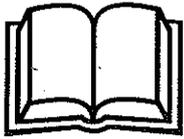


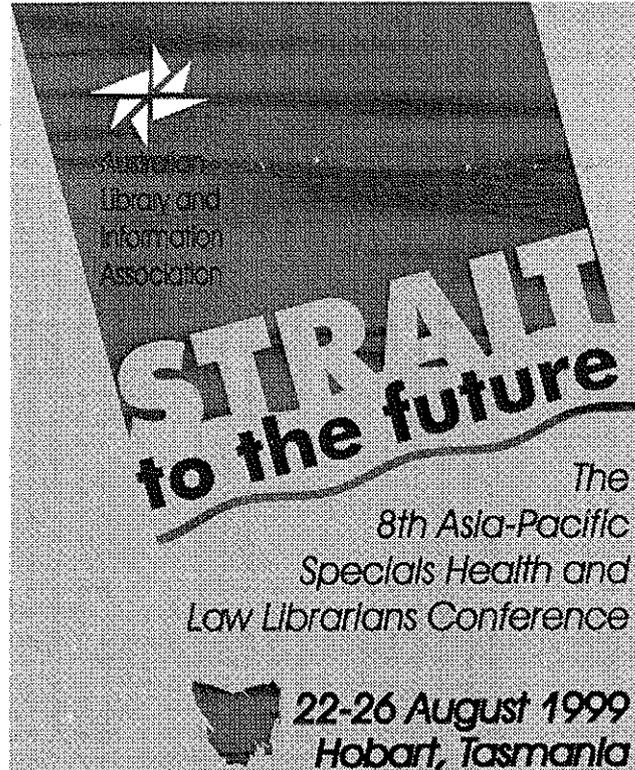
March 1998

National Newsletter



**Health Libraries Section
Australian Library & Information Association**

...From Tasmania



The Tasmanian conference executive and convenors had a successful meeting with Muirs, the Professional Conference Organiser early in February. A home page will be developed to publicise the event and keep people informed of developments.

Hobart is a wonderful city - if any readers were fortunate enough to visit the State during the recent Tall Ships visit they could not have helped but be impressed by the energy and enthusiasm that Tasmanians put into hosting any big event.

Once again, a big thank you to our colleagues, who have provide advice and assistance to date.

Kathy Saurine

inside...

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Notes from the National President

*National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries

At the Annual General Meeting it was agreed to form a National Committee to review the *National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries*. I have written to all State Sections requesting they nominate a representative to the National Committee. **Would those sections who have not replied please do so as soon as possible.** When all sections have nominated a representative I will organise an election for a Chairperson. I would like the Chairperson to give a progress report at the Annual General Meeting in Adelaide this year. Would all State Sections schedule a time prior to the Annual General Meeting to review the guidelines?

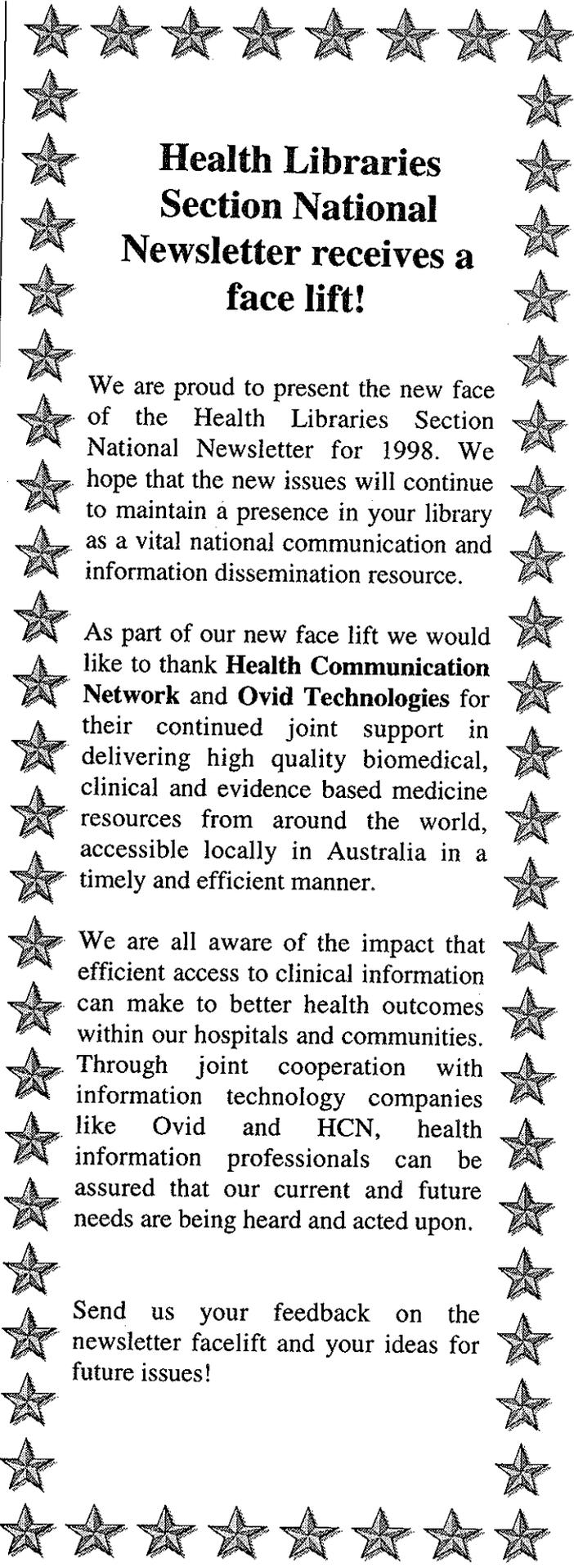
*National Executive

Tasmania will host **Strait to the Future** the 8th Asian Pacific Specials, Health and Law Librarians Conference and Exhibition in 1999 and as they have a small membership Western Australia will retain the National Executive for 1998 followed by Victoria in 1999.

*National Newsletter

Gillian McCardle has kindly agreed to be the newsletter editor again for 1998 and I would ask all members to support the newsletter by contributing one item this year even if it is only a paragraph. Congratulations and thanks for a very informative and interesting newsletter in 1996 and 1997 to Gillian McCardle

Tricia Scolaro
National President
Health Libraries Section ALIA



Health Libraries Section National Newsletter receives a face lift!

We are proud to present the new face of the Health Libraries Section National Newsletter for 1998. We hope that the new issues will continue to maintain a presence in your library as a vital national communication and information dissemination resource.

As part of our new face lift we would like to thank **Health Communication Network** and **Ovid Technologies** for their continued joint support in delivering high quality biomedical, clinical and evidence based medicine resources from around the world, accessible locally in Australia in a timely and efficient manner.

We are all aware of the impact that efficient access to clinical information can make to better health outcomes within our hospitals and communities. Through joint cooperation with information technology companies like Ovid and HCN, health information professionals can be assured that our current and future needs are being heard and acted upon.

Send us your feedback on the newsletter facelift and your ideas for future issues!

Holdings of Biomedical Serials in Australian Libraries.

During 1997 the extent of holdings of MEDLINE serials in Australian libraries, as recorded on ABN and Gratisnet, has been surveyed.

Background

During the 1970s and 1980s the National Library built an excellent collection of MEDLINE journals, and subscribed to most journals indexed for MEDLINE. In the early 1990s the collection was cut back, then in the mid 1990s, following release of the Library's strategic plan, overseas serials in many subject areas were cancelled. In mid 1997 the Library also cancelled its subscription to the Adonis service, which had provided access to images of over 700 medical journals on CD-ROM. The survey was undertaken to assess the strength of the current medical serial collections in other institutions, and determine how many of the MEDLINE serials were no longer available within Australia.

A listing of current MEDLINE titles was downloaded from NLM, and titles that are indexed only selectively were deleted, to reduce the list to manageable proportions. A total of 2,249 titles were then checked against both ABN and a Gratisnet disk supplied by the National Coordinator. Only current holdings were noted, so that although for some titles there are additional retrospective holdings, these have not been taken into account.

A previous survey had determined that all but a few Adonis titles are held in Australia, but since Adonis is based on the titles of participating publishers, it is not a truly representative sample of journals. MEDLINE titles are selected by a professional review body convened by the National Library of Medicine. MEDLINE is heavily used within Australia, so a survey of holdings of those titles was seen to be a more indicative measure of the level of current collecting activity.

Results

Of the 2,249 titles checked, 14% (315) have no holdings recorded in either Gratisnet or ABN. Although language was not recorded against titles,

it appears that approximately half of these are non-English language titles. An additional 10% of titles had only a single holding in Australia.

It was apparent that quite a number of libraries are still acquiring new titles, as most of the new titles on the list had holdings recorded, and holdings for some established journals started with 1996 or 1997 issues.

51% of all titles are held in Gratisnet libraries, and 16 titles are held only within the Gratisnet system. Approaches are being made to Gratisnet libraries with those unique holdings, seeking permission to record those holdings on ABN. This information will not be made available without their permission, but to date the response has been encouraging.

Only 445 Adonis titles were on the MEDLINE list. In some cases this can be attributed to the wider coverage of Adonis, which includes some specialist chemical journals as well as some generalist titles, which if they are covered by MEDLINE are covered very selectively.

A listing of titles checked is available on request. The list includes abbreviated ABN holdings, state by state. The list indicates in all cases whether titles are held by the major university medical library in that state. Where there are very few holdings, all are listed in the table. There is also an indication of whether the title is held in the Gratisnet system (but no specific locations within Gratisnet are given).

If time permits I would hope to repeat the survey in about two years time, to get some indication of how collecting patterns might be changing over time.

Summary

Number of titles checked:	2249
Holdings in Gratisnet system:	1146 (51%)
Uniquely held in Gratisnet:	16 (1%)
Number not held in Australia:	315 (14%)
Number with one holding only:	214 (10%)

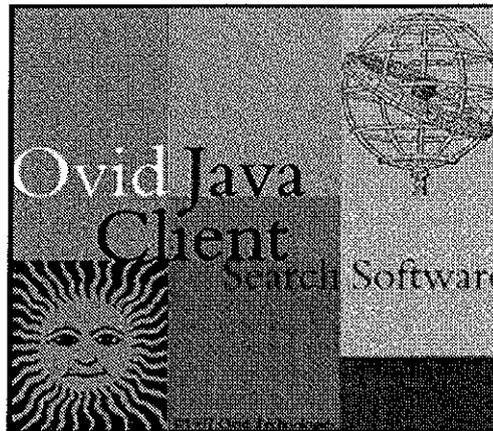
Many thanks to Gratisnet for allowing me access to their current disk for the purposes of this survey.

Sandra Henderson, National Library of Australia.

Choose the e-journals that suit you best,
link them with MEDLINE, CINAHL & current Contents
integrate it all with Ovid's Evidence Based Medicine Reviews
and what do you get?

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how do you get there?



For more information contact Ovid Technologies on
Ph : (1800) 226 474 or (02) 9231 5599
Fax : (02) 9231 5599 email : andrewr@ovid.com

Hot off the press...

Cancer Resources on the Internet

Edited by M. Sandra Wood & Eric P. Delozier
1997, Haworth Press

This new resource shows cancer patients, their families, and oncology health care professionals how the Internet can be used to locate information about the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of different forms of cancer; locate specialized treatment centres around the world; facilitate support groups; and provide a mechanism for individuals to share experiences and stories. This book includes a discussion of the quality of information on the Net (and how to assess it); evaluations of Web sites in terms of content, clarity, and user-friendliness; and advice on how to conduct a focused, subject-specific search.

Contact the HLS Newsletter Editor for ordering details.

★★★Wanted★★★

Items for this newsletter:

State news
Internet sites
Book reviews
Journal article reviews
Conference reports
Library profiles
Creating Web pages
Evidence Based Practice

TRANSITIONS

It may seem like a west coast bias in the newsletter to devote a section to the retirement of a Western Australian colleague, but we do the work and claim the privilege unashamedly. We're confident that this particular retirement will be of interest nation wide because June Rider Jones has friends and colleagues in places and libraries most of us have never heard of. June was the Librarian in Charge at Royal Perth Hospital after establishing the Library in 1973 and running it until her retirement in July 1997. The Royal Perth Hospital Library was the first teaching hospital library established in Western Australia that was independent of the University Medical Library (though it must be said that the initial stock was all from that Library). It is still the largest teaching hospital library in the state.

June has travelled extensively and has visited libraries and met librarians all over the world as she attended conferences. She travelled to many overseas conferences at a time when it was not commonplace for Australian health librarians to nurture such international networks. The knowledge she gained was also generously shared with colleagues on return. June has been a prime mover in the promotion of an Australian bid to host the International Congress on Medical Librarianship.

June was a foundation member of the Medical Librarians' Group of WA and has always been a great advocate for ALIA and for high professional standards of practice. She nurtured the careers of many in the west and her warm and supportive nature has won her many friends.

June's post-retirement interests have turned to Biblical studies at Murdoch University and language studies to equip her to teach English as a foreign language in those far off and exotic places she loves to visit.



June's successor is David Dawson.

So, there must be more members 'in transition' out there one way or another. How about keeping the bush telegraph humming with some more contributions to a national newsletter Transitions column???

Cheryl Hamill
Fremantle Hospital Library

ANNE HARRISON AWARD

In 1998 the sum of \$3,500 is available to provide funds for state Health Libraries Sections or local groups to mount a continuing education activity. This year (and every alternate year to a conference) the award is meant for:

The enrichment of knowledge and skills
OR
Assistance for Continuing Education

We are stressing this point as we had previously many applications which did not fit into the criteria mentioned above.

Applications close on 30 April 1998 and should be send to Brigitte Glockner (address below). Guidelines for application can be obtained from:

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King Edward Memorial Hospital
P.O. Box 134, Subiaco, WA 6008
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Tel: (08) 9340-1498 Fax: (08) 9340-1332

National Executive Health Libraries Section, 1998

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Newsletter Deadlines

**The Health Libraries Section National
Newsletter is produced quarterly in the first
week of March, June,
September and December.**

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE:

8 MAY

**Copy can be sent on IBM formatted discs,
faxed to the editor on (08) 9340 1124, or
emailed to gillian.mccardle@health.wa.gov.au**

Postal address:

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