

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP

(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY, 1976.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16th February, 1976, at 6.30 p.m. in the Conference Room, Alfred Hospital.

Refreshments were provided from 6.00 p.m., and our thanks go to Enid Meldrum, Bronwyn Pearl and Yvonne Sullivan for this hospitality.

1. Apologies Bruce Davidson, Jean Foreman, Gay McManus, Marjorie Pinder, Judith Quilter, Mary Rae, Val Strantzen.

2. New members Three new members were welcomed - Heather Evans, Muriel Harvey and Yvonne Sullivan.

3. Business arising from minutes

- (a) Audio-Visual Workshop arrangements Ann McGalliard and Bronwyn Pearl have offered to assist the Committee in organizing the workshop. The R.A.C.G.P. Family Medicine Programme has been suggested as a possible venue. Proposed topics for discussion include selection, organization and storage, bibliographic control, equipment, inter-library lending. Miss Harrison suggested that selection and standardization of equipment should be dealt with in some detail as a common source of problems, and as an area in which librarians have little or no training/expertise. The meeting decided that the workshop should be held over two days, and that it would be desirable to hold it over a weekend that staffing problems might not preclude attendance.
- (b) Mention was made of a letter written to the Australian Department of Health conveying the Group's concern at the omission of the profession from the Department's Handbook on Health Manpower and Australian Health Manpower. Copies of the letter were circulated to the Council representatives.
- (c) Australian Hospitals' Association Reference and Referral Centre at Monash University A statement of Monash's policy was made by Sandra Russell, to clarify a misleading announcement that appeared in the A.L.J. Monash does not invite/accept direct dealing with an enquirer where that enquirer has access to a local library; but will refer the enquirer to his library and deal on an inter-library basis if that library is unable to satisfy the request.
- (d) Constitution Thanks were expressed to Amy Bush for her work in the drafting of the national Council's Constitution. Amendments from other states are awaited.
- (e) Nominations for representative to the A.M.L.G. Council Acting as Chairman, Kerry Christensen announced nomination of Sandra Russell by Enid Meldrum (seconded by Fay Baker). Sandra was duly elected as the Group's representative.

4. Correspondence

- (a) A letter of thanks from Mrs. Jac Baillie was read, expressing her appreciation of the dinner party and presentation by the Group.

- (b) In a letter from George Franki, University of New South Wales, we learned that a set of standards for Australian hospital libraries has been prepared by the New South Wales group.
- (c) The Committee was contacted by Mrs. Leveson of the East Bentleigh Community Health Centre, who asked for advice in setting up a small library. Jo Marshall and Enid Meldrum have kindly agreed to act in an advisory capacity to the Centre.
5. Financial report Kerry Christensen reported that the L.A.A. refund of \$103.40 had been received for the Group's Conference Workshop expenses. The Branch Council special purpose grant of \$100.00 is pending. The Group now has 38 financial members, and a cash balance of \$183.38.
6. Hospitals and Charities Commission's Chief Medical Librarian position. The Committee was contacted by Mr. Touzel (Secretary to the Commission) who asked if two members might be available to assist in interviewing applicants for the position. Fay Baker and Amy Bush, as members of the Consultative Committee, have kindly agreed to be panellists, and we look forward to a report from them.
7. Query re S.S.A.L. Enid Meldrum had enquired whether print-outs of individual library holdings might be feasible when S.S.A.L. records are available in tape form. Upon enquiry, Sandra Russell was advised that only new entries (1976 +) were to be held in tape form, so that print-outs would not be worthwhile.
8. Special Libraries Section Conference, 22nd-25th October, 1976, was announced. The conference is to be held at the Australian Mineral Foundation in Adelaide, the theme being management in special libraries: large and small. The Saturday afternoon has been set aside for special interest groups and the Section Committee enquired through our representative, Miss Anne Harrison, as to whether medical librarians might wish to arrange a meeting and/or tour. Judith Lloyd, Co-Convenor of the South Australian group has indicated interest in the suggestion. Discussion at the meeting indicated that a meeting was to be preferred, with the option of a tour. Interest was shown in a tour of the Flinders University medical library, if possible. Six members plan to attend the Conference. Hope was expressed that Council representatives or their proxies might meet and work on the Constitution. The meeting's recommendations will be discussed further with Judith Lloyd.
9. Australian Medical Librarians' Group Newsletter It was announced that the first issue had been distributed.
10. Hospital library standards Following the receipt of these standards from the New South Wales Group, Amy Bush, Kerry Christensen and Judith Quilter were invited to form a Sub-Committee for the purpose of commenting on these standards. Reporting on the Sub-Committee's work, Kerry Christensen made the following points:-
- (a) Like the Canadian standards, these standards appear more as a procedural manual than as the usual outline form of standards.
- (b) The standard for staffing is based on the number of beds. The Sub-Committee feels staffing should be related to the type

of institution and the services/programmes it provides - its role as a teaching hospital, for example. Some of the staffing standards were seen to be so unrealistic as to deter managerial acceptance of other soundly-based standards.

(c) The A.M.L.G. Council resolved at its inaugural meeting that national interests should be the Council's concern. The New South Wales Group's proposed standards were received too late for any national consensus to be reached and submitted prior to the printing deadline of February, 1976.

(d) Using the Canadian standards as a model, the Sub-Committee will draft standards and circulate these to Council representatives. Comments from Group members on the standards are invited.

11. Revision of book/journal lists was suggested by Sandra Russell. Four members have agreed to form a revising team: Thora Grey, Ann McGalliard, Enid Meldrum and Elizabeth White.

12. Other business

Directory As coordinator, Heather McDonald reported that it had not proved possible to use dwindling printed card-stocks as masters from which to print. Two possibilities were presented:-

(a) to continue production in present form, which would require an outlay of \$45.00 for supplies of printed cards.

(b) move to production on standard A4-size paper, with possible use of varitype for production of master-sheets. This would provide a cheaper, quicker means of production.

After some discussion, the meeting agreed that a move should be made to use standard A4-size paper for the directory. Five interim additions were available for collection at the meeting.

The business of the meeting concluded, the Group was addressed by Professor Perry Morrison (Department of Librarianship, University of Oregon). In a most interesting address, Professor Morrison told us of current trends in medical librarianship and in education for the profession within the United States. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to our guest speaker, proposed by Fay Baker.