

HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION
Victorian group

Newsletter no. 36, November 1991

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE : Fourth Asian Pacific Special and Law Librarians
Conference with the Ninth Biennial Health Librarians Conference
Canberra, 1-5 September, 1991

Well another Conference is over, and the Conference Committee did us proud with a first class trade exhibition, some great papers, a superb venue and a social program to suit all tastes.

Over 820 librarians and information specialists attended, including some 60 trade exhibitors. A good representative contingent of Victorian health librarians was in evidence but unfortunately we continue to hide our light under a bushell! Only Beverley Johnson (Librarian, Multiple Sclerosis Society) waved the flag for Victoria and presented a paper. Congratulations Beverley! Perhaps now that Beverley has paved the way others of us might be inspired to think about presentations at the next Conference?

Guy St. Clair, the health keynote speaker was excellent, as was the inspiring paper **The preferred future** given by Peter Ellyard to conclude the conference. For those who were unable to attend, the **Proceedings** are available. All conference participants have their copies and would be pleased to lend them around if asked.

The next Conference will be held in Brisbane in 1993. The decision was made at the Health Libraries Section AGM that a conference held jointly with the Special and Law Librarians has many advantages, so that our next conference will again be a joint one. Our Western Australian colleagues agreed to take over the National Executive tasks for the next term and will liaise with the Queensland Committee who will be responsible for the health component of the Brisbane Conference.

COMMITMENT, EXCELLENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM : Management strategies for
the one-person or minimal staff health services library

Guy St. Clair presented this professional development seminar in Sydney after the Conference. Some papers and a bibliography relating to this Seminar are available. Contact Enid Meldrum (Alfred Hospital, Phone : 03 276 3003 or Fax : 03 521 1238) if you would like copies.

THE SPP PAGE

Book news from your friendly and efficient library supplier

New, major work from Churchill Livingstone

THERAPEUTIC DRUGS

editor-in-chief

Professor Sir Colin Dollery
Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London

Therapeutic drugs offers in-depth clinical and pharmacological details on over 720 drugs commonly used today, including many new drugs awaiting licensing. Contributors come from the various fields of medicine, pharmacology, pharmacy and science and the information is discursive and practical, rather than prescriptive.

With over 500 contributors, the clinical details give access to the knowledge and experience of people who use the drug in practice; the pharmacological details come from people who are working with the drug daily.

Each drug receives a separate and clearly defined entry, starting clearly at the top of a page.

Three indexes allow easy and quick access to information. 1: Name Index. 2: Therapeutic Use Index. 3: Drug Type Index.

*1st edition December 1991, Churchill Livingstone ISBN 0 443 02846 X
Two volume set 3000pp Illust hardback \$840.00*

PRICE AMENDMENT

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AUSTRALIA-WIDE SCHEME FOR SERIALS DUPLICATES

Some of you will have already read of the suggestion for an Australia-wide scheme put forward by Alf Gans of ISA Australia in the ISA publication *Issues*, August 1991. Just in case you have not already heard of the suggestion, or have not made a response, it is reproduced below for your consideration. It would appear that this innovation, with enough support, would provide the Australian library community with a much needed service.

Without support the suggestion will not go forward, so if you feel it a worthy suggestion, please write to Alf Gans. He has already had some indication of support, but more is needed before he is prepared to commit any of his resources.

"As the consequences of staff cuts in libraries are felt, one of the first tasks to be pushed aside is the production of duplicate lists ... this is a massive resource waste when many libraries are missing just these duplicates.

We see the urgent need for an Australia-wide scheme which directs one library's duplicates to another library's gap.

ISA Australi is interested in establishing an Australia-wide duplicates distribution scheme. There is no intention of limiting this to ISA Australia clients, preferably we would see this being sponsored by ALIA, ACLIS or groups within these organisations.

In brief, the scheme would collect duplicates from libraries, list them, store them for a limited period (perhaps 2-3 years) and distribute them on request. Requests from libraries would either be filled immediately, held on file for possible fulfilment of returned after a specified period as not available.

ISA Australia has the resources and the will to make such a scheme work. However, while ISA Australia does not see this as a profit making venture, it still must be economically viable. The method of revenue collection is important and of course it must cover the costs of storage, recording, communication and distribution costs.

The sources of revenue would be one or more, probably a combination of

- a charge per successful delivery
- a charge for successful delivery less a credit for supply of duplicates
- a charge per enquiry and/or holding an enquiry for a specified period,
- an annual membership with or with a credit for a number of free deliveries

What is needed now is an indication as to whether this scheme will be supported.

Readers' comments should include : whether your library would participate by sending duplicates / seeking missing issues; comment on the preferred financing methods and an indicator of the range of prices you would deem reasonable; who you would suggest to manage the scheme, ie. ALIA, ACLIS, a subscription agent, ASSIG."

Write to : Alf Gans, ISA Australia, PO Box 709, Toowong, Qld. 4066.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW ROOKE AND ALL THE STAFF AT THE MONASH MEDICAL CENTRE LIBRARY ON AT LAST BEING IN YOUR WONDERFUL NEW LIBRARY. A MAMMOTH EFFORT. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IT ... VERY SOON!

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HEALTH LIBRARIES

Our group recently purchased a copy of the following new publication:

Quality assurance in libraries : the health care sector / edited by Margaret Haines Taylor and Tom Wilson. Ottawa : Canadian Library Association, 1990.

The book is currently located in the collection at the Austin Hospital and is available for loan (free to HLS members, usual ILL charges for non-members). Jenni Rusciano (Fairfield Hospital Library) kindly supplied the following review for the **Newsletter**.

This book looks at the quality of library services and the ways this "quality" can not only be assured but also measured. It is a collection of experiences on quality assurance in many different health science libraries mainly in Canada and England. Each chapter reports on a different aspect of quality assurance starting with strategic planning and concluding with the formation of objectives, standards and guidelines.

The book is very practical in its approach and many of the articles report on how they got it wrong, and with the benefit of hindsight how they would have done it differently. Such problems as time consuming paperwork, inappropriate data collection and analysis, wrong measuring tools, lack of good models to base quality assurance projects on and fiscal constraints are mentioned as obstacles that needed to be overcome.

Quality assurance programs were carried out on a wide variety of library services such as response times for inter-library loans, usefulness of library stock and data base searching. However it is always stressed that higher quality cannot always be afforded within an existing budget, and how quality assurance results can be used to put forward a case for increased funding.

Other topics reviewed include, the problem of measuring quality assurance and performance, the importance of the role of the library manager in determining the quality of the library service and how quality assurance can be specifically applied to health sector libraries.

This book also evaluates how health librarianship has responded to the results of quality assurance by such practices as increased networking, improved standards and accreditation tools, as well as improved library services.

This collection of quality assurance essays is well set out, very easy to read as it is quite anecdotal in style and not weighed down with QA jargon so as to become intimidating. It does not claim to have any definitive answers to the perfect quality assurance program, however still presents a wide range of methods which can be easily adapted to most health sector libraries.

Any librarian wanting to start a quality assurance program would find this book an excellent beginning.

1990 CUMULATED INDEX MEDICUS ERRATUM

There has been an error in Book 1 (**Medical subject headings**) of the 1990 edition of **Cumulated index medicus**. Pages 691-722 were inadvertently taken from the 1991 edition of **Medical subject headings** rather than from the 1990 edition. If you no longer have the 1990 **MeSH** (the black book) you will need to obtain a photocopy of the missing pages from someone who has the 1990 **MeSH**.

BUDGET SURVEY OF MELBOURNE HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

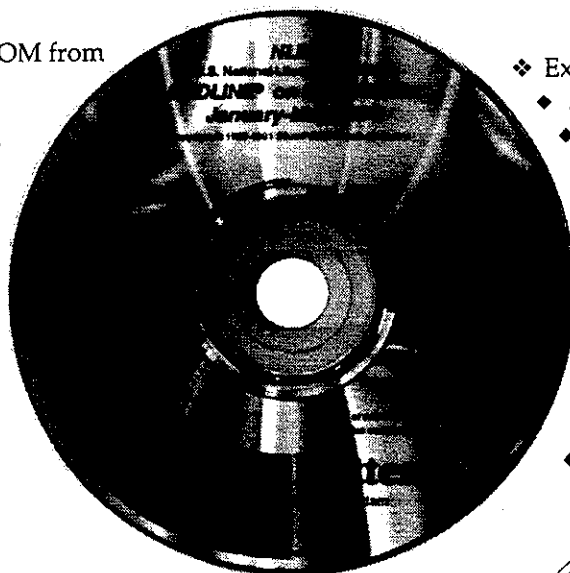
Arguing for a better budget without comparative data with other hospital libraries can leave you open to criticism from decision makers. With this in mind, Monash Medical Centre Library conducted a survey of major Melbourne hospital libraries to discover what percentages of total hospital budget various hospitals devoted to supporting their libraries' non-salaried expenses (books, journals, consumables, etc.). Based on budgets for 1989/1990, a wide range of figures emerged with Monash Medical Centre, Clayton (as then constituted) being amongst the worst funded at 0.066% of total budget, through to the best funded library at 0.306%. The weighted average for all hospital libraries in the survey was 0.109% for non-salaried budget (books, journals, consumables) and a rough approximate overall figure for complete library budgets including staff was a weighted average of 0.210%, far below the requirements of the **National minimum standards for hospital libraries**. When advocating your case for a better budget, apply these averages to your total hospital budget, and see how you compare!

Andrew Rooke
Monash Medical Centre

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VALA 6th Biennial Conference and Exhibition

Hilton-on-the-park, East Melbourne, 11-13 November, 1991

The Trade Exhibition will be open for viewing by non-conference delegates. Please check at the Registration Desk for a trade exhibition pass.

The exhibition promises the latest information and library systems from the major suppliers. It will be open 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, but will close earlier, around 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday.

COMING EVENTS ...

28th November AGM and Christmas Party

If you enjoyed, or heard about the wonderful food at last year's Christmas Party, then you will know that it is an event not to be missed. This year you are invited to join us at the DELACY RESTAURANT, the restaurant which provided last year's catering. The DELACY RESTAURANT is housed in a wonderful 1887 warehouse building in Central Melbourne and will provide the perfect venue to relax with colleagues. Your invitation is enclosed with the Newsletter.

Time : 6.00 p.m. AGM, 6.30 p.m. Food, drinks

Cost : ALIA members \$18.00, non-members \$25.00

28th November CD-ROM FOR COUNTRY HOSPITALS: A special seminar for health information providers in country Victoria

This is an opportunity for those involved in health libraries in country Victoria to meet with colleagues, to learn first hand about CD-ROM and its importance as the information tool for the future.

Venue : Health Department Victoria

Brochures outlining the day, and including an application form have now been distributed to our country members. City members who are also interested might also be able to be accommodated, but numbers are limited and priority will go to our country colleagues. A seminar for city members will take place in 1992. For more information contact Jo Marshall 03 345 2577.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1992

Yes, we have had enough nominations. Well done! The new Committee for 1992 will be announced at the AGM.

Also of interest is the fact that the number of financial members of the Victorian group has been steadily increasing throughout the year. Indeed a good sign for the future. Our current financial membership stands at 132 members.



Stringing it together

We are about to knock the plastic bag scourge on the head. ACF Enterprises has STRING BAGS for sale. They are handmade, 100 per cent natural fibre string shopping bags. They are cheap, only \$5, and there is no problem of disposal - they last for years. To order, contact Nicole O'Brien, ACF Enterprises, 340 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 3065. For postal orders please include cheque or credit card number, (please include \$1.50 post and handling).

NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

A sub-committee has been convened in N.S.W. to review and update these **Standards**. The sub-committee intends to work through the **Standards** section by section. Each State will have the opportunity for input as each section is tackled.

If you would be interested to help in providing feedback to the N.S.W. group Enid Meldrum (Alfred Hospital) would be pleased to hear from you. Copies of the drafts will be circulated to interested members as they are received and then Enid will consolidate our comments for reply. Enid may be contacted on 03 276 3003.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Your Committee needs some idea of the possible interest in two workshops we may run in 1992.

Some members will be aware that Margaret Gibson-Smith (Philson Library, Auckland Medical Library System) has been accredited by the Medical Library Association (USA) as an instructor for two of their continuing education courses - Management of reference services (one day); and Collection development workshop (two days - second day optional).

Margaret's travel and accommodation costs are being generously supported by DA Books, however course participants would be required to pay approximately \$50.00-\$80.00 (depending upon number of participants) to cover her lecture fees. The courses are tentatively proposed for sometime in May 1992.

It is **ESSENTIAL** that we obtain some indication of our members' interest in either or both courses. Could you therefore return the slip below by Friday, 8 November.

MARGARET GIBSON-SMITH'S WORKSHOP PRESENTATION
May 1992, approx. \$50.00-\$80.00 per workshop

Name

Institution and contact telephone no.

.....

Management of reference services (one day)

- Would probably attend
- Would probably not attend

Collection development workshop (two days, second day optional)

- Would probably attend
- Would probably not attend

Please return this slip to : Jenni Rusciano, Medical Library, Fairfield Hospital, Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield, 3078.

Enid Meldrum has a brief outline of each course if more information is required. Phone : 03 276 3003.