

eHLbc Year in Review 2021

The Electronic Health Library of British Columbia: Connecting students, researchers, and professionals to trusted health resources.

Message from the Chair

The Province of BC has pledged to fortify the health care system by building and expanding hospitals and health care facilities¹, and adding nursing seats at post-secondary institutions². eHLbc plays a vital role in our evolving health care system, by providing current and future medical practitioners and researchers access to evidence-based health information that supports their work caring for the residents of BC.

The Core Suite, a multi-vendor bundle of electronic health resources licensed by all eHLbc members, provides a critical foundation. In 2021, the groundwork was laid for a renewal that will provide access for another four years. eHLbc continues to augment health resource offerings with opt-in licenses, and members were invited to share further licensing suggestions via the new product selection survey. In 2021 eHLbc also launched a series of learning opportunities for library staff to deepen their understanding of how to use electronic resources licensed through the consortium.

I'm pleased to share the progress eHLbc made in 2021 in this Year in Review report, and I thank members for their ongoing commitment to collaboration.

- Kenneth McFarlan, Management Committee Chair, Library Services Manager, Island Health Authority



Photo 1: Kenneth McFarlan

¹ Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22, pg 4. Available at [the BC Government Initiatives, plans and strategies webpage](#).

² News Release: [Hundreds of new nursing training seats coming provincewide](#).

eHLbc's Core Values

eHLbc's multi-sector collaborative services and coordinated approach to licensing ensure that all health students and practitioners across BC and the Yukon – whether they are working in urban or rural centres, in public or private practice – have access to the same core health resources that support and improve practice, education, and research. The consortium's core values are:

- Collaborative
- Proactive
- Responsive
- Equitable
- Accountable
- Sustainable

Stronger Together: How eHLbc Collaborates

eHLbc is an active participant in Consortia Canada, a group of library consortia that cooperatively licenses electronic resources and works on common goals. In 2021 eHLbc collaborated with fellow Canadian consortia to:

- secure low common inflationary renewal rates for EBSCO licensed resources to 2022
- license 4 electronic resources on behalf of members (lead on 1)
- coordinate efforts to contact vendors in response to SolarWinds data breach
- license ConsortiaManager, software used to manage licensing infrastructure

Value of Participation

Members of eHLbc gain much from participation.

Benefits

- 51 health, post-secondary, and government organizations pool resources & efforts, and gain significant discounts.
- 1 central body, the eHLbc consortium, coordinates and negotiates on behalf of members. This centralized approach increases convenience and clout.
- More than 600,000 students, educators, researchers, and health care professionals have online access to core health resources.

Access

- Over 745,000 electronic journals, e-books, videos, and point-of-care tools are available online to members' patrons.
- 24/7 access to evidence-based research for professionals, educators, researchers, and students.
- 15 "boutique" (opt-in) resources for members to choose from in addition to the Core Suite.

Savings

- Over 7 million dollars in savings each year on the Core Suite of resources, a collection of health databases available to all members.
- 10-100% discounts off list price on eHLbc resources, thanks to collaborative licensing through the consortium.
- \$4.80 per student/health practitioner to have a full year of access to Core Suite resources. That's about the cost of a fancy coffee!

Equitable Access to Health Resources Through the Core Suite

The Core Suite is a cornerstone of eHLbc. It is a multi-vendor bundle of electronic resources to which all eHLbc member organizations subscribe. The Core Suite supports eHLbc's primary goal of providing BC and the Yukon's health care and post-secondary communities with equitable access to essential online health resources.

In 2021, eHLbc formed a team to lead the 2022-2026 renewal investigations. Work included inviting member feedback through an initial survey, creating a website to share information about the renewal, holding Q&A sessions, and negotiations with vendors. The renewal process will wrap up in spring 2022.

See the full list of resources on the [Core Suite webpage](#).

2021 Strategic Progress

eHLbc's activities in 2021 were guided by the 2017-2022 strategic plan.

Maintain Core Suite of Resources

- Began preparation for Core Suite renewal with initial member survey; formed a Core Suite team to gather information and negotiate on behalf of member organizations
- Communicated renewal progress regularly with members via email, Core Suite Web, and through virtual Question & Answer sessions
- Negotiated an initial proposal with vendors; released proposal to members in December

Grow Collection of Boutique Licenses

- Renewed 15 boutique resources (opt-in resources external to the Core Suite) on behalf of member libraries
- Collaborated with fellow Consortia Canada members to license resources, manage SolarWinds data breach, and strategize transition to new licensing infrastructure ConsortiaManager
- Completed the 2021/22 New Product Selection Process and began investigating licensing options for resources prioritized by members

Empower and Support eHLbc Members

- Extended agreement with EBSCO regarding common inflationary renewal rate increases for licensed resources to June 30, 2022; by collaborating with other consortia, eHLbc succeeded in sustaining beneficial pricing and system-wide equity for libraries in Western Canada
- Provided orientations and customized dashboards depicting institutional value with seven new library directors and staff
- Published two issues of the Vital Signs newsletter, available on the [Vital Signs webpage](#).

Develop eHLbc's Affiliate Membership

- Completed a review of membership pages and application tools to streamline application process; created a new web form for applicants
- Developed an affiliate member Letter of Agreement (LoA) that outlines criteria for membership and member responsibilities; implemented the new LoA with Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine to support the institution's merger with Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine

- Responded to membership inquiry from Work Wellness Institute; Institute has subsequently been accepted as a new affiliate member

Cultivate Professional Development

- Conducted a Learning Opportunities survey to investigate member needs and consortial interest in training and learning opportunities; respondents indicated strong interest in engaging in both learning about eHLbc-licensed resources as well as peer-to-peer professional development opportunities
- Offered 3 learning opportunities to members:
 - Premier Human Anatomy Package PALMs
 - Premier Human Anatomy (Primal Pictures)
 - EBSCO Discovery Service Health User Interface
- Created a Learning Opportunities page for eHLbc members; page makes available recordings of past sessions on the [eHLbc training webpage](#) (log in required)

Licensing Infrastructure Support

- With sister consortium BC ELN, led multi-consortial negotiations for licensing infrastructure ConsortiaManager on behalf of interested Canadian consortia (see callout box, pg. 7)
- Strengthened internal licensing process documentation to ensure continuity of knowledge and support those working on renewals
- Oversaw UBC iSchool co-op students working on licensing and other eHLbc-related projects

Spotlight on: eHLbc's New Learning Opportunities

Learning about health, medicine, and the body has come a long way from pulling a medical textbook off the shelf. Today's online educational tools and resources offer highly detailed and interactive learning experiences. Library staff now have additional support in learning how to use, and train others to use, some of these powerful resources thanks to a new series of learning opportunities offered through eHLbc.

Organized in response to positive survey feedback gathered in early 2021, the eHLbc Administrative Centre offered several online learning sessions through the year for members. These sessions provided "deep dives" into ehlbc-licensed resources like Primal Pictures Premier Human Anatomy Package, which offers 3D reconstructions of human anatomy. Session recordings are available for members to watch or re-watch anytime by logging into the eHLbc website.

This new learning series reflects the consortium's responsiveness to member needs. The Administrative Centre will continue offering learning opportunities into 2022, and welcomes member input on future topics.

Quote from attendee Ken McFarlan, Library Services Manager at Island Health Authority:
"How times have changed since basic rote learning! Dynamic learning tools represent the future of education and the PALMs session underlined the value of technology applied to learning."



Photo 2: Paramedic students at the Justice Institute of British Columbia

Streamlining Electronic Resource Management

Prompted by the need to find a tool that would replace outdated infrastructure, eHLbc investigated options in 2021. ConsortiaManager, a platform designed specifically for managing Library consortia workflows, was selected for the many benefits it will bring the consortium:

- greater efficiencies in licensing and invoicing processes
- a cost-effective alternative to custom tools
- increased customization for member organizations
- The eHLbc Administrative Centre will support members through the transition in 2022.

Financials

eHLbc financial summary for 2020/21 and projected financials for 2021/22.

eHLbc Administration

Revenue	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Projected
Carryforward	\$18,066	\$26,381
Full Member Fees	\$119,195	\$121,581
Affiliate Member Fees	\$10,073	\$10,094
Miscellaneous Revenue (includes prepayments etc.)	\$5,425	\$5,673
Carryforward	\$18,066	\$26,381
Total Revenue	\$152,759	\$163,729

Expenditure	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Projected
Coordination and Staffing	\$120,808	\$142,538
Administration/Communication/Governance	\$1,356	\$1,378
Technology Infrastructure	\$4,214	\$1,740
Total Expenditure	\$126,378	\$145,656

eHLbc Administration Revenue over Expenditure (Carryforward):

- 2020/21 Actual Carryforward: \$26,381
- 2021/22 Projected Carryforward: \$18,073

Licensing Programme

Revenue	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Projected
Carryforward	\$188,766	\$212,899
Member Contributions	\$4,520,859	\$4,222,995
Affiliate Member Core Cost Contributions	\$39,796	\$37,713
Miscellaneous Revenue (includes prepayments etc.)	\$94,327	\$96,062
Total Revenue	\$4,843,748	\$4,569,669

Expenditure	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Projected
Payments to Vendors (Core Suite and Boutique)	\$4,630,849	\$4,330,311
Total Expenditure	\$4,630,849	\$4,330,311

eHLbc Licensing Programme Revenue over Expenditure (Carryforward):

- 2020/21 Actual Carryforward: \$212,899. Carryforward includes Affiliate Member Core Cost Contributions for 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and the subsidy for 2021/22, plus prepayments and credits of approximately \$94,000.
- 2021/22 Projected Carryforward: \$239,358. Carryforward includes Affiliate Member Core Cost Contributions for 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, and the subsidy for 2022/23 plus prepayments and credits of approximately \$96,000.

The Year Ahead

eHLbc activities on the horizon for 2022 include:

- Completing the Core Suite renewal and gathering feedback from member organizations on process to inform future renewals
- Transitioning to new licensing and billing management tool ConsortiaManager
- Continuing with the Learning Opportunities series; the next session will be a dive into OVID's Evidence Based Medicine Reviews (EBMR)
- With eHLbc's current strategic plan to expire in 2022, eHLbc will begin a process to consult with members on the future of the consortium

The Administrative Centre reports strategic progress biannually. See past progress reports on the [progress report webpage](#).

eHLbc Supports Health Care Growth

As the Province of British Columbia continues to invest in health care with expanded education opportunities and more services, eHLbc is there to support this growth.

Examples of developing provincial health care include:

- Richmond Hospital Expansion. Read more at the [BC Government News Release: Full steam ahead for expanded Richmond Hospital](#).
- More Nursing Training Seats to Come. [Read more at the BC Government News Release: Hundreds of new nursing training seats coming provincewide](#).
- Recent Opening of the Esquimalt Urgent and Primary Care Centre. Read more at the [BC Government News Release: Esquimalt UPCC opens at permanent new location](#).

eHLbc's provision of current, evidence-based health research supports a robust health care system.

eHLbc Management Committee

As of December 2021

- Chair: Kenneth McFarlan, Island Health Authority
- Vice-Chair: Debbie Schachter, Langara College
- Post-Secondary Sector Representatives:
 - April Haddad, Justice Institute of British Columbia
 - Trish Rosseel, Douglas College
- Health Sector Representatives:
 - Chantalle Jack, Provincial Health Services Authority
 - Brooke Scott, Fraser Health Authority
- Affiliate Sector Representative: Carol MacFarlane, BC College of Nurses and Midwives

eHLbc Administrative Centre

- Anita Cocchia
- Korinne Hamakawa
- Leah Hopton
- Sunni Nishimura
- Vaughn Postgate
- Brandon Weigel

Licensed Resources

Core Suite of Resources

- APA PsycArticles
- APA PsycInfo
- Biomedical Reference Collection: Comprehensive Edition
- CINAHL Complete
- eBooks Nursing Collection
- Evidence Based Medicine Reviews
- LWW Total Access Collection 2021 with Neurology
- EBSCO Medline with Full Text
- OVID Medline

Boutique Resources

- Ageline
- Alexander Street Press Video Online
- Clinical Skills
- DSM-5 Library
- DynaMed
- EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)
- EBSCO Health Source Package (Health Source Consumer & Nursing/Academic, Alt Healthwatch, and AHFS Consumer Medication Info)
- Introductory Textbook of Psychiatry
- Joanna Briggs Institute Database, Journal, and Tools Package
- Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW) Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Book Collection
- Nursing Reference Center / Nursing Reference Center Plus
- Premier Human Anatomy Package
- PsychiatryOnline Core / PsychiatryOnline Premium
- Psychotherapy Library
- SPORTDiscus Index / SPORTDiscus with Full Text

The Core Suite is available to all eHLbc Members and consists of 5,500 full-text journals, 800 ebooks, 25 million bibliographic citations and abstracts, and 740,000 evidence-based reviews. Members choose boutique resources as budgets and needs dictate.

Member Organizations

As of December 2021

Post-Secondary Institutions

- Alexander College
- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine
- Camosun College
- Capilano University
- Coast Mountain College
- College of New Caledonia
- College of the Rockies
- Columbia Bible College
- Douglas College
- Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Langara College
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
- North Island College
- Northern Lights College
- Okanagan College
- Quest University Canada
- Royal Roads University
- Selkirk College
- Simon Fraser University
- Thompson Rivers University
- Trinity Western University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of the Fraser Valley
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Community College
- Vancouver Island University
- Yukon University

Health Authorities

- First Nations Health Authority
- Fraser Health Authority
- Interior Health Authority
- Island Health Authority
- Northern Health Authority
- Providence Health Care
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Yukon Health & Social Services

Government and Health Profession Organizations

- BC Association of Kinesiologists
- BC College of Nurses and Midwives
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists – BC Chapter
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC
- Health Employers Association of BC
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Ministry of Health
- Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC
- Physiotherapy Association of BC
- Registered Massage Therapists' Association of BC
- Speech and Hearing BC
- WorkSafeBC



Contact Information

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