



# THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

NO. 7

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1986

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### REPORT FROM THE L.A.A. 1986 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, DARWIN

Over 900 delegates from all states of Australia and overseas attended this conference. Medical librarians were well represented as shown by their attendance at the activities organized by the Medical Libraries Section.

This was the first time the Medical Libraries Section had presented papers at a National Conference. Both papers - "The ethical and legal responsibilities of the librarian in the provision of patient information" by Annette Benson, and "Alternative medicine resources" by Jan Heath - were attended by delegates from other specialities as well as medical librarians.

Darwin also provided a venue for the state representatives to discuss the draft standards for hospital libraries. This was a positive meeting. (See below for a full report.)

The National Library convened a Medline Users Group meeting which Judith Baskin attended. She answered a number of questions and reported that the National Library would be encouraging the use of electronic mail for inter-library loans. They have chosen OTC's Minerva system.

The conference provided a venue for medical librarians to meet both formally and informally at such venues as the Specials Section dinner and the Trade Exhibition, to share their experiences and build contacts which should aid in co-operation between medical librarians.

Chris Heap  
Librarian, Julia Farr Centre

### REPORT OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION 1986 A.G.M., DARWIN

The President, Jan Heath, was able to report that the L.A.A. General Council had approved the establishment of the Anne Harrison Trust Fund. This represents a major achievement for the Victorian Group and an acknowledgement of the contribution made by Anne Harrison towards Australian medical librarianship. (Further details of developments in its administration are given below.)

An offer was announced from the NZLA Health Libraries Section to host a 1989 Australasian Medical Librarians' Conference in New Zealand. It was resolved by the meeting that all states would be notified that a motion to accept this offer would be placed on the Agenda of the 1987 A.G.M. to be held in Adelaide.

There were no motions from the floor and the A.G.M. concluded with the President extending congratulations to three section members who have recently been honoured - Frances Bluhdorn, Barbara Biggins and Elisabeth Gatehouse. (More details below)

TRANSFER OF NURSE EDUCATION

It was generally agreed at the Darwin Conference that the best results from efforts on this issue appear to be occurring at the State level, and it was felt that the National Section had tried all that could be done. State groups are therefore encouraged to pursue the matter locally and to approach the L.A.A. General Council directly if they require further support, although the National Executive would like to be advised if this is done. The National Executive will continue to monitor the situation and raise the matter with Council if this proves necessary.

The South Australian College of Advanced Education is conducting a survey of College nursing resources on behalf of ALCAE (Australian Librarians in Colleges of Advanced Education), and this should yield valuable data. Meanwhile, libraries involved with college students on placement are encouraged to keep statistics on usage and monitor any problems arising.

ANNE HARRISON FUND

Following approval by General Council for the establishment of the Anne Harrison Fund, details of its constitution and the appointment of administrators have been discussed by the National Executive and an amended draft will be forwarded to state groups for comment.

AWARDS

In the last newsletter we gave details of the award to Elisabeth Gatehouse of a Letter of Recognition by the L.A.A. Two more of our members have now been honoured in different ways.

Frances Bluhdorn, Susman Librarian at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has been awarded the 1986/87 Cunningham Fellowship by the U.S. Medical Library Association. The purpose of the fellowship is to educate and train medical librarians from countries outside the U.S. and Canada to improve the medical library service in their country. Frances will spend six months in the U.S. in the first half of 1987 undertaking supervised work and observation and attending continuing education courses. She will be particularly interested in peer review and quality assurance programs for hospital libraries, and also in co-operative health science journal activities, electronic mail and services to isolated health professionals.

Barbara Biggins, Librarian at the Child, Adolescent and Family Health Service in Adelaide has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June, for her "service to the arts, especially through the South Australian Council for Children's Film and Television".

NEWS ON UNION LISTS

The Joint Serials Catalogue of W.A. Health Librarians is about to be published in its third edition. The first edition came out in August 1979. The libraries involved have also had in place for some time a possibly unique courier system whereby a vehicle and courier's salary are paid for on a co-operative basis. The courier is based at the University of Western Australia and does a daily round covering 12 libraries. For libraries not on the courier route but who have a courier visiting the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre, a system of boxes for delivery and pick-up has been arranged. These arrangements allow for a 24 to 72 hour response for inter-library loan requests.

The union list for the S.A. medical libraries co-operative scheme GRATISSA has been officially launched in the splendour of the Adelaide Hilton International. The evening was hosted by the University Co-operative Bookshop who very generously arranged the computer-generation of both this list and its N.S.W. sister GRATIS. The GRATISSA list contains the full holdings of 29 health and related libraries in Adelaide, as well as the health-related holdings of the S.A. Institute of Technology and the S.A. College of Advanced Education.

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Discussions are still under way concerning the exchange of the two lists between GRATIS and GRATISSA. Meanwhile, other states have expressed interest in the exchange or sale of lists between states. This is a matter which needs some consideration and discussion.

From Queensland we hear news of a possible GRATISQ, possibly produced on microfiche. Another matter which will need some consideration is the operation of a three-way network. Should loans be requested from the state nearest geographically, or should the smaller states be the first choice, or do we need a national ranking of participants, and how could this be achieved ?

### EXEMPTIONS FROM THE UNSW \$15.00 CHARGE

Most of us are by now aware that the University of N.S.W. is charging \$15.00 for both copies and loans requested on inter-library loan. Hospital libraries are however exempt from this new charge and the normal \$3.00 per copy rule applies, with no charge for loans. This applies to all UNSW libraries, not just the Biomedical Library. However, libraries in this exempt category are requested to use UNSW as a library of last resort.

### HOSPITAL LIBRARY STANDARDS

Lindsay Harris, as national convenor of the Standards Working Parties will produce an amalgamated version of the Victorian, Western Australian and N.S.W. draft standards incorporating the amendments suggested at the meeting on Standards held in Darwin. One major change was the addition of a further category to the top of the original five of the Victorian Standards, to cover very large institutions with 800 or more beds or 1,000 or more professional staff, as well as four or more of the criteria set down in the draft.

This amalgamated version will be circulated to the state Working Parties and also will be published in Australian Special Libraries News for final comments. As agreed at the Darwin meeting, copies of this proposed final draft will be sent to the Royal Colleges, the Royal Australian Nursing Federation, the Australian Council on Hospital Standards and the para-medical professional associations for their endorsement. If all runs to plan, it is hoped to present an approved set of Standards at the 1987 Medical Librarians' Conference in Adelaide for ratification.

### NEW EDITION OF THE ACCREDITATION GUIDE

The Australian Council on Hospital Standards has just published the 5th edition of its Accreditation Guide for Australian health care facilities. Copies are available from the Council for \$40.00.

### PEER REVIEW

A draft statement on the philosophy of peer review in health librarianship has been prepared by Francis Bluhdorn, and approved by the National Executive. Frances is also putting together a peer review kit to help hospital libraries understand the role of quality assurance and peer review. This should be a valuable document in the quality assurance process.

### JOB EXCHANGE

A medical librarian in a 400 bed hospital in the U.S. would like to exchange jobs with another hospital librarian for 2-3 months. Duties include : reference work for hospital staff and nursing school, cataloguing, acquisitions, bi-weekly duties at three small area hospitals, supervising a part-time library clerk and other basic library tasks. Minimum three years experience preferred. If interested, write to :

Kristine Benishek, 108 Betzstone, Mansfield, Ohio 44907 USA

TRIP TO CHINA

Bert Pribac, Librarian at the Commonwealth Dept. of Health, Canberra, is organising a trip to China for medical librarians to coincide with the opening of their Medline centre in May-June 1987. One possibility is for a nine day visit to Beijing for approx. \$1100 plus \$500 for extra fares if Hong Kong is included. Alternatively a three week visit would cost approx. \$2,500 - \$3,500.

DATES TO REMEMBER

National Seminar : Health sciences : alternatives, choices and change

Date : 28th November, 1986. 9 am - 4.30 pm

Venue : S.A.C.A.E., Sturt Campus, Bedford Park, S.A.

Topics : Information needs of health professionals in country areas  
Microcomputers in health libraries  
Changing nature of nurse education  
Education for medical librarianship  
Peer review in health sciences

For further information, contact Margie Russon, (08) 275 5289

7th Australian Biennial Medical Librarians' Conference

Dates : 13th - 17th September, 1987

Venue : Hotel Adelaide, S.A. #

For further information, contact Elisabeth Gatehouse, (08) 267 7380