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# NEWSLETTER

## HEALTH LIBRARIES' SECTION

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AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

No. 20

MARCH 1991

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This is the first National Newsletter for 1991 emanating from the National Executive based in N.S.W.

For details of this publication please refer to any of the office bearers listed below, or to ALIA headquarters. Please note that contributiona are solicited from our members. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the National Executive, so feedback is welcomed.

Members of the Executive holding office for 1990/1991 are:

PRESIDENT: Linda Mulheron, Chief Librarian, Westmead Hospital- A.M.A. Library.

SECRETARY: Ian Stubbin, Librarian, Prince of Wales Hospital

TREASURER: Kay Vincent, Librarian, Liverpool Hospital

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Patricia Aguado, Chief Librarian, Gardner Library

Katherine Keily, Cataloguing Librarian, Westmead Hospital- A.M.A. Library.

Rolf Schafer, Librarian, Lidcombe Hospital

Virginia Stagg, Librarian, Repatriation and General Hospital, Concord.

Marion Steele, Librarian, A.W.C.H. University of Western Sydney, Nepean.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the above for information about our Section, to suggest and/or comment upon what you feel the Section should be doing on your behalf and to contribute items for the next Newsletter. Please also keep in contact with your local branch Executive about happenings in your state.

ANNE HARRISON AWARD 1991

Applications are being called for the 1991 Anne Harrison Award. Closing date is 31st May 1991.

The Award, inaugurated in 1987, is made from the Anne Harrison Trust Fund established by the ALIA Health Libraries Section to support health librarianship. The Award was conferred on Linda Mulheron, Westmead Hospital Library, in 1987 and on Frances Bluhdorn, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Library, in 1989.

This year, up to \$2500 is available to the successful applicant. Competition for the Award is not limited to health librarians, provided that the proposals meet the objectives of the Award.

The Award will be announced on 4th September 1991 at the Annual General Meeting of the Health Libraries Section to be held during the 4th Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference with the 9th Biennial Health Librarians' Conference in Canberra, ACT. The presentation will take place that same evening at the HLS Dinner.

Details of the award objectives, conditions and guidelines for applicants are available from:

Katherine Keily,  
Secretary, Anne Harrison Trust Fund Administrators,  
c/- Westmead Hospital Library,  
Westmead NSW 2145  
Tel. (02) 633 6262

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AUSTRALIAN MEDLINE NETWORK  
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There was a meeting of Medline users on Thursday, 31st January, 1991, at the Sydney Hilton. This was convened by the National Library and was held at the same time as the Information Online and Ondisc 91 Conference. Those present were Warwick Cathro, Sandra Duffield and Bronwyn Lee from the National Library, Brenda McConchie from the Department of Community Services and Health and eight or nine health librarians.

One of the main reasons for calling the meeting was that the Medline system is rapidly aging. The hardware used is more than fifteen years old, and there are significant problems with currency of information. There are major delays in the arrival of tapes from the National Library of Medicine which are difficult to surmount. Three options of systems support were presented to the group.

The first option was maintaining the service as it exists. All concurred that this was not a viable option, as current information is the main criterion of any Medline service. Secondly, service bureaux could be used to offer the service; there are still some doubtful matters to resolve with this option.

The solution that raised the most interest was a direct link to the National Library of Medicine at Bethesda, MD. Several libraries are already doing this, one example being the British Library. They had a smooth transition to the direct link set-up; however their demand is not as heavy as the demand from Australia. There have been preliminary discussions with OTC, and information on detailed costings need to be worked out. One major drawback would be the time it would take for offline prints to reach us - this could be ten days or more. SDIs could still be run by the Department of Health, or all searches could be rekeyed on to the NLM database, which would be a task that would have to be done only once. Another item that came up in discussion was the On-line order facility. Generally it was thought that is was not a vital service provided by the National Library and was considered to be of low priority.

Another issue that was discussed at length, was the future of AMI (the Australasian Medical Index). It was unanimous that this system was highly used and it shouldn't be thrown away. It could be run from the NLM as a direct link. Or it could be offered on CD-ROM or through another Australian database vendor (like AUSPAC). It was concluded that the health information presented on AMI was unique (for example, Government publications, Department of Health publications, Statistics, aboriginal health facts) and should be preserved.

We were invited to write to Warwick Cathro, Director of Network Services at the National Library of Australia, expressing our views on the future of the Medline system. Do write, setting out your opinions on what you would like the service to offer you in the future.

Virginia Staggs  
Senior Librarian, Concord Hospital



## The Australian Council of Allied Health Professions

The Australian Council of Allied Health Professions (ACAHP) was formed in 1977 with the purpose of gaining a seat on the relatively new Australian Council on Hospital Standards (ACHS), now called the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. After organisational problems in the early years, in 1980 ACAHP reconvened and has since then held a seat on ACHS's Board of Directors. In no other country with a health services accreditation programme is there a representative of the allied health professions on the governing board.

By combining the interest and effort of allied health professions, more influence on and input to ACHS can be achieved, rather than individual organisations acting alone although, of course, individual organisations can and do communicate with and respond to ACHS.

Membership of ACAHP is open to national organisations representing allied health professionals and currently includes:

- The Audiological Society of Australia
- Australian Association of Speech and Hearing
- Australian Institute of Medical and Biological Illustration
- Australian Institute of Radiography
- Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association
- Australian Physiotherapy Association
- Australian Podiatry Council
- Dietitians Association of Australia
- Health Libraries section of the Australian Library and Information Association
- Medical Record Association of Australia
- The Orthoptic Association of Australia
- The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1990

- \* Continued development of profile of ACAHP at ACHS and subcommittees - appointment of ACAHP representative, Neil Naismith to the Standards Committee.
- \* Response to ACHS Field Reviews of the chapters on Clinical Departments/Units, Emergency Medicine, Library and Information Service, Radiology and Medical Imaging Service, Rehabilitation Service and Special Care Units. Significant changes were made to the Rehabilitation Service chapter as a result of Councils' submission.
- \* Continued lobbying regarding consideration of allied health professionals as ACHS Accreditation surveyors.
- \* Production of 3 newsletters circulated to the member bodies and others.
- \* Continued function as the vehicle for information exchange and professional issue discussion across a broad cross section of the health industry professions.
- \* The Australian Institute of Medical and Biological Illustration welcomed to membership of the Council.

P.O. Box 574, Carlton South, 3053, Victoria

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 1991

- \* To continue to develop the profile of the ACAHP at the ACHS.
- \* To maintain strong representation to the ACHS at Board level and on subcommittees as appropriate.
- \* To respond on behalf of the Member Bodies to all ACHS Field Reviews of the ACHS Accreditation Guide.
- \* To nominate members of the Allied Health Professions to the ACHS for consideration for selection as Accreditation Surveyors, and to lobby for such selection.
- \* To continue production and development of three issues of the ACAHP Newsletter per year, so raising the profile of the Member Bodies, circulating general news of the ACHS and other items of interest.
- \* To develop an information leaflet on the ACAHP.
- \* To respond to Government papers and the media on issues relevant to the Allied Health Professions as a combined voice of the Member Bodies.
- \* To continue to act as an information exchange between the Member Bodies.



ELIZABETH STEEPER, MAPA  
PRESIDENT

Ref: ACAHP.DOC

STAFF MOVEMENTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Since April 1990, there has been a new Librarian-in-charge at Central Office in Canberra. Robyn Lacey took over from Roberta Atwell, when Roberta decided to broaden her career and changed to computing.

Robyn's library career began in the public libraries sphere. Then she had a short spell in an academic library, and since has spent her time in special libraries as cataloguer, then as Librarian-in-charge at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra.

Roberta has remained with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. She studied for a year, and is now permanently employed in the Computer Section

NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE.....

By now, all the speakers at the September Conference, Achieving Excellence will have received details about the time when they are presenting their papers, the day of presentation and suggestions and helpful hints for preparing and presenting their papers. Any additional inquiries about the papers should be forwarded to The Health Convenor, Prue Deacon or myself.

In addition, the official registration brochures are now being posted out to all members with full details of the papers being presented by Specials, Law and Health Librarians, social events, information on accomodation in Canberra, trade exhibitors, etc. anyone who does not receive a brochure should contact their local state Executive or a member of the national executive listed on the first page of this Newsletter. We will also be forwarding to the Executive Officers of our hospitals a letter encouraging them to support the attendance of their library staff at the Conference. Should other members (not working in the hospital setting) wish to have a similar letter sent to their management, they should advise us as soon as possible.

Full details of the Conference are:

Title: Achieving Excellence: Fouth Asian Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference with the Ninth Biennial Health Librarians Conference.

Venue: National Convention Centre, Canberra, Australia.

Date: 1 - 5 September, 1991

Themes: Quality, value and innovation in library service and managing the special needs of smaller health libraries.

Keynote Speakers (Health): Guy St Clair, President, OPL Resource Ltd, Washington (author of The One Person Library)

Margaret Gibson-Smith, Auckland Medical Library

Dr. Marjorie Pawsey, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Concord Hospital, N.S.W.

Dr Patricia Layzell Ward, Head of Library and Information Department, Curtin University of Technology, W.A.

Registration Fees for ALIA and AAHLIS members:

Full conference; \$450 before May 31 then \$500

Two days e.g. Health Strand only...\$250 before May 31 then \$275

Student Day registration is 50 per day pre May 31 then \$75 per day.

Other important notes and dates:

Mon 2: 5.00 - 6.00 Medline Users' Group

Tues 3: 5.00 - 6.30 Gratis Meeting

Wed 4: 4.00 - 5.00 A.G.M.

7.30 - Health dinner, presentation of Anne Harrison Award

We will provide further details on our speakers in our next issue.

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CONFERENCE GOODS FOR SALE....

An assortment of goodies feturing the floral emblem for Canberra have been produced by the Promotions Subcommittee of Achieving Excellence.

These include tee-shirts in various colours (olive, pink, white and black) for \$12 each, long sleeve shirts at \$15, tea towels (47) and badges (\$3.50).

These items are available from your local Executive or you can order them via Julia Butler , Lionel Murphy Library, Attorney-General's Dept, Robert Garran Offices, BARTON. A.C.T. 2600. If ordering by mail, cheques should be made payable to "Achieving Excellence Conference".

FROM THE LITERATURE

BAKER DR

Citation analysis: a methodological review. *Social Work Research & Abstracts* 26(3) September 1990 3-10. Recent developments in citation analysis methods, such as bibliographic coupling, co-citation document analysis, author co-citation analysis, and co-word analysis, may enable this approach to be extended to the management of the research enterprise as well as the sociological and historical analysis of the profession. The strengths and weaknesses of these newer methods are described along with suggestions for their use. And so we librarians have been doing.

COOPER ER

Options for the disposal of unwanted donations. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 78(4) October 1990 388-394. Donations of books and journals often unnecessarily duplicate holdings. Decisions must be made about distribution to libraries which may want them. What options are available? Are many valuable volumes lost or destroyed because we lack the necessary time, space or resources to distribute donated material? A questionnaire was mailed to 150 health libraries to discover the methods used to dispose of unwanted donations. 113 responded. This reports the results and discusses some of the creative methods used. Statistical comparisons are included for the methods used by academic, hospital and other types of health library service. Lists agencies. Someone should write an Australian equivalent.

DEMAS JM

Clinical medical librarian: the last unicorn? *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 79(1) January 1991 17-27. The idea of clinical medical librarian enjoyed a short vogue in previous times. This paper nostalgically repeats the arguments for this silly idea, but reluctantly concludes that the idea has gone the way of the unicorn. Compiler abstract.

DYER H

The effects of CD-ROM on library services. *Health Libraries Review* 7(4) December 1990 196-203. Overview of CD technology in libraries. Discusses important issues, such as online vs CD, currently being debated, and presents views on the context of CD. Excellent current view.

HOLST R

Hospital libraries in perspective. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 79(1) January 1991 1-9. The proliferation of medical libraries since World War II has created a generation of librarians who take their existence for granted. A brief history of U.S. hospital libraries and their context, together with interesting reminiscences.

KERR KM

Rising from a chair: a review of the literature. *Physiotherapy* 77(1) January 1991 15-19. Reviews studies that find that height of chair as well as assistance reduce risks. Has recommendations for further research and would be of use to the Occupational Health Officer.

McLAUGHLIN CP

Total quality management in health; making it work. *Health Care Management Review* 15(3) 1990 7-14. Many health organizations are trying TQM, total quality management. This approach attempts a total paradigm shift in health care management and presents a series of potential conflict areas in the way health organizations are managed. These areas include TQM's participatory approach versus professional and managerial authority, collective versus individual responsibility, quality assurance and standards versus continuous improvement and flexible versus rigid objectives and plans. This article reviews the areas of conflict and suggests a number of action guidelines for the successful implementation of TQM. Author abstract.

PREMSMIT P

Information needs of academic medical scientists at Chulalongkorn University. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 78(4) October 1990 383-387. Information needs of such people in English speaking countries are much studied. Few studies exist in developing countries. This investigates the information needs of academic medical scientists in Bangkok and found three types of need: identifying up to date information, obtaining relevant studies and data, developing research topics. Local information seeking behaviour was different from that in developed countries. High library use and much reliance on information from abroad. Required reading for ACPAD staff.

WALKER CJ

Problems encountered by clinical end users of MEDLINE and GRATEFUL MED. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 79(1) January 1991 67-69. End users have many problems but authors suggest these can be remedied by training and support by library staff. Details experience at McMaster University, Canada.

WENTZ R

Getting together with compact disc: a regional MEDLINE CD initiative for libraries. *Health Libraries Review* 7(4) December 1990. 204-7. An initiative of the N.W. Thames Regional Technology Association has resulted in the provision of 30 CD sites. Developments hitherto and projected.

Compiler: Ian Stubbin NPOW