



AUSTRALIAN  
LIBRARY AND  
INFORMATION  
ASSOCIATION

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AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the third National Newsletter emanating from the National Executive based in New South Wales.

Members of the Executive holding office for the years 1990/91 are as follows:

**PRESIDENT:** Linda Mulheron, Chief Librarian, Westmead Hospital-AMA Library

**SECRETARY:** Ian Stubbin, Reference Librarian, NSW Department of Health Library

**TREASURER:** Kay Vincent, Librarian, Liverpool Hospital, NSW

**EXECUTIVE:** Marion Steele, Librarian, Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital (University of Western Sydney, Nepean)

Virginia Staggs, Librarian, Concord Hospital

Rolf Schafer, Librarian, Lidcombe Hospital

Katherine Keily, Librarian, Westmead Hospital

Patricia Aguado, Chief Librarian, Gardiner Library  
Royal Newcastle Hospital, NSW

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the above for information about our Section or to suggest what you feel the Section should be doing on your behalf. We would welcome relevant contributions to this newsletter. Please keep in contact with your local Executive for events in your state.

AND DON'T FORGET THE CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA IN SEPTEMBER 1991!

ALIA 1990 --- HEALTH LIBRARIES SEMINAR AND AGM HELD IN PERTH  
1ST OCTOBER, 1990.

NSW health librarians can rest assured that they have a most persuasive President in Linda Mulheron. Not only did she prove a good saleswoman on the ALIA stand selling tee-shirts for the 1991 Specials /Law/Health Conference in Canberra to yours truly, but she is also deft at spotting moments of weakness in others. Hence, during the general merriment of the Health Libraries Section dinner at a Freemantle pub, I agreed to write up the events of the Health Libraries seminar and AGM in Perth. I shall, in what follows, endeavour to give a brief synopsis of that afternoon in the Education Centre of Freemantle Hospital.

October 1st seems a long time ago now and probably by the time this hits the presses it will seem like ancient history. I am sure though, that the sixty or so health librarians who attended the afternoon session will regard it as one of the most interesting, relevant, convivial and well organised sessions of the ALIA Perth Conference.

Three papers were presented at the afternoon seminar. The first by Brenda McConochie of the Department of Community Services and Health (ACT), presented on her behalf by Anne Rutledge, was entitled "Performance Measurement in a Departmental Library". It described the steps taken by the Library to reshape its library and information services because of amalgamations of health, community services and the social and community housing section of the Dept of Housing and Construction. It was also initiated because of changes in the placement of the library within the organisational structure from under Administration and Finance to a newly created Information Management section. The first step in the restructuring was the formulation of a statement describing the philosophical basis of the service. A reorganisation of staff was undertaken to facilitate team interaction in the organisational structure. Performance measures were developed based on what consumers and senior managers deemed as critical to the library's success. These measures included: document supply/access to new sources of information/skill level of library staff/marketing/environment of the library from a consumer viewpoint. Reporting on performance to the most strategic people was deemed as important as actually implementing the performance measures defined by users as necessary for a high quality service.

Linda Mulheron continued with the theme of library changes with her paper "Health Librarians coping with imposed change". There was little written in the literature on change, for librarians on the receiving end of imposed changes. They were expected to adopt changes laid down from above, but with little input in the change decisions. Successful 'coping' by health librarians in these situations, called for them to have an awareness of the

literature on 'change'. Some of the commonest changes taking place which impacted on health librarians included: computerization- bringing with it changes in delivery systems, end-user searching and medical informatics; financial constraints- in tight times the health care system cut back on expenditure in areas deemed non essential services. The library and research budgets were cut at a time when there was increased demand for service and facilities by consumers and health care professionals; reorientation to preventative health by the health care system - librarians increasingly were being asked to provide access to information for consumers of health care; accreditation/accountability - librarians were expected to be accountable for their actions and to meet minimum standards of a service department within a hospital. " Computers, mass communication, public awareness, new management knowledge, technological discoveries, increased government demands and regulation and economic stringencies" were some of the changes affecting the health care system in the 1990s which impacted on health librarians - who, more than ever, were expected to be problem solvers - identifying and acquiring information quickly and also acting as teachers to end users of information retrieval systems.

Linda went on to describe a case study of imposed change - that of the AWCH Library. In 1989 the AWCH Library (Australian Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital) was due to cease operation due to lack of government funding. The University of Western Sydney (Nepean) came to the rescue and offered to accomodate the collection as a unique entity. Continuing on-going consultation between both parties with " constant negotiations, co-operation and compromise" was required to fit what had been a specialised independent health library which made its resources available to all comers - into an academic library with a different philosophical outlook. The AWCH library integrated successfully into Nepean campus whilst retaining its independence. Based on the AWCH library experience of imposed change - health librarians ability to cope with imposed change was dependent upon accepting the C.H.A.L.L.E.N.G.E. of change. To find out what this acronym refers to requires a reading of Linda's paper.

The last paper by Patricia Layzell Ward was about steps to follow in "Inhouse research - getting started in research". This "heavy" topic was made extremely palatable by Patricia's friendly and humourous style of presentation. The basic points of starting a research project were identified as being: Why? When? Where (do you go for help)? Who (should carry out the research)? How (do I set about it)? Central to the whole research project was being able to define What the problem was that needed investigation. To make sure that seminar observers were not falling asleep, Patricia then split us up into small groups to decide what problems were common across a range of health librarians present.

The Annual General Meeting of the Health Libraries Section of ALIA commenced immediately after the Seminar. A variety of topics arising from the 1989 AGM in Auckland were touched upon including: Venue for the 1991 Specials/Law/Health Librarians Conference; National Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries; Membership of the Australian Council for Allied Health Professions. During Other Business June Ryder-Jones from Royal Perth Hospital provided a talk on her attendance at the 6th International Congress on Medical Librarianship held in New Delhi, 24-28 September, 1990. ICML (1995) will be held in Washington, DC and there is a possibility that ICML8 (2000) will be held in Australia. An interesting development of ICML6 was a suggestion to set up the World Health Sciences Library Association (WOHSLA) which would not compete with IFLA.

Fresh air and a brisk walk to the Royal Norfolk Hotel revived the 30 odd survivors of the seminar and AGM. The dinner proved excellent and the spirit of conviviality and friendliness which prevailed made this a fitting end to the Health Libraries Section Perth ALIA Conference.

Caroline Cotton  
Nursing Liaison Librarian  
University of Technology, Sydney (Kuring-Gai Campus)

HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION....PAPERS PRESENTED AT A.L.I.A. 1990

Copies of the three papers presented at the Health Libraries Section's afternoon (as mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter) are available for purchase at the bargain price of \$5.00 from:

Brigitte Glockner, King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women,  
P.O. BOX 134, Subiaco. W.A. 6008.

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On behalf of all our members, the Executive would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the Western Australian Branch of H.L.S. for all their hard work in organizing the Health Libraries Section's activities in Perth. In particular, many thanks to Brigitte who was on the ALIA Organizing Committee and was hardly able to stop still in one place for more than one minute, Cheryl who provided a venue for our meeting, and our official minute taker. It was wonderful to meet and eat with you.

## NEWS ABOUT TOWN

Congratulations to Margaret-Gibson Smith from Auckland Uni (who could ever forget Margaret ?) on becoming the first non- American to be accredited as a Continuing Education instructor by the Medical Library Association.

We are hopeful that we might be able to arrange a workshop, either on Collection Development or Managing Reference Services, in conjunction with next year's conference in Canberra when we be seeing Margaret again. We wish Margaret well with this new venture and only wish we knew her secret of coping with her busy schedule. I am sure that a workshop led by Margaret would be fun and entertaining as well as informative and hard work!

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Congratulations to Joan Martin who was recently honoured with an ALIA Letter of Recognition for her work over the past 25 years. Joan was presented with her Award by Bruce Davidson ( General Treasurer of ALIA and General Counsellor for Victoria) at a cocktail party at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.

Prior to her recent retirement, Joan held the position of Chief Librarian at the Brownlees (Medical) Library at the University of Melbourne where she was heavily involved in conspectus and furthering the status of health libraries and librarians.

We congratulate Joan on her Award and are pleased to note that she will continue to play an active part in Health Libraries in her new capacity as President of the victorian Branch of our section for 1991.

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### Biographical Note

The present Librarian of the Royal Hospital for Women in Paddington, (Sydney Eastern suburbs) is Alan Bourne.

Alan succeeds well known identity John Holgate who has left health libraries altogether. Whether in joy or despair we do not know, but he now works in the field of civil aviation in Goulburn St, Sydney.

It has struck your correspondent that it is worthy of remark that the two most recent librarians of this hospital have been men. Why this transpires is a bit of a mystery.

Alan has supplied the following details, and he actually answered all questions, though some of the answers we thought not fit to print in this esteemed journal.

He received his core formal education at Sydney Grammar School in College Street, Sydney, his late father being active in the health field as well.

His chief interests were history and rowing, and like many rowers of their youth, he dreams of rowing again in a gaffers crew. Your correspondent is going to call his bluff.

Thereafter he completed a B.A. at U.N.E., followed by a M.A. at Sydney University. He is a little bit murky about some of his earlier employment, but after completing his professional qualification he worked in T.A.F.E. before he was Hospital Librarian at Concord Repatriation Hospital.

After several years there, he did some consulting before settling down to a regular position at the Royal. I knew him at the N.S.W. Department of Health, and worked easily with him there.

He himself will confirm all of the above if he is contacted by telephone on (01) 339 4058.

Ian Stubbin NHCN

The N.S.W. Department of Health has moved to:

Level 5, 73 Miller St., North Sydney. 2060  
(Locked Mail Bag 961, North Sydney. 2059)

Phone (02) 3919012

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Anne Colianni from NLM is interested in hearing from us on any mistakes we have found in printed or Online Medlars (from printing to actual indexing mistakes).

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NOW available from ALIA Head Office.....

- ..... ALIA Worklevel Guidelines
- ..... Salary Scales
- ..... Courses in Library and Information Science

Contact ALIA, (06) 2851877 or (008) 020071

Free to members.

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## ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Plans are well advanced for our next Biennial Conference to be held in Canberra from 1st to 5th September, 1991.

The Call for Papers was sent to all members last September and the Committee is now deciding on the programme for those days. Thank you to all those members who submitted an abstract for consideration. It was most pleasing to see the variety offered and only confirmed our belief in the many talents of Health Librarians. Notification of acceptance will be forwarded by February and the full programme information sent to members shortly afterwards.

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## THE ANNE HARRISON AWARD

This prestigious award will again be offered in 1991 and information will soon be published about how to apply etc.

The current recipient, Frances Bludhorn, Susman Librarian, Has recently reported on her research and this will be published in full in the next Newsletter, due in Dec/Jan.

## CONFERENCE GOODIES

The Promotions Subcommittee of Achieving Excellence has produced a variety of items promoting the Conference and these are available for sale:

The floral emblem for A.C.T. has been heavily featured..  
They include :

Tee-shirts in various colours (olive, pink, white, black)	\$12
Long sleeve shirts in various colours	*15
Tea Towels (2 different designs)	\$7
Badges..	\$3.50

Badges may be available from your local Executive.

All products can be ordered via Julia Butler at Attorney General's Library in Canberra (06) 2506666 or contact our Publicity Representative, Sheilagh Snedden at Royal Canberra South, (06) 2442588.

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## ACCREDITATION GUIDE

The newly updated chapter on Library and Information Service in the ACHS Accreditation Guide, 9th edition is now available. This should be read in conjunction with The Notes on Governing Body and Management in the General Section of the Guide.

The chapter incorporates many of our suggestions to ACHS and is essential reading for those librarians involved in the accreditation process.

The new edition is available from ACHS, Level 1, 7-9A Joynton Avenue, Zetland. N.S.W. 2017

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## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

1. The Sixth ICML was recently held in New Delhi and at that meeting a draft resolution to form an International or World Association of Medical and Health Science Librarians was discussed together with a proposed Charter to establish the World Health Sciences Librarians Association. No decision was taken at that meeting.

More details about the draft resolution and the proposed charter will be given in the next National HLS Newsletter.

2. The Next ICML (7) will be held in Washington, probably in May 1995 in conjunction with the MLA Annual Meeting.

Australia has indicated its interest in holding ICML8 (or whatever it is called then) for the year 2000. An official submission is to be made by 1993 and a decision will be made in 1994.

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