
NEWSLETTER

HEALTH LIBRARIES' SECTION

Australian Library and Information Association

Number 21 July 1991

CONFERENCE PROGRESS REPORT

With the conference "Achieving Excellence" drawing near conference planners Capital Conferences report a very pleasing response from both librarians and trade exhibitors. Registrations at the end of July were 529 with a further 20 to be entered in the computer and more coming in daily. Section registrations are Health 116, Law 187 and Specials 203. Dinner registrations are Health 102, Law 166 and Specials 185. 400 are planning to attend the welcome reception on Sunday evening and 324 are registered to attend the farewell function on Thursday.

With 65 trade stands booked it has been necessary to provide additional space for the Trade Exhibition.

If you haven't registered yet it is not too late. Previous Health Conferences have provided a stimulating environment in which to meet colleagues, put a face to that name you know only by phone, share information and provide the inspiration to put new ideas into action. "Achieving Excellence" the Fourth Asian Pacific Special and Law Librarians Conference with the Ninth Biennial Health Librarians Conference promises to be bigger and better than ever.

For further information contact Capital Conferences
PO Box E345
Queen Victoria Terrace
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Telephone (06)285 2048
Fax (06)285 2334

NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

A Subcommittee has been convened to assist in the updating of the National Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries (published by the Library Association of Australia in 1988.) This Subcommittee will investigate and review the Standards, seek the views of members Australia-wide and eventually produce a document for consideration by the membership.

The Chairperson of the Subcommittee is Virginia Staggs (member of the National Executive). Other members are as follows:

Trish Aguado (Member of the National Executive, Chief Librarian Royal Newcastle Hospital Library)
Don Keast (Librarian SWSAHS - Campbelltown Hospital Library)
Judith Weaver (Librarian, St Vincent's Hospital Library)
Fay Heikkila (Librarian, Manly Hospital Library)
Ruth Murray (Librarian, Wollongong Hospital Library)
Paul Davies (Librarian, Gosford Hospital Library)

The Subcommittee welcomes the views of the members on this issue; please write to us as your input is valuable. Address your correspondence to Virginia Staggs, (Librarian, Concord Hospital Library - Phone 02 7366936 Fax 02 7366707). Two meetings of the Subcommittee are scheduled before the Conference in September.

HOSPLAN

When HOSPLAN was closed down at the end of 1990, the Library was boxed and put into storage. Following negotiations with the NSW Department of Health, the NSW State Branch of the Australian College of Health Service Executives was given responsibility for the Library. The College is currently negotiating with Macquarie Hospital at Ryde to establish the Library in new premises.

Sue Brockway, the previous HOSPLAN Librarian, will be responsible for the new library. The Library has funding for three years and is to provide a service for the College, the Capital Works section of the Department of Health, hospital planning groups, students, health administration and the health industry in general. We anticipate that the Library will be up and running in a few months. For further information please contact Helen Smith at the College on (02) 476 6148.

FROM THE LITERATURE

BELLAMY LM

Remote access to electronic library services through a campus network. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 79(1) January 1991 53-62. One University health library uses the extant campus network for menu driven ILL, literature search requests and photocopying as well as electronic mail. Remote access is intended to supplement rather than replace in-house library use. Similar to initiatives being pursued in several places around Australia.

CHAN LL

Public health- in search of a knowledge domain and expert reference advisory system. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 79(2) April 1991 178. Describes a computer based reference advisory system in public health called Public Health Librarian (PHL). General purpose is to suggest reference tools to students in the highly diversified area of graduate school of public health. Multidisciplinary nature of the subject brings together resources at the boundaries of social sciences and medicine.

GILMAN LB

The scholarly publishing imbroglio: a personal view: comment and opinion. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 79(1) January 1991 88-92. Speculates on the future of scientific publishing and the collecting of journals as the costs go ever higher. Relationship to clinical practice is optimistically (just) examined.

GREFSHEIM S

Biotechnology awareness study, part 1: where scientists get their information. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 79(1) January 1991 36-44. Survey of nine medical libraries to assess their support of biotechnological research. Also identified information needs of scientists in the area. Three chief sources of information were ones own work, personal communication and textual material, printed or electronic. This last was mostly personal journal subscriptions, only marginal ones being examined in the library. Few regularly used library. Personal computers have had a major impact and the librarian role is seen as different from what we expect. Interesting conclusions drawn by authors.

LUNDBERG GD

The Quality of a medical article. Thankyou to our 1990 peer reviewers. JAMA 265(9) 1991 6 March 1161-2. Gives eleven criteria for evaluating the quality of an article. Comments on the First International Congress on Peer Review in Biomedical Publication, Chicago, 1989, and the benefits therefrom. The next is in September 1993. Queries if even the best papers necessarily improve physician practice.

PAALMAN M

Promoting safer sex. Amsterdam, Swets & Zeitlinger, 1990. 252pp A\$25 ISBN 90-265-1012-0. Different chapters focus on different target groups, and different methods including fear and humour.

PASKOFF BM

Accuracy of telephone reference service in health sciences libraries. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association 79(2) April 1991 182-188. Six factual queries were unobtrusively telephoned to fifty-one U.S. health libraries. Most answered accurately. The author (Ph.D.) finds correlation between accuracy of answers and graduate qualifications of staff answering. Also between members of the MLA certified staff and others.

RENNIE D

Throw it away, Sam: the controlled circulation journals. AJR American Journal of Roentgenology 155 October 1990 889-892. Throwaway journal is defined as free, carrying more advertisements than text, not owned by professional societies, not publishing original work, not cited, variably subject to peer review and deficient in critical editorials and correspondence. Compares American Family Physician, Consultation, Emergency Medicine, Modern Medicine, Patient Care and on the other hand Annals of Internal Medicine, JAMA, NEJM, Critical Care Medicine, Archives of Internal Medicine and Archives of Ophthalmology. Author regards the former as advertising disguised as medical journalism and recommends that we teach medical staff and students how to read journals critically. No self respecting physician should agree to be on the editorial boards of throwaways; the honorarium is not worth the disgrace. This paper shows how one should evaluate journals as well. Useful for librarians through physician eyes.

VELLEMAN RA

Meeting the needs of people with disabilities: a guide for librarians, educators and other service professionals. Phoenix AR, Oryx Press, 1990. 272pp. US\$34.50 ISBN 0-89774-521-3. This book is divided into four parts. 1: People with disabilities: an overview, deals with attitudes and specific information on disabilities. 2: Consumer information, deals with (U.S.) legal rights, technology and assistance with daily living. 3: Rehabilitation and special education: information for professionals. 4: Library application, details special efforts to be made in libraries with a useful annotated list of materials. Advanced textbook, handbook level.

compiled by Ian Stubbin
Group Librarian, Eastern Sydney Area Health
Service, Randwick, 2031.

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FUTURE CONFERENCES AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVES FOR HEALTH

We Health librarians have reached a crossroads in the way we arrange our affairs and our conferences in Australia.

The Health Libraries Section has rotated its national executive through the states in a hitherto set order.

The relevant state executive acted as the national one for a period of two years. This has proved an excellent arrangement.

The biennial health conference has on each occasion been sponsored by the State executive in that state when it acted as the national executive.

There were small numbers of attendees at most of our biennial conferences and we were not able to attract expensive overseas speakers or a large number of commercial exhibitors.

In 1989, the Queensland (and national) executive held 'their' conference in a joint effort with our Kiwi colleagues in Auckland. This was a great success, in all ways.

In 1991, the N.S.W. (and national) executive learnt from this and decided to hold 'their' conference outside New South Wales in Canberra, in parallel with the biennial Specials conference. This imposed a great burden on the N.S.W. executive and their colleagues in Canberra, whose tireless efforts were essential to any success of the venture.

If this conference held with the Specials is a success, the tandem arrangement should be continued. This might involve some rearrangement of national executives as the last two have managed conferences outside their respective states.

The key issue is whether it is worthwhile continuing in tandem with the Specials. Those attending the Canberra conference will easily see if it is, or if it is not.

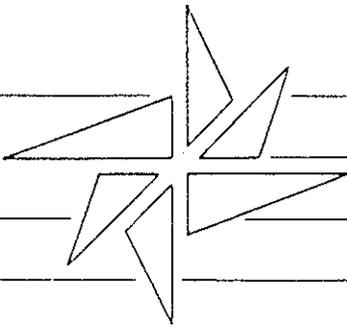
If it is, the Annual General meeting held during that conference will need to make arrangements to alter the sequence of national executives.

If it is not worth continuing in tandem with the Specials, the A.G.M. will have to decide to continue with our present arrangements. It must be one or the other.

This will be one of the key issues to be determined at the meeting. As current national secretary, I and my fellow executive members, have worked very hard to ensure the success of the joint arrangement with Specials.

Personally, I hope the meeting will endorse our efforts, and decide that Health should continue to enjoy the benefits, first tasted this year, of having our conference at the same time as Special Librarians.

Ian Stubbin NPOW (02) 3992631
National Secretary



AUSTRALIAN
LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION
ASSOCIATION

SERIALS AWARDS

\$2000.00 AVAILABLE NOW!

The AUSTRALIAN SERIALS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (ASSIG) is now offering two serials awards.

The awards will interest postgraduate students in library and/or information science, professional librarians and library technicians.

Preference will be given to proposals of a practical nature, and they must relate to serials librarianship in Australasia and the South Pacific.

The awards are intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Australian Serials Special Interest Group, which are:-

- * to promote professional awareness among all those concerned with serials;
- * to promote a forum for the interchange of information and ideas;
- * to encourage and assist library educators to provide continuing education in serials; and
- * to discuss future directions in serials.

Two awards of \$1000.00 each will be made. Further information, including guidelines for submissions, can be obtained from DAVID SINFIELD, SECRETARY, ASSIG, ph. (047) 360 338, Fax (047) 360 480

NOTE: This notice was received from ASSIG with a request that we disseminate it. As Health Libraries are extensive users and studiers of serials, I have included it here for the benefit of members.

Ian Stubbin (NPOW) (02)3992631

National Secretary