



March 1999

National Newsletter

HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION *NEWS AND VIEWS*

The HLS National Executive is now in Victoria, where it will remain for three years. After that it will revert to its normal two-yearly cycle, going first to South Australia (2002-3), and then NSW (2004-5).

Congratulations are due to the Western Australians, who did a fine job of leading the Section over the last three years.

A relatively large committee has been formed in Victoria (details on back page). Part of the reason for this is to give younger ALIA members the opportunity to gain experience at this level. A conscious effort has been made to encourage younger members to accept positions of responsibility - a policy which I commend to state executives.

Readers of this column who are new graduates, or who have a few years of experience behind them, should always consider nominating for HLS Executive positions. Committee work is valuable experience personally and professionally - and your Association really does need

your contribution, your ideas, and your fresh approach to professional life.

If there is to be a theme for the next three years, let it be to emphasise all the things that are positive about our work and our professional association. The talent and enthusiasm to be found in our ranks deserve to be celebrated by us all. ALIA has a role, not only in organising and promoting the profession, but also in maintaining its integrity, its expertise, its self-confidence and its morale.

The newsletter will be supplemented this year by news items posted to the ALIA HEALTH list, which will continue to be managed by Alison Sutherland in WA. About half the members of the HLS are current subscribers. At least in the short term, everything sent to the list will appear in the newsletter or in a mailout. However for timely access to information, all members are encouraged to join the list (see web site for details).

Stephen Due
National President
ALIA Health Libraries Section

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Analysis of ALIA HLS membership

February 1999

This data was collected from the national membership records of the HLS.

Total membership 450 (approx)

Places of employment

Clinical (hospital, health service etc): 170

Commercial (drug company etc): 60

Association (professional, consumer) 40

Government Department 40

University 35

Research 15

Other library (municipal etc) 25

None stated 65

Location:

Victoria 150 (approx)

NSW 150 (approx)

Other States 150 (approx)

(SA>QLD=WA>TAS>NT)

Health libraries brochure now available

A new brochure is available for health librarians wishing to promote their own libraries, and to promote health libraries in general

This professionally designed brochure describes the kinds of services offered by health libraries, the role of libraries in the health care system, and the special skills of health library staff. On the back is a space where contact details for the distributing library can be printed.

The brochures are available in packs of 100, at \$20 per pack plus postage and packing. Prepayment is not necessary - we will invoice you when we send your order.

Sample copies are available on request.

To order, contact Mellita Vertigan

Health Sciences Library
The Alfred
Commercial Rd
Prahran 3181

Phone: 9276 3042

Fax: 9276 3411

Email: mellita2@vicnet.net.au

This is a non-profit project of the ALIA Health Libraries Section in Victoria.

Use this space!

Advertising the Health Libraries Section National Newsletter is simple and economical.

ANNE HARRISON AWARD 1999

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED for the 1999 Anne Harrison Award for Health Librarianship.

The Award was established over ten years ago as a tribute to the pioneering work of Anne Harrison (1923-1992) in the development of health librarianship, and is intended to encourage others to make their own contributions in this field.

The sum of \$3,000 has been made available by the Fund Trustees, and may be awarded for:

1. A research project which will (a) increase the understanding of health librarianship in Australia, or (b) explore the potential for further development of health librarianship in Australia
2. Assistance towards enrichment of knowledge and skills of Australian health sciences librarians, including funding (a) to help an ALIA member meet expenses of an approved course of study or study tour, or (b) to help meet expenses arising from a publication in the field of Australian health librarianship.

Conditions:

1. The Award is not limited to ALIA members
2. Current Health Libraries Section National Executive members are ineligible
3. Other conditions as set out in the Guidelines for applicants

The winner of the Award will be announced at the AGM in Hobart in August 1999.

The closing date for applications is Friday 21 May 1999.

Guidelines for applicants are available from the undersigned, or from the ALIA web site (<http://www.alia.org.au/sections/health/anne.harrison/>).

Further information may be obtained from:

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AUSTRALIA

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Australian Library Week

17 - 23 May

Libraries: Explore and Discover

1999
ALIA Divisional Reporting to General Council

Health Libraries Section

Key Issues for the Section in 1999

Carried over from 1998:

1. Revision of the National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries.
2. Production of a library physical space / facilities standard recognised by Standards Australia.
3. To assist with preparations for the 1999 Biennial Conference in Hobart.
4. Improve communication with HLS members (use of the web site, and lists)

New for 1999:

5. Implementation and impact of computerisation in health libraries (possible report)
6. Statistical recording and reporting in health sciences libraries (possible recommendations)
7. Look at ways of increasing membership and participation
8. Begin preparing for the 2001 conference in Melbourne
9. Library promotion (including Victorian HLS promotional leaflet)
10. Consideration of needs/methods for continuing education for health librarians

Division Objectives for 1999

1. The interstate committee revising the *National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries* to have some documentation ready to present to the AGM in Hobart in August for feedback.
2. To continue to produce a quarterly national newsletter.
3. Administration of Anne Harrison Award
4. To produce a national code of ethics for health libraries

Activities Planned for 1999

1. AGM at Hobart conference
2. Presentation of Anne Harrison Award at Hobart conference

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STRAIT to the future

8th Asia-Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference

The 8th Asia-Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference - *Strait to the future*, is to be held in Hobart, Tasmania 22 –26 August 1999.

Registration Brochure released!

The registration brochure will be included in the April issue of inCite, and early bird registration closes on 25 June, so get your registration in early and save.

An exciting and innovative conference with interesting plenary speakers, papers and focus sessions is planned. The focus sessions will give delegates the chance to discuss topics of interest with experts and with each other to take advantage of their colleagues knowledge and expertise.

The health plenary speaker will be Grace Cheng ,Chief Librarian, Hong Kong Hospital Authority. Grace will speak about the “shifting information landscape” and how librarians need to reposition themselves in the world of information provision. One of the health focus sessions will be Evidence based health care – can library intervention make a difference? This is a current topic and one which will generate much interest and discussion.

As well as an interesting programme several enjoyable social events are also planned, starting with the Welcome Supper and the official opening of the Trade Exhibition on Sunday 22 August. This evening will feature a wide selection of Tasmanian food and wine and will provide an opportunity to meet colleagues and wander the trade exhibition in a relaxed atmosphere. This welcome function will be held at Wrest Point Conference Centre, the venue for the conference.

To continue the Tasmanian flavour the Monday evening delegates will be guests of the Governor, Sir Guy Green at a cocktail party at Government House. Numbers for this event are strictly limited so register early if you want to attend. The conference dinner will be held on the Wednesday evening at Hobart’s City Hall and will be a “spectacular”. Dinners are also planned for the Health and Law groups to take advantage of the unique venues, food and wine that Tasmania has to offer.

For more information about the conference check our web page at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/strait>.

All in all this promises to be an interesting and enjoyable conference and we would love to see you there.

Chris Richardson
Publicity Convenor

Want to appear in print?

Don't delay! Write to the National Newsletter today!

An article:

"A recent study of"

A letter:

"Dear Editor, the fact is"

A news item:

"Today the library at....."

A snippet:

"Did you know.....?"

Or even a poem:

Maybe not the birds and bees,
But what about the MESH trees,
In couplets terse
Or in blank verse
If you prefer it.....?

Deadlines:

For June issue, 7 May 1999
For September issue, 6 August 1999
For December issue, 5 November 1999

The National Newsletter

is the official national journal of the
ALIA Health Libraries Section.

This issue was edited and published by Stephen Due
using Microsoft Publisher.

Gabby Fennessy will be editing future issues

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION, 1999

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