

HEALTH
LIBRARIES'
SECTION
NATIONAL
NEWSLETTER

CONFERENCE REPORT

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 93rd ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 14-20, 1993: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Rolf Schafer, Deputy Librarian-in-Charge at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney went to the windy city to attend the MLA Conference. He was the only medical librarian from Australia to attend. For those of us who have never attended an MLA meeting, Rolf offers some insights as to what we are likely to expect...

A vacation overseas is usually the time for sightseeing, touring and relaxing. I combined all this with the MLA Annual Meeting in Chicago! I also took the opportunity to visit hospitals and libraries whilst abroad.

My MLA93 experience can be summarised in three words: "exciting", "stimulating", and "exhausting". This annual meeting attracted 2283 medical librarians from all over the world. Three delegates travelled vast distances from the Southern Hemisphere to attend: myself and two librarians from South Africa. A special reception was held after the main plenary session for international visitors. This function enabled us to meet informally and converse with one another about our libraries. The librarians that I met all expressed amazement at the fact that I had travelled all the way from Australia to attend!

The programme schedule for a MLA meeting is very hectic and for first time attendees certainly overwhelming. The Membership Committee of MLA arranges a special morning reception and orientation. This is to assist first-timers in surviving the days and nights ahead! A full programme comprises plenary sessions, business sessions, concurrent contributed papers, section programmes and poster papers plus allowing time to visit the trade exhibit. Your day starts at 7.30am with sessions concluding around 5.30/6.00 in the evening. Then a full social programme gets underway and continues until whenever.

Cont p.2



Rolf Schafer 2nd from right with the four Japanese medical librarians who attended the MLA Meeting. At a social function at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago

Cont from p.1

The MLA Hall of Exhibits comprised over 120 trade exhibitors. Plenty of opportunities for hands-on trials or demonstrations. The Conference programme suggests that delegates should allow six hours during the conference for exhibit viewing. Believe me, you will need to spend this much time if not more!

The keynote speaker, Patricia Aburdene delivered the John P McGovern Award Lecture titled, "Megatrends for the Information Age". Ms Aburdene described our journey into the information economy, new trends in health care, emerging leadership styles, changing global relationships and the reintegration of feminine values and perspectives into society and politics. The text of her address will be published in a future issue of the *MLA Bulletin*.

The second day of the conference comprised four concurrent track sessions in the morning which focussed on specialised areas of librarianship. The afternoon session was devoted to concurrent contributed papers. There were 40 papers in total presented. I realised at this point in time, that I was not going to be able to get to hear every paper that I was interested in; - visit the trade exhibit and converse with colleagues, and attend the many cocktail functions, receptions and open house visits that I had been invited to.

I decided that it would be more beneficial to make contacts and participate in informal networking with colleagues; visit the AMA and MLA headquarters (both in Chicago) and be content to hear only some relevant papers - you need to be very selective here.

The last two days of the meeting were devoted to member programming in the form of section programmes, (I attended the Hospital Libraries programme), poster sessions and contributed paper panels. Plenary sessions are scheduled on each day to bring everyone back together as we hear from the Joseph Leiter NLM/MLA Lecturer, Suzanne Stensaas and the Janet Doe lecturer, who traditionally addresses the history or philosophy of medical librarianship.

The proceedings of the 93rd Annual Meeting will be published in the January 1994 issue of the *MLA Bulletin*.

The Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association is an invaluable professional development opportunity to network with colleagues, acquire new knowledge and strengthen one's skills. You hear about trends in information delivery from knowledgeable speakers as well as attend demos and discussions featuring the latest technology. The hardest part is organising your schedule and time.

Patricia Layzell Ward similarly reported this of the ALA Annual conference last year:

"It was a test of stamina and the ability to manage time" (1)

You can be assured that you will be warmly received by our American colleagues.

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St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Ltd
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(1) *Incite* vol.13 (8); 24 Aug 1992: 16

HOSPITAL LIBRARY STANDARDS

The NSW Committee revising the National Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries has been hard at work and is nearing completion of a draft version to present to members for discussion.

For further information contact:
Paul Davies
Information and Resource Centre
Central Coast Area Health Service
PO Box 361
GOSFORD NSW 2250
ph. 043 25 3133
fax. 043 23 3309

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR HLS

The agenda for the AGM is included with this newsletter. It will be held in conjunction with the Asian Pacific Specials, Health & Law Librarians Conference to be held in August 1993. The time allocated by the conference organisers was only 1 hour from 8am to 9am on Wednesday 25th August and despite protests, this could not be extended. As the agenda is long with some matters which may require extended discussion, the HLS Executive have arranged to extend the meeting to continue on Friday 27th August from 9.30am - 12.00. Morning tea will be provided. It is unfortunate to split the meeting but it was felt better to do this than to rush important discussions.

The Friday session will be held at:
Coolangatta Rooms I-III
Pavilion Convention Centre
Hotel Conrad.

VALE SIAN JANE (TWEEDY) HAYES
24.9.1954 to 28.7.1993

Sian's tragic and untimely death has left her former co-workers at the Royal North Shore Hospital Library with a great feeling of loss.

Sian was born at Hornchurch, Essex in 1954. She grew up to be pretty, bright, adventurous and kind.

Her schooling was at Kuring-Gai High School and she graduated from Macquarie University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and anthropology.

Sian subsequently worked for a while as a house keeper at Haddon Rigg property near Warren, and then spent more than three years on Heron Island, where she met Michael her future husband in 1978. They were married in 1986.

Sian graduated with distinction as a nurse in 1984 and subsequently worked as a research assistant in the Cardiology Department at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Sian and Michael were married in 1986 and both children, Madeleine and Timothy, were born at the Royal North Shore Hospital and attended the Royal North Shore Child Care Centre.

Sian completed a Graduate Diploma of Library Sciences in 1989. She then worked as a librarian at both Hornsby Public Library and at an engineering company, before spending two happy years at Royal North Shore Hospital Library. The family left for Perth at the beginning of this year.

Margaret Power
Royal North Shore Hospital

FUTURE MEETINGS / CONFERENCES

MLA Annual Meeting

May 13-18 1994

San Antonio Convention Centre

San Antonio, Texas

Registration materials will be available from January 1994.

Early bird registration fees (before April 1 1994) are listed below.

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-members</u>
Inclusive Registration	US \$245	US \$340
Conference Only	US \$190	US \$285

Asian Pacific Specials, Health & Law Librarians Conference

23-26 August 1993

Hotel Conrad & Jupiters Casino

Gold Coast, Queensland

Contact:

Intermedia Convention and Event Management Pty Ltd

PO Box 1280

MILTON QLD 4064

ph. 07 369 0477

fax. 07 360 1512

International Congress on Medical Librarianship

Did you know that delegates from over 64 countries have attended the International Congress on Medical Librarianship?

Come and experience the excitement of meeting colleagues from around the world. Coming May 6-13 1995, in Washington DC, the Annual Meeting of MLA joins with the 7th International Congress - and you could be there..."because global is the way you want to go!".

5th European Medical Libraries Conference

June 28 - July 2 1994

Oslo, Norway

Theme: Health Information - New Possibilities

Contact: Local Organising Committee

5th European Conference of Medical Librarians

Noble Incentive AS

Bygdoy alle 14

N-0262 Oslo, Norway

NLM UPDATE

Some items of interest from a presentation at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the MLA in Chicago, submitted by Rolf Schafer, Conference delegate.

- There are to be 750 new MESH terms for 1994.
- *Medical Journal of Australia* is ranked in the top 10 of the most requested inter-library loans from NLM in 1992.
- *Australian Clinical Review* ranked in the top 5 of ILL requests from NLM in 1987.
- NLM recommends that all hospital libraries should have access to the Internet. The Internet is a network of computer networks that inter-connects computers from the simplest micros to the most sophisticated mainframes. It reaches more than 75 countries in the world.
- SDIs from NLM will be sent over the Internet in the future.

BYE BYE MEDLINE...HELLO AMI!

On June 30 1993, a wake was held in memory of the Australian MEDLINE Network. That day, it was put to sleep, its plug was pulled, and it shuffled off its automatic data processing. The great twenty-year collaboration between the Department of Health and the National Library was finished.

There were about fifty people at the wake at the NLA. Two from Melbourne, one from Sydney and the rest Canberrans, many of whom had been associated with the MEDLINE section over the years. There were many reminiscences over the early days, and the famous photo album of the early courses was on show, along with other memorabilia.

Warren Horton, the Director General, advised us not to regard this as a sad occasion, but as a new beginning. And indeed, from the ashes of the old network, arose the phoenix of the **NEW AUSTRALASIAN MEDICAL INDEX!**

For from July 1st, AMI has been up and running from the National Library's own computer. The timing was perfect. You can find it at option 5 on the National Library On-Line Services menu. Unlike the other databases, it runs on the same, famous and trusty ELHILL software. Monty Newman, who had worked with MEDLINE and ELHILL in early years, came back to install AMI in its new home.

It was great to be there at the end of the era. It wasn't a sad occasion, but one rich with anecdotes. The Australian MEDLINE Network has made an unequalled contribution to the value of Australian medical librarianship. I hope that a proper history will be written to document its achievements, and to celebrate its value.

Judith Weaver
ST Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

NEWS

THE HUMAN SERVICES THESAURUS. 2nd ed.
Canberra : Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services, 1993.

The Human Services Thesaurus is a list of subject terms covering concepts of interest to the Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services, with reference to the following program areas:

Health Advancement	Policy Development
Health Care Access	Corporate Services
Disability Programs	Information Services
Family & Childrens Services	
Aged & Community Care	
Therapeutic Goods Administration	
Housing and urban Development	
Office of Local Government	

The Thesaurus provides a comprehensive coverage of medicine, based on MeSH but at a broader level. There is a hierarchical display and the hierarchy schedules A to E are based on the MeSH tree structure schedules A to E.

The Thesaurus contains about 3500 preferred terms. They have been selected giving preference to Australian spelling and terminology, common usage and natural language.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Thesaurus, please write to:

Kerry Weller-Lewis
DHHLGCS Library
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

If you have any queries about the Thesaurus, ring Kerry on (06) 289 8450
or Pru Deacon on (06) 289 7062.

We have now decided not to charge for the Thesaurus - apologies to those Victorian members who may have an order form with a price quoted.

Pru Deacon
DHHLGCS

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

October 1993 issue Deadline is 1st October
December 1993 issue Deadline is 3rd December
All contributions welcome. Send offerings to:

Cheryl Hamill
Fremantle Hospital Library
PO Box 480
FREMANTLE WA 6160
ph. 09 431 2780
fax. 09 431 2522

The administrators of the Anne Harrison Award Committee have proposed changes to the constitution and financial administration of the Award. A copy of the proposed changes has been sent to all state executives for consideration. You will also note that the changes are up for discussion at the AGM in August 1993.

The primary changes suggested are to split the administrative functions from those of the trustees administering the funds and to institute tighter controls to ensure the projects for which Awards are granted are completed. The administrators of the Award remain with the national executive and are responsible for promotion of the Award and selection of the winner/s from candidates who apply. It is proposed that the Trustees administering the funds be permanently located in one state to ensure continuity of financial management which has suffered in the past due to the lengthy delays in transferring funds and opening and closing accounts.

If you will be attending the AGM, it is recommended that you contact a member of your state executive to become familiar with the proposed changes and cast an informed vote on the issue.

Contact your local executive, or:

Sue Lutley

Secretary of the Anne Harrison Award Committee

ph. 09 383 8704

fax. 09 383 8018

You will no doubt recall that conferences of health librarians were always held separately from those held by specials and law librarians. In 1991 for the first time, we combined for the meeting in Canberra. Our national executive at that time was in NSW and they had to organise with a local group in the ACT to coordinate with specials to organise the conference. This change meant that the natural rotation for the national health executive was thrown out by the need to conform with the rotation specials were following. For the last 2 years this has meant that the Queensland Section has had to organise the conference with specials there while the WA Executive was the National Executive. The 1995 specials conference will be in Sydney in 1995. It is not yet clear where the 1997 conference will be though it may be in Melbourne.

This confused history is the reason behind items 8 and 9.5 on the agenda for the AGM. We need to either get our national executive in sync with specials or split away again. It would be a brave move (brave in the sense of "Yes Minister"), to go it alone in difficult financial times. If we stay with specials, it will be a lot to ask of NSW and maybe Victoria executives. Either NSW would have to be the national executive again, so soon after 1991, and help organise the next conference, or, if Melbourne is the site for 1997, we could ask Victoria to be the national executive for the next four years. Any bright ideas welcomed to overcome these dilemmas.

SPP

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Performance indicators and quality assurance.
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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

ACAHP currently represents the membership of 15 allied health professional bodies and is increasingly being seen as the national body representing the interests of allied health.

The major issue concerning ACAHP at the moment is that of the implementation of casemix funding for public hospitals, that is, funding based on the type and number of patients treated, in contrast to funding of previous years which was based on an historical pattern. ACAHP is looking into the role for allied health in the decisions being made relating to the coding and classifications of patients, and also the effect that such funding will have on allied health departments, including libraries.

Casemix funding could have major implications for libraries within the health system. It appears that our funding will come from the education, research and teaching component, and we will therefore be only one of many parties competing within this infrastructure support area.

ACAHP's role in representing health librarians in this area could be vital. I would urge all health librarians in public hospitals to make their concerns regarding casemix funding in relations to libraries known to the casemix representatives within their institution. a unified expression of concern may get heard.

Enid Meldrum
HLS representative on ACAHP
The Alfred Hospital Health Sciences Library, Victoria.