

AUSTRALIAN  
LIBRARY AND  
INFORMATION  
ASSOCIATION

HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION

NEWSLETTER

No.13

JULY, 1989

## HEALTH INFORMATION : NEW DIRECTIONS

### NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Bad news travels fast, but in case you haven't heard, the NZ Library Association is in serious financial difficulties\* and may have to go into voluntary liquidation, and thereafter rise from the ashes as maybe a new creature. But...



#### OUR CONFERENCE IS NOT AFFECTED

thank goodness! Our funds are completely separate, and being held in trust for a specific purpose, are quite secure in the opinion of our legal adviser. Now to more pleasant topics.

#### Travel

It has been impossible to arrange an official Conference "carrier" from this side of the Tasman, so Coral has been negotiating with Air NZ, and will be advising you of the results. However, it is well worth your shopping around various travel agents and airlines locally for the best deal. Significant savings can be made by booking early.

#### Post-Conference tours

We have negotiated very attractive rates with Go International, for people who wish either to join one of their tours (good variety) or travel independently. This includes discounts on air travel, motel accommodation, and rental car hire. Details will be sent to everyone who ticks the relevant boxes on the Conference registration form.

#### Accommodation

I have been asked whether cheaper accommodation is available - the answer is No! The University hostel rates are dearer than sharing a room at Gateway, and to this must be added the costs of travelling to and from Travelodge, the inconvenience of allowing time for the journeys, and having to make your own arrangements for getting to and from the evening social events.

As it happens, Gateway have upped their prices. They are honouring their quote regarding my first block booking of 45 rooms, but the rate thereafter will be \$76 a room (ie \$38 each for two people sharing) plus GST of 12.5%. So, if you want to save, be quick to register - first come first in.

\* See separate news item  
for details  
Ed.

I've heard some grumbles about the registration fee, which surprised me, considering the fees other Conferences have set. The August 1989 Specials and Law Conference in Adelaide registration is A\$360 and A\$240 respectively, including Conference dinner \$50. Remember the Australian dollar is worth NZ\$1.28; the registration plus dinner works out at A\$234.

The registration fee was set to cover exactly what we have to pay out for your meals, proceedings etc - all other expenses have been sponsored.

### Social

After you have enjoyed your Conference dinner (which has been test-driven by a couple of the Committee!) we will all get a million dollars play-money to gamble away during the evening. The "winners" at the end of the evening will get real prizes, kindly donated by DA Books. We will all, winners or losers, have the thrill of being millionaires for a minute!

### Post-Conference Seminars

An additional seminar is being offered by Marcia Kosmerchock, from Elsevier. It runs concurrently with the other three, and will be held at the School of Medicine. Marcia will cover EMBASE Plus - the changes and improvements with emphasis on their new structured thesaurus (EMTREE) as well as SEDBASE (Side Effects of Drugs Database).

There is no charge for the seminar, but people will have to pay for their lunch, NZ\$20.00 GST included.

If you wish to register, please include NZ\$20 in your registration fee, and write in "Embase Seminar" onto the form somewhere.

The following week, Russell Kendrick of Maxwell Online will also be offering a BRS introductory seminar on November 20, and BRS biomedical course on November 21. He will be touring these tutorials around Australia, but it may be convenient for some people to attend the Auckland sessions. The fee is US\$150 for each session, with a very attractive "doubles" offer - a second person from the same library can attend for only US\$20 extra. Russell will be sending out further details himself.

Bonnie Snow's Drug and Pharmaceutical Information Resources workshop is filling up fast - only 9 places left.

Finally, a reminder - Registration date is 31 July!

*Margaret Gibson Smith*

M. Gibson Smith  
CONVENER

### HEALTH INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (HIANZ)

Recently the New Zealand Library Association (NZLA) has experienced severe financial difficulties so that it is in the process of being formally wound up, though this is not expected to be complete till the beginning of October. The Health Libraries Section of the NZLA has, in the face of this financial crisis made the decision to establish a separate health libraries and information services group which intends to preserve and enhance the work and projects of the Section and to extend them in other areas.

On 15th June, 1989 the Inaugural meeting of the HIANZ was held and an Interim Committee formed. The Association will hold it's first Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 16th November, 1989 and at that time an Executive and Committee will be elected; an rules, aims and objectives of the Association will be amended and/or endorsed.

# Anne Harrison Award

The Anne Harrison Award Administrators have decided to readvertise the call for applications for the Award as there was little response to the initial advertisement.

The closing date is now September 22nd.

As many of you are aware, Linda Mulheron the first recipient of the Award has recently distributed the questionnaire which will provide the basic data for her study into the current status of bibliographic instruction in health science libraries.

As the Secretary of the Trust Fund I would urge members to consider what they might undertake to further health librarianship in Australia and to make suitable application to the Administrators for consideration.

Maree Millard  
Secretary  
Anne Harrison Trust Fund  
Administrators



## Call for Applications For the Anne Harrison Award

### Background

The Anne Harrison Trust Fund has been established by the Australian Library and Information Association Medical Libraries Section as a tribute to the pioneering work of Anne Harrison in the development of medical librarianship in Australia. It is hoped that with the help of the Award others may be encouraged to make their own contribution in the field of medical, nursing and allied health librarianship.

### Objectives

The Fund will provide:

- 1) financial assistance for the undertaking of selected research projects designed to:
  - (a) increase the understanding of health librarianship in Australia,
  - (b) explore the potential for further development of health librarianship in Australia;
- 2) financial assistance towards the enrichment of knowledge and skills of Australian health librarians which shall take the form of:
  - (a) assistance to ALIA members in meeting travel, accommodation or educational expenses in undertaking an approved course of study or study tour abroad, or,
  - (b) assistance to the Health Libraries Section with the mounting of continuing education courses, or,
  - (c) assistance with the publication of works in Australian health librarianship.

### Conditions

1. Competition for the Award shall not be limited to members of ALIA or to librarians, provided the proposals meet the objectives of the Award.
2. In the first instance, the Award shall be made biennially, however, its frequency may be reviewed.
3. No current member of the Health Libraries Section National Executive or the Administrators shall be eligible to receive a personal award from the Fund.
4. Applications shall be made using a form prescribed by the Administrators.
5. The decisions of the Administrators after ratification by the National Executive are final and irrevocable.
6. The Award shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Health Libraries Section in Auckland, New Zealand, November 1989.
7. The recipient(s) of the Award shall submit to the Administrators, within twelve months of receiving the Award, a copy of the completed research, or a progress report, or a report of study activities undertaken or in progress, and every twelve months thereafter until completion.
8. All applicants shall be notified of their success or otherwise as soon as the recommendation for the Award has been ratified by the National Executive.
9. ~~Applications close at the end of June 1989.~~ Application forms and further information are available by phoning (07) 253 6229 or writing to: C. Tillett, Chairperson, Anne Harrison Trust Fund Administrators, Librarian, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Bramston Terrace, Herston QLD 4006.

## AIDS Daily Summary

The AIDS Daily Summary is a new electronic information service being offered through the OTC Dialcom Service. The service provides approximately fifteen concise summaries of the latest articles about research efforts, treatment and prevention, legislation, education, public policy, human resource issues, confidentiality and discrimination on AIDS, from sources such as journals and newspapers.

The information is delivered daily to your OTC Dialcom mailbox where it can then be accessed. The cost is a monthly subscription of \$60.00 in addition to normal Dialcom Charges. Users of ILANET are OTC Dialcom system 9 users already and all they need to do is make the necessary application to Network Innovations for the service to be initiated.

For more information contact OTC toll-free  
(008) 252 372 or  
(02) 287 3002

or

Network Innovations (02) 954 3055  
(Julie Gardner)

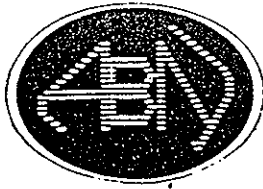


## DDC Nursing Schedules Revision

The Victorian Group of the HLS raised their concern regarding the inadequacy of the Nursing schedules of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). Similar concern was registered from other State groups so the Victorian Group were asked if they were willing to prepare a draft revision of the schedules so that each State group could then have something common to work with and discuss, following a similar procedure to that which was used to produce the National Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries. The final product and its recommendations to be forwarded to the appropriate DDC review committee. Those members of the Section who have expressed interest agree that it is important that the formal DDC review committee receive input from practising health librarians who are involved in day to day use of the Schedules and also that the best way to ensure that this input is noted and considered is to produce a document that is the joint effort of health librarians across the country.

Jenni Treller, who is the Chairperson of the initial working party looking at the revision has indicated that the group preparing the first draft are currently waiting till they all have a copy of the 20th edition of DDC to work with and will then prepare the first draft. This draft will be forwarded to those representatives in each State group who have indicated their interest. If anyone else is interested in the project they should contact their own State Group or the National Section and register their interest so that work can begin quickly once the first draft is complete.

# MeSH on



The results of the survey attached to the last newsletter indicate there is interest -- mainly at Hospital library level -- in the question of MeSH headings on ABN. Julia Trainor, Chief Librarian, Database Management, ABN Office has supplied us with some options available to libraries interested in preserving MeSH on ABN. The text of her letter is reproduced below. It explains quite clearly what the present situation is and how a group of co-operating libraries can add to ABN to make it more suitable for their own purposes.

Anyone interested in following up any of these options contact Mary Anne Ross, Library The Prince Charles Hospital, Rode Road, CHERMSIDE QLD 4032 PH: (07) 350 8317 FAX: (07) 359 5756

## MESH HEADINGS ON ABN

This is my promised letter about the use of MESH headings in ABN, to help you with your discussions with members of the ALIA Medical Libraries Group. I have used a question and answer format, to make it a more exciting read!

### *Can ABN supply MESH headings?*

The ABN database contains National Library of Medicine MARC records (also known as Catline MARC records) which contain MESH headings. In addition, ABN users may add MESH headings to any ABN record. MESH headings may be output in cards, microfiche catalogues and magnetic tapes. Users of cards and microfiche catalogues may opt to receive MESH headings or Library of Congress headings, or a combination of both.

### *Does ABN contain the complete MESH authority file?*

The ABN MESH authority file contains the MESH headings, but not the *see* or *see also* references. The ABN software can only support a reference structure for one thesaurus on the database, and the chosen thesaurus is LCSH. So while you may use MESH headings in your records and use them for online retrieval, there are no *see* and *see also* references in the MESH authority file.

However, scope notes may be used with MESH headings, and if a MESH user were interested, we would probably allow MESH users to add the *see* and *see also* references in phrase form in scope notes attached to the MESH headings. These scope notes would be available in online searching of the MESH headings, and could be made to appear in COM catalogues for MESH users.

### *Can MESH headings be lost from ABN?*

Yes, MESH headings on ABN run a risk of being lost when records are bumped. The ABN database is very dynamic, with different records for the same item being received from various sources. For example, a medical textbook published in London may be catalogued by the British Library, the National Library of Medicine and the Library of Congress. ABN has a "bumping hierarchy" which says that a Library of Congress record is higher than a National Library of Medicine record which in turn is better than a BNB record. The National Library of Medicine records are the only national agency records which routinely contain MESH headings. Although many Library of Congress records contain MESH headings, if a LC record without MESH replaces a National Library of Medicine record, the MESH headings are lost. Similarly, if an ABN library adds MESH headings to an ABN record, and that record is subsequently replaced by another record which is higher in the bumping order, the MESH headings will be lost.

### *How can I avoid losing MESH headings?*

There are two ways to avoid losing MESH headings, and they are described below. Which ever way is used, it is worth remembering that not all records are at high risk of being bumped. Full LC records are less likely to be bumped. NLM and LC Cataloguing-in-Publication records are more likely to be bumped. These measures could be applied selectively.

*I. Use institution specific subject headings.*

ABN libraries which use MESH for their medical collections avoid the bumping problem by putting their MESH headings onto their records as what we call "institution specific subject headings". These are subject headings which are entirely private to the institution. The subject headings appear in your ABN cards and fiche catalogues, and you can view them during online searching but no-one else can see them. In one respect institution specific headings are good value because they are automatically transferred from record to record whenever a bump occurs. However the flip side of that is that the medical libraries can't see each others' institution specific headings so they can't share them. (It is possible to spy on other peoples institution specific headings and guess whether they are MESH, but that would be a bit tedious).

*II. Upgrade records to high level.*

It is possible to render an ABN record immune from bumping by coding it "high level". A high level record meets the official ABN standard for high level records, and contains a code which tells the system that it must not be bumped. A high level record must contain LC subject headings.

*How can a small medical library make best use of ABN?*

Small medical libraries are welcome as ABN users. They would enjoy good hit rates and could opt to use the system in a range of ways, from simple copy cataloguing through to online contribution of holdings, brief interim cataloguing records, or full original cataloguing records. The minimum standard for ordinary ABN cataloguing is quite low and well within the reach of a small library. For example, we do not require any subject headings at all in minimum level ABN cataloguing.

*How can a group of small libraries cooperate in their use of ABN?*

A group of libraries could use ABN by joining at different levels. One library, probably the largest library, could join ABN as a "Full service" customer and learn how to do online cataloguing and authority control. The other, smaller libraries could join ABN as "Search & Products" customers, which means that they could do their own copy cataloguing by adding holdings and ordering cards, labels, MARC records or microfiche catalogues.

The small libraries would not do their own original cataloguing on ABN. Instead, they could send their original cataloguing worksheets (with MESH headings) to the larger library which would input the original cataloguing on ABN. The small libraries could also send their MESH headings to the large library whose cataloguer would insert the MESH headings into the ABN record. The large library may wish to upgrade ABN records to high level to protect them from bumping.

This system of original cataloguing on ABN and inserting MESH headings into ABN records would be entirely optional. The purpose of it would be to provide complete microfiche catalogues to each library, with guaranteed MESH headings for all entries, and with the option of obtaining a union catalogue from time to time. If a group of libraries were to cooperate in this way, they would have to come to some contractual arrangement between themselves to compensate the Full Service library for its efforts on their behalf.

I trust that this gives you food for thought. If you would like to talk more about using ABN, please do not hesitate to ring on our toll free Help Desk number (008) 026 155. If you would like to arrange a meeting of interested medical & hospital librarians in the Brisbane area, the ABN Office would be pleased to send someone to speak to you and discuss your needs.

Yours sincerely,

*Julia Trainor*

Julia Trainor  
Chief Librarian  
Database Management

## A JOURNAL DATABASE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

In Central Queensland, in the last couple of years, we have had a Continuing Medical Education (or CME) pilot study going, providing the participants with medical educational matter on topics they request themselves in the form they find most useful -- print, audio, video, etc. Interestingly, a lot of the printed matter that was retrieved for people who requested information through the CME Centre came from the same few journals -- ones that most GP's would receive themselves, but had either not read, or had read and not remembered the relevant information, or didn't know where to locate the article and reread it.

So we decided to create a journal database, using only six journals:

AUSTRALIAN FAMILY PHYSICIAN  
CURRENT THERAPEUTICS  
THE MEDICAL JOURNAL OF AUSTRALIA  
MODERN MEDICINE  
PATIENT MANAGEMENT  
UPDATE

and to supply the information from that database in the form of references only, which the requestor would then use to locate the article in his own copy of the journal mentioned. We feel that most GPs would receive most, if not all of these journals, or have ready access to a copy.

The database will only contain references from the most recent 2 to 3 years' worth of each journal at any given time, which would mean that anybody using the system would need to keep a relatively small number of journals in reasonable order either at home or at work (or both) to gain the greatest benefit. For those who wish references from older volumes, these are available as a separate database called BAKINDEX.

References are produced in the form of the usual bibliographical data of journal name, volume, number and page number, as well as the type of article (editorial, original, review, abstract or letter) and the title of the article truncated or abbreviated to 50 characters, so that a long list of references can be presorted by the requestor. The references appear in the journal groups in chronological order.

The index we have used is an electronic version of the RCGP's "Classification and Analysis of General Practice Data", which was developed in the United Kingdom to help GPs classify the diseases, problems and procedures they come across in their daily work for later analysis, with suitability for computerisation a major feature. We used dBASE III for the database component and undergraduate students in computer studies at the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education (CIAE) wrote the programs that access the database and index components. The system needs an IBM or compatible computer running PC- or MS-DOS with a minimum of 384k RAM and hard disc space of 2 to 3mb.

A topic is searched for by using its first three letters and the final version is then selected from the range offered.

The system can only be searched using topics, not authors or textwords, and topics cannot be linked together e.g. IHD and smoking. These last mentioned features can, of course, be done with the existing large online data bases of Medline and AMI which are currently offered by the ANL in Canberra, but we feel that while they have advantages such as this over our system, our system has the following advantages over theirs:-

## EXTERNAL STUDY MODULES

Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education School of Library and Information Studies have begun to produce study modules which can be completed at home. This involves working through each unit and the activities that provide some practice of the skills introduced in theory and completing the prescribed form of evaluation.

The first External Study Module is entitled **Interpersonal Communication** and its aim is to provide "essential introductory knowledge of the principles of interpersonal communication".

The cost of this module is \$20.00

Any enquiries about this module or any forthcoming modules should be addressed to Helen Gilkes, School of Library and Information Studies, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, PO Box 222 LINDFIELD NSW 2070  
Phone: (02) 467 9336.



### A JOURNAL DATABASE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE (cont'd)

- \* No expensive registration or learning procedures
- \* No communications programs or modems needed
- \* User-friendly
- \* References from familiar and easily-accessible journals (c.f. MEDLINE and AMI, from which about 1% of citations retrieved come from Australian or NZ journals, and some 23% of citations retrieved are in foreign language)
- \* Up-to-date database

The system is supplied in a compiled form and the entire "Classification and Analysis of General Practice Data" can be displayed through a "help screen" facility (although frequent users may prefer to purchase the printed form direct from the RCGP).

Cost of the system is \$100, which includes the first year's data updates, and then \$25 per year thereafter for (quarterly) data updates and any system improvements. BAKINDEX data costs \$25 per year. All money earned by the sale of the system will be used to buy computer hardware and software for the CME Centre at Rockhampton Base Hospital.

William Lang and David Oliver

Further information can be obtained from Judy Nicholson, Librarian, CME Centre, Rockhampton Base Hospital, ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4700 (Ph: (079) 316218)