

Medical Libraries Section
Victorian Group
Newsletter
October 1983
#4



1983 programme

25 Nov 1983 Annual general meeting (Details below)
 Notice of meeting accompanies this newsletter
 Note change of date

8 Dec 1983 Christmas party

Annual general meeting

Our AGM will be a breakfast meeting on Friday, 25 November, at Medishield Ramsay's Bookshop, 182 Berkeley St, Carlton. Ramsay's will offer us champagne, orange juice, croissants, bacon, etc, etc from 7:30 am. At 8 am we've invited Carmen Hannaker, Regional Librarian of Moonee Valley Regional Library and general councillor of the Victorian Branch of the LAA, to speak to us about her role as our representative to the LAA general council. At 8:30 am we will hold our business meeting. Please RSVP to Aina Zalitis, Central Cancer Library, tel. 602 1333 x 371, by 18 November. Also, several Melbourne members would be pleased to accommodate out-of-towners wishing to come into Melbourne on the Thursday night before the meeting; contact Kathleen Gray, tel. 665 5228 (work) or 531 5324 (home) to arrange.

This will be a Very Important Meeting, because Victoria has been chosen to host the next national meeting of medical librarians, in 1985. This will require a lot of planning by a national committee which Victorian medical librarians will have to organise, starting now.... This means you.

Your Executive Committee says "1984 - be in it"

An unprecedented flood of nominations has poured in for those few prestigious positions at the helm of your Group in the coming year; electioneering is in full swing, competition is fierce, and the winning margins will be narrow..... Seriously, folks, have you nominated someone for the Executive yet? Well, nobody else has either. Nominations are open up to the AGM on 25 November; send them to Aina Zalitis, our Secretary, who can also supply additional nomination forms. (A reminder: only LAA members are eligible to take part.)

Another chance to have your say - What are we going to do in 1984? What kind of get togethers, working parties, excursions? Where, when, about what, with whom? How about some suggestions, so that your Executive Committee can make some executive decisions? Contact Sue Liepa 561 5243, Stacey McKeown 345 5107, Aina Zalitis 602 1333 x 371, Joan Martin 341 5718, Brenda Lee 520 2547, Kathleen Gray 665 5228.

VIBRA news

The Victorian Branch Christmas Party, to which all are welcome, will be a Yarra River cruise on the evening of 25 November.

Discussion about the role of Sections and Sectional Groups in the LAA (refer to Newsletter #3) has raised a few points: Sectional Groups (i.e., us) should continue to be funded by state branch councils. Lack of representation on LAA general council is a difficulty. There needs to be a path of communication between Sections (at the national level) and Sectional Groups (us).

VIBRA has also noted with concern cuts to the budgets of municipal libraries in Victoria. This is bound to have repercussions for other libraries in the state. Finally, the CSIRO's plans to cease publication of the Australian Science Index have been noted with some dismay.

Joan Martin is our representative to VIBRA.

Perth conference

Victoria was well represented at the 5th biennial conference of Australian medical librarians in Perth in September. An informal survey of attendees reveals that the event was extremely well organised, the speakers were stimulating, and there were lots of opportunities for constructive socialising.

The five sessions of the conference covered cooperation, getting information to the customer, medicine and the media, health information networking, and library management. Keynote speakers were Joanne Gard Marshall from the Palliative Care Foundation in Toronto, speaking about palliative care information and clinical librarianship; Dr Martin Cummings, just retired as the Director of the US National Library of Medicine, on the subject of American medical librarianship and in particular the politics of Index Medicus; Dr James H. Leavesly, a GP of ABC radio fame, discussing medicine and the media; and Dr Pat Layzell Ward, Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies at WAIT, talking about library management.

For those interested in hearing more about the proceedings, our group has ordered a complete set of conference tapes. These will shortly be available for loan from our Secretary, Aina Zalitis.

What's in a name?

For the record, the national annual general meeting held during the Perth conference took a vote on what we should call ourselves. We are now officially the Medical Libraries Section of the LAA.

Draft standards for hospital libraries

Draft standards produced by our working party were taken to the Perth conference for comment. Some interest was shown, and issues which have been raised so far include - whether our standards should be separate from or an appendix to those of special libraries; whether volunteers should be mentioned in them or not; how their definition of regional library services applies throughout Australia. Feedback from colleagues will be sought at our AGM on 25 November; please get hold of a copy of the draft standards, read them, and let's hear what you think. Copies are available from the Convenor of the working party, Pat Nakouz, Health Commission Library, tel. 616 7756.

ACI visit

The August 4th meeting of our group at ACI's Computing Division was an introduction to the world of personal computers. Our hosts had kindly arranged for a general discussion of how to assess both hardware and software as well as software features which could be used in libraries. The demonstration of software included the use of word processing programmes for cataloguing, acquisitions and circulation. As ACI are the agents for the IBM personal computer, the software packages discussed were intended for use with the IBM. The evening was a most interesting introduction to the area of personal computers, and was enjoyed by all, even those rumored to be faint with hunger by suppertime at the halfway mark. The tasty nibbles provided by our hosts quietened all rumblings and readied us for further bytes! Our contact at ACI was Danny Petrolini, tel. 544 8433.

Industrial news

VAHPA, the union covering hospital librarians, has considered the status of library technicians in hospital libraries. Since they are non-professionals, VAHPA does not cover them, but they are eligible to join the Hospital Employees' Federation. Furthermore, hospital libraries considering staffing should bear in mind that the grading according to the medical librarians' award is affected by whether or not you supervise trained librarians; the supervision of library technicians is not covered. Our VAHPA contact is Stacey McKeown, Royal Children's Hospital Library, tel. 345 5107.

Wanted

Donations of Monthly Index Medicus for 1982 for distribution to smaller hospitals are sought by Pat Nakouz, Regional Medical Library Service, Health Commission, tel. 616 7756.

Science Citation Index

ISI, publishers of the Science Citation Index, have announced plans to publish an abridged edition of SCI. Whereas SCI covers over 3000 journals, both American and international, the abridged edition will index about 550, in citation, author and subject indexes similar to those found in SCI. The abridged edition is intended for smaller libraries, and will begin publication with an annual cumulation for 1983 available at the end of the year, and monthly publication from January 1984. For details, contact Institute for Scientific Information, 3501 Market St, University City Science Center, Philadelphia PA 19104, USA.

Birth of ALIRF

The establishment of an Australian Library and Information Research Foundation has been approved in principle by the LAA general council. Australia presently has no equivalent to the American Council on Library Resources or the British Library Research and Development Department, to raise funds from the public and private sectors for research into Australian conditions, and to encourage and coordinate such research, especially among practising librarians. The proposed foundation would be a non-profit organisation, set up as a limited liability company under the LAA's control. It is possible that ALIRF could be in operation by 1985. The LAA is looking for comment, and for people who might like to be involved in the establishment of this foundation. What research needs to be done in Australian medical librarianship? Do you want to do it? Thoughts, please, to members of your Executive, or directly to the Executive Director, LAA, 376 Jones St, Ultimo NSW 2007.

Patient education

A draft statement on patient education, produced by the Hospital Library Service Committee, has been published in the August 1983 newsletter of the NZLA Health Libraries Section. It distinguishes between providing health related information and giving patient education, and the respective roles of librarians and other health professionals. It outlines several ways in which librarians and their professional organisations should promote and assist in the provision of materials to support these activities. It concludes that, "If the community is to be properly served in this area, librarians and health professionals need to work together on this with trust and sensitivity." Members of your Executive Committee can supply copies of the complete statement.