

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

NO. 8

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1987

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The National Executive extends greetings to all members of the Section. We hope that 1987 will be a successful year for you and that one of the highlights of your year will be a visit to Adelaide in September for the Medical Librarians' Conference. So that you know who we are in the National Executive, we have included a photo of ourselves - from left to right, Stephen Cramond, Julie Freund, Lindsay Harris, Jan Heath (President), Chris O'Loughlin, Barbara Miskelly and Elisabeth Gatehouse.

7TH AUSTRALIAN BIENNIAL MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' CONFERENCE

Venue : Hotel Adelaide, S.A.

Dates : 13th - 17th September, 1987

Registration

Registration forms for the Conference will be issued around Easter. To ensure your name is on the mailing list, if you haven't already done so contact Elisabeth Gatehouse at the Adelaide Children's Hospital Medical Library.

Accommodation

Among the accommodation options which will be offered, there will be rooms made available at the Nurses' Home of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Terrace, Adelaide at approx. \$8.00 per night. These will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis, so get your registration form in early.

Programme Highlights

We are still awaiting final confirmation from some speakers, but the following are expected to be highlights of the programme :

Fiona Mackay Picken, Regional Librarian for the North West Thames Regional Health Authority will speak on the "on-line interview", and will also give a paper on education for medical librarianship at the undergraduate and post-graduate level. She is also expected to take part in an informal luncheon presentation on experiences in overseas libraries along with several others who have worked overseas, including Frances Bluhdorn and Ellen Randva.

Dr. Julie Virgo, a former Director of Education for the U.S. Medical Libraries Association and Assistant Director of the National Library of Medicine who now works as a consultant to libraries, information companies and government agencies, will give the keynote address on new roles for health science libraries. She will also conduct an all-day workshop on strategic planning for health libraries. Dr. Virgo started her career in Adelaide and her broad range of experiences since moving to the United States makes her an extremely interesting and authoritative speaker.

Dr. Norman Swan, who will be familiar to many of us from ABC Radio's Health Report will speak on communicating the frontiers of medicine to the public.

Margaret Gibson-Smith, Librarian for the Auckland Medical Library System will give a paper on the role of the library in information for the general practitioner, and in conjunction with Fran Flynn will talk about peer review "and how we did it", reporting on their experiences as reviewer and reviewee respectively.

Bert Pribac will discuss periodical control on Healthnet, and Prue Deacon will talk on subject searching on Healthnet. Both of course are from the Commonwealth Department of Health Library.

Roberta Atwell from the Department of Veterans' Affairs Library in Canberra will present the experiences of libraries in her department, including 5 hospital libraries, as members of ABN.

Peter Saunders, until recently Medical Librarian at Flinders University, will present a paper with the intriguing title "The Yin and the Yang and the Magic Bullet".

Social Highlights

Among the social highlights of the conference is planned a dinner on board HMS Buffalo, which is "anchored" at Genelg and is part restaurant and part museum of early navigational history. The Buffalo is famed for its excellent seafood cuisine. Other social functions have been arranged for each evening for those interested.

Handy contact numbers

Jan Heath (National President)	(08)	236 2278
Lindsay Harris (National Secretary)	(08)	282 1272
Elisabeth Gatehouse (Conference Chairman)	(08)	267 7380
Nerida Wilkinson (Conference Secretary)	(08)	267 7263

Conference Steering Committee

So you can see who is doing all the hard work, we include a photo of the Conference Steering Committee - standing from left Jan Heath (National President), Irene Dorskatsch (social organiser), Nerida Wilkinson (secretary), Margie Russon (publicity), Robyn Painter (representing sponsors), Barbara Miskelly (treasurer), and sitting, Elisabeth Gatehouse (conference convenor) and Julie Hooke (programme organiser). The little fellow on Julie's lap just wanted to get into the act.



ANNE HARRISON AWARD

Applications have now been invited for the Anne Harrison Award. The aim of the award is to support research or study or some other activity that will further medical librarianship in this country, and as a recognition of the pioneering work of Anne Harrison who, until she retired a few years ago was a leading figure in medical librarianship in Australia.

For more details of the award conditions, see Incite of the 6th February 1987, page 12, and for application forms write to :

Mr. Stephen Cramond,  
Secretary, Anne Harrison Fund Administrators,  
C/- Library, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science,  
Box 14, Rundle Mall P.O.,  
ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000

SEMINAR : HEALTH SCIENCES - ALTERNATIVES, CHOICES AND CHANGE

This seminar was held in Adelaide on 28th November, 1986. Its aim was to review the changes undergone in education for health professionals and to explore its implications for health science libraries.

Sybil McColloch, South Australian Co-ordinator of the transfer of nurse education from hospital-based schools to colleges of advanced education, spoke on the profession of nursing generally and the changes that it is now facing. Rosemary Bryant, the Director of Nursing at the Royal Adelaide Hospital addressed the effects of the transfer on hospitals. Three speakers involved in nurse education spoke of the isolation of country nurses and the hardships they encounter when trying to pursue further studies. Dr. Nancy Lane, Head of the Centre for Library and Information Services at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, discussed education for health science librarianship. There was also a presentation on micro-computer applications in health libraries.

Frances Bluhdorn, Librarian at the Susman Library at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, who has recently been compiling a Peer Review Kit for medical libraries, spoke on quality assurance in libraries.

JULIE FREUND  
SECRETARY, S.A. GROUP

#### PEER REVIEW KIT

The Peer Review Kit mentioned above can be obtained from :

Australian Council on Hospital Standards - Education Unit,  
1st Floor,  
71 Arundel St.,  
GLEBE, N.S.W. 2037

Prepayment of \$12.50, which includes postage, is required. Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Council on Hospital Standards.

#### HEAPS

The S.A. Health Commission's Health Promotion Unit is producing a database known as HEAPS (Health Education and Promotion Information System) which has been mounted on Medline as a subfile of AMI. HEAPS is aimed at professionals involved in health promotion and health education. It gives full details and contact addresses for health promotion programmes, and covers such topics as smoking, AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse and women's health.

HEAPS records look quite different from records normally found on Medline and if come across during a routine search may look very strange. To print a HEAPS record properly in its full format, the command PRT HE COMPR is needed. To access HEAPS records only on AMI, the search statement AND HE(LI) is needed, or to eliminate HEAPS records from a search, one should include AND NOT HE(LI) in the search strategy.

If you want to have a look at what HEAPS can offer on say smoking programmes, try the following search :

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SS1.  *SMOKING AND HE(LI)
SS2.  1 AND P(IT)                (means programme item)
      PRT HE COMPR
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Further information on HEAPS can be obtained from Michael Kay at the Health Promotion Unit on (08) 218 3500.

#### SEAFREIGHT OPTION FOR AMA JOURNALS

From January 1987, a seafreight option became available for all AMA journals, (including the "Archives of.." series). Last year all of these journals were only available airfreight. Delivery time for issues to reach Australia by the seafreight service will be approximately 6 weeks from publication date.

HEALTHNET

The cataloguing module of Healthnet is now up and running, and the acquisitions and circulation modules are expected to be available soon, possibly about mid-year. Healthnet currently has about twenty members and expects membership to increase to 30 to 40 fairly soon. At present, membership of Healthnet requires a dedicated line to the Commonwealth Department of Health in Canberra, but dial-up access is being considered for use of the cataloguing module. This depends to some extent on demand and Prue Deacon in the Dept. of Health Library would be interested in hearing from people who would use the cataloguing module if it were available via dial-up, and whether these people would only use it for inquiry purposes or whether they would be interested in inputting their own holdings. However, this dial-up access may require more sophisticated equipment than many libraries currently use for Medline searching.

With Healthnet now up and running, the HEMLOC database has been closed and no more records have been added since October 1986. This database will probably remain available through Medline for about the next 12 months, after which its fate is uncertain, and will depend on several factors including whether Healthnet becomes available for general inquiry.

IFLA MEMBERSHIP

The Medical Libraries Section has joined the Biological and Medical Libraries Section of IFLA. N.S.W. Group President Monica Davis has been nominated as the Section's IFLA corresponding member. Points of interest from the latest IFLA-B&MSS Newsletter include :

The First European Conference of Medical Librarians was held in Brussels, Belgium, 22nd-25th October, 1986. Among papers presented was one on interrogating Medline and PASCAL databases using the new software "Questel Plus", offered by INSERM-IMA, France. On display among the new products were CD-ROMs of Excerpta Medica, OCLC and the Library of Congress Catalogue. The availability of these large databases on compact disk is an exciting prospect.

The Oxford System of Medicine (OSM) is a project which could revolutionise medical knowledge transfer. It aims to give the general practitioner fast access to the equivalent of a large medical library, and would also help the GP make decisions where appropriate. About four years of further work is needed, and commercial backing would be essential. Oxford University Press' continued funding will depend on whether or not a suitable commercial partner can be found.

The National Library of Medicine has just released its Long Range Plan which details action, recommendations and estimated resource requirements for accomplishing its goals over the next decade. Copies are available from :

Chief, Office of Inquiries and Publications Management,  
National Library of Medicine,  
8600 Rockville Pike,  
Bethesda, Maryland, 20894, U.S.A.

Another recent publication is :

MEDINFO86 : Proceedings of the 5th Conference on Medical Informatics,  
Washington, October 26-30, 1986. (2 vols.) Edited by R. Salamon and others.  
(Amsterdam : North Holland Publishing Co., 1986. ISBN 0 444 70110 9 set).

HOSPITAL LIBRARY STANDARDS

A second draft of the Hospital Library Standards has been prepared for circulation to all state groups and working parties. It will probably be sent out in April. This revised draft has been considerably shortened and simplified from the original but retains the same basic structure. The bibliographies have been retained as it was considered they performed a useful function. Comments will be invited on this revised draft and then the Standards should move into their final stage in readiness for consideration at the Medical Librarians' Conference in September.

GRATIS/GRATISSA/GRATISQ NEWS

In February, the GRATIS union list was issued on microfiche, courtesy of the University Co-op Bookshop. The GRATISSA fiche version should be produced later in the year.

GRATISSA has adopted a new ranking system based on a ratio of requests sent and received, rather than on the size of the library. Thus nett borrowers to the system are ranked higher on the ranking list and nett lenders lower.

GRATISQ has now been established in Queensland with 21 members. They are currently negotiating the production of their union list. The Secretary is John Sutherland from Government Chemical Laboratories.

NOTES FROM GENERAL COUNCIL

The following points from the General Council meeting of 21-22 November, 1986 may be of interest :

Membership fees - the drop in fees income will mean lower payments to Branches (and therefore sections). The Executive will review the success of the new fees in increasing recruitment in April, with a view to increasing payment to Branches. The method of increase (eg. per capita recruitment or equal division) was unresolved. There will be no non-recoupable grants in 1987.

Professional membership - the recommendation for introduction of a currency component for Associateship was lost. It was decided that it was unrealistic to assume that absence from work or membership for 5 years meant a loss of professional competence, or that immediate membership meant that competence was automatically maintained.

Minerva - The LAA's proposal to act as an entrepreneur to libraries of the OTC system is not yet feasible. It was found that costs would exceed income. However, General Council will approach OTC with a request for a more business-like offer. Minerva is still attractive as a vehicle for inter-library loans, newsletters and announcements.

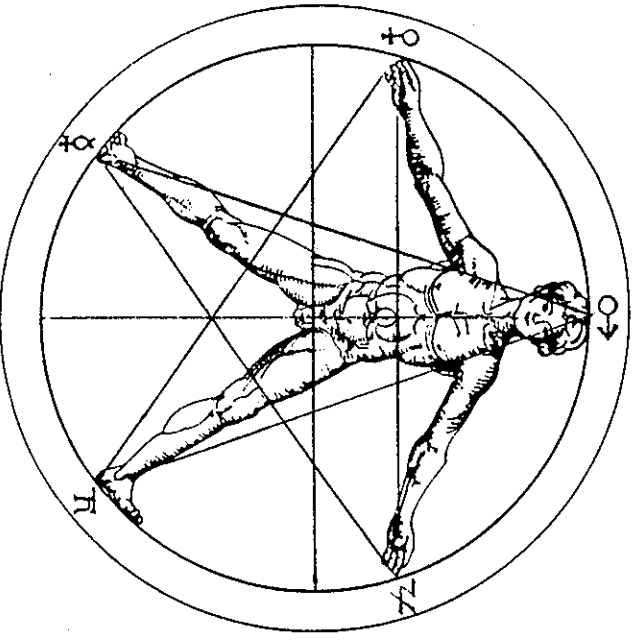
National Sections - all sections and groups will be notified of decisions made and under consideration. They will not be disbanded for at least 12 months.

Standards - Lindsay Harris' letter was read. The MLS was commended as an example of "how standards can be developed quite effectively" by correspondence with a minimum number of meetings. General Council went on to "commend the MLS for the way they've got themselves together".

SANDRA RUSSELL  
PRESIDENT, VICTORIAN GROUP, 1986

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# RECOMMENDED LIST OF BOOKS, JOURNALS & REFERENCE MATERIALS



FOR SMALL,  
HEALTH SCIENCE  
LIBRARIES

**N O W A V A I L A B L E - T H I R D E D I T I O N**

Recommended List of Books Journals and Reference Materials  
for Small Health Science Libraries

COMPILED BY : Publications Subcommittee of the Medical Libraries  
Section (Victorian Group), Australian Library and  
Information Association, 1987.

COST : \$25.00 (\$17.00 to ALIA - formerly LAA - members)  
(Postage and packing included)

- FEATURES
- \* Arranged by subject for easy access
  - \* Notes of regularly revised books
  - \* Explanatory notes relating to reference materials
  - \* Country of origin and frequency of journals
  - \* Approximate prices throughout
  - \* More than double the entries of the previous edition

OBTAIN FROM : Andrew Rooke, Medical Library, Prince Henry's Hospital,  
St.Kilda Rd., Melbourne, Vic. 3004 (03)62-0621x2351)

Please supply ..... copy/copies of the Recommended List of Books  
Journals and Reference Materials for Small Health Science Libraries.

Payment to the value of \$ ..... is enclosed.

Name/Organisation: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Membership no.: .....Phone:.....

**PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED PLEASE.** Cheques to be made payable to:  
"Medical Libraries Section (Victorian Group)"

A self-addressed label would be appreciated.