

Medical Libraries Section  
Victorian Group

Newsletter

May 1986  
No. 14



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SERIALS WITH SANITY!

Our next general meeting will be as follows :

- Speaker : Ms. Elizabeth Carvosso (Bennett-Ebsco Subscription Services)
- Venue : Room 2.2, Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, School of Nursing, 2 Slater Street, Melbourne.  
(Off St. Kilda Road ; Fawkner Towers on the corner ; parking for about 30 cars available under the building)
- Time : 5.45pm for 6.30pm
- Date : Thursday 15th May 1986
- RSVP : Jean Leith, 269-1765, Wednesday 14th May 1986

Informal tours of the Library will be led by Jean before the function. The Library will be open until 8.30pm. After the meeting, attendees are invited to have dinner with Bert Pribac (AHD), who will be bringing a guest from the Institute of Medical Research in Peking. This person is involved in setting up Medline in China and is keen to meet librarians who use the system here.

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REPORT OF NATURAL THERAPY ... IT'S A NATURAL

Those few members who braved an unseasonably hot Melbourne day and battled Moomba festival traffic were treated to a fascinating lecture on Alternative Medicine (Natural Therapies). Robert Zindler, Executive Director of the Australian Natural Therapies Association, gave an overview of alternative therapies and Lyndsay Edwards of CIG Medishield Bookshop organized a comprehensive display of recent books on the subject.

It seems that interest in the natural therapies is growing at a rapid rate both inside the medical profession and amongst health consumers. In 1977 in Australia there were only 1000 alternative practitioners and approximately 2.5 million consultations. Last year the figures were 2800 practitioners and approximately 10 million consultations amounting to about 10% of health care outside of hospitals.

Mr. Zindler emphasized that natural therapies complement rather than compete with orthodox medicine. He explained the range of natural therapies from those familiar such as acupuncture, vitamin therapy and herbalism through to osteopathy, chiropractic, homeopathy and touched upon some of the "fringe" therapies. He felt that both the natural and orthodox therapies are coming towards a reconciliation leading to an integrated medicine of the future.

If you are interested in further information on books dealing with alternative medicine, please contact Andrew Rooke at Prince Henry's Hospital (62-0621 x2351) and a booklist will be sent to you.

PROCEEDINGS

Additional copies of the Proceedings of the 6th Biennial Australian Medical Librarians' Conference entitled 'Medical libraries - new directions' are available. Interested individuals should send a cheque for \$15.00 made out to the LAA Medical Libraries Conference, with a return address label to Mrs. E. Meldrum, Medical Library, Alfred Hospital, Commercial Road, Prahran, 3181.

DIARY DATES

Whilst on the subject, the 7th Biennial Australian Medical Librarians' Conference to be held in Adelaide will be from Sunday 13th September to Thursday 17th September 1987 inclusive. The theme is 'Health Science Librarians - the Dynamic Communicators' and the Steering Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Gatehouse (Adelaide Children's Hospital).

TRANSFER OF NURSE EDUCATION FROM HOSPITALS TO COLLEGES : PROBLEMS OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

This is the subject of a letter sent by our President and Secretary to a large number of tertiary institutions, hospitals, and other relevant organizations in early February. The letter puts forward six main areas of concern which need to be thoroughly examined regarding the "unprecedented" and possibly unanticipated demands on college libraries and the libraries of affiliated hospitals". It then urges an immediate start on detailed planning of the establishment of adequate library resources and funding, and welcomes comments from the recipients. To date, several replies have been received. Preliminary discussions are underway and a joint working party with the Universities and College Libraries Section's National Executive has been proposed.

NEW LAA PAMPHLETS

The LAA has recently produced three pamphlets entitled : Guide to Employment Avenues for Library Staff ; A Library Technician may be just what you need ; and Why should you join the LAA ? Copies of these are available from Head Office upon request. (008-22-1481)

LAA HANDBOOK

The 1985/86 Handbook/Membership Directory is now available. It is a folder with five pamphlets covering the LAA, Membership Directory, Constitution, Policy Statements and Courses in Library and Information Science. The price for members is \$12.00 plus \$3.00 for postage/handling.

RESPONDEZ S'IL VOUS PLAÎT ?

This is one French idiom we should all know. Could all members please ensure that they reply to the person nominated on function advertisements by the stated date if they intend to be present ? If you've ever been involved with arranging a function, you will realize that the attendance numbers are an important guide to catering and setting up a venue.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - CAN YOU HELP ?

Peter Hoare, Medical Librarian for the University of PNG, has made a plaintive request for any experienced medical librarian to work voluntarily there. The incumbent would have to pay his/her own fare but free accommodation could possibly be arranged. For more details, write to Peter at PO Box 5623, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

DRAFT HOSPITAL STANDARDS

All State working parties have sent responses to the SA Hospital Librarians. The latter met on 24th March and have set February 1987 as the deadline for the drafting of Standards at State level, and August 1987 for the National Standards. These will be presented at the Biennial Conference for formal endorsement. A meeting for working party members will be arranged at the Darwin Conference. Pat Nakouz (Vic. Convenor, HDV, 616-7772) would like a volunteer to replace Jocelyn Dixon for about 10 months. Pat would also like to receive any alterations/additions/criticisms of the Standards.

CUMULATED INDEX MEDICUS

Mrs. Bansal, Librarian at the Blood Bank, has bound copies of CIM for the years 1970-80 inclusive spare. If you are interested in obtaining some or all of these, please ring her : 616 - 0267.

DARWIN CONFERENCE : MLS AGM WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY, 4PM

As the planners would like to receive an estimate of the number of Section members planning to attend, please send a note to our Secretary (Kathy Hutton, Alfred Hospital), who will then inform them on our behalf. In order to meet their deadline, Kathy must receive your replies by Friday 9th May.

DARWIN CONFERENCE : MLS PAPERS

This will be the first time that the MLS will be officially represented at an LAA Biennial Conference. Our speakers and their topics are : Annette Benson, Librarian, Gosford Central Coast Area Hospital : Ethical and legal responsibilities of the Librarian in the provision of patient information ; and Jan Heath, National President : Alternative medicine resources.

NATIONAL SEMINAR - HEALTH SCIENCES : ALTERNATIVES, CHOICES AND CHANGE

This Seminar, hosted by the S.A.C.A.E. in association with the S.A. Group of the M.L.S. will be held on 28th November 1986, 9.00am to 4.30pm, at the S.A.C.A.E., Sturt Site, Bedford Park, S.A., 5042. Topics to be included are :

1. Information needs of health personnel in country areas.
2. Microcomputers in health libraries.
3. Changing nature of nursing education.
4. Education for medical librarianship.
5. Peer review in health sciences.

The contact person is Mrs. Margie Russon (08) 275 - 5289.

PS

Don't forget to send your suggested new journal subscriptions to Mary McGill (RMH) for possible rationalization by June 1986.

EXCLUSIVE AGENCIES FOR JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

You may be aware of the recent move by some publishers to give particular agencies sole rights for the distribution of their publications. Examples are R. Hill & Son for the American Medical Association journals and CIG Medishield (Sydney) for Yearbook Publications. The disadvantages for us can include extra time needed to liaise with additional agents (i.e. different claiming procedures) and separate payments for subscriptions. The new Hill's arrangement is meant to speed delivery time of journal issues, but this has not been noted to date. We have written to the Acquisitions Section, Victorian Group, suggesting this is an issue for joint discussion and action. In the meantime, individual librarians may wish to write directly to the publishers concerned.

AUDIO-VISUAL COPYRIGHT

The LAA contacted the Attorney-General regarding a press release on AV Copyright in February related to piracy. The Attorney-General said that, while there had been some improvements in the regulations regarding disabled people, there is no further information on copyright in relation to education.

COURSES IN MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

The Graduate School of Librarianship at Monash University and the Department of Librarianship at Ballarat College of Advanced Education have both expressed an interest in establishing a course in medical/health science librarianship in response to a suggestion from our Group. With the expansion of these areas into more college libraries, we felt that librarians there, as well as those currently working in the field, would benefit from such a course. It is anticipated that, if such a course is mounted, suggestions regarding specific topics and possible lecturers would be sought from the Group.

A WORTHY STANDARD

'Reporting outstanding orders (in the book trade)' sets out a code of practice for use by book publishers when reporting the reasons why orders have not been filled. For each category of outstanding orders report an abbreviated report code and the valid status codes are given. Necessary additional information is supplied for particular reports. AS 2807 - 1985 ; ISBN 0-7262-3826-0 ; Price \$6.00 ; Postage \$1.25 ; available from the Standards Association of Australia, Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, Parkville, 3052.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

While Kathleen Gray (QVMC) is away on Maternity Leave, Janice McDermott is filling her shoes. Janice previously worked at the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations Library and is therefore new to the medical sphere. We wish both Kathleen and Janice "bon chance".

VAHPA : ROYAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL DISPUTE

Members outside the Victorian Allied Health Professionals Association may be interested to learn of a dispute at the RWH Medical Library

VAHPA : ROYAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL DISPUTE (Continued)

following the continued refusal by management to provide clerical assistance. The Librarians have been progressively discarding "non-professional" duties (filing, sending telexes, typing, replenishing photocopying machines) in support of their claim. This has severely affected the telex and inter-library loan service. A request for an extra member of staff has been forwarded to the Health Department, and the Hospital has to report back to the Ancillary Board by Wednesday 7th May. For the time being, the Librarians have dropped their industrial action, but are prepared to resume it if necessary.

ARE YOU INTERESTED...?

Members of the GRATIS and GRATISSA schemes in New South Wales and South Australia respectively have written to Elizabeth Giddy (VRWH) about forming a similar organization here and joining all three together. In both schemes, the participating libraries are ranked as libraries of 1st, 2nd, 3rd... resort, a '1st' library being a small one. The aims are to take the pressure off the large libraries for many of the inter-library loan requests which could be handled by small libraries, thereby giving more time over to the larger libraries and reducing the turnover time for requests from them. As most of the smaller libraries would not have their serials listed in NUCOS, they benefit by having access to each other's collections also. Elizabeth spoke briefly on the proposal to set up a scheme at the last General Meeting. However, since there were so few in attendance, we decided that it would be better if members contacted her via this medium.

At the end of this page is a slip to cut out and send to Elizabeth informing her of your interest in such a scheme and of your willingness to help her develop one if necessary.

Please fill it in and send it to :

Elizabeth Giddy,  
Medical Library,  
Royal Women's Hospital,  
132 Grattan Street,  
CARLTON. 3053.

RSVP : Thursday 15th May 1986

Alternatively, you may ring her directly on 344 - 2397.

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Contributions to this Newsletter can be sent to : Mrs. Veronica Delafosse, Medical Librarian, Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, 260 Kooyong Road, Caulfield, 3162. Ph. : 528 - 6433 x832.

The printing and postage of this newsletter has been generously donated by the Royal Southern Memorial Hospital.

All other correspondence should be addressed to : Mrs. Kathy Hutton, Medical Library, Alfred Hospital, Commercial Road, Prahran, 3181. 520-3042.

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Please cut this out and send it to : Elizabeth Giddy, Medical Library, Royal Women's Hospital, 132 Grattan Street, Carlton, 3053, by Thursday 15th May 1986.

I am interested in the proposal to form a GRATIS ILL scheme in Victoria.

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE : \_\_\_\_\_

LIBRARY : \_\_\_\_\_

If there is enough interest shown, are you willing to participate in a sub-committee ?  
YES / NO (Strike out the inapplicable)