

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR HOMOEOPATHY

*

SUB-COMMITTEE "DOCUMENTATION"

*

Minutes of the First Meeting 17-18 December 1994 - Brussels

Saturday 17 December 1994

Present: A. Bol (NL), C. Boyer-Boiron (F), G. Buxin (F), G. Denys (B), P. Detand (B), M. Dinges (D), M. Gooch (UK), B. Heine (D), J. Imberechts (B), V. Lentza (G), H. Maas (NL), G.R. Malcolm (UK), G. Pollet (B), S. Rehm (D), R. Rosé (D), P. Salaun (F), F. Schroyens (B), A. Steinsbekk (N), H. Tauer (A), C. Vandeschoor (B), E. Van Galen (NL), J.-F. Vermeire (B), P. Vint (D).

Apologies: F. Herbert (D), D.P. Rastogi (India), D. Ullman (USA), J. Winston (USA), J. Wooton (USA).

1. Historic outline of the "European Committee for Homoeopathy"

Founded in the beginning of the 90's.

Consists of several sub-committees: politics; education; provings; pharmacology & materia medica; harmonization, costs & benefits; pharmacopoea; ethics; users; documentation.

The sub-committee "Documentation" has been founded to provide information about existing libraries and documentation centres, to improve accessibility to these collections and to prevent time-consuming double indexing work by means of co-ordination and exchange.

2. Presentation of some of the existing libraries and documentation centres by the people present

- Library and Documentation Centre of the Homeoden Laboratories - Gent (Belgium)

Talk by Caroline Vandeschoor, librarian. Demonstration of the library program.

± 2000 books, in English, French, German, Dutch and a few in Spanish.

± 45 old and new journals on homoeopathy and pharmacy, not yet indexed.

Collection of theses and monographies, not yet indexed.

Subject: mainly homoeopathy. In addition: other alternative therapies, pharmacy, reference works on chemistry and botany.

Software: Gesdoc, a specialized library program.

Work with a large, self-established (adapted to a homoeopathic library) key word list in several languages. To each key word 99 synonyms can be attached (allowing use of translations and spellings variants). For each book/article an unlimited number of key words can be entered.

Searches possible by author, title, classification code, book/article number, date of input, number of loans and key words (up to 4 different key words simultaneously, with or without matching pages).

Indexing of Materia Medica's has priority.

Aimed at all medical people.

Library accessible after appointment with librarian.

Documentation centre: enquiries by telephone or letter. Reference lists and/or photocopies will be sent.

- Library and Documentation Centre of the Boiron Laboratories - Ste-Foy-lès-Lyon (France)

Talk by Christine Boyer-Boiron, pharmacist and responsible for the documentation centre. Illustration with slides.

± 1100 books, of which 850 in French and 240 in English.

± 5700 articles.

± 1000 theses.

Work with a structured hierarchical thesaurus of 8900 French key words.

For each book/article one main key word and a limited number of minor key words.

Possibility to enter an abstract.

Aimed at everyone.

Accessible via Minitel.

- Homoeopathic Collection of the University Library - Utrecht (The Netherlands)

Talk by Henk Maas, MD. Illustration with slides.

2500 codified books.

800 monographies.

Aimed at everyone.

Accessible via modem.

No key words yet.

Searches by title, author.

- Library of "Deutsche Homöopathie-Union" - Karlsruhe (Germany)

Talk by Susanne Rehm, librarian.

Cooperation with the company VSM (The Netherlands), represented at this meeting by Arjo Bol.

30.000 records, mostly articles (major homoeopathic journals).

Key words of these records are mostly still on cards.

Software: ~~BES~~ ^{BRS} database.

Work with Mesch-Thesaurus for allopathic ~~books~~ ^{subjects}. This list is elaborated internally with homoeopathic key words.

Possibility to enter key words and ASCII text. The ASCII texts they have at the moment are inherited from ~~Dr. Kestner~~

P.F. Kestner

- British Homoeopathic Library - Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital (United Kingdom)

Talk by Mary Gooch, librarian. Demonstration of the library program.

Cooperation with the London section of the British Homoeopathic Library (London has less books and more journals: large collection of journals from all over the world): receive data (homoeopathic section) of the British Library on disk + their catalogue.

Glasgow: 1700 books.

Follow all English journals and some German and French journals.

Ca. 17.500 records.

Work with UDC (Universal Decimal Classification), modified for homoeopathy.

Software: CAIRS, IDEALIST for Windows, AMED (based on Mesh Thesaurus), CATS (last two used by Brit. Lib. in London).

Dinstinction between key words, minor terms and entry terms. The first two are from the Mesh Thesaurus, the last can be any term.

Homoeopathic Library Information Service is aimed at all medical people, provides literature searches and photocopies. Enquiries by telephone or letter.

HOM-INFORM database on CD ROM (available from May 1995). Designed to allow easy access to references on homoeopathic journal articles, books and other publications.

3 separate databases: 1. book catalogues of British Hom. Library (Glasgow & London)
2. BHJ index (1911-1990)
3. main journal articles

Expect the "Homoeopathic Recorder" on disk from the U.S., which will be put into a fourth database.

- The Dolisos Documentation Centre - Paris (France)

Talk by Geneviève Buxin, responsible for the documentation centre. Illustration with slides.

± 2000 books

160 journals

700 theses and dissertations

2500 thematic homoeopathic and pharmacognostic files

Software: MIKRODOC, since 1990 POLYBASE.

Two files: 1) Inventory of documents: books & theses, reviews, bought articles, microcards, videocassettes.

2) Documentary research: homoeopathy, phytotherapy, acupuncture, complementary medicine, classical medicine, theses and autobiographies, miscellaneous.

Aimed at all medical people. Enquiries in letter. Provide a bibliography and if necessary a preselection of documents.

The Dolisos Information Centre

Aimed at all medical people.

Offers: - information brochures

- useful addresses in the homoeopathic field

- advice service for students (aid for theses)

- references to books and articles

- Scientific Section of the Biologische Heilmittel Heel - Baden-Baden (Germany)

Distribution of material by Barbara Heine, documentalist.

760 homoeopathic books

Large collection of journals.

Use a program, possibility to enter key words.

3. Other talks and demonstrations

*- Proposal for a "Homeopathic Internet Resources List" by Emiel Van Galen, MD
(The Netherlands)*

Bring homeopathic libraries, collections, databases and private collections on line.

Provide e-mail addresses of persons connected with homoeopathy.

Not integrated in existing homoeopathic systems (Greennet, Homeonet), but in existing medical interfaces, which do not yet mention homoeopathy.

- Suggestion of Aslak Steinsbekk, homoeopath (Norway)

A common index list for Internet has to be built.

- Demonstration of the software "United Callers" by Gery Pollet (Belgium)

4. Conclusion

Some structure is needed to coordinate the future proceedings. A committee of the "Documentation" group was elected with general consent of the people attending the meeting. It consists of the following four people: Arjo Bol (NL), Mary Gooch (UK), Caroline Vandeschoor (B), Peter Vint (D). Mary Gooch will be co-ordinator.

A working group was formed as well, consisting of the following seven people: Arjo Bol (NL), Christine Boyer-Boiron (F), Mary Gooch (UK), Susanne Rehm (D), Reinhard Rosé (D), Caroline Vandeschoor (B), Peter Vint (D).

The objectives are:

What	Who	When	How
1. Guide	Martin Dinges Emiel Van Galen	Christmas 94	Send a proposal for a questionnaire to the committee.
2. Catalogue	Responsible persons of all hom. libraries	01.03.95	Send author catalogue, in ASCII and on paper to Mary Gooch.
3. Key word list	Responsible persons	01.03.95	Send list in ASCII to Mary Gooch who will group them & send them to Reinhard Rosé for analysis.
4. Projects	Peter Vint Reinhard Rosé	01.01.95	Make questionnaire and send to everyone (concerning how to facilitate accessibility).
	Responsible persons of all hom. libraries	01.03.95	Return filled in questionnaire (committee will do screening and conclusion).

Next meeting:

01-02.07.1995 in München (Germany)

Organiser: Reinhard Rosé

Sunday 18 December 1994

Present: A. Bol (NL), C. Boyer-Boiron (F), M. Gooch (UK), J. Imberechts (B), V. Lentza (G), R. Malcolm (UK), S. Rehm (D), R. Rosé (D), A. Steinsbekk (N), C. Vandeschoor (B), P. Vint (D).

Demonstration of Blackwell Idealist by Mary Gooch.

Includes the homoeopathic part of AMED.

Searches possible on all words of the database, except on stopwords.

Mentions for each record: author, title, key words, antry terms, minor terms, source, language, subject, English summary, number, location, photocopy number.

Glasgow intends to provide their database on disk in a run time version for an annual subscription (price still to be discussed). The full program to buy (ca. 250 £).

Aslak Steinsbekk suggest that we should split up the journal indexing: each group (country ?) should take a number of journals, in its own language.

Different steps to be taken were discussed.

It was decided that it is impossible to decide now on a common key word list. Each library/documentation centre has to send in its list, of which structure and language will be compared and evaluated.

Problem of cost was raised. Annual subscription suggested as a possibility. This will be dealt with later on.

It was suggested that we are going too far at this stage. It was agreed however, that although we are in a very preliminary stage, it is necessary to discuss the different models to know where we are heading to.

Susanne Rehm's proposal of proceeding:

1. decide on an indexing strategy
2. key word list, thesaurus
3. structure of database
4. software (central database)
5. user

Russell Malcolm's virtual concept:

1. analyse different indexing systems --> rationalising of information
2. examination of options for creating common platforms
3. intermediary stage: distilling this --> network or main database
4. final stage: Proshear link with commercial output

Each stage has some usable output. Ultimately the final stage will be the most user friendly. Think of it as an evolutionary process.

See also page 5.

5. The sorted key word lists will be given to Russell Malcolm who will collate the data, create a project and distribute this to the development team (working committee) who will work out a proposal.
5. Strategy development
6. Define key word list and an indexing strategy.

Next meeting of the working group: **17-18.03.1995 in London**

Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital
Great Ormond Street

Starting at 10 a.m.

Organiser: Rusell Malcolm