EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES
HOW TO BE A MEDICAL LIBRARIAN IN A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

Maurella Della Seta
EAHIL President
Italian National Institute of Health
About EAHIL

• Born in 1987 – 30° anniversary last year
• Website www.eahil.eu
• The Association counts about 1700 members from about 30 European countries plus other countries for a total of more than 60 countries
• Yearly meeting in the form of a workshop or a conference
• 7 Subgroups: Veterinary; MeSH, Public Health, CAM, Pharmaceutical + two new Subgroups Evaluation and Altmetrics; Training, Education and Development
FIRST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES
Brussels, 22-25 October 1986

PREMIERE CONFERENCE EUROPEENNE DES BIBLIOTHEQUES MEDICALES
Bruxelles, 22-25 octobre 1986

ERSTE EUROPÄISCHE KONFERENZ FÜR MEDIZINISCHE BIBLIOTHEKEN
Brüssel, 22-25 Oktober 1986

INVITATION AND PROGRAMME
INVITATION ET PROGRAMME
EINLADUNG UND PROGRAMM

MEDICAL LIBRARIES
COOPERATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

BIBLIOTHEQUES MEDICALES
COOPERATION ET NOUVELLES TECHNOLOGIES

MEDIZINISCHE BIBLIOTHEKEN
KOOPERATION UND NEUE TECHNOLOGIEN
Aims and Objectives of EAHIL

• Improve co-operation amongst health care libraries throughout Europe
• Raise standards of provision and practice in health care and medical research libraries
• Keep health librarians and information officers professionally informed
• Encourage mobility and continuing education, especially in regard to new technologies
• Represent health librarians at European level, in particular at European institutions and at WHO
EAHIL Executive Board meeting in Cardiff – July 2018
EAHIL ACTIVITIES

What does EAHIL do?
- Journal
- Conferences and workshops
- Special Interest Groups (SIG)
- Continuing education programs including Webinars
- Mailing lists
- Website & Social media

How does EAHIL operate?
- Practical issues
Journal of EAHIL
European Association for
Health Information and Libraries

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Special Interest Groups

**TRAINING, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP**
Competencies framework, post-graduate programmes, continuing professional development

**EVALUATION AND METRICS GROUP**
Bring together and connect all members who are interested in research impact and its measurement.

**PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION GROUP**
PHIG is a forum for information professionals in libraries interested in public health issues in Europe

**PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION GROUP**
EAHIL-Pharma brings together information professionals from across Europe and beyond with an interest in drug information

**MESHD INFORMATION GROUP**
Members responsible for MeSH translations are invited to join, also open to professionals using MeSH in various applications

**EUROPEAN VETERINARY LIBRARIES GROUP**
The aim of the EVLG is to unite all those who are interested in and/or employed in the animal health information field
EAHIL Workshops and Conferences
Usually preceded by two days of Continuing Education Courses

• 2017 (Dublin) themes (combined EAHIL workshop & ICML* conference)
  • Leadership
  • Consumer Health
  • Technology
  • Integration
  • Research & EBLIP (evidence-based library and information practice)
  • Education & Learning

• 2018 Cardiff Conference
  • Impact and value
  • Innovation
  • Information for the public and consumer health
  • Arts, health and wellbeing
  • Global health
June 2019 – Together in Basel

https://eahil2019.net
@EAHIL2019

2020 Conference Aódz, Poland
Practical matters

• Membership fee 0 €

• Conference or workshop fee about 400 €
  • Each year scholarships are awarded [http://eahil.eu/get-involved/scholarships/](http://eahil.eu/get-involved/scholarships/)

• The language of the EAHIL event is English. Some Continuing Education Courses can be organised in the language of the local host
What is the impact of attending EAHIL events?

• Reflect on your professional activity
• Be inspired by the best practices
• Learn to communicate
• Open new communication channels
• Initiate new collaborations
• Gain confidence in the importance of our profession
Council member Valeria Scotti interview

• what does EAHIL represent for you?
  • Each time I am lucky enough to participate in an EAHIL event, the feeling that arises in my soul can be expressed by a simple, but truthful, word: inspiration
• Why do you see participating in EAHIL conferences and workshops as important?
  • We are all there to learn and share, and it is from sharing that inspiration comes: I participate in workshops and presentations of my colleagues, and discover new software, new approaches to training, new methods to new methods to do a search... and my imagination starts a journey through “I wish I could” thoughts, trying to figure out how to put all those suggestions and ideas into practice in my everyday work.
Being an active EAHIL member

• **How?**
There are plenty of ways in how to get more out of your EAHIL membership than attending conferences. Have you considered:

• Writing an article for [the Journal](#)?
• Representing the members of your country in [the council](#)?
• **Arranging a conference or a workshop**?
• Being active within a special field of interest in a [Sub Group of EAHIL](#)?
• Helping out with our social media accounts or the website? [Contact our communications coordinator](#).
Education and Training

- Education is a growing-importance issue in all professions
- No specific education program in Europe for medical librarians
- On-the-job training in many countries
- Generally a scientific background and a postgraduate course in Librarianship
- Specialists skills are acquired by short, intensive courses on particular topics
- Combination of education and experience
J EAHIL issue devoted to Medical Librarian’s education

• 2016, vol 12

**Issue 4** Education and training for medical librarians with supplementary material

Contents of n. 4, December 2016

Feature Articles
Why medical information specialists should routinely form part of teams producing high quality systematic reviews - a Cochrane perspective
   M. Metzendorf
Library support needs of the Medical Faculty at the University of Basel and the University Hospital
   H. Janka
Medical librarians educational needs in LMIC: systematic review production as an indicator
   T. Allen
Developing specialist skills: a training and mentoring scheme for new professional staff joining the Royal Free Hospital Medical Library
   B. Anagnostelis
Do medical librarians need a specialist degree program?
   R. Mumenthaler
A short history of EAHIL’s Continuing Education Courses
   S. Bakker
Minutes of the Panel Discussion held at the 4th National Gathering of Swiss Medical Librarians: “Medical Librarians Matter For Evidence Based Medicine”, held at the University of Bern, Friday, 9th September 2016
   C. Powell
Continuing Professional Development

• Since its first conference in Brussels in 1986, EAHIL has been paying lot of attention to educational issues and Continuing Professional Development
• Topics such as roles of medical librarians in supporting their institutions, new information technologies, access to information, cooperation, user education are still up-to-date
• Every Conference has a continuing education program
• Interactive Workshops: active involvement of participants
2015 Edinburgh Interactive Workshop
https://eahil2015.wordpress.com/programme/

• Courses were incorporated in the interactive workshop format
• Theme of the Workshop: Research-Minded: understanding, supporting, conducting research
• WORKSHOP MAIN TRACKS:
  ✓ Communication skills
  ✓ Qualitative methods
  ✓ Quantitative methods
  ✓ Research Data Management
  ✓ Systematic reviews
2016 Seville Conference – Continuing Education Program

2016 Seville

Searching Clinical Trials.gov, the WHO portal and other trials registers and regulatory sources to improve the reliability of systematic reviews

Improving efficiency and confidence in systematic searching

From Bibliometrics to Altmetrics: a new concept of impact

More appeal to systematic searching: a middle way to satisfy library directors, library clients and the search theory

Community Managers tools for health science libraries

Rigour, results and relevance- What there is to know about critical appraisal!

Mendeley: using reference manager software to help organizing the institutional scientific research

opportunities and limitations of bibliometrics in research evaluation: planning reports and showing results

The inevitability of Open Access. Why librarians have to foster it

Increasing the visibility and impact of health science librarians & libraries

Carol Lefebvre
Wichor Bramer, Gerdien de Jonge
Valeria Scotti
Maurizio Grilli
Elena Pastor
Mala Mann
Silvia Lopes
Alicia F. Gomez
Pilar Toro
Aoife Lawton
New distance learning program

- EAHIL has recently set up a webinar-based pilot continuing education program, open to all EAHIL members
- 3 webinars until now:
  - **Fifty Shades of Review** - 12 October 2016, Andrew Booth
  - **10 things you may not know about the Cochrane Library** - 12 January 2017, Carol Lefebvre
  - **Search Filters - What are they good for?** - 7 March 2017, Julie Glanville
About Medical Librarianship

• Is there a future for medical librarians?
• Which will be their role in a changing scenario?
• Which are the main challenges in librarian education?

Libraries lose a quarter of staff as hundreds close

The loss of libraries is another surefire way to entrench inequality
Mary O'Hara

I still have my first library card from when I was a girl from a poor family in west Belfast. Every time I hear of a library closure it hits a nerve

© 29 March 2016  England

Having a library within walking distance of home was a way for a young girl from a poor background to access the same breadth of reading material as anyone else. Photograph: Getty Images
And what about Libraries?

- Many works will disappear or change dramatically: taxi drivers, accountants, travel agents, translators…. librarians?
Take-home message (1)

The Invisible Librarian: a Librarian’s Guide to Increasing Visibility and Impact
Aoife Lawton
1st edition 2015

- Try to be more visible to users, stakeholders and society
- Be more active in promoting yourself
- Inform users about the services you provide
- Adopt strategies to increase your visibility
Take-home message (2)

- Drive the change, which in the near future will be extremely rapid
- Be ready to lifelong learning, to keep pace with innovation
- Explore non-traditional ways of delivering information, exploiting opportunities offered by social media
- Improve your communication and managerial skills
- Be in touch with your users
- Be curious, creative, and above all enjoy your profession
Thank you for your attention!

¡Gracias por sus atención!
Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!
Merci pour votre attention!

Дякую за увагу!
感謝您的關注！

Köszönöm a figyelmet!

ご清聴ありがとうございました！

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