

# THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

NO. 9

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1987

### 7TH BIENNIAL MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' CONFERENCE

Delegates gathered from across Australia (and some from overseas) for the 7th Biennial Medical Librarians' Conference in Adelaide from Sept 13-17. The title of the Conference - *Health Sciences Librarians - the Dynamic Communicators* - aptly summed up the whole Conference. It was indeed a dynamic Conference, and feedback at the Conference and since has indicated that it was a great success. And there were no major hiccups either (much to the relief of the hard-working and now exhausted Conference committee and its subcommittees).

The guest speakers from overseas, Dr Julie Virgo and Fiona Mackay Picken, played a big part in the success of the Conference, both with their formal addresses, and with their continued presence throughout the Conference. Both were most amenable and happy to speak to delegates, offer advice and exchange experiences. Their informality perhaps set the scene for a very relaxed and happy conference.

The Trade Exhibition, opened on Sunday by Jim Crawford, drew appreciative comments too, both from delegates and exhibitors. A contest requiring a signature from each exhibitor was a great drawcard and ensured maximum contact between exhibitors and delegates. The 4 prizes of local wines were also much appreciated (though the National Library delegates took more than their fair share of prizes throughout the Conference!)

Day 1 of the Conference had as its central theme the users and their interaction with the library. The Conference was opened by Prof. Warren Jones from Flinders Medical Centre whose address centred on the freedom of information. Dr. Julie Virgo, a guest speaker from the United States, followed with a paper on the new role of health sciences libraries and ways in which the library should interface with the total organization of which it is a part. Her advice was that "a professional who acts like a professional, looks like a professional and talks like a professional can overcome overwhelmingly negative odds".

Dr Virgo's paper was a great forerunner to the papers that followed - papers on user education, on the provision of better library service to graduate nurses, on an information service in Auckland for G.P.s and on experiences as a librarian in a psychiatric hospital library. The other guest speaker from overseas, Fiona Mackay Picken, gave a detailed paper on another aspect of service to users - the provision of online information services and the interface with the users. The day finished with a panel discussion on health information and health promotion services in South Australia.

## Nat MLG\_MLS\_HLS Newsletter November 1987.pdf

The second day of the Conference had as its theme the relationship of the library with the public and the public's access to health information. The programme ranged from literature on aboriginal health, to nutrition, to a most entertaining review of Eastern medicine and Indo-Chinese beliefs. Peter Saunders talk on the latter was backed with a practical demonstration of coin-rubbing (an Indo-Chinese practice) and a traditional Vietnamese dance. Most unusual Conference fare!

The morning was capped with a presentation by Dr. Norman Swan, producer and presenter of the ABC's *Health Report*, giving the media's side of the provision of health information. A working lunch called Travellers' Tales followed, with diners regaled with the experiences of lucky librarians who had travelled and worked overseas. The afternoon was set aside for library tours.

It was back to serious business on Wednesday and an early start with the Section A.G.M.. This meeting saw the culmination of years of work by the national and state executives in the passing of the Standards for Hospital Libraries. This represented a considerable achievement. The irrepressible Margaret Gibson Smith lobbied successfully (with gifts from the land of the Kiwi, with a prize for one lucky person drawn from names of intending participants, and with promises of a great time) to hold the next Conference in New Zealand. Who could resist?

The remainder of the day was spent with a full-day workshop run by Dr. Julie Virgo on strategic planning. After a dynamic and comprehensive introduction to the topic, Dr. Virgo had all delegates hard at work producing their group's 5 year strategic plan for a library of their choice. The threat that 3 groups would be chosen to present their plan ensured that all groups put in maximum effort. It produced a hilarious and unforgettable plan of Margaret Power's Utopian library.

The final day's theme was on various types of library service. The papers ranged from reviewing library services, participating in ABN, the HEAPS system, online book ordering, education for medical librarianship, evaluation of periodical usage, subject searching on Healthnet, information services on AIDS, to the SAIL (Interlibrary Loans) Survey. It was a full day, ending with an emotional farewell and invitation to join our New Zealand colleagues in 1989. This seemed to capture the feeling of friendship and comradeship engendered by the whole Conference.

The social events were a great adjunct to the Conference. There was a well-attended opening ceremony on the Sunday, a quiet evening at historic Ayers House (with some delightful singing and harp playing), and a gourmet's delight at the Buffalo Restaurant. The Conference dinner featured an entertaining and light-hearted debate by the South Australian Debating Society on the topic: A little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing, and the inaugural presentation of the Anne Harrison award.

To sum up, it was a most enjoyable and informative Conference. If you missed it, copies of the Proceedings are available (see the advertisement) which capture the papers but not the spirit of the Conference. 1989 promises to be great if Margaret Gibson Smith's bids to entice us are any indication, so start planning now to be in Auckland at the next Conference.

MARGARET RUSSON  
(Publicity/Conference Executive)



CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Copies of the proceedings are available for \$30, and cassettes of sessions for \$8. Please make payment by cheque only made out to LAA Medical Libraries Section.

Forward to: Margie Russon  
SACAE Library Sturt Campus  
BEDFORD PARK SA 5042  
Phone: (08) 275 5289

GRATIS/GRATISQ/GRATISSA MEETING

About 40 people attended the first joint GRATIS/GRATISQ/GRATISSA meeting which was held in conjunction with the 7th Biennial Australian Medical Librarians' Conference. The meeting which was chaired by Frances Bluhdorn, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, N.S.W., discussed issues such as ranking between networks, book loans, the production of a combined union list, the layout and standardisation of entries and data sheets and technological developments. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed to members and observers.



1987 AGM

The following motions were passed at the 1987 AGM of the Medical Libraries Section.

1. That the Queensland Group of the Medical Libraries Section assume National Section status for 1988-1989.
2. That the next Biennial Medical Librarians' Conference be a joint conference with the Health Libraries Section of the New Zealand Library Association, to be held in Auckland in November 1989.
3. That General Council be requested to alter the name of our Section subject to a referendum of all members of our Section. The options to be put to members are:
  - a) Medical Libraries Section
  - b) Health Libraries Section or
  - c) Health Sciences Libraries Section.
4. That the Medical Libraries Section ratify the Draft National Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries. (The Draft version with amendments was adopted)



Eyes down The National Executive 1987 AGM



Frances Flynn

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Sandra Henderson



Fiona Mackay Picken Julie Virgo

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Michael Kay

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Norman Swann



Maureen Bell



Margaret Gibson Smith





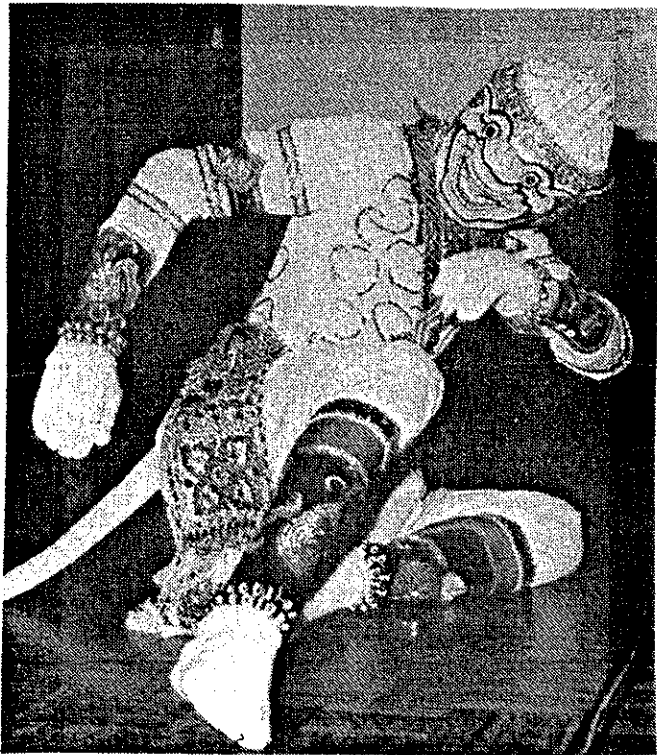
THE HEAVIES



THE PRIZES



INDOCHINESE MEDICINE AT WORK



THE DANCER

THE GREAT DEBATE



REMEMBER THESE MOMENTS!



THAT GREAT STRATEGIC PLAN



MARGARET GIBSON SMITH AND HER LOBBYING FOR NEW ZEALAND 1989



THE FAREWELL



ANNE HARRISON AWARD, 1987

Among the many highlights of the September Medical Librarians Conference was the announcement and presentation of the first grant to be made under the Anne Harrison Award.

The Award itself was established as a tribute to the pioneering work of Anne Harrison in medical Librarianship in Australia and is designed to promote research and study in this field.

The winner in 1987 was Linda Mulheron, Chief Librarian at Westmead Centre - AMA Library in Sydney. She is being supported - to the tune of \$1000 - to undertake research into user education in health science libraries. Linda's study will include a survey of current Australian practice. The study is being made as part of a Masters degree in Educational Administration at the University of New England.

Linda, a firm believer in the practical utility of user education programmes, hopes the results can be used as a vehicle for the promotion of user education in the hospital setting.

Joan Martin, Anne Harrison's successor at the Brownless Library at the University of Melbourne, made the award at the Conference and both delighted and surprised the Award Committee with the news that user education had been one of Anne Harrison's major professional interests.

Anne herself, although not at the Conference, was immediately informed of the result and has since received various souvenirs of the occasion - along with the best wishes of the Committee, and an expression of their belief that there is indeed a "market" for grant funds aimed at research and study in medical librarianship.

Applications were received from both individuals and State sections for projects as diverse as conference organization, conference attendance, an historical bibliography and a survey of computer usage in medical libraries. The 1987 Award Committee is confident that, with the inaugural award having been made, the Award will indeed become a valuable aid to the development of Australian medical librarianship.

STEPHEN CRAMOND

Secretary  
ANNE HARRISON FUND

NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

Final editing of the National Minimum Standards for Hospital Libraries is underway following their adoption at the Adelaide AGM. A number of amendments passed at the AGM are being incorporated into the final version of the Standards which retain the basic format of the third draft. The staffing levels have been changed to encompass two divisions in category one allowing a higher staffing complement for those category one hospital libraries with regional or other major external responsibilities. For the other categories staffing levels, in the main, have been somewhat reduced. The minimum budgetary figure remains unaltered at 0.5% of the institution's total budget.

The recommended stock levels in the appendices have been changed to reflect quantities more acceptable to all State Groups. A certain amount of verbiage has been deleted and the overall syntax of the Standards has been simplified and corrected.

The LAA is planning to distribute gratis copies of the Standards to relevant authorities and institutions and each State Group is requested to submit a list of appropriate names to Louise Lansley, Manager, Educational and Industrial Services at the LAA. Louise is co-ordinating the publication of all library standards. It is also anticipated that Section members will be able to acquire their own copies, possibly at a charge to cover printing costs.

The completed Standards will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the LAA for final examination and approval and it is hoped that, excluding any last minute delays, the first official LAA Standards for Hospital Libraries will be published by mid 1988.



HEALTH SCIENCES -  
ALTERNATIVES, CHOICES AND CHANGE

Proceedings of a national seminar  
28 November, 1986 conducted by SACAE  
Library and LAA Medical Libraries  
Section (S.A.) Edited by Margie Russon.  
\$18.00 including postage and packaging

From: Library Publications,  
S.A. College of Advanced Education,  
Holbrooks Road,  
UNDERDALE. S.A. 5032.

CHANGE OF SECTION NAME BALLOT

Results of the voting on the change of Section Name were as follows:

- |    |                                   |          |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------|
| a) | Medical Libraries Section         | 10 votes |
| b) | Health Sciences Libraries Section | 42 votes |
| c) | Health Libraries Section          | 50 votes |

Health Libraries Section was voted as the preferred name. General Council will be asked to accept the change of Section Name at its April 1988 meeting.

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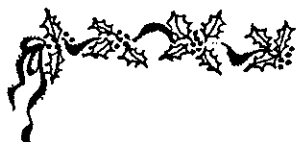
EXCHANGES

If any health librarian is interested in an exchange or work experience position in the Biomedical Library, University of N.S.W. please write to Monica Davis giving details of the type of exchange position in which you are interested as well as providing information on your position and proposed arrangements for the exchange.

Monica Davis  
Biomedical Library  
University of New South Wales  
P.O. Box 1  
KENSINGTON NSW 2033

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A second edition of the Directory of Australian Public Libraries (DAPL2) has been published by Auslib Press. DAPL2 gives comprehensive details of the 470 public library lending services in Australia (1300 service points) plus the State Libraries, National Library and associated agencies. Details include hours, collections, services, automation, staff, features. Order from Auslib Press PO Box 622, Blackwood SA 5051. Price is \$29 plus \$3 p&p.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY 1988

*National Executive and  
the Conference Steering Committee*

