

Health Libraries Section Australian Library & Information Association

December 1996

National Newsletter

Private Hospitals - the major players - who are they?

*"Private hospitals are moving increasingly into the high-tech end of acute health services, increasing their market share at the expense of cash strapped public hospitals in the process"*¹

What do you know about the companies who manage the private hospitals? If you are currently employed in the public sector they may very well be managing your library in the future or alternatively you may have to enter into negotiations with them if they collocate on the same site as your library.

Ramsay Health Care is one of the three largest private hospital operators in Australia. The company owned by Mr Paul Ramsay has more than 1300 beds and employs over 2500 people. Additional information about the company can be found on their home page.² The company retained the libraries at the two major repatriation hospitals in Perth (Hollywood Private Hospital) and Brisbane (Greenslopes Private Hospital) when the hospitals were sold to the Ramsay group. Australian Private Hospital News May 1995 ran an article about the new management at Greenslopes where it was reported that "the hospital is also committed to maintaining its excellent medical library, a facility not available in most private hospitals".³

Healthscope Limited hospitals is another major player with 15 hospitals

and an estimated 1,109 beds in Victoria, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and South Australia. The library service at Modbury hospital was retained when the company took over management from the South Australian government. In Tasmania the company contracts to buy services from the Government sector.

Health Care of Australia (HCoA), a subsidiary of the Mayne Nickless company, is the largest private hospital chain in Australia with 3,478 beds in 36 hospitals, 6 GP clinics and 4 pathology laboratories in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania.⁴ Given the size of this company it would appear that staff have little access to professionally staffed libraries within HCoA owned hospitals. A professional librarian is employed part-time at the Port Macquarie hospital owned by this company. While the company may have entered into contractual arrangements to purchase library services experience has shown that they are reluctant to pay. A company that can well afford to pay the budget for library services - Mayne Nickless Annual Report to June 30 1996 reported an increased revenue by 70.4% to \$520.8 million in its health care division.⁵

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Australian Hospital Care with 11 hospitals and approximately 968 beds in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania is set to expand with the announcement that they are the preferred tenderer to build and operate the 257 bed La Trobe Regional Hospital in Victoria. They are also keen to bid to manage other hospitals in that state. The company also announced last month that it would buy a 214 bed Gold Coast private hospital for \$57.2million.⁶ Little wonder then that shareholders are reaping the rewards - shares in the recently floated company rose from \$1.25 to \$1.90 in a little over two months.⁷ A phone around to a few of the larger hospitals (100+ beds) owned by this company resulted in one call being put through to "the library". At this hospital the "library" is managed by the "Education Co-ordinator", a person with no professional library qualifications.

As questions are being asked about the trend to privatise public hospital services we as a professional body must be informed. Unfortunately with the publication of the new Australian Council of Healthcare EQUiP standards libraries have lost some of their leverage - unless you are working in a library which is located in a large teaching hospital you may not survive in the event of a takeover by the private sector.

- ¹ 'How the emerging players are transforming the private sector', *Healthcover* 1996 v.1 p49.
- ² Ramsay Health Care URL:
<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~atarazi/>
- ³ 'Greenslopes-still the veteran's choice', *Australian Private Hospitals News*, 1995, May, pp12-13
- ⁴ McNamara, Marie 'AAGP questions private health group' *Medical Observer*, 25th October 1996
- ⁵ *Australian Medical Business Fast Fax*, 1996, September 6, issue no 189, p 1.
- ⁶ *Australian Medical Business Fast Fax*, 1996, October 25, issue no 196, p 1.
- ⁷ Gray, Darren "Private interest in taking over public hospitals" in *The Sunday Age* 20 October 1996, p 6.

Kathy Saurine, Manager Library & Information Services
Dr Richard Buttfield Library, Burnie, Tasmania

On further contemplating the problem of cost of document delivery.....

Because of the exponential growth of academic activity since World War 2, there are now too many journals, so that not even the British Library can afford to carry all those subscriptions, and consequently we are all forced to network distributed collections via interlibrary loans. At the same time libraries everywhere are suffering mergers and cut-backs and retrenchments...Document delivery is inevitable, can't be avoided, seems likely to increase overwhelmingly in volume.

It doesn't help for the publishers to clamour that without constant copyright protection they will be forced out of business. (By analogy, if every single citizen, or even a substantial number of citizens, proceed to put a swimming pool in the back garden, the community will run out of water.) Perhaps the publishing industry should regulate itself, or at least run some sort of ongoing survey to determine how many readers they can expect to base their activities on at any given time.

It isn't really a competitive situation either, the weakest can't go to the wall, all these journals are of extremely high standard, each has a band of devoted followers and perhaps more importantly, a band of eminent authors that our civilisation needs, and who require to be published and accessed by readers all over the world. Possibly some articles are more interesting and of a higher standard than others, but this is unpredictable, unselectable, and by now seminal articles are scattered over the aforementioned enormously wide range of serial publications.

So. Even if some public-spirited body were now to start a central clearing house from which readers could access, and pay for, articles electronically or by any other means; and even if this service was of satisfactory speed and financial convenience...How could they obtain copies of back numbers of journals?

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We are forced to depend on the older libraries that have built up their journal holdings over many years; such collections cannot now be replicated. Back numbers could perhaps be scanned onto magnetic media as and when requested; not all articles stand the test of time, but those that do are vital. Berry's 1958 paper on Down Syndrome and water fluoridation is still in demand, probably there are others getting regularly extracted from the archives.

Folks, we have a problem. Abandoning document delivery is unthinkable. The cheapest way to run a document delivery service is to hive it off on an existing organisation. Privatising makes document delivery a lot more expensive - not every activity is best served by private enterprise. Central control looks attractive, but size, communications and administrative delays tend to make central control cumbersome and slow. As possibly might have been expected, what we're doing now is most efficient. About the only sizeable economy we could effect is to abolish Dewey - but why bother, knowing that six months down the track they will be on our backs for yet another cost reduction. Corporate greed is insatiable, and none of them seem to appreciate in the least when they are well off.

The efforts of the Australian Copyright Council to limit or deter people from making photocopies seems misplaced. At best a futile exercise, at worst a serious public nuisance. It isn't the reader's fault if the publishers can't make ends meet. Without their readers they'd be dead anyway. Still less is it the Librarian's responsibility. What do they want us to do - cancel all of our subscriptions?

Since this is a matter of general concern, why don't we open a public debate on the matter, to invite any and all, partial or global, possible solutions to the question of payment for information? Really, the matter is getting urgent, and we all need to know.

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INTERNET

PSY-PHAR is a forum for psychologists, psychiatrists, and other mental health researchers and clinicians to discuss current issues (as well as longstanding ones) in the area of psychotherapy-pharmacotherapy comparative outcome research. Empirical, theoretical, and case-based discussion are welcome; open debate is also welcome.

To subscribe send email to:

LISTSERV@SJUVM.STJOHNS.EDU

In the body of the message type: SUBSCRIBE PSY-PHAR yourfirstnameyourlastname.

Lists of Lists

Ozlists

A list of Australian electronic mailing lists. The list is loosely grouped within subject areas, alphabetically within each, and includes the following details (where known): list name, address, software utilised, subscription details, listowner, brief description of list. Search Ozlists for Australian listservers using keywords and boolean expressions.

http://www.gu.edu.au/gint/ozlists/ozlists_home.html

Tile.net Lists

The reference to Internet discussion groups. Alphabetical listing by description; alphabetical listing by name; alphabetical listing by subject; grouped by host country; grouped by sponsoring organization. <http://tile.net/lists/>

Health Libraries Section Panel Transcripts from MLA

Exactly three weeks after the event, the transcripts of the HLS panel, On Beyond MEDLINE, are available on the Web:

http://www.njc.org/hls/hls_MLA96_intro.html

It is linked from the HLS Web Site and the CAPHIS Web Site:

<http://www.njc.org/hls/hls.htm>

<http://www.njc.org/caphis/caphis.html>

There is a spot for online email questions and answers of the panelists.

Library Profiles.....

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Library

The ADCA library has been providing information products and services to the government and non-government alcohol and other drugs sector since 1974. The library specialises in the social, psychological and treatment aspects of alcohol and drug-related problems. It is not a medical library but subscribes to Medline on CD and does search other medical databases on-line.

It is unique in its national focus and its provision of nationwide central cataloguing and indexing services and document supply. An external review by consultants Judge and Clayton found that "the information services provided by this library are unique in Australian health information through their national role and focus".

It is funded by the Drugs of Dependence Branch of the federal Department of Health and Family Services (please note that this was written before August 20!) and has a full-time staff of two librarians, two library technicians and a library assistant.

Traditional library and archival functions of acquiring and managing information in varied formats is supplemented by the production of value-added information products and services in both print and electronic mediums which are used by agencies, institutions and governments across Australia.

The Collection

An extensive collection of published and unpublished material dating back to the 1960's and the early days of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Australia provides the basis for the information services provided by the library. The collection consists of more than 9,000 monographs; over 300 serial titles dating back to the 1940's; 8,500 offprints; and over three hundred videos specialising in the social and psychological aspects of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. The MacCarthy Memorial Collection of the Alcohol Literature from Rutgers University; the collection of offprints and reports from the the Drugs of Dependence

Branch DAIS database; a complete collection of Australian newsclips for the past five years; and the weeded collection of drug materials from the Health and Family Services library all add to the uniqueness, versatility and value of the ADCA library collection.

Publications

The ADCA has an extensive publications program based on its in-house database and catalogue. The library is a full participant in ABN (code is ACAD) and spends considerable resources on the preparation of cataloguing and indexing data. Along with the provision of "on demand" information, the library provides the following publications:

- * DRUG on OZLINE, a bibliographic database of more than 25,000 items mounted on the National Library suite of databases using STAIRS software;
- * DRUGS for HealthRom, a bibliographic database using Folio Views software for the public health CD-ROM produced in partnership with the NLA, DHFS, AIH&W and the NH&MRC;
- * DRUG on Inmagic, a bibliographic database of drug and alcohol information produced monthly on Inmagic software for downloading into the catalogues of six state-based drug and alcohol collections (WAADA, CEIDA, NDARC, RPAH, DASC, and ADF);
- * *The DRUG Thesaurus*, a complete thesaurus of drug and alcohol terms with scope notes and other related terms used in the construction of the DRUG database;
- * *Addictions Information Monthly (AIM)*, a monthly Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service for heavy users of current research information on selected drug issues;
- * *Drug Contents*, a monthly current awareness publication containing the table of contents of all the major drug journals received by the library;
- * *ADLIS Union List of Serials*, an annual listing of serials in all the major drug and alcohol

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libraries in Australia and New Zealand;

- * *What the Papers Say*, a monthly summary of Australian print media coverage of significant drug and alcohol issues. It is produced in an abridged form each month as part of ADCA's monthly newsletter, and in a more extensive form for inclusion in the ADCA electronic bulletin board service.

Services

Reference and information services are provided to a broad range of clients which includes other libraries (including Government Departments, hospitals, universities and tertiary institutions, local councils and schools), researchers, State health authorities, treatment and prevention organisations, policy makers, consultants, health educators, students and the general public. The type of information provided can range from the simple to the most complex - a telephone number for a local drug advisory service to an extensive database and on-line search for a protracted government enquiry.

The library is a full lending library and lends its monographs and videos to anyone in Australia and to selected clients overseas. It is a full participant of the ABN inter-library loan scheme, uses ILANET for some of its inter-library loans and e-mail, and has established reciprocal borrowing rights with hospital and medical libraries throughout the GRATIS network as well as with many Federal Department libraries. It provides a high quality document supply service and can usually guarantee super fast track turnaround on some of the 6,000 off-prints it produces annually.

The library is a co-ordinating member of the Alcohol and Drug Librarians and Information Specialists Network (ADLIS) and is responsible for the management of the ADLIS bulletin board service on ILANET and the ADLIS home page on the internet:

<http://www.slsw.gov.au/ILANET/clients/ADLIS>.

I would be delighted to provide further information on these products and services.

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National Executive Health Libraries Section

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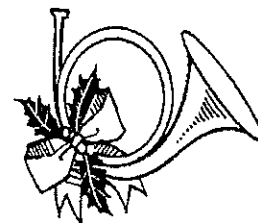


Newsletter Deadlines

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 1997 ISSUE IS
 14 FEBRUARY**

**Copy to be sent on IBM formatted disc
with hard copy to the editor**

See postal address above



*The editor would like to wish everyone a
 safe and happy Christmas
 and looks forward
 to lots of wonderful articles
 for our newsletter in 1997!!*

ALIA Health Libraries Section
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held 8 October 1996 at 1-2pm

1. Present: Cheryl Hamill (Chair & Secretary Fremantle Hosp WA), Stephen Due (Geelong Hospital Vic), Vanessa Craven (Western Hosp Vic), Melanie Kammerman, Jan Reiter, Kerry Johannes (Vic Inst Forensic Med), David Lloyd (Bendigo Healthcare Group Vic), Karen Tempest (CSL), Liz Ogilvie (CSL), Sharon Broderick (ALIA ACT), Jane Shelling (Canberra Hosp.ACT) Tricia Brooks (SA Health Commission), Leanne Griffiths (CSIRO Div Human Nutrition SA), Jeanette Longwood (Royal Perth Hosp WA), Judith Mahoney (Cabrini Hosp), Ann Ritchie (Hollywood Hospital WA), Helen Cotsell (Royal Womens Hosp), Barbara Jacoby (Monash Univ), Michael Rigby (Sydney Adventist Hosp), Andy Smithies (Univ of Tasmania), Veronica Delafosse (Caulfield General Med Centre), Mary McGill (Royal Melbourne Hosp), Louisa D'Arrietta (Gold Coast Health Services), Vikki Cail (Wangaratta District Base Hosp).

2. Apologies: Patricia Scolaro (Princess Margaret Hosp WA), Prue Deacon (ACT)

3. Minutes of the AGM 28 August 1995

The minutes were accepted.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No matters were raised.

5. Correspondence

None relevant to the AGM.

6. Anne Harrison Award Report

A written report was presented by the Administrators and a copy follows these minutes.

7. Treasurers Report

A written report was presented by Anne Batt and a copy follows these minutes. 3 motions were put by the Treasurer as part of the report and these were presented to the meeting and accepted.

8. Planning Progress - 1997 Specials, Health & Law Librarians Conference, Perth

Cheryl Hamill reported that planning is proceeding smoothly. HLS has representatives on the Central Committee and on each of the subcommittees (programme, publicity, social, trade). The conference will be from 12-16 October 1997 and will be held in the Duxton Hotel and the Perth Concert Hall (immediately adjacent).

9. International Congress on Medical Librarianship [ICML] 2005 (9th)

Prue Deacon presented 2 written motions. That the Health Libraries Section put in a bid to host the 9ICML in Australia in 2005. That an HLS committee be formed with a representative from each state and territory to: consult with members, liaise with IFLA and prepare a detailed proposal to present to IFLA at the appropriate time. She also detailed some exploratory steps that had been taken with Virginia Walsh to investigate the potential to host the congress. The motions were presented by Melanie Kammerman and seconded by Veronica Delafosse. The motions were passed. It was noted that the Congress would need to run back to back with our biennial conference and that consultation would be needed with Specials Section and the Australian Law Librarians' Group on location for the 2005 conference, alignment of the programmes, and integration with the trade exhibition, etc. **Action.** President to organise formation of a committee (which must include Virginia Walsh) to fully investigate options and prepare a proposal. The potential for federal and / or state government support should also be investigated.

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10. National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries

A motion was put: to create a standards document to reflect the role of library and information services in health care delivery which is acceptable to HLS members and to the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS). Presented by Ann Ritchie and seconded by Stephen Due. Accepted. Patricia Scolaro has already contacted the ACHS to sound them out on their attitude to such documents now that the EQuIP Guide (revision of the Accreditation Standards) has eliminated the chapter specifying the requirement for a hospital library service. National guidelines which have widespread acceptance are likely to be accepted by ACHS and identified in the references in the EQuIP Guide. It was agreed that the revised guidelines should move away from prescriptive statements on inputs to the service delivery and focus, as EQuIP does, on outcomes library services are able to deliver, and the impact of these services on health care delivery. **Action.** President to form a working group drawn from each state and territory and liaise further with ACHS.

11. Planning for Future Specials, Health & Law Librarians' Conferences

This item was raised in connection with the rotation schedule for our biennial conferences and the likely impact on a venue for the 2005 ICML. The pattern to date has been:

YEAR	HLS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BASED IN	CONFERENCE STATE	CONFERENCE CITY
1985	Victoria	Victoria	Melbourne
1987	South Australia	South Australia	Adelaide
1989	Queensland	New Zealand	
1991	New South Wales	ACT	Canberra
1993	Western Australia	Queensland	Gold Coast
1995	New South Wales	New South Wales	Sydney
1997	Western Australia	Western Australia	Perth
1999	?	Tasmania	Hobart?

The venue rotation does not include every state and territory automatically as some states with small numbers of members do not want a turn due to the difficulty of organising such events with a small membership base. It is not clear which state would be "due" to host the 2005 biennial conference and the committee preparing the proposal for 9ICML should not be limited by a rotation schedule but should choose the location best able to host such an event. Negotiations with Specials Section and the Australian Law Librarians' Group will be part of this process and will also assist with planning venues for our biennial conferences beyond Tasmania.

12. Other Business

Prue Deacon presented a 2nd draft "Health Libraries Promotion Leaflet" prepared by ACT HLS members from a first draft prepared by Victorian HLS members. Prue is seeking feedback from state groups and members. If support is found, funding will be sought from ALIA for design printing and distribution. Volunteers are sought to assist with the process. Prue may be contacted at the Commonwealth Dept of Health and Family Services, ph 06 289 7062, email prue.deacon@hhlgcs.ausgovhcs.telememo.au.

ALIA HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION
1995 ACCOUNTS

Opening balance \$5214.37

Income
Conference registrations 375.05
Refund from Conference 12,000.00
Advertisements 90.00
Interest 134.86
Total 14,279.91

\$19,314.28

Expenditure
Newsletter 628.00
Postage 774.50
Conferences 2875.55
Meetings 555.00
Grant to Anne Harrison Trust 3000.00
Bank charges 91.38
Other 50.00
Total 8174.43

CLOSING BALANCE \$11,139.85

Notes:

1. \$3000 was granted to the Anne Harrison Trust in December 1995.
2. The proceeds from the Sydney Conference were forwarded directly to the Anne Harrison Trust without passing through the HLS accounts.
3. \$11,164.74 was transferred to Perth in February 1996. This was \$30.73 more than was in the bank account in Sydney. This amount was eventually written off by the bank.

1996 ACCOUNTS
as at 20/9/96

Opening balance \$11,164.74

Income
Advertisements \$545.00
Publications sales \$772.00
Interest \$47.62
Total 1,364.62


\$12,529.36

Expenditure
Publication costs \$1904.00
Advertisements \$135.00
Stationery \$100.00
Newsletter \$1713.37
Bank charges \$39.47
Advance for Perth Conference \$3000.00
Shares \$2.00
Total \$6893.84

Balance at 20/9/96 \$5,635.52

Notes:

1. Outstanding income from sale of advertising space \$345
 2. ALIA expects the HLS to fund its own activities from the proceeds of conferences, by selling publications and by selling advertising in the newsletters. We are moving towards covering newsletter costs through the sale of advertising.
 3. A proposal to set up a continuing fund for the Health, Specials, Law conferences may mean that the income derived from the Perth Conference for the section may be small.
 4. The withdrawal of substantial funds from the Sections operating accounts to the Anne Harrison Trust needs the endorsement of the Annual General Meeting.
- Recommended motions
1. The donation of the profits of \$5500 from the Synergy in Sydney Conference to the Anne Harrison Trust be endorsed
 2. The Trustees of the Anne Harrison Trust be asked to return the \$3000 forwarded to that Trust from the HLS Operating Accounts, with accrued interest, in January 1997
 3. The Treasurer's report be adopted


Anne Batt
Honorary Treasurer

20/9/96

ANNE HARRISON AWARD
Report to ALIA Health Libraries Section AGM October 1996

1. Report of the Fund Administrators

Status at 15/9/96

Operating account	\$259.61
Investment accounts	
due 5/1/97 @ 7.5%	\$3000
due 3/4/97 @ 10.55%	\$1800
due 8/8/97 @ 8.5%	\$12,000
due 8/2/98 @ 7.75%	\$12,961.04
due 20/2/98 @ 7.75%	\$5691.45
Total invested	\$35,452.49
Total funds	<u>\$35,712.10</u>


Total includes:

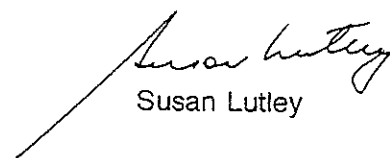
1. Alternate year funds
\$1200 not awarded in 1996 (no applicants)
\$4880.72 balance of alternate year funds

2. New funds 1995
\$3000 from HLS operating accounts
\$5500 proceeds from Sydney Conference

Tax deductibility for donations

The ALIA Financial Services Manager pursued tax deductibility on behalf of the Trustees with the Treasury. The application was refused in September 1995.


Trustees: Anne Batt


Susan Lutley

Brigitte Glockner

2. Report of the Award Administrators


2.1. Alternate year Award.

This Award is available to any state HLS for a continuing education activity for its members. The Award was advertised in Incite and in the Section Newsletter, but no Sections applied. The Award was again advertised on Helo-L and by letter to the Sections still without response. The \$1200 will now be recommended for inclusion in the capital funds.

2.2. The Award Administrators have received excellent progress reports from Kathy Saurine, who received the Award in 1995

Administrators:

Ann Ritchie


Susan Lutley

Anne Batt

Brigitte Glockner