

Medical Libraries Section
Victorian Group

Newsletter

October 1985
#12



AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY

We have booked a special function room at Leo's Spaghetti Bar in St. Kilda for our Christmas Party, which will follow a short AGM. For \$20 we will be served a 3 course dinner, unlimited wine or soft drink, and a free glass of champagne. There will also be a small band and floor show for our entertainment. BOOK NOW!

Friday 22nd November 1985

6.30 pm AGM
7.30 pm Dinner

Piano Bar,
Leo's Spaghetti Bar,
55 Fitzroy Street,
St. Kilda.

rsvp (with full payment) by Friday 8th
November to: Barbara Jacoby,
Biomedical Library,
Monash University,
Wellington Road,
Clayton 3168

REPORT OF JULY MEETING

WARNING: LIBRARIANSHIP MAY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH!

Most people think of librarianship as the ultimate in hazard free and conservative employment. In fact the Australian newspaper recently published a survey which placed librarianship as the least stressful of the professions. Our general meeting of July 18th on the health hazards of librarians dealt another death blow to this aspect of the stereotyped librarian. Professor Tony Ryan and Denise Sutar discussed a wide range of existing and possible occupational hazards afflicting librarians. These included some spectacular examples of tenosynovitis and repetition strain injury arising from the implementation of computers in 1980's libraries. Less notorious, but equally deadly for single-woman medical libraries, is the problem of manoeuvring and shelving heavy medical books and journals. Professor Ryan waxed lyrical on these subjects to a chorus of questions from the large number of librarians from many LAA sections who attended. Several solutions including new ergonomically designed desks, modifications of existing furniture and work routines were suggested to reduce the physical hazards associated with our profession.

What of the psychological problems afflicting librarians? Denise Sutar of the Augustine Centre demonstrated that these can be equally horrendous. Boredom, frustration over restricted promotional opportunities, the incessant demands of the medical establishment, and the vulnerability of libraries within the health care system add up to a fair burden of stress on medical librarians. Denise gave an excellent analysis of the stress process and a few simple guidelines to stress reduction on the job including a marvellous "5 finger" exercise which soon had us all relaxed and purring.

A tape recording of the whole session is available on short loan together with some complimentary copies of stress reduction courses operated by the Augustine Centre. Please contact Andrew Rooke at Prince Henry's Hospital Library.

NEWS FROM THE L.A.A.

- * The LAA's new toll free telephone number is 008 22 1481 (10 am - 12 noon). Please use it for any queries you may have. It's much quicker and easier than writing a letter. For example, if you are in the joint membership category and did not receive individual copies of the two Incites containing ballot papers, you can ring Jo-anne Fuller on the toll free number.
- * The Audiovisual Services Committee is revising the Interlibrary Loan Code for Audiovisual Materials.
- * General Council sought comment on the LAA's policy of not making its membership list available to commercial bodies. The Executive Director felt that with appropriate safeguards this could be a means of generating income for the Association. The Victorian Group responded that it supported the existing policy.
- * The Association has entered into a six month trial with Videotex Management Services Pty. Ltd to mount an LAA Database on Viatel. The database will include forthcoming events, information on the Association, publications and contacts in each state.

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR. . . .?

A continuous run of Search (ANZAAS) 1972-1983 is available free to any library willing to collect. Contact Dr. Ian Bayly or David Morton, Monash University Dept. of Zoology ph. 541 3848

BACHELOR OF ARTS (INFORMATION SCIENCE) AT KURING-GAI C.A.E., N.S.W.

This new course offered by the School of Library and Information Studies will commence in 1986. The course will prepare professionals to work in a wide range of information positions such as information co-ordinator, information resource manager, information officer, librarian, research assistant, information analyst, indexer, records manager. The course has been designed to meet the requirements for accreditation by the LAA. Sandra Russell holds a brochure for perusal.

NURSING LIBRARIAN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Ms Julie Hammonds, Librarian at the North Birmingham School of Nursing is interested in exchanging positions with an Australian nursing librarian some time after August 1986. Sandra Russell has a copy of Julie's letter and comprehensive c.v. to show anyone who is interested in visiting England.

PEOPLE

Jean Foreman has retired from Fairfield Hospital. Flowers were sent with our best wishes for her retirement. Jean's close colleagues may wish to get in touch with her.

WHIG

Shirley White (Queen Victorian Medical Centre) has agreed to be our liason officer with the Welfare and Health Interest Group. Shirley will report to each general meeting of the Medical Libraries Group. Thank you, Shirley.

POSITION VACANT

Typist-clerk required by the Medical Library, Alfred Hospital. Opportunity to acquire work processing skills. Please pass details of this vacancy on to anyone interested. For further information please ring Enid Meldrum 520 3003. This is a part time position (19 hours).

RECOMMENDED LIST OF BOOKS, JOURNALS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR SMALL HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES

The Publications Working Party has drawn up a submission to the LAA for a recoupable grant of \$2,200 to produce a revision of the above Booklist. It would be an official LAA publication, and production was planned to commence late in 1985. However, grant applications must be approved by Victorian Branch Council, which will not consider our application until early next year. We will keep you informed.

WORKING PARTIES

Kathleen Gray (Queen Victoria Medical Centre) has offered to help our Working Party on Standards.

RESEARCH

Had any good ideas lately about areas that need some research? Ring Andrew Rooke at Prince Henry's Hospital 62 0621 ext. 2351.

ELECTIONS FOR STATE COMMITTEE

Positions vacant for 1986 are: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 5 committee members. Some committee members assume responsibility for a particular area, such as continuing education, Vic. Branch liason officer, publications, newsletter editor. These committee members may be assisted by others to form working parties of a short or long term nature. Committee meetings are open to members and others. Agenda items are welcome.

If you would like to help the Victorian Group in 1986, or wish to nominate someone who you feel has valuable expertise or simply enthusiasm to offer, please complete the form below and return it to the Secretary, Ms Sandra Russell, C/- Medical Library, St. Vincent's Hospital, Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, 3065, before the AGM on 22nd November, 1985. Queries to Sandra ph. 418 2201 or Joan Martin ph. 344 5717.

NOMINATION FOR 1986 COMMITTEE
MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION
VICTORIAN GROUP

I wish to nominate
for the position of
Signature of Nominator
Signature of Seconder
I, accept the nomination.
Signature of Nominee

All signatories must be members of the LAA Medical Libraries Section.

REPORTING ON OUTSTANDING BOOK ORDERS

from Elizabeth Carvosso
LAA Acquisitions Section
Victorian Group

For years Australian librarians have complained about the poor standards of reports from local publishers and booksellers. It is often hard to know what a report means, which makes it difficult to explain non-supply to the original requestor.

The Australian Book Trade Committee (representing the LAA, ABPA and ABA) has developed a standard which has now been published by the SAA. 'Reporting outstanding orders (in the Book Trade)', AS2807-1985, ISBN 07262 38260. Price \$6.00.

The standard is recommended for use by library suppliers, Australian publishers and agents of overseas publishers. All librarians should read the standard, if only to know what your bookseller might be trying to tell you. If local publishers use the report codes as specified, and your bookseller transmits the same information, then you may at last know what 'out of stock' really means.

Pam Trier, who is on the Committee of the LAA Acquisitions Section, Victorian Group, is a member of the committee which developed the standard.

EDITOR: Mrs Bronia Renison, Library, Moorabbin Hospital, P.O. Box 72, East Bentleigh, 3165. Ph. 579 4716. Thank you to Moorabbin Hospital for covering the costs of producing and distributing the newsletter in 1985. I hope that the new Editor receives similar support from his/her employing institution.