Documentalistes sans frontières:

taxonomy design for a multi-disciplinary, pan-European subject gateway

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The ELISAD Gateway

- European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs
  - http://www.elisad.eu/

- European Gateway on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictions
  - http://www.elisad.uni-bremen.de/

Gateway Participants

- EU-funded project
- English-speaking
  - across the EU, incl. new member states
  - Scandinavia
- Information providers
  - chiefly qualified information professionals
  - some academics

Keyword Review

- Keywords were created in 2003
  - by committee, bottom-up design
- Subject area has evolved and expanded
- 2 years' experience using the Gateway
  - inputting data, searching site
- Funding for translation
- New search screens & input forms

Professional Responsibilities

- Project Sponsor (Toxibase, France)

- Project Manager (Archido, Germany)

- Taxonomy Designer (DrugScope, UK)

- Translation Manager (DrugScope, UK)

- Programmer (ZAIT, Germany)

- Graphic Designer (ZAIT, Germany)

- Marketing (Anne Singer, France)

Challenges

- Time – deadlines, other commitments
- Distance – remote working
- Communication
  - cultural differences
    - national
    - professional
  - linguistic differences
- Respect

DrugScope

Lessons Learned

- Know your own role
  - define "taxonomy"

- Make sure others understand your role
  - especially those before & after you

- Make sure you understand others' roles
  - don't assume skill-sets based on British / information professional culture

Lessons Learned

- Be clear about responsibilities
  - make sure "extras" are acknowledged
  - be wary of treading on toes
    - especially communicating by email
- Consult, consult, consult: taxonomy is all about hierarchies, but working across national and professional boundaries is about learning & sharing.