

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP. (Victorian Branch).

Minutes of the meeting held 25th September 1973, to discuss SMISEC Report.

The conveners (or at least one of them!) feel they must apologise for the very late appearance of the following notes of the meeting, the reason being quite extraordinary. This discussion over the Report turned out to be so interesting and enlightening, that we found it virtually impossible to make notes of the quick succession of ideas and criticisms.

However, we ended up with two main conclusive points. 1. That the whole scheme depended upon adequate finance. To most of us with severely limiting budgets, the schemes presented seemed rather Utopian.

2. That the idea of one main source of required material placed too much dependence on our postal system, with the inherent risk of all too frequent strikes.

Many other points were raised, such as, that the representatives for the Authority should include a medical librarian, as we feel we have certain unique interests to represent; and mixed feelings as to whether computer-based services are in fact really the best all-round answer for the needs of the researcher. This latter point has been admirably expounded by Douglas Campbell from Monash University in the October issue of the Australian Library Journal.

The whole meeting was most enlightening, and most of us came away feeling we had gained a good deal from common discussion over what had seemed a very difficult subject when thought about individually.

Mrs Baillie has kindly consented to make copies of her final report draft available for duplication and distribution. We feel it best that we wait for this for fuller details, as much of what we discussed has been eradicated by events which have taken place between when we had the meeting and the present time.