



# ICS Newsletter

Medical Library Association/International Cooperation Section Newsletter

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## Notice:

The ICS Newsletter is published three times a year by the International Cooperation Section of the Medical Library Association. Deadlines for submissions for ICS Newsletter are: March 31, July 31 and November 15.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This has been quite an active year for the ICS. Early in my tenure as ICS Chair I discovered some anomalies in the process of selecting members and the chair of the ICS Itinerary Committee. This was worked out with MLA HQ and all seems to be in order now. To avoid this happening in the future though each officer coming in should be sure to read the bylaws. You all will remember our dissatisfaction with the initial report of the task force set up to review MLA international activities. With the original wording the ICS would have been excluded from much participation and with no decision making power. We would have been relegated to a group that would "assist" MLA in some international issues. After we expressed our dissatisfaction the MLA Board voted to change the wording to leave us intact. That was welcome news indeed. One of the recommendations of the task force was to appoint a person in charge of international affairs. Carla Funk has taken on this activity and will turn some of her duties over to other staff at MLA HQ. According to the wording of the revised plan, Carla will work closely with the Chair of ICS.

Plans are finalized for our newest Cunningham Fellow, from Denmark, to visit the States. She will be here for the full three months. However, beginning with the 2007 Fellow, several people will be invited but will spend less time, about 3 weeks or so per visitor. This change was an MLA/Board decision although many on the ICS have supported it. We already have five or six applicants for the 2007 Fellow(s) so should have no problem making our selection. We will be inviting up to 3 individuals. I believe part of the reason for the change was the increasing difficulty (since 911) of people getting Visa's, especially long-term ones, to the U.S. With the shorter stay even a tourist visa would do. This year we had one university bow out of hosting as their institution was unable to process the J1. We can expect such problems to get worse, not better.

*Submitted by,  
Tom Williams,  
Chair*



## Hanne Caspersen - 2006 MLA Cunningham Fellow

Next year's recipient of the MLA Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship is Hanne Caspersen from Aarhus, Denmark. She has worked as a Librarian at the Aarhus State and University Library since 1978. Since 2000 she has worked at the (then) newly established Aarhus Health Sciences Library, located in an older, but renovated, building. You can take a look at the quite beautiful library building at: <http://www.statsbiblioteket.dk/emneguide/sundhedsvidenskab/sundhedsvidenskab/omsvb.xml>

The Aarhus Health Sciences Library has a staff of eight, and offers a wide variety of journals, books, and databases including NLM resources. It may

be an interesting side note that "health science" in Danish is "wellness science" directly translated. "Library" is "Bibliotek".

Ms. Caspersen has a well rounded professional experience, including resource sharing, reference, collection development, and bibliographic instruction. She also attends morning rounds at the hospital affiliated with the Aarhus Health Sciences Library.

Ms. Caspersen has stated that she is interested in learning about how American medical libraries are migrating from "paper" libraries to a virtual environment, and how medical librarians can become part of the medical curriculum. She is also interested in establishing and advocating hospital library services.

We look forward to meet you, Hanne!

*Submitted by,  
Ellen Sayed  
Editor*

## Greetings From Lin Yuan



I am very lucky to have been selected as a Cunningham Fellow. My fellowship to the US was in 2002. I traveled to lots of places and I visited many libraries during my stay. Not only does the Cunningham Fellowship provide a knowledge exchange, it also provides a chance for learning and a chance for cultural communication.

After I completed my fellowship, I went back to China and worked in the Sichuan University Library. I performed information service and cataloging. Since 2002, I published ten journal articles to let Chinese librarians know what I learned in the US. I am still interested in electronic journals management. I would like to receive more information on electronic journals management from MLA members if some of you can help.

From June 2003 until June 2004, I traveled to Australia to the University of Sydney to study Action Research and work in a library there. I obtained a Chinese National Scholarship to do this.

Now I have a son who is 5 months old, 70 cm tall, 9.50 kg in weight, his name is Hao Hao and he is so lovely. I have been home with him for a few months, but will return to work in December. When I return, I will do English material management work in the library at Sichuan University.

I send my best wishes to all my Cunningham hosts from 2002 and to Lisa and her colleagues at MLA.

I miss you all so much!

Warm Regards,

*Lin Yuan*

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## My Cunningham Fellowship in 1998 - Anita Verhoeven



In 1998 I was selected as the Cunningham Fellow. It was one of the greatest experiences in my life, professional as well as personal. At that moment, I worked at the Medical Library of the Medical University Center in Groningen, the Netherlands, and as a reference librarian at the University Library. In an article of the Health Information and Libraries Journal of 2001, my Romanian predecessor and I already shared our experiences as Cunningham Fellows.<sup>1</sup>

What did I do those four months in North America?

As the 1998 Cunningham Fellow of the Medical Library Association, I visited 33 medical libraries, I talked to 171 medical librarians for more than an hour, I traveled through 8 different States and Ontario, Canada from February until May 1998, I flew 11 times by plane, and I stayed at 25 different homes.

My main purpose for participating as a Fellow was to share experiences about teaching library and information skills. My main responsibility at my medical school library at the time had been mediated searching. However, due to an increasing number of end-users, this had been replaced by teaching end-users how to search themselves. Therefore, we planned to set up a teaching unit at our library. Because my medical school had a problem-based learning curriculum with emphasize on evidence-based medicine, I concentrated on these aspects. After visiting medical libraries for 4 months, and talking to teaching librarians,

I had a better idea how to set up a teaching unit in our medical school library. The following activities had to be part of it: Training medical librarians, teaching in the medical and dental curriculum, classes for clinicians and researchers, building a network with faculty, taking part in curriculum development meetings, coordination with the Department for Computer Based Learning.

In the next few years, I put these aspects in practice. When I left the medical library by the end of the year 2000 my successor took over the teaching unit I had set up largely based upon my experiences as a Cunningham Fellow. The reason I left the medical library was that in 1999 I got my PhD<sup>2</sup>, and after a year I was offered a job as university teacher, and I started to teach evidence-based medicine skills to family physicians in training at the Department of General Practice at the University Medical Center. I am teaching four classes on evidence-based medicine: a PICO workshop on how to formulate well-built clinical questions; a class on searching for the evidence in several literature databases; a class on critical appraisal; and a class on implementing the evidence into practice. Because I was trained as a family physician, I love to teach family physicians in training.

Besides this teaching job, I continued to work at the University Library as a reference librarian. This is a great combination: for input the library is necessary, for the teaching work I am part of the Department of General Practice.

I am still very thankful for my experiences in North America as a Cunningham Fellow. It was at the McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, where I learned the first principles of problem-based learning, in which we are involved now at our University. It was at the National Library of Medicine where I got a fundamental idea of how Medline is structured, and at the Institute of Scientific of Information in Philadelphia where I learned the basics of the Web of Science. It was the many medical school libraries where I experienced the advances of good collaboration with curriculum coordinators and computer people.

The personal experiences consisted of getting to know so many fantastic fellow librarians. I now know more about the American culture, history and way of life. It was an unforgettable experience!

*Anita Verhoeven, MD, PhD*

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1. Flake D, Verhoeven A, Robu I. The Cunningham Fellowship: three international points of view. Health Info Libr J 2001;18(2):117-24.

2. Verhoeven AAH. Information-seeking by general practitioners. Groningen: Rijksuniversiteit; 1999.



## Report on the World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo August 14th - 18th 2005

The 71st World Library and Information Congress was held in August this year in Oslo in Norway. I had not been to Oslo before having missed both previous EAHIL trips to the city and was pleasantly surprised by how nice the city is but with the warning that this is not a cheap place to visit!

Arne Jakobsson, President of EAHIL and Librarian at the Rikshospitalet, had worked very hard to ensure that this IFLA would be memorable. He had organised, with help for his excellent staff, both a one-day seminar on "Open Access" and a reception for all health and medical librarians who were in Oslo at the time. I arrived Friday afternoon for the Co-ordinating Board meeting (IFLA is a very bureaucratic organisation) and met with colleagues from the UK and had an excellent meal in a French restaurant in the middle of Oslo. I then took in some of the ambience of an evening in the bustling and warm Norwegian capital.

We started early on Saturday morning with our business meeting and talked about developments over the last year including the Task Force on Global Initiatives that MLA had set up in their usual visionary manner. We also discussed the Newsletter and elicited promises that all of the Committee would contribute material to Lucretia (McClure who ably edits our Newsletter) and also supply photo's. The open access seminar was a huge success and apart from a slight verbal exchange between our Chair-elect (Tony), who was speaking on behalf of Elsevier, and an open access fanatic, it all went off very well. We were then treated to a small post seminar reception before a dozen or so of us went to Arne's for a delicious dinner, ably provided by Elisabeth Husem and Eve Alopeus.

The World Congress opened on Sunday morning in the presence of the King and was probably the best organised opening ceremony I had attended at IFLA so far. The speeches were good (if a little long) and the music excellent, featuring a concert harpist (with percussion) and an Irish Norwegian fusion group called Secret Garden. The sessions started after lunch and I selected the session on virtual reference services which was very interesting with some good case studies from Switzerland and Florida. Sunday night was the exhibition opening party and a chance to check out the vendors and for us MLA members, it was followed by the MLA Dutch Treat Dinner, an occasion that always makes MLA worth attending! We ate at the Theatercaféen, a Viennese style café near the National Theatre, both the food and surroundings being very pleasant indeed.

Monday morning I had a wander around the exhibition as none of the papers seemed to stand out and met and chatted to a number of useful contacts. I also did the required stint on the IFLA stand to promote our section. After lunch I sat in on the FAIFE session (Freedom of Information and Freedom of Expression) which was about libraries and human rights. I listened to speakers from the Netherlands and from the American Library Association about how they had approached the new stricter laws that were being introduced as a result of terrorism. I thought that this might be a useful preparation for the inevitable reaction of our Government to the July 7th bombings! From there I went to the Science and Technology Libraries session, which was again on open access but had a set of different speakers. The day was rounded off by an excellent reception back at Arne's library with good wine and good company.

On Tuesday I attended the President-Elect's brainstorming session (not good at 8:30 in the morning) on indigenous knowledge which had two excellent speakers from the Antipodes who were involved with libraries in their home countries. There were some excellent suggestions made as to how IFLA should handle traditional knowledge and a mailing list to continue the work is being set up. After lunch I attended the Document Delivery and Resource sharing session which included a speaker from my old employer, The British Library, and speakers from CISTI and Subito. The day finished off with the usual IFLA "Cultural Evening" which was held at the Norwegian Folk Museum, Bygdøy and which was well worth attending. The Museum is open air and very large, having examples of Norwegian architecture from throughout the ages which takes in both blocks of flats and log cabins! We were provided with a rucksack and some food and two drink tokens and we wandered around listening to Norwegian music and watching Norwegian dancing. Those of us lucky to be in the right place also had the chance to ride around the museum on a horse-drawn cart but I missed out on that. All in all it was a lovely evening and a well organised social event.

On Wednesday I spent time on the CILIP stand and then it was time for our session which seemed to go down well. Although we had less delegates than last year (nearer 60) it was a good session with interesting speakers from both the US, UK and Botswana. We now have to decide on which paper to submit to the IFLA Journal! The evening was taken up with the CILIP reception (it is traditional for one evening to be a country specific reception) which was held at the Gamle Logan - a very nice building where we were entertained by another harpist and Norway's only female magician! I finished the evening with a colleague drinking Margarita's and eating cheesecake in the centre of Oslo!

On Thursday I had decided to do a little sightseeing and caught the ferry to see the Viking Ship Museum and the Kon Tiki museum with some colleagues. I can recommend both highly. The day was finished off with a very nice meal by the harbour, which is a highlight of dining in Oslo.

Friday was the final business meeting for our section, which went very well with some good suggestions for future work, which will be announced on the IFLA website in the near future. I then managed to get to the Edvard Munch museum before catching my flight back to London.

I can highly recommend both Oslo and the World Congress, which will be held next year in Seoul, South Korea. Our plans for this congress include a satellite session on the preceding Saturday on "Information Resources in Traditional Medicine" and an open session on technology and health libraries. Hope you can come!

*Submitted by,  
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### **Glendine Smith wins SC/MLA Annual Meeting Scholarship Award**



Much to Glendine's delight (and mine), Glendine was the winner of the 2005 SC/MLA Annual Meeting Scholarship Award to attend this year's annual meeting in beautiful San Juan, PR. Glendine and I presented a paper together at the meeting titled "Meeting the Information Needs of Diverse Library Users in Holberton, Antigua". We discussed the progress of our two libraries' Sister Library relationship and the impact it has had on access to health information at Holberton Hospital Library.

You can read Glendine's essay about her experiences at the meeting in the next issue of "Southern Expressions" available at::

<http://www.scmla.org/soexp.htm>

*Submitted by,  
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## 9th IFLA ILDS Conference Summary and lessons for the NHS

The 9th International Federation of Library Associations Interlending and Document Supply Conference, entitled "Making library collections accessible locally and worldwide", provided an opportunity to explore models and experiences of national systems in other countries. Australia and the Netherlands

are setting trends by favouring modular systems. Their systems integrate components from different vendors as well as those developed in-house. FDI, OCLC, and Relais were among the vendors present at the conference.

The conference opened with a keynote address by Evgeniy Kuzmin, Vice-President of the Russian Library Association and member of Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO Information for All Programme. Mr. Kuzmin explained that the UNESCO concept of an Information Society is founded on 4 principles:

- Cultural & linguistic diversity
- Equal access to education
- Universal access to information in a public domain
- Freedom of expression

UNESCO is interested in the role of libraries in the document delivery market. New standards and ethics are developing in document supply. This is likely to impact on the public image of library services. He highlighted that the quality and efficiency of ILL and electronic document delivery depends upon:

- quality and comprehensiveness of any electronic catalogue
- presence or absence of a union catalogue
- effectiveness of a distributed acquisitions system
- continuing librarian professional development

Penelope Street of the University of Liverpool spoke on the IFLA guidelines for interlending between countries and the IFLA voucher scheme for payment. The IFLA ILDS strategic plan includes monitoring the impact of e-resources on ILL/document delivery.

Dr. Traute Braun-Gorgon spoke on copyright and digital rights management issues facing SUBITO, a German document supply firm. SUBITO has moved to web-based document delivery as documents sent via e-mail in Germany are vulnerable to lawsuits.

Ari Muhonen, from Helsinki University, noted that Finland uses a Voyager system, including SFX. ILLs became fee-based in 1993 during a Finnish depression. This has contributed to a decline in ILL requests.

Michael Ireland, of CISTI (Canada Institute for Scientific & Technical Information) cautioned against cutting low use titles because popularity of materials changes over time.

Anders-Henrik Petersom from the Danish Bibliographic Centre discussed their experience of an automated ILL service that is Z39.50 compliant. The benefits include:

- faster turnaround
- less paper - less mouse work
- less errors in handling ILLs
- savings in staff time

He cautioned that Z39.50 is not the latest protocol and more modern services such as SOAP/XML will need to be explored.

Janet Zambri, from the University of the Witwatersrand, indicated that from her experience it is not a good idea to rely on one supplier for document delivery as the service could be withdrawn (in her case for political reasons). She intends to insert a clause in any future e-resource contracts that ILLs are allowed (see also networking note below- where this is already the case for the University of Oslo Library).

David Reid, from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, spoke on using ISO ILL protocol to coordinate the use of VDX with their Voyager national union catalogue. The end user component is still being tested. A Joint Standing Committee on Interloan, a permanent body with responsibility for the following:

- Administering membership of the scheme,
- Monitoring compliance for reporting holdings and of turnaround times,
- Reviewing policies, performance and the needs of users,
- Monitoring changing trends in interloan use and document supply,
- Initiating changes to the scheme as needed, such as the charging model,
- Resolving problems.

Among the issues still requiring resolution are:

- Web-based requests are not linked to the catalogue and have poor tracking mechanisms,
- Billing (centralized billing is considered the most effective way to charge and be charged),
- 800 potential suppliers.

His advice for a successful outcome for implementation is:

- Vision,
- Planning thoroughly and communications,
- Testing methodically,
- Compiling a comprehensive task list,
- Nurturing specialist support,
- Even more testing post-implementation.

Paula Braun, of the Netherlands Public Libraries Association, spoke on the use of VDX, nearing the end of a testing phase in public libraries. The project has been successful thus far, largely due to the involvement of local libraries. Consistency in terminology is an important consideration when setting up a system that involves a network. VDX is compatible with other ISO-compliant library software.

Peter Sidorko, of the University of Hong Kong, compared the use of OCLC's ILLiad package with Innovative Interface's INNReach. INNReach is cheaper than ILLiad. However, it is not a fully integrated system and requires a union catalogue. Software prerequisites included:

- Ability to accept user-initiated online ILL requests,
- Support unmediated requests directly from users to lending libraries,
- Support monograph loans,
- Check incoming requests automatically against shelf holdings and block that user's request if the requested item was on the shelf.

Three out of eight libraries agreed to trial INNReach. The others were concerned about cost, impact on staff, collections and users, possible threat of reduced funding. The following issues were of interest to those participating in the trial:

- Would the software alter the amount of borrowing and lending between the participating institutions?
- Would some libraries use it more than others?
- What subjects of materials would be borrowed?
- Would the use of INNReach speed up the processing of requests?
- Would INNReach decrease costs of borrowing or lending?
- How would patrons react to the new system?
- What classes of users would use the new system?

The trial was a success and the remaining five libraries agreed to use INNReach.

From New Zealand, Janice Farrelly of the University of Canterbury and Thelma Fisher of the University of Otago Library discussed their Interloans Best Practice workshop programme that aims to assist library staff to improve work practices and services. The accompanying Handbook comprises a set of tools, services and methods that allow an ILL and document delivery service to provide information access to its users that is faster, cheaper and better. The workshops were based on the findings of international research particularly the Australian ILL and document delivery benchmarking study of 2001. Staff involved in the workshops included both practitioners and managers.

Helle Vibeke Kasarab discussed her experiences working for a pharmaceutical company, Novo Nordisk in Denmark. Private companies cannot be members of ILL/document delivery consortia of public organizations and this is a disadvantage with respect to their average time taken to deliver a document. There is also not the pressure to maintain journal runs, if their researchers do not use a journal then it will be cut with re-subscription if demand is apparent again. She raised a very important point in relation to unmediated services, the more users are expected to do for themselves the more support and training they need.

Matt Goldner, from OCLC, spoke on PICA, digitization, and the future of OCLC ILL software. Serials are being digitized at an increasing rate. Physical collections are also still growing. The hybrid library environment is likely to remain for at least 10 years. Google Print will be able to find only 33% of what is represented in OCLC's World Cat. Digital material is either free or licensed. Print material is either in print, out of print, or access-restricted. The less mediated a request for a document or a book, the more likely cost is to be transferred to the user. Discovery has been identified as a major barrier to resource sharing. Other problems include:

- Locating following discovery,
- Inter-connection among services,
- Delivery services restricted to privileged users ,
- No unified simple payment option,
- Limited delivery options,
- Uncoordinated presentation of delivery services.

In spite of these problems, consortial borrowing is increasing dramatically.

Open URL resolution services can facilitate discovery. Users also need to easily discover library supply policies. Therefore, OCLC is working with the National Library of Australia on revising ISO 2146 (directory of libraries and document supply centers) and an IPIG directory. The Open WorldCat program, available at <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm>, makes records of library-owned materials available to Web users on popular Internet search and bookselling sites. Standards for interconnectivity are changing. ISO ILL V2 has been in effect for 8 years. SRW/SRU is the next generation of Z39.50, useful for web services. There is a trend towards modular web services. Digitize on demand or index on demand are two options for expanding delivery services. Users can purchase access to items, with royalties going to the library of their choice, using OCLC's WorldCat. Algorithms and locating devices are used to determine options for delivery (eg, in or out of copyright, digital copy available, intent to digitize registered).

Carla Montori, from the University of Michigan, spoke on their participation in Google's digitization project. Books out of print, but still under copyright require special negotiation to digitize, although being out of print is a sign that the publisher considers them no longer of economic value. Digitization on demand is fee-based at the University of Michigan.

The following is some information gathered during informal networking with conference participants:

Digitisation is more appropriate for preservation than for diminishing ILL requests.

The reason Prospero was unavailable for download may have been due to a dispute with Ariel. [Prospero is a freely available program for setting up web-based delivery of copyrighted articles. Here is a link to Prospero's download page: <http://bones.med.ohio-state.edu/prospero/>

Here is a link to an article giving further information about Prospero]: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=165797>

Mette Krog from the University of Oslo Library advised that in their e-licences they have stipulated with publishers that e-resources must be able to be used for ILL purposes.

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## Holberton Hospital Library Update

The medical information resources available at the Holberton Hospital Library are continuing to grow. Since our Sister Library pilot project ended, our aim has been to add permanent resources available electronically from the Library's web page. So far, STAT!Ref, Dynamed and Evidence Matters have agreed to provide free access to their databases.

Recently, we added a Loansome Doc registration form to the web page, in addition to links and explanations for Open WorldCat, Medline Plus surgical videos, Continuing Medical Education on the Web, Using Google with PubMed, and Google Desktop searching. Links were already available to PubMed, Medline Plus, the NLM Gateway, PubMed Central, and a variety of other free resources, including free journals and books.

Glendine is now conducting outreach training sessions at the hospital and beyond. She reported on this at the SC/MLA annual meeting in San Juan. Here is an excerpt from her talk:

" The staff of the medical library is well aware that it is becoming increasingly important to use electronic resources to provide a greater level of service to library users. With this in mind, we have embarked on an aggressive outreach program, targeting especially those who may not even know that we exist or perhaps are just too busy to come to the library.

Our aim is to launch a massive awareness program using the electronic and print media and by whatever means necessary until every health professional on the island is aware that the medical library does exist and its up-to-date resources are very vital to the continuous improvement of quality care and service.

At Holberton Hospital, the administrator is encouraged to make available more computers equipped with Internet so that the staff can easily access up-to-date information.

As the opportunity arises, every staff member who comes through the doors of the library is introduced to our web page and is made aware that the medical library is now updated with current trends in information technology.

Information about the library is disseminated through the use of flyers, posters and newsletters encouraging users to visit and access information.

Topical diseases and specific health issues are researched and disseminated throughout the institution to gain users.

And so, our library is no longer just confined to the Institution, but has been taken out to the community clinics, and private physicians' offices. This outreach involves instructional sessions in (1) Introduction to our web page and (2) accessing information from our databases. So far one training session was done with the Chief Medical Officer-8 private physicians, 6 community clinics with their staff of 6 doctors and 24 Health workers.

These training sessions are filled with much excitement, enthusiasm, zeal and an eagerness to learn as a wealth of information is displayed at the touch of a button.

As persons try to grasp the knowledge presented to them, many questions are been thrown at me, not to mention the many telephone calls that come to my office long after these sessions are through."

Note that the hospital administrator has made more computers with Internet access available, so more users can access library resources online! Also, as you recall, NLM supported MLA's Sister Library Project from the beginning, especially by providing support for DOCLINE use for interlibrary loan, and sending a PC to the Holberton Hospital Library to get them started with searching PubMed and using DOCLINE. As an extension of this support, NLM has donated 2 used IBM ThinkPad notebook computers so that Glendine can extend her outreach within the hospital and to public libraries and public schools on the island.

Way to go, Glendine!

And many thanks to all the libraries and librarians who have and are continuing to support the Holberton Hospital Library. All your support is paying big dividends in Antigua!

The Holberton Hospital Library's web page is available at: <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/antigua>

*Submitted by,  
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### **German MLA Weblog**

The weblog of the German MLA can be viewed at: [medinfo.netbib.de](http://medinfo.netbib.de). Among other things, you can find conference blogging about the 9th ICML (<http://medinfo.netbib.de/index.php?s=9.icml>)

A detailed (but outdated, because we're scratching 1000 posting) description is at:  
<http://medweb.uni-muenster.de/zbm/obsto/text/artikel/j-eahil2005.pdf>

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### **African Index Medicus Reactivated**

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you that the African Index Medicus has been reactivated and is now available on the Internet at WHO-AFRO web Site <http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/>. The data base currently includes journal articles, Monographs, Technical Reports and other types of documents. Abstract and Full text (if available) will be added progressively in the future.

To search the African Index Medicus, point your browser to:

<http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/cgi-bin/wxis.exe/iah/?IsisScript=iah/iah.xic&lang=I&base=afro>

Comments and more details can be provided by Mr. Atani Mohamed, the African Index Medicus Coordinator at: [atanim@afro.who.int](mailto:atanim@afro.who.int) and Mme Marie-Paule kaborem@afro.who.int head of WHO Library in AFRO.

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## ICML9 Report

I offer this brief summary of the Ninth International Congress on Medical Librarianship in Salvador, Brazil in September. It was my first congress and its first conference in Latin America.

### Stats:

The ICML9 organizers report over 1,200 participants attended from 73 countries, representing all the continents. Over 200 papers were presented and almost that many posters according to a quick calculation from the web site. Conference organizers reviewed 533 submitted abstracts for the Contributed Paper and Poster Sessions. ICML9 attracted about 50 exhibitors. Papers are available in full text on the web site as well as poster titles and presenters names. A number of training workshops were presented, some in varied languages.

Following the conference theme of 'Commitment to Equity,' the 'Declarations of Salvador' were approved during the conference. These declarations call for a commitment to equitable access, particularly the international movement for Open Access to Scientific Information. An interesting parallel meeting entitled "International Seminar on Open Access for Developing Countries" was presented during the first two days of ICML9.

### Personal Impressions:

Conference attendees were met at the airport, a very nice service particularly for out-of-continent travelers. Conference officials were friendly and competent (although it took traveling to four hotels the day of my arrival to find my bed). My paper presentation was well attended despite the time-squashed sessions that we all had to deal with. I met some nice folks on the international scene and learned more about the needs of low-income and developing countries. Additionally, the conference featured a poster show entitled '1st International Festival of Humor on STD and AIDS', provided by the Brazilian Ministry of Health. For more information on that, visit their web page at: <http://www.humorglobal.com.br/ingles/conteudos/esquerda/dst.htm>

### In Closing & Web Resources:

The web site appears to be very rich in related resources, even post-conference materials. Much seem to be in English -- I suggest ICS members to check out these resources, perhaps on a snowy day this winter!

ICML9 Web Site

<http://www.icml9.org/?lang=en>

ICML9 News Archive

<http://www.icml9.org/news.php?lang=en&id=185>

Abstract Selection Process for the Papers and Posters Sessions

<http://www.icml9.org/news.php?lang=en&id=117>

Declarations of Salvador

<http://www.icml9.org/channel.php?lang=en&channel=91&content=438>

1st International Festival of Humor on STD and AIDS

<http://www.aids.gov.br/>

*Submitted by,*

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*Biomedical Librarian*

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