

Public Health Information Group (PHIG): EAHIL PHIG Collaborative Webinar 2021

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After attending the 1st EAHIL Inter SIG Meeting on October 2021 for SIG chairs, co-chairs, and secretaries, we met up to discuss the importance keeping active between the EAHIL conference and workshop meetings.

We agreed the importance of keeping active between the EAHIL conference and workshop meetings. We planned to hold a webinar in December and Tomas Allen offered to conduct a webinar on the WHO COVID-19 Research Database. The webinar was open to all EAHIL members and other healthcare librarians and information professionals.

Therefore, on 16 December 2021, we held an EAHIL PHIG collaborative session.

Our session began with an introduction to PHIG and its aims.

The aims of the group are:

- to promote equitable access to public health information for all communities;
- to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practice in managing public health information;
- to work in collaboration with World Health Organization Documentation Centres and organizations in Europe involved in public health information;
- to meet the needs of its membership by providing, and, or supporting continuing professional development.

We also mentioned the benefits of being a PHIG member which are as follows:

- it is a forum to exchange initiatives and experiences, information resources, and knowledge gained by working in the area of Public Health;
- it allows to be connected and interact with other information professionals from all around Europe and beyond interested in Public Health matters;

it provides a common place to enhance cooperation among the members and find answers for shared concerns;

- it decreases the professional isolation for those members who are solo information professionals in their organisations.

This was followed by Tomas Allen introducing the WHO COVID-19 Research Database which was created in January 2020. He presented the background to the creation of the database, its collaboration and partnerships and discussed the challenges and opportunities.

Tomas went on to describe the WHO COVID-19 Research Database. How to access its features, functionality, and its content. He described the development of the search strategy and how the database is updated daily

(Tuesday through Saturday) <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/quick-search-guide-who-covid-19-database>

Tomas went on to explain the simple phrase searching, combining search terms with Boolean operators, using basic filters to developing and advanced search.

There were 35 delegates attending session excluding the panellists.

The WHO COVID-19 Research Database is an important database comprising of global literature on COVID-19 pandemic. It brings together latest evidence on COVID-19 to assist Librarians and informational professionals to find clear, accurate and trusted information. It is an invaluable resource for information professionals who are involved in carrying out evidence synthesis to aid health workers and policy makers.

It is an aid for those who make decisions about policy and practice and need to use research evidence to guide their decision making to manage the pandemic and understand the impact of the pandemic on the health at a global level.