

**Nader Naghshineh and Shahed Rashidi**

*University of Teheran, Iran*

***The Avicenna bind: Challenges of evidence based librarianship and practice implementation in Iran [Poster]***

Iranians by in large revere the name of Avicenna, an 11th century scientist, polymath and Hakim (Physician/philosopher/Psychologist). He could also be safely considered as one of the early practitioners of evidence based medicine. It also gave rise to several metaphors that interestingly enough have bearing on EBLP. The present paper presents a summary of a research carried out at the Information Studies Lab at Tehran University. The main challenge facing EBLP in Iran is the lack of coherent tradition for rigorous monitoring within the LIS community. In most cases, while Web tools such as social networks, wikis and blogs have been adopted, there are no data externalization that could support the core EBLP. There is also a question of difference in origin of EBLP. In Iran, it is the engineering that could possibly provide the impetus for EBLP. In the period between 1993-2003, every major Iranian breakthrough in information management practice had been from engineering establishment. Many librarians however have problem identifying with EBLP, often mistake it as a fancy window dressing for case study research. The Avicenna bind is where the EBLP assumes that the majority of stakeholders would react rationally to the evidence, whereas being essentially set as soft-systems, the library stakeholders often do not make rational choices. EBPL could however be used for partial servicescape design within library and information science community of practice.

---

*Nader Naghshineh is Director of the Information Studies Lab, University of Tehran, Iran and Shahed Rashidi is a Graduate Student at the LIS Department of this University.*