up for the BioMed Central package on EJS.

[http://www.ebsco.com/home/whatsnew/bio\\_host.asp](http://www.ebsco.com/home/whatsnew/bio_host.asp)

**Natural Standard** is an international research collaboration that aggregates and synthesizes data on complementary and alternative therapies. Natural Standard Research Collaboration contributes to multiple evidence-based books, newsletters, journals and special reports. Natural Standard regularly monitors scientific literature and industry warnings. Regular updates with renewed searches occur every 3-18 months, variable by topic, but when clinically relevant new data emerge, the content is updated immediately.

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



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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**11 - 13 August 2005, Oslo, Norway**  
IFLA Continuing Professional Development  
Conference  
For further information: <http://www.ifla.org>

**18 - 23 September 2005, Vienna, Austria**  
**9th European Conference on Research and  
Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries**  
For further information:  
<http://www.ecdl2005.org>

**20 - 23 September, 2005, Salvador, Bahia,  
Brazil**  
**9th World Congress on Health Information  
and Libraries**  
**Commitment to equity in health**  
**ICML 9 / CRICS 7**  
For further information:  
<http://www.icml9.org/?lang=en>

**29 - 30 September 2005, Bath, UK**  
**DCC Conference 2005**  
**1<sup>st</sup> International Digital Curation  
Conference**  
For further information:  
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