

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION
VICTORIAN GROUP

Executive Committee Minutes (6/86)

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting (Victorian Group) held at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 16th September, at the Medical Library, Alfred Hospital.

1 Present Sandra Russell, Kathy Hutton, Veronica Delafosse, Max Smith, Andrew Rooke, and Joan Martin

2 Apologies Barbara Jacoby and Jean Leith

3 Minutes The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

4 Business arising from the Minutes

Exclusive journal agencies

Max advised that the Victorian Group of the LAA Acquisitions Section has a meeting organised for the 23rd October to discuss this issue. Representatives from the following publishers and agents have been invited: D.A. Books; D.W. Thorpe; Bennett-Ebsco; Butterworths & Co. and R. Hill. Sandra noted that she had written to the American Medical Association outlining her concerns, and that their reply indicated that they would offer subscribers the option to receive AMA journals seairail.

Courses in medical librarianship

Sandra reported that the proposal for a course/elective in medical librarianship at Monash University is at the draft stage.

5 Additional correspondence

Date	From	To	Subject
9.9.86	A Bundy (SACAE)	President	Statement of his priorities re LAA
15.9.86	L Lansley (LAA)	Secretary	Advertised vacancy at Royal Talbot

6 Business arising from correspondence

State registration of librarians

In the Minutes of the National Executive (3/86) it was noted that the Executive intended to urge that the LAA make state registration of librarians one of its objectives. Some Committee members felt that state registration could lead to differing standards, and were concerned that the National Executive had not requested the views of state groups on this issue.

Action Kathy to contact the National Secretary requesting the National Executive's views on state registration of librarians.

Australasian Medical Librarians Conference 1989 The Committee supports the proposal for a joint conference to be held in New Zealand. At the next General Meeting members will be asked for a show of hands to indicate their support for the conference. The 1988 IFLA Conference was also discussed.

Action Kathy to contact the National Secretary to query developments regarding the IFLA Conference in N.S.W.

LAA 50th Anniversary-Guest list

The Committee felt that Anne Harrison should be included on the guest list.

Action Kathy to contact the Secretary of the LAA Victorian Branch to make further enquiries regarding anniversary activities, and to ask that Anne's name be added to the guest list.

Visit of R.B. Tabor

The Committee was delighted to hear of the offer by Mr Tabor to extend his visit to the Philippines later this year and include Australia. He would be accompanied by Mrs Whitsed, Deputy Librarian at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School. In his letter to Bert Pribac (AHD) he notes that the British Council may pay the travel expenses incurred.

Action Kathy to contact the National Secretary regarding the Committee's interest in arranging a day workshop with Mr Tabor and Mrs Whitsed, and to suggest that the National Executive support and coordinate their visit to Australia.

M.L.A. Bilateral agreements

The Committee noted with interest that the N.Z.L.A.'s Health Libraries Section exchanges newsletters with the M.L.A., and has been considering a bilateral agreement with the Association.

Action Kathy to contact the National Secretary to suggest reciprocal agreements with the Section and the M.L.A. be investigated.

7 Anne Harrison Fund

The Committee was in agreement with following proposals by the National Executive:

- That the National Executive be the Administrators of the Fund.
- That endowments from the Fund be made every second year, with recipients being announced at the Medical Librarians Conference.

The Committee's only priority as far as selecting recipients of the Fund would be that the projects selected should contribute to medical librarianship at a national level.

Action Kathy to advise the National Secretary of the Committee's decisions regarding the administration and priorities of the Fund.

8 Transfer of nurse education

The Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission's (VPSEC) Subcommittee on Library Facilities is working towards drafting a statement and funding guidelines on library services in hospitals and Colleges of Advanced Education for nurse education. The Subcommittee will not be producing a core list of materials for nursing collections, but will append a bibliography of core lists to their statement.

9 List of recommended books...small health science libraries

The project has overspent the budget estimates, however only minor editorial revision remains to be done. Printing options are to be re-investigated.

Action Kathy to write to Veronica Speirs (formerly at VRMH, School of Nursing) thanking her for her assistance in the early stages of the project.

10 LAA Draft statement on roles of librarians and library technicians

The Committee was disappointed in the overall structure and expression used in the statement and made the following points:

- That the Statement be broadened to include an explanation of the roles of Library Officers and Library Assistants.
- That the first section be headed 'Definitions'.
- That the sentence beginning 'Successful completion...' on line 11, page 1, be re-worked. Does the sentence mean that 1980 is the cut-off date for Registration being accepted by the LAA?
- That it be noted that teacher librarians must have library qualifications, and may have teaching qualifications. That information on teacher librarians be indented under the paragraph beginning 'Librarians...'.
- That the word 'library' replace 'information' in line 17, page 1
- That the word 'Roles' replace 'Duties', indicating that the following descriptions represent the ideal and not the necessarily the actual situation in libraries.
- That the duty descriptions imply library technicians perform the majority of library operations. The Statement needs to note that the work of technicians is usually of a routine nature, and that the skills of a librarian are essential for an effective library service.
- That the word 'person' replace 'librarian' in the phrase 'only one librarian' in line 3, page 2.

- That a fullstop replace the comma following the word 'libraries' in line 5, page 2.
- That the word 'determining' be replaced by 'establishing' in line 4, paragraph 2, page 2.
- That the note in the Work level guidelines stating that queries be directed to the LAA's Industrial Information and Research Officer be included in the Statement.

Action Kathy to forward a submission on the Statement to the LAA, Victorian Branch and the National Executive.

11 Journal subscriptions

Recent developments in the coordination of subscriptions include: a circular from Mary McGill (VRMH) requesting details of cancellations and new subscriptions; the offer from CMLO to circulate lists of journals proposed for cancellation; the production of a microfiche listing of journal holdings of the Victorian Health Department's Regional Medical Library Service (PEARL). The Committee supported the suggestion from Pat Nakouz (VHDV) that a list of libraries holding medical librarianship journals be compiled.

Action Joan to raise the issue of CMLO coordinating the notification of journal cancellations and new subscriptions at CMLO's A.G.M. A list of medical librarianship journals and holding libraries to be published in the Newsletter.

12 Quality review for librarians

Discussion was held over to the next Executive meeting.

13 Treasurer's report

The current balance is \$233.72, with an additional \$2,480 for the production of the Booklist.

14 Branch Council report

Joan distributed copies of Branch Watch dated 10th September. She noted that a poster and accompanying material that could be used for 'career nights' had been drafted by members of a subcommittee. The state Office Bearers for 1987 are:

President - Anne Forbes
 Vice President (President Elect) - Bruce Davidson
 General Councillor - Ross Gibbs
 Treasurer - Rod Blacker

The Branch is hoping to obtain permanent offices in the new State Library building. In November the LAA General Council will be meeting in Melbourne. All LAA members are welcome to attend the hospitality function on the 21st November prior to the start of the General Council meeting. A seminar on interlibrary loans has

also been scheduled for a date in November. Special grants were approved for the promotion of public and special libraries.

15 Other business

Alan Saunders, Pharmacist in charge of the Victorian Centre for the National Drug Information Service, is interested in talking to medical librarians on the topic of drug information.

Jean Leith advised that the Lincoln School of Nursing is considering charging for book loans to other libraries.

Action Jean to request C Pivec, Librarian at the Lincoln Institute, to discuss the issue of charges for interlibrary loans with representatives of the Association of Librarians of Colleges of Advanced Education (ALCAE).

Nomination forms for Office Bearers need to be distributed to members, with notification of nominees to be included in the next Newsletter.

Action Kathy to post nomination forms to members.

A venue and date for the Group's Xmas party and A.G.M. was discussed. Friday 21st November, 5th or 12th of December would be the most convenient days.

Action Jean to obtain information on prices and venues for the Group's combined A.G.M. and Xmas party.

16 Date of the next meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at 5.30pm on Thursday 16th October, at the Medical Library, Alfred Hospital.

17 Proposed legislation for a health services complaints system

The following comments were made by the hospital librarians on the Committee concerning the Discussion paper on the Health Services Complaints Office (HSCO), and the draft legislation forwarded by the Victorian Allied Health Professional Association (VAHPA):

-That it is unclear if library service fits into the categories of 'health services' listed on page 2 of the draft act. Would category (a) Medical, hospital and nursing services or (i) Health education services, incorporate library services? Librarians provide information not health services, and rarely deal directly with patients.

-That the definition of what constitutes a complaint, page 9 of the draft act, would have to include reference to the provision of 'insufficient information' to be applicable to librarians. The issue of a librarian's ethical and legal responsibility for the content of information provided to clients has been extensively discussed by the library profession. The general

conclusion is that librarians do not believe it is their role to interpret or evaluate information.

-Librarians are not subject to registration at present, and would be interested in the constitution of a 'Special Board' to hear complaints against health professionals not subject to registration.

-That if health library services were open to investigation by the HSCO new systems of record keeping would need to be instigated. At present records are not usually kept for library clients regarding particular queries and the information with which they have been supplied.

-That the relationship of the HSCO to legal procedure is unclear. Should legal representation be available to health professionals asked to defend themselves against a complaint?

-That the powers of the Director of the HSCO appear excessive, and may conflict with those of the Ombudsman. It is reasonable, in certain cases, that complaints be secret, but not that they be anonymous.

Action Kathy to forward a submission to the VAHPA regarding the HSCO and proposed legislation, and to request additional information and explanation of the implications for medical librarians.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Kathy Hutton
Kathy Hutton
Secretary
22.9.86