

Medical Libraries Section
Victorian Group

Newsletter

August 1986
No. 15



DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NLA LIFE SCIENCES SECTION

Our next general meeting will be as follows :

- Speakers : Sandra Henderson and a representative from the Department of Health ADP area, Canberra.
- Venue : Medical Library, Prince Henry's Hospital.
(Ground floor, School of Nursing, Wells Street off Nolan Street, parallel to St. Kilda Road. On-street parking)
- Time : 6.00pm for 6.30pm.
- Date : Wednesday 20th August, 1986.
- RSVP : Andrew Rooke, 62-0621 x2351, Monday 18th August 1986.

REPORT OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING

On Thursday 15th May, 35 members and student visitors gathered at the Lincoln Institute School of Nursing to hear Elizabeth Carvosso (Melbourne representative of Bennett-Ebsco) speak on the topic of "Serials with sanity". A former librarian, Elizabeth gave some interesting insights into serials acquisitions from both the librarian's and the agent's point of view. She charted the pitfalls and, as well, delivered some valuable tips to the novice serials librarian or library officer. Amongst those present, mingling over wine and savouries beforehand, was Dr. He, Director of the Institute of Medical Information, Beijing. He was accompanied by Bert Pribac, Department of Health Librarian, who was taking Dr. He on a tour of medical libraries in Melbourne. The evening was voted a success by those present from both a social and a professional point of view.

For those unable to attend this function, Elizabeth brought copies of "Periodicals Workshop Guidelines", which are designed to explain periodicals and reduce problems handling them. Contact Veronica Delafosse (Editor) if you would like a copy.

ANNE HARRISON TRUST FUND

The proposal to establish the Fund was approved by both the LAA General Council and our national AGM in Darwin recently. The MLS National Executive is currently arranging for a lawyer to review the document outlining the objectives and administration of the Fund...So get those brains ticking for some exciting research projects.

Contributions to this Newsletter can be sent to : Mrs. Veronica Delafosse, Medical Librarian, Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, 260 Kooyong Road, Caulfield, 3162. Ph. : 528 - 6433 x832.
The printing and postage of this Newsletter has been generously donated by the Royal Southern Memorial Hospital.
All other correspondence should be addressed to : Mrs. Kathy Hutton, Medical Library, Alfred Hospital, Commercial Road, Prahran, 3181. Ph. : 520 - 3042.

(DRAFT) HOSPITAL LIBRARY STANDARDS

The LAA General Council has temporarily ratified the Victorian Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries. In the interim, all State Working Parties are working towards National Standards. Representatives from each State Group met at Darwin, presented their findings, and discussed various issues which needed further clarification. The National Executive of the MLS will consolidate and publish these and ask for final comments. Copies of the Victorian Standards are available from Kathy Hutton (Secretary).

NUN : ILL

As from 28th May 1986, the University of New South Wales Library has set a \$15.00 fee for all interlibrary copies as well as loans. A cheque or LAA vouchers should accompany requests and, for the time being, there will be no charge if they are unable to supply items.

WELFARE AND HEALTH INFORMATION GROUP (WHIG) REPORT

Shirley White (QVMC), our Liaison Officer for WHIG, reported that, at their May meeting, the WHIG member libraries are continuing to explore automation options for shared cataloguing facilities and the production of a common database. They are currently considering the following options :

- (i) Use of computing services offered by either Chisholm Institute of Technology or Melbourne City Council ;
- (ii) A network using INMAGIC software based at one of the larger WHIG member libraries ; or
- (iii) Universal membership and utilization of ABN.

Several WHIG members are accessing drug, clinical and health care databases via BRS and Datastar, and are interested in comparing notes with other users. Contact Shirley (665-5228) if you are able to share your opinions on these systems with them.

WHIG is also planning to pursue the desirability of Victorian and Australian government publications providing Cataloguing-In-Publication, for the sake of consistency among library collections.

GRATIS ILL SCHEME

You may recall that at the end of the May Newsletter there was a slip to send to Elizabeth Giddy (VRWH) inviting an indication of support or offers of help to establish a GRATIS scheme in Victoria. As a result, Elizabeth has received only 12 replies, and so the Executive Committee has decided not to proceed with the scheme unless more support is forthcoming. The fact that many librarians in Melbourne have access to courier systems and have established "knock-for-knock" arrangements with other libraries may be factors in their lack of interest in the proposal.

HI HO OHIO

A medical librarian in a 400 bed hospital in Ohio would like to exchange jobs with another hospital librarian for 2-3 months. Duties include : reference work for hospital staff and school of nursing staff ; bi-weekly duties at 3 small area hospitals ; supervising part-time library clerk ; and other basic library tasks. Minimum 3 years experience preferred. Ring Veronica Delafosse (Editor) for more information.

ANYONE FOR AUCKLAND OR CHRISTCHURCH ?

The Health Libraries Section of the New Zealand Library Association have approached our MLS regarding the possibility of holding an Australasian Medical Librarians' Conference in New Zealand in 1989. Although Auckland members have offered to host the Conference, Christchurch is also available, depending upon our preferences. If you have any comments, please share them with Kathy Hutton (Secretary). A formal motion regarding this will be on the Agenda of the next MLS AGM in Adelaide, September 1987.

DARWIN (1)

Annette Benson, who spoke on the Ethical and Legal Responsibility of Medical Librarians, gave an excellent paper. She expounded on the ethical and legal issues, defined the problems, stated why they are problems, provided solutions for them, and suggested who should solve the problems. The main points elicited were that we mainly deal with information on illnesses (diseases, drugs, operations, etc.). We give the information, preferably in written form, but we neither interpret nor evaluate it. Although the validity of the information may not be correct, if it is printed in a reputable journal or other reasonably reliable source, we cannot be held legally responsible for misinformation.

DARWIN (2)

Jan Heath spoke on Alternative Medicine Resources. The major obstacle for locating material is that most of the journals are not indexed. Chance plays a large part in locating information. Furthermore, when looking in indexes, the few articles available are entered under their specific names and not the general concepts. The term "Alternative Medicine" appeared in the National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings for the first time only this year. There is a fine line in the meaning between this term and "Quackery"; the preferred term by those in the field is "Natural Therapy". Jan provided a bibliography on the Resources. If you would like a copy please ring Veronica Delafosse (Editor).

CAN YOU HELP ?

The Lambo Foundation for the Advancement of Biomedical and Biobehavioural Sciences aims to improve medical education, medical research, and health care in Africa, particularly in Nigeria. It was established in 1982 by Prof. and Mrs. T.A. Lambo, and they are appealing for secondhand equipment, medical books, and back copies of any medical journals to distribute to the five centres they have set up. If you are able to assist, the Foundation is willing to pay the postage costs. Please contact Veronica Delafosse (Editor) for their address.

VALE MARION

Those of you who may recall Marion Rock will be saddened to learn of her recent death. Marion used to work in the Austin Hospital Library.

CONGRATULATIONS KATHLEEN

On Saturday 14th June, Kathleen Gray (QVMC) gave birth to a baby girl, Jessie May. In the old scale, Jessie weighed 7lb 4½oz, and both mother and daughter are fine.

PS : Thank-you Kathleen for attending the WHIG meeting on Shirley's behalf.

ATTENTION HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS

(1) HOSPITAL LIBRARY STATISTICS

Thanks to those hospital librarians who commented on the draft form to record hospital library statistics. Twenty-three librarians supported the collection and publication of statistics, two believed that the current situation was satisfactory and did not support a printed statistics form, and a further six librarians offered conditional support, with the main area of concern being the publication of budget information.

With the assistance of Enid Meldrum (VAH) and Anne McLean (VAUH) the form has been re-drafted. The statistics requested are not meant to represent the total work performed in a hospital library, nor the quality of service offered. Room has been left on the side headed "Additional Information" for the recording of extra statistics for individual libraries.

If you intend to supply statistics would you prefer to remain anonymous and have the statistics grouped by the categories used in the Victorian Standards for Hospital Libraries? Statistics could either be published in this Newsletter, which is distributed to other library groups, or distributed as an insert with the Newsletter to those librarians who supplied statistics.

Please forward any ideas you have on the statistics form and the publication of statistics to Kathy Hutton (Secretary) by the end of September.
P.S. The form is included in this issue for hospital librarians.

(2) VICTORIAN ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION - Looking after our interests.

We, as health service providers, will be affected by legislation called the "Health Services Complaints Act". This legislation is established to assist consumers to resolve complaints about health services (i.e. against us). This is fine, but the powers of the Director and the fact that anonymous complaints will be investigated are totally unsatisfactory. VAHPA is also concerned at the lack of provision for union representation of members if a complaint is made against them. Kathy Hutton (Secretary) has a copy of the draft legislation and discussion paper. It is important that our Association forwards a submission to the Health Department this month, as the closing date is the end of August.

VAHPA is the Union that covers hospital librarians in public hospitals. Industrial information on wages and conditions is available to members. Any industrial matter (e.g. review of services; staffing; unfair dismissal) will be taken up on our behalf by VAHPA. Claims for improved conditions will be pursued at the Conciliation and Arbitration Board. Application forms are available from Kathy Hutton (Secretary) or from VAHPA (Ph. : 419 - 9197). The member services officer is Mr. Paul Gysslink.

A QUICK NOTE ON HEALTH DEPARTMENT AUTOMATION

The specifications for the automation of the libraries of the Health Department Victoria are now complete. Providing funding is available, the Health Department Victoria will go out to tender.

The Commonwealth Department of Health have now got Dobis Libis. The New South Wales and South Australian Health Departments will be getting it soon, and the Western Australian Health Department, which has already got Dobis Libis, will transfer its records so that they are all united.

WORKCARE

At a meeting organized by the University and College Libraries Section of the Library Association of Australia on Thursday 31st July, two representatives from the Commonwealth Public Service Rehabilitation Service spoke on Workcare. It was explained how the emphasis is now on rehabilitation and return to work rather than a lump sum payment as compensation. The need for employers to develop in-house rehabilitation programmes was stressed. Several librarians present commented on the need for outside support in identifying "at risk" people. Most rehabilitation services make available the services of an ergonomic consultant on a fee-for-service basis.

For keyboard/VDU work, areas to look at include : correct positioning of a work station (often adjustable furniture is not adjusted correctly) ; a tidy workplace ; work flow and developing priorities of urgency, training and revision ; and a variety of tasks to encourage work satisfaction. Sometimes, there may be aggravating factors outside the workplace e.g. knitting, horse grooming.

For clerical work, relevant areas include : a check of writing techniques (e.g. pressure, pen type) ; desk space ; layout (e.g. does the reference desk need to accommodate right- and left-handed people ?) ; a variety of tasks (e.g. stamping needs only light pressure).

For "labouring" jobs, preventive action could include : shelving large books with two hands ; only using the top two shelves of trolleys ; and relocating hefty volumes to the middle shelves and not using the top shelves (???) .

In stressful jobs, duty rotation can be helpful.

Successful rehabilitation depends on the co-operation of the supervisor, peer support and flexibility in the gradual return to work.

Does YOUR organization have an occupational health and rehabilitation policy ? Permit job rotation ? Provide ergonomically sound work stations ? Analyze job stress/work flow ? If not, why not ?

(Thanks go to Bronia Renison, Moorabbin Hospital, for presenting this report)

OF INTEREST

Eugene Garfield has recently published two essays in Current Contents : Life Sciences on "The impact of health information delivery on the quality of patient care : whither medical information science ?" Part One appeared in the 23rd June 1986 issue, and Part Two was in the 30th June issue. If you would like to read them, please contact Veronica Delafosse (Editor).

WELCOME...AND FAREWELL

Congratulations to Jennifer Treller (Alfred Hospital School of Nursing Library) and Myles Strous (Goulburn Valley Base Hospital Professional Library) on their recent appointments. Veronica Speirs (Royal Melbourne Hospital School of Nursing Library) has resigned and is expecting her first baby at the end of September. Best wishes Jennifer, Myles and Veronica, from the MLS (Vic. Group).

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NLA LIFE SCIENCES SECTION

speakers

SANDRA HENDERSON
and a representative
from the Department
of Health ADP area.

time 6.00pm for 6.30pm

venue

Medical Library,
Prince Henry's Hospital.
(Ground floor, School of Nursing)

date

WEDNESDAY 20TH AUGUST 1986

rsvp

Andrew Rooke,
62 - 0621 x2351,
By Monday 18th August, 1986.

Hospital Location Guide

