

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP.
(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 1974.

Minutes of the meeting held 6.30pm. on Tuesday, December 10th., at Monash Biomedical Library, Clayton.

Before the meeting commenced, members enjoyed sandwiches and coffee kindly organized by the Biomedical Library staff.

Apologies were received from the following members: Mrs. Margaret McKinnon, Miss Anne Shepherd, Miss Catherine Briggs, Mrs. I. Ermers, Miss Barbara Flett and Mrs. Jennifer Dowel.

The Medical Library Directories were distributed to all those present at the meeting, and will be posted on to the other libraries. Several librarians have not been able to send in their completed sheets yet, owing to staff changes, etc., but as these sheets are received by the conveners they will be sent on to all the directory-holders. Also, if libraries make staff-changes or alter any other details such as hours of opening, would they please notify the co-conveners, who will then pass on the information, so that libraries can make the appropriate corrections in their directories.

A short report of the Medical Group's LAA Conference Committee was given by the Chairman, Esther Martin, who then gave an outline of the proposed 1½ day workshop programme on "Allied Health Services and the Changing World of Medicine". The LAA has informed the Committee that it will not pay the expenses of any interstate guest speakers, which was a disappointment.

Esther Martin expressed some concern at having heard that Hospital and Charities Commission and the Australian College of General Practitioners had been asked to participate in a preconference meeting of medical personnel and medical librarians. She was afraid this might take some of the impact from the workshop theme. However, Anne Harrison, who is on the L.A.A. Conference Committee explained that the pre-conference session was designed just to publicise the services of various types of libraries to their users, and would not have any bearing on the content of the workshop, which is of course only for librarians.

The Consultative Panel set up within the Medical Librarians Group for assisting library services to smaller country hospitals is becoming more active. A meeting of the panel was held, following a request for help along these lines from Mooroopna Base Hospital, with the result that Enid Meldrum and Amy Bush made a visit to Mooroopna. A report will be made of this visit and circulated to the Committee.

A several page report "a proposal for the regional organization of country hospital libraries in Victoria" has been prepared by Jac Baillie, making the general proposal that these libraries follow the same regional division into six sections as that on which the Victorian Hospital system is based. The smaller country hospital libraries would each be affiliated with a larger urban library, from which it would receive general assistance on library services. Copies of this report are available from the conveners.

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On this same topic, Marion Rock mentioned a series of Hospital Library Handbooks published by the Intermountain Regional Medical Program (U.S.). These were written for all hospital librarians, but specifically cover the problems of small rural hospitals, ie, under 100 beds. The titles are:

1. Hospital Library Handbook, No. 1. - Hospital Library Administration.
2. No. 2. - Hospital Library Development.
3. No. 3. - Printed materials: selection and acquisition.
4. No. 4. First Aid for Hospital Librarians.

These are available from:

Extension Services,
Eccles Medical Sciences Library,
University of Utah Medical Centre,
Salt Lake City. Utah. 84112.

They are \$2.00 per copy, pre-payment required, with cheque or money order payable to Eccles Medical Sciences Library. Marion found that \$9.00 Australian covered the cost of the books sent airmail.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) A letter was received from Miss Judith Lloyd, Medical Librarian at the University of Adelaide, inquiring about the status of the state Medical Librarian Groups, the formation of a National Medical Librarians' Group, and its affiliation or otherwise with the IAA. Marion Rock and Amy Bush have both replied, the latter as Victoria's representative to the National Group.
- b) Miss June Ryder-Jones, Librarian at Royal Perth Hospital, and Mr. Ian R. Stubbin, hospitals Librarian at the N.S.W. Health Commission Library, both wrote to the Group having read of the Book List, and Notes for Untrained Persons in Smaller Libraries. Copies of these were sent in reply; this demonstrates the value of putting news items in journals reaching medical librarians.
- c) A letter from Miss Claire Still, a medical librarian at Leland Stanford University in California, U.S.A., enquired about the possibility of arranging a year's exchange of positions with an Australian medical librarian. As far as we know there is no mechanism existing for organizing such an exchange, so it would have to be arranged on a personal basis. No doubt we would arrange to publish the proposal and details provided by Miss Still in the Australian Library Journal, Special Libraries News, etc.

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- d) Four members of the M.L.G. represented the Group at an informal meeting at Swinburne Tech., to get to know Mr. John Vaughan, newly appointed Executive Director of the LAA. Different groups from within the LAA were represented, and promoted lively discussion of association affairs and problems.
- e) Mr. F.T. McDermott, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery at Monash University, wrote following his recent visit to Indonesia where he visited the medical library of the Faculty of Medicine at the University in Medan, North Sumatra. He discussed with the librarian, Mrs. Harahap, the possibility that some assistance in updating the journal collection could be forthcoming from Victorian Medical Librarians. After some discussion, it was decided that the NLA representative in Djakarta should be contacted on this matter; the Dept. of External affairs may also be able to help.

The business part of the meeting over, there then followed a most interesting report by our guest speakers, Misses Carmel Maguire and Eugenia Lovelace, from the School of Librarianship at the University of New South Wales. They have been investigating, via questionnaire survey, medical information needs and usage, with the aid of a research grant from the National Library of Australia. For the questionnaire survey, 2 sample groups were selected, broadly divided into Medlars users and non. Medlars users.

The conclusions were generally concerned with the extensive non-use and lack of awareness of information services available to users of medical information, and the inadequacy of both the interlibrary loan network and the services of local library services.

Recommendations were as follows (quoted from the report for the interest of those members unable to be present at the meeting:

- i. An investigation should be commenced immediately of ways and means by which delivery of material through the interlibrary loan network could be speeded up;
- ii. An investigation be made of the adequacy of hospital library collections and that a minimum collection of titles be compiled which could well be adopted as a standard by the Australian Council on Hospital Standards;
- iii. An investigation be made of the feasibility of providing short-term training programs for hospital librarians and other medical librarians, of the format and content of such programs and of the bodies most appropriate to sponsor them;
- iv. Provision should be made for the recruitment and training of field officers to disseminate information about information services available to the health care profession and to improve user access to specialized data bases;
- v. Consideration should be given to the development of non-bibliographical information services (for example, drug information services) for the health care community and to the provision of information services in formats other than the printed word.

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At the conclusion of the report, a vote of thanks on behalf of all members was made by Heather McDonald to Carmel and Eugenia; then report aroused much interest and we all hope that some regard is given to their recommendations.

Members of the group were then given a most interesting and informative tour of the Monash Biomedical Library, which had been arranged by Mrs. Baillie, with members of her staff available at all points of interest to answer questions and demonstrate equipment etc. As this was the final meeting for 1974, it was decided to windup the meeting with wine and cheese. This gave everyone a chance to mix again and get to know some of the newer members.

Two final points: firstly, there was an omission from the last newsletter regarding the visit to the Lincoln Institute Library. Mrs. Thora Grey had presented an apology which was not recorded; she would very much have liked to give the tour of the library but was not well at the time. Secondly, there are still some \$2.00 subscriptions outstanding. It would be appreciated if these could be paid to clarify our financial situation.