EAHIL Council Election - Candidate Statement	
Country	Belgium
Name	Thomas Vandendriessche
Affiliation	KU Leuven Libraries – 2Bergen
My professional education and experience	2005: Master in Biology (KU Leuven) 2011: PhD Pharmaceutical Sciences (KU Leuven) 2012: PhD Bioscience Engineering (KU Leuven) 2013-2016: Postdoctoral researcher at KU Leuven and researcher at different companies 2016-2019: biomedical reference librarian at KU Leuven Libraries – 2Bergen (teaching information literacy, assistance with systematic reviews, OA expert, data expert (Research Data Management) Biomedical Sciences Group) 2019- 2024: Domain Manager Research Support at KU Leuven Libraries – 2Bergen. Leading a team of 7 information specialists supporting researchers of the Biomedical Sciences Group and Science, Engineering & Technology in Research Data Management, Open Access, Open Science and Information Retrieval (Systematic Searching). 2024 – present: Domain Manager Research Support (see above) and Domain Manager Educational Support at KU Leuven Libraries – 2Bergen. Leading an additional team of 5 information specialists supporting students in information literacy (information retrieval, information management and information evaluation), supporting lecturers in Open Educational Resources and supporting library personnel in new educational technologies and formats. In addition we are responsible for the book collection at the library.
What I think is special about EAHIL	EAHIL is a nice network of health information professionals that offers valuable opportunities for sharing experiences, addressing work-related challenges, and providing mutual support. This collaborative environment fosters the exchange of knowledge and encourages professional growth among its members.
What I expect to contribute to EAHIL Council	I am excited to run for a second term, building on my first term (2018-2022), which was heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a researcher and biomedical reference librarian, I am passionate about sharing my knowledge on systematic reviews and information literacy. In 2018, I co-founded the SIG on Evidence-based Information and have been co-chair with Jane Falconer since 2019. Through this SIG, we have led several successful projects that resulted in valuable publications. I believe these experiences could be beneficial to the EAHIL Council. In addition, I would like to strive to expand the EAHIL domains of interest by including Research Data Management, Fair Open Access, … . The past 5 years I gained a lot of experience in leading different (library) teams and managing different (library) domains. I would like to share

	these experiences with my fellow EAHIL colleagues. Finally, since the COVID pandemic, the health libraries in Belgium lost the collaborations and connections they once had before. I would like to bring the different Belgian biomedical libraries together again and be their voice in the EAHIL Council.
What I think are the most important issues for European health information professionals in 2025-2028	The most important issues for European health information specialists in 2025-2028 according to me are: - **Artificial Intelligence:** First of all the impact on and integration of AI in our profession. AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Elicit, and Consensus, are increasingly becoming a part of the information landscape, transforming how we conduct literature searches, manage data, and support research. It is crucial for us to understand these technological advancements and their implications for our work. Secondly, it is essential to guide students and researchers in the effective and critical use of AI tools. We must teach them not only how to utilize these tools efficiently but also to critically evaluate their outputs. This involves highlighting both the advantages and the limitations. As reference librarians, we must actively demonstrate how AI can be integrated into literature searching and other research processes, while also ensuring that users are aware of potential pitfalls. - **Research Data Management/Open Science:** Effective management and sharing of research data will be crucial as the emphasis on open science and reproducibility grows. As librarians it is our responsibility to support researchers in managing, storing and sharing their data in compliant and efficient ways. Additionally, we should explore how to efficiently share our own data, such as search strategies, with our peers. - **Open Access/Transformative Agreements:** Transformative agreements, which are designed to shift the publishing model from subscription-based access to open access, present both significant opportunities and challenges for health information professionals. Especially the management and considerations of these challenges should be discussed among librarians. After all, we will play a pivotal role in navigating these upcoming changes. - **Information retrieval:** The field of systematic searching needs ongoing attention to ensure that reporting adheres to the established guidelines. In addition, reference librarians play a crucial role in developing and reviewing strategies, which is essential for producing high-quality systematic reviews. However, this important aspect is often overlooked. - **Data retrieval:** Whereas, within the concept of open science, researchers are encouraged to share their data in an open way, less attention has been given to how to find and reuse this data. I believe, it is our role as data experts, to investigate data retrieval further and support researchers in this new emerging field. - **Professional Development and Training:** As the field evolves rapidly,

	ongoing professional development and training will be necessary to keep up with new technologies, methodologies, and best practices.
My one-line statement for my election campaign	"Bridging gaps, building networks, and fostering knowledge."
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