

June 1997

National Newsletter

**on the edge
7th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and
Law Librarians'
Conference & Exhibition
12-16 October 1997, Perth WA**

The conference program / registration brochure should be mailed out to you by 21st May. What better way to spend any end of year money than on a registration or two to the conference?

As reported in the March issue of the newsletter, our plenary speaker is Professor Joanne Gard Marshall from Canada. Health librarians have done us proud once more with 20 of the 78 (non-plenary) speakers coming from the health sector. We have speakers from most states and 3 others from the UK (2) and Canada (1). It's not just numbers either, the program committee has selected quality papers from interesting speakers.

All this - but wait - there's more! You will find much to tempt your interest in the papers from our specials and law librarian colleagues.

Delay no further, contact that travel agent, investigate adding on a holiday at either end of the conference (home, Bali, Bangkok, Broome, Singapore, Perth or Perth, Bali, Bangkok, Broome, Singapore, home). Ansett is the conference airline. Contact them on 13 1300 and quote ref MC 08028 to see what kind of deal they can do for you. A variety of tour suggestions may also be found in the program / registration brochure.

<http://www.lib.murdoch.edu.au/edge/edge.html>

Funding to attend on the edge →→→

The National Executive of the Health Libraries Section ALIA is calling for applications for funds to attend "On the Edge". Two grants each of \$500 will be made available to librarians who fulfil the following criteria:

- Professional member of the Australian Library and Information Association
- Work in a health or medical library located outside the major capital cities
- Qualified within the last five years
- Have not previously attended a Health, Specials and Law Librarians Conference.

...continued page 2

inside...

Comparison of ILLs in Australia and USA
Library profile
Recent books in Health Sciences Librarianship

page 2
page 4
page 6

Australian Inter-Library Loans compared to US Commercial Suppliers

By Stephen Due

A recent article from the US¹ showed that three commercial document suppliers average between three working days (two suppliers) and eight working days (one supplier) (all excluding weekends) in supplying an article. The sample was small (150 requests split evenly between three suppliers), but probably representative. Delivery times, if weekends were included, would increase to about 3.5 days and slightly over eight days respectively. The cost varied between \$12 and \$20 US.

Figures from Geelong Hospital Library for 1995 and 1996 show (with samples of several thousand requests) that delivery times average five days consistently over the last two years for items requested from GRATIS libraries, and seven to eight days for items requested from other (mainly university) libraries.

Many librarians would argue that this is far too slow. The US National Library of Medicine recently installed a new Inter-Library Loan system in which photocopiers are entirely replaced by scanners. All articles it supplies are delivered electronically or by fax directly from the computer system where possible. The aim is a standard 24-hour turnaround.

It is important to remember, however, that from the user's point of view ILL provides only a small proportion of all documents he or she obtains from the library. ILL figures do not take account of the very large number of articles supplied "instantaneously" to local library users from local collections. If this factor is taken into account at Geelong, where at least 90% of all requests are supplied from our own collections, our delivery times would be on average less than one day. This is one of several good reasons for maintaining high-use collections of core journals locally.

Furthermore, costs of documents supplied through the library system are far less than the costs of documents supplied commercially. Our analysis of the Victorian health library statistics (see the last issue

of this newsletter) showed that the average cost of a document supplied by us is less than \$5 (probably no more than a third of the average commercial rate). Because this figure includes all our costs, it shows that we are far more efficient than commercial suppliers - and underlines the great value of a library service to an organisation which needs access to health sciences information.

1. Sekerak RJ, Light JC, Wang H, Hall EF. A trial of three document delivery suppliers with strong holdings in biomedicine. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* 1997; 16(2): 27-36.

...on the edge funding continued from page 1

Applications should include qualifications, employment history and a short statement of approximately 500 words outlining the benefits they expect to derive professionally from attending "On the Edge". The successful applicants will be required to submit a short article outlining the highlights of the conference and the benefits they derived professionally from attending "On the Edge" to the National Newsletter.

Applications should be forwarded to
Tricia Scolaro
National President
Health Libraries Section ALIA
Head of Department Library
King Edward Memorial and Princess Margaret
Hospitals
GPO Box D184
Perth WA 6001

If you require further information please call
Tricia Scolaro on (08) 9340 8465.

Applications should be received no later than
5.00pm Friday 1st August 1997 and may be faxed
to (08) 9382 3055.

Developmental Dysplasia of The Hip in Infants

A video presented by

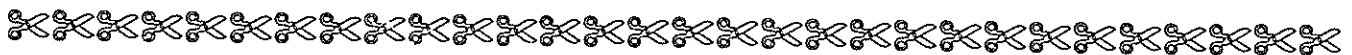
Dr. Michael Bellemore - New Childrens' Hospital, Westmead.

The video demonstrates examination of the hips in infants and explains the clinical indicators for developmental hip dysplasia. It is suitable for hospital staff and all clinicians providing an early childhood health service.

PRODUCED BY: Audio Visual Department, Westmead Hospital, Sydney.

AVAILABLE FROM: Margaret Gibbons,
Parramatta Community Health Service,
Cnr. George & Marsden Streets,
PARRAMATTA, NSW 2150

COST: \$90.00 each
Postage: \$5.00 - 1 video
\$8.00 - 2 or more videos



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Cnr. George & Marsden Streets,
PARRAMATTA, NSW 2150

Library Profiles.....

Family Information Centre, Australian Institute of Family Studies Melbourne

The Family Information Centre (FIC) is open to the public by appointment during office hours for reference or study. It is well used by researchers, government officers, practitioners in social service, medical and legal practitioners, educators and students.

The FIC collection contains books and reports (about 19,000), journal and newsletter titles (about 850), audiovisual materials and, increasingly, materials in electronic format. All these are catalogued on an online public access catalogue. Borrowing can be arranged by interlibrary loan or by becoming a member of the FIC.

Special features of the collection

The FIC holds some materials that are not found elsewhere in Australia. Moreover, the collection is unique in that it brings together materials not found in the one place anywhere else in the world. The following are some of the features of the collection:

- ❖ A comprehensive collection of Australian materials published or produced from 1980 onwards, on Australian sociological research, policy and practice is indexed in the Institute's *Australian Family & Society Abstracts (FAMILY)* database.
- ❖ Important overseas works on family-related issues cover family dynamics and relationships, problems facing the family, child development and psychology, family therapy and family policy.
- ❖ All major overseas journals on family studies related topics are collected, with holdings mainly dating from the Institute's inception in 1980. With libraries reacting to budget restrictions and rising prices by cancelling journal subscriptions, some of these core family studies journals have sparse Australian holdings.

- ❖ Books, journals, training manuals, teaching aids,

legislation and audiovisual materials support the work of the National Child Protection Clearing House clients. Topics covered include child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, child protection, and family support services. One of these resources is the Child Abuse and Neglect CD-ROM, produced in Washington DC in association with the National Clearing House on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and the National Information Services Corporation. The 'NISC Disk' holds more than 17,000 references from 1965 to the present.

- ❖ There is a large collection - 673 titles - of statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, including many workforce-related titles.
- ❖ The collection contains early Australian demographic materials, such as the *Australian Demography Bulletin* from 1922 to 1957 and the *Australian Year Book* from 1900 to the present.
- ❖ A bibliography collection for children or young adults is intended to help them confront various issues - family breakdown, remarriage, step-families, difficult siblings, and the emergence of sexuality. There is also a collection of picture books for parents to read and discuss with their very young children troubled by divorce, nightmares, death, a new baby, or starting school.

Topics covered by the collection

While visitors would expect the FIC to hold material on family sociology and dynamics, they may not expect to find the following topics, which are well represented in the collection:

- ❖ The work-family interface is concerned with the impact of family responsibilities on the workplace, and the impact of work on family life.

continued page 5

...continued from page 4

- ❖ Demography is also well-represented in the collection, particularly for Australia, the United States and Britain, and to a lesser extent Europe, Japan, China and the Pacific.
- ❖ Women's issues also feature strongly. Subject areas include sex roles, discrimination, equal opportunity, economic and social conditions, feminism, health, fertility, and motherhood.
- ❖ Family law is another substantial area of the collection, and FIC holds many items on divorce, property distribution, child custody and maintenance, children's rights, adoption, and child welfare.
- ❖ The impact of policy decisions on families which constitutes a vital area of the collection, includes housing, income maintenance, taxation, state intervention.
- ❖ By far the fastest growing subject area of the collection is that of family problems and services to address these problems - poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, and disadvantaged groups in society such as sole-parent families.

Special research collections

One of our most valuable but least well-known resources is the research output of many international institutions. International materials are particularly important because they establish the current family studies 'state of the art', and provide a basis for comparison with what is being done in Australia. For example, the Center for Demography and Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has produced reports on sole-parent families, health and wellbeing, computer-modelling, research methodology, family configuration effects, educational attainment, marriage, cohabitation, caregiving, longitudinal studies, and many other topics.

*Judy Adams, Library Manager
AIFS Family Information Centre*

A Message of Thanks

I would like to thank Cheryl Hamill most sincerely for the excellent job she did as Acting National President of the Health Libraries Section while I was on long service/annual leave. Cheryl chaired the Annual General Meeting in Melbourne, and has followed up on the issues raised at that meeting, including the formation of a working party to prepare a proposal for Australia to host the 9th International Congress of Medical Librarianship in 2005, creation of a Revised Standards Document, and preparation of a Health Libraries Promotional Leaflet. Cheryl is also a member of the 1997 Specials, Health & Law Librarians Conference Planning Committee and is responsible for Publicity and Public Relations and so has been working very hard for the section. I am sure I have the support of the Health Libraries Section when I thank her for her invaluable contribution.

Planning for "On the Edge" is progressing very well and the proposed programme looks very informative and stimulating. While overseas I was fortunate in being able to visit Joanne Marshall in Toronto and Judy Palmer in Oxford. Joanne is doing ground breaking work in many areas including examining the impact and value of information. Judy Palmer and her staff are part of the Oxford Master's Programme in Evidence-Based Health Care. I am sure everyone who attends the conference will welcome the opportunity to hear about their innovative work, and will go home with lots of new ideas.

While in the United States I had the opportunity of attending two Teleconferences, Dancing with Change - Electronic Library Resources: Issues and Opportunities, and The Future of Librarians: Positioning Yourself for Success. Teleconferences are a very good way of allowing people separated by long distance to participate in a conference or seminar. I am sure health librarians could benefit from Teleconferences in Australia, they seem a very good medium for providing educational opportunities and the exchange of ideas.

Looking Forward to seeing you all on the edge.

Tricia Scolaro, National President
Health Libraries Section ALIA

From the literature

Some recent books in Health Sciences

Librarianship

By Stephen Due

The Medical Library Association's old *Handbook of Medical Librarianship*, in three volumes, is being replaced by a new set in eight volumes called *Current Practice in Health Sciences Librarianship*. The new set will include the following titles:

1. *Reference and Information Services in Health Sciences Libraries* edited by M. Sandra Wood. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, 1994.
2. *Educational services in Health Sciences Libraries* edited by Francesca Allegri. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, 1995.
3. *Information Access and Delivery in Health Sciences Libraries* edited by Carolyn E. Lipscomb. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, 1996.
4. *Collection Development and assessment in Health Sciences Libraries* by Dottie Eakin and Daniel T. Richards. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, 1996.
5. *Acquisitions in Health Sciences Libraries* edited by David Morse. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, 1996.
6. *Bibliographic management of Information Resources in Health Sciences Libraries* edited by Laurie L. Thompson. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, in press.
7. *Health Sciences Environment and Librarianship in Health Sciences Libraries* edited by Lucretia W. McLure. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, in press.
8. *Administration and Management in Health Sciences Libraries* edited by Rick B. Forsman. Medical Library Asscn and Scarecrow Press, in press.

I have obtained volumes 1-3 and 5, which have been published in recent years. These are comprehensive, practical works of great value. The set will undoubtedly become the new "bible" for Health Sciences Librarians, and although being practical in orientation, its volumes will also date quite quickly in some areas. These are not books to read from cover to cover, but it is certainly worth perusing them to get an idea of their contents, and then keeping them handy for reference when required.

A more accessible, single-volume work is the second edition of *Health Care Librarianship and Information Work*, by Michael Carmel, published in London by the Library Association in 1995. A recent single-volume North American work is *Introduction to Health Sciences Librarianship: a Management handbook*, by Frank R. Kellerman, published by Greenwood Press in 1997. Each of these titles contains a wealth of practical information, and each is useful for getting an overview of contemporary practice in Health Sciences libraries.

Quality in Health Care

The February issue of *The Quality Magazine* focuses on health care. Federal Minister for Health and Family Services, Dr Michael Wooldridge, writes that reforms in the health industry can be achieved without compromising quality of care. Dr John Yu, Chief Executive of The New Children's Hospital at Westmead in Sydney, stresses that industry evaluation must not become a process that consumes more than it contributes. He also makes the following comment: "It is reassuring that the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards is now abandoning its former 'examination' process and instead introducing an Evaluation and Quality Improvement Guide (EQUIP) which has the advantage of being a continuing program with inbuilt standards and guidelines. Also included is discussion about award-winning hospitals and a case study in health care - Ambulance Service Victoria.

Memorable Medical Milestones

By Stephen Due

The Lancet (1997;349:872-4) published an interesting list of 27 epoch-making medical publications. Most were from this century, and over half have been published since the Second World War. They include Richard Doll's study of the aetiology of carcinoma of the lung (1952), the Framingham Study of heart disease (1961), and the famous paper by Gottlieb et al on *Pneumocystis carinii* in homosexual men (1981).

...continued on page 7

INTERNET

Journal Publication Guidelines

Cheryl Hamill

APA-Style Web Citation

<http://www.nyct.net/~beads/weapas/>

MLA-Style Citations of Electronic Sources

by Janice R. Walker

<http://www.cas.usf.edu/english/walker/mla.html>

Citation Style for Internet Sources

by Mark Wainwright

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/maw13/citation.html>

Cooley Science Library-Citing Electronic Resources

<http://149.43.20.35/cslweb/curesup/ecites.html>

Instructions to Authors

<http://www.mco.edu/lib/instr/libinsta.html>

Instructions to Authors from Key Health Services and Public Health Journals

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~larsson/authinst/jolist.html>

A Brief Citation Guide for Internet Sources in History and the Humanities

<http://www.nmmc.com/libweb/employee/citguide.htm>

Breast cancer

OncoLink <http://cancer.med.upenn.edu>

CancerNet <http://wwwicic.nci.nih.gov/CancerNet.html>

...continued from page 6

Papers from the last century include key publications by Lister (1867) and Koch (1882). Also listed is a remarkable recent Australian paper, by BJ Marshall and others, reporting an application of Koch's postulates in determining the role of *Campylobacter pylori* in gastroduodenal disease (*Med J Aust* 1985; 142:436-9).

Consumer health

<http://www.healthy.net/selfcare>

Publication: *Health Online: How to Find Information, Support Groups, and Self-Help Communities in Cyberspace.*

Addison-Wesley Publishers, 1996, ISBN: 0-201-40989-5.

Nutrition

International Food Information Council

<http://ificinfo.health.org/>

The Australian Nutrition Foundation

<http://www.monash.edu.au/ANF/>

The Australian Dieticians Association

<http://daa.net/>

CSIRO - a collection of resource links in the food and science areas

<http://www.dfst.csiro.au/fdnet.htm>

The Australian Iron Status

Advisory Panel

<http://www.ironpanel.org.au/>

The University of Western Sydney

- information on food additives, dietary guidelines, etc.

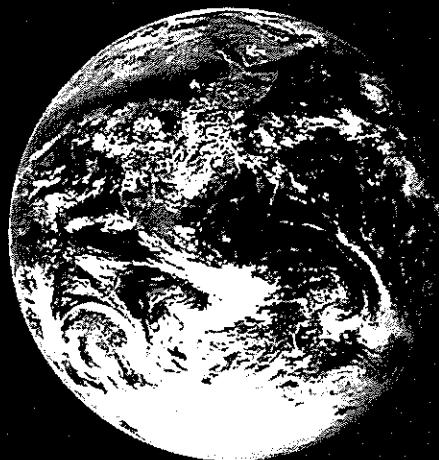
<http://www.hawkesbury.uws.edu.au/~geoffs/index.htm>

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WANTED

**Feature articles on health libraries
in all States**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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