



# HEALTH INFORM

Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1992.

## Editors Note

Finally issued and with a new look - HEALTH INFORM is the newsletter for the ALIA Health Libraries Section, Victorian Group.

The Committee would like to thank Anne McLean, who was previously responsible for editing and compiling the newsletter. Her dedication to producing the newsletter in the past was appreciated by all!

## From The President

On Monday 17th February this year a group of friends and former colleagues gathered in Kew to remember Anne Harrison and her contribution to medical librarianship. You will read of her dedication to the advancement of our branch and of our profession in Enid Meldrum's tribute in this newsletter.

When reflecting on the past we realise the significance of our achievements and how extensively medical information services have developed in the forty years since Anne Harrison began her career.

We now face the challenges of the future and in the light of the ALIA Strategic Plan we must look at our priorities.

Particularly, in Victoria, we must use our resources together to ensure that library and information services are not victims of the economic recession.

We must make our individual employers realize the value of our work and improve our profile to ensure we are seen as an integral part of the aims of our organizations.

It is vital to our aims as a profession that we keep active in educational and developmental activities. I look forward to heading an enthusiastic, forward looking Executive in 1992.

I hope that meetings and seminars that your Executive organize this year will assist members to achieve a higher standard of service and keep up to date with resources in health information.

*Jo Marshall*

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## At Your Service: Executive Profiles

Introducing members of the ALIA Health Libraries Section, Victorian Group Executive Committee:

**President:** Jo Marshall is the Librarian at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. Jo has had several years involvement with the Executive Committee and looks forward to improving the profile of health librarians over the coming year. Her interests are in ensuring recognition of the vital role information professionals play in the health, education and research community in Victoria.

**Treasurer:** Kathy Hutton is the Librarian at the Moorabbin Campus, Monash Medical Centre. Kathy is responsible for managing the library service to campus staff and Monash University's Department of Community Medicine, located at the Moorabbin Hospital. Kathy joined the Executive Committee in order to make further contacts with colleagues in her profession.

**Minutes Secretary:** Roxanne McIvor is the Librarian at the Health Sciences Library, Western Hospital Sunshine. Roxanne views being on the Executive as an opportunity to observe the operations of ALIA and branches, to find out how to make improvements for the library profession and as a means to keep up with issues. Overall, Roxanne wants to make a contribution to health librarianship and views the ALIA Health Section as a vehicle to drive such change.

**Publicity Officer/Newsletter Editor:** Lisa Belkin is the Librarian at the CSIRO, Division of Biomolecular Engineering. Part of Lisa's role on the Executive is to disseminate news to members of the ALIA Health Libraries Section of Victoria through HEALTH INFORM. Lisa hopes to make this newsletter as interesting as possible and encourages input from all members! She is enthusiastic about representing her colleagues on the Executive and increasing contacts with health librarians.

**Country Representative:** David Lloyd is Librarian at the Bendigo Base Hospital. He is on the committee primarily to represent country librarians. David hopes to raise the profile of country librarians, who he believes are disadvantaged due to their general small size, funding problems, and their professional and geographical isolation. David hopes to gain further insight in to library operations and break down a few barriers by participating on the Executive Committee.

**Correspondence Secretary:** Enid Meldrum is the Senior Librarian at the Health Sciences Library, Alfred Hospital. Enid's objective is to work with the Committee in advancing professional development for health librarians and to aid in the interchange of ideas. Enid believes that a small contribution by each of us to our professional association can help to achieve great ends.

**Professional Development Officer:** Jenni Rusciano, is Librarian at Fairfield Hospital Medical Library. Jenny is interested in the latest developments in information transfer and end user education and awareness. She hopes to stimulate other librarians in this area by arranging professional development meetings that focus on recent technological advances and topical issues.

**Committee Member:** Suzanne O'Callaghan is the Librarian in the Vivian Bullwinkel Education Centre (VBEC) Library at Fairfield Hospital. Suzanne is Assistant Newsletter Editor and provides support to any other Committee member who requires assistance. She has joined the Committee this year to develop her interests in professional issues concerning health librarians and state-of-the-art information technology.

**Committee Member:** Janet Hindson is Library Technician at Western Hospital Footscray and Sunshine. Janet is in a support role on the Executive and joined to improve the status of library technicians employed in the health sector and to extend her contact with library personnel in health related libraries.

# ALIA Health Libraries Section, General Meeting: Report from the Professional Development Officer

## For your Diary

### BRS Demonstration

The first general meeting for 1992 was held on Tuesday 30 January 1992 amid fine wine and finger food sponsored by BRS, at the CSIRO Biomolecular Engineering Library in Parkville. The Librarian, Lisa Belkin arranged pleasant surroundings, and best of all a telephone line so that the online display went ahead without any of those dreaded technical problems.

The speaker was Russell Kendrick, Australasian Manager of BRS Information Technology. Russell gave a very impressive talk and display on the various on-line data bases and electronic information services produced by BRS, and in particular MEDLINE. BRS are marketing their MEDLINE with offers such as waiving the annual password charge for all new subscribers and charging only US\$20 per hour connect fee during 1992.

This availability of MEDLINE is becoming a concern to health science librarians as the Australian National Library has announced that after 1993 it will no longer be making it available to libraries. MEDLINE on CD-ROM has been considered as one possible alternative. The most current MEDLINE information has been traditionally available on another American data base DIALOG, yet the increasing cost has made this an expensive alternative. BRS was able to show that they can offer inexpensive, simple, fast and current data bases to Australian libraries...and the librarians at this meeting were impressed!

### Editor's Note

For those who are busily contemplating the various alternatives to accessing MEDLINE via the ANL, I have heard (from a source at CD-ROM and Associates) that the last MEDLINE tape will be uploaded during December 1992. We will be able to access the system until June 1993, but no updates from December onwards!

Our next General Meeting will be held at The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute on Thursday 26th March.

Kevin Ward will speak on "The Changing Role of the Subscription Agent" and include latest overseas developments in the field. There will be an online link up with the DATASWETS database in The Netherlands.

In our traditional style we will preface the meeting with a selection of fine wines and finger food. A detailed notice will be sent to members shortly.

## Professional Issues

### Future Demand!

It is interesting to note future prospects for librarians. The Economic Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Education, Employment and Technology (DEET) predict librarianship to be one of the major growing occupations. The number of jobs are expected to increase from 9324 in 1986 to 17,194 by the year 2001, an overall increase by 74.3%. Quoting from Margaret Simons' article in The Age, 16/2/92, "Librarians...are more likely to spend their time managing computerised data bases for private companies than fumbling with catalogue cards and dusting off books." [Editorial comment: When are we going to dust off this image - maybe the media needs to be told what we are currently doing!!]

## Courses/Workshops/Seminars

Anyone interested in a course on medical subject headings (MeSH) for CD-ROM and online users of Medline? Joan Martin would welcome expressions of interest at this stage. Please phone A & J G Martin on 380 5978. *Rangy 5/3/92* X 2

*Pro-Cite: An Introduction*, is the title of a presentation scheduled to be held on the 22 April 1992. Further details are to be finalised at a later date. If your interested please contact Lisa Belkin, phone 342 4246 and have your name placed on a *Pro-Cite* mailing list.

# Forthcoming Events

ICYT, Joaquin Costa 22,  
28002 Madrid, Spain  
Tel. 34-1-563 54 82

## Local

### Pharmaceutical Forum

If anyone is interested in attending a lunch to discuss setting up an informal pharmaceutical information network, please contact: Anne or Shirley at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory Library, phone 389 1233. The lunch is to be held at

**PLACE:** Il Gambero  
215 Lygon St, Carlton

**DATE:** 8 April 1992

**TIME:** 12.00 noon

Please RSVP by 31/3/92

## Overseas

1st Annual Western New York Library Conference

**Topic:** Defining the future: yourself, your library.

**Date:** 24-25 March 1992

**Location:** Holiday Inn, Grand Island, NY, USA

**Contact:** Mary Ghikas, Western New York Library Resources Council  
180 Oak Street, Buffalo, NY, USA  
14203  
Tel: 716-8523844

3rd European Conference of Medical Libraries

**Topic:** Information Transfer: New Age, New Ways

**Date:** 24-26 September 1992

**Location:** Montpellier, France

**Contact:** Mrs Jeanet Ginestet,  
SANOFI Recherche  
rue du Prof. J. Blayac,  
34082 Montpellier, France  
Tel. 33-67400133  
Fax. 33-67756321

46th Conference and Congress:  
International Federation for Information and Documentation

**Topic:** New Worlds in Information and Documentation

**Date:** 22-30 October 1992

**Location:** Madrid, Spain

**Topic:** Library & Information Policy Perspectives

**Date:** 30 August - 5 September 1992

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Contact:** Prof. Krishan Kumar, President,  
Indian Library Association  
IFLA 1992, A/40-41, Ansal  
Building,  
Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi, India

## Fellowships/Scholarships

### National Library of Medicine Associate Program International Traineeship - 1992/93

The National Library of Medicine Associate Program is a one-year postgraduate training experience to prepare librarians for future leadership roles in health sciences libraries. The Associates are introduced to a wide range of technologies and skills utilized in managing information at a national library and providing information services to a country or region. The Program uses a variety of teaching methods to enhance the individual's learning in the work environment.

The NLM is offering one position in the Associate Program to a librarian from outside the United States. The position is open to librarians of non-US citizenship who have an advanced degree, preferably a Master in Library Science or its equivalent, and are currently engaged to work in a medical or health sciences related library information center outside the United States. This opportunity is most beneficial for librarians working in management positions in larger libraries that are using automation and have national or regional responsibilities.

No one should underestimate the importance this NLM offer represents. This program should offer an excellent training opportunity for an individual who has been identified as a future leader in medical librarianship. This is a competitive program;

one individual can be selected each year. We hope HLS Members will take advantage of this great opportunity.

For further details contact Jo Marshall.  
Fax. 03-3452580.

## References Of Interest

### CD-ROM News

Cox, John. *Online and CD-ROM database searching*. Mansell: Rutherford, N.J., 1991, isbn 0720120934

Available: Mansell Publishing, Publishers Distribution Center, PO Box C831, Rutherford, N.J. Fax: 201 404 5204

Williams, Bernard. CD-ROM networks: good but not for the timid. *Information World Review* 63(Nov 1991): 34-35.

### Networking

Mitchell, Maurice and Saunders, Laverna M. The virtual library: an agenda for the 1990s. *Computers in Libraries*, 11(April 1991):8-11.

### Copyright

Duggan, Mary Kay. Copyright of electronic information: issues and questions. *Online*, 15(May 1991):20-26.

## Obituary

Anne Harrison  
1923 - 1992

A major era for health librarianship in Australia has ended with the death of Anne Harrison on 13th February, 1992.

Anne was friend and a mentor to so many of us who have been working in medical libraries through the period of her influence from the early 1950s to her retirement in 1983. We all feel a deep personal sense of loss.

Anne entered medical librarianship when taking charge of Brownless Library, University of Melbourne. Her vision and her willingness and ability to share her expertise

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influenced significantly the development of medical libraries throughout Australia.

She established the Central Medical Library Organisation in 1953. This was a pioneering effort in library co-operation and brought a sense of cohesion to the medical library network. Through CMLO many fine schemes have been developed. These have ranged from a clearinghouse and exchange system, which was invaluable in establishing collections for new medical libraries in the early 1950/60s, through to the Union List of Monographs, which preceded NUCOM by nearly 10 years and was an indispensable location tool for scarce resources. Anne played a valuable part in the development of the Australian MEDLINE network. Anne lobbied enthusiastically for the network and her promotion of the system throughout the medical community ensured its eventual availability as a national network.

In the early 1970s she played a major role in ensuring that the state groups of medical librarians became affiliated with the then Library Association of Australia. She was proud to see her work result in the formation of the Health Libraries Section of the Australian Library and Information Association

The library community acknowledged Anne's great contribution to our profession by conferring the award of Fellowship of ALIA in 1989. Health librarians throughout Australia rejoiced in this official recognition of our debt to a dedicated and most professional colleague.

The Anne Harrison Award, presented bi-annually to a member of the Health Libraries Section for a special research project in health sciences librarianship, was established in the mid 1980s. It exists as a tangible reminder of our debt to a pioneer in our profession.

We mourn the passing of our friend and mentor. Times and circumstances have changed, but those who knew Anne well will remember her with great affection.

*Enid Meldrum, Health Sciences Library  
Alfred Hospital*

# Personal Notes

## A Note of Congratulations

For those who have been wondering about the new voices on the end of the telephone at the Royal Melbourne School of Nursing Library, you may be interested to know that Janine Hallowell is away on maternity leave. Congratulations to Janine, who gave birth to a baby boy on 20 February 1992. Anna Mackay and Susan Hope will be sharing the librarian's position until January 1993.

## Library Exchange Position

Ms Majella Pugh, Assistant Librarian, Royal Melbourne Hospital, is now working in London at St. Mary's Medical School for six months from February 10th 1992. This exchange with Ms. Rachel Shipton, Assistant Librarian at St. Mary's, was arranged as a result of a letter sent by Rachel to various health libraries in Victoria.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Library was indeed fortunate that management approved and facilitated the exchange, with the proviso that travel expenses incurred were the responsibility of the staff member. Both librarians exchanged accommodation and household items to make the transition as smooth as possible. Salaries are paid by each librarian's institution.

We hope that this will be a rewarding and fruitful experience for each librarian and that both libraries will gain from the interchange of ideas and procedures.

## COMMENT

"Genteel", "weak", "defensive", "tentative": how many of us like to think that the time is long past when this was the dominant image of the librarian? Yet these are all words used to describe current perceptions of librarians in a recent article by Howard Coxon, the South Australian parliamentary librarian (Australian 1/1/92).

Coxon was commenting on the submission made by ACLIS on the National Information Policy which, reportedly, was adopted by the

"because it asked for so little". Coxon went on to reproach librarians for being too slow to press home their advantages with new technology in the information field. While job opportunities in the information field have expanded, librarians have let them slip past so that they are no longer seen as being library-based. In fact, Coxon writes, "librarians... are crippled by false notions of professionalism which restrict the futures of individuals, not to mention their career prospects and salary rewards".

Health librarians tend to be a progressive bunch, taking an active interest in the latest technology and very aware of the need for professional recognition within our organizations to support ongoing development in our libraries. Nevertheless, I wonder how many of Coxon's comments apply to us as well?

There are more issues at stake here than the image of librarians. As a professional group, health librarians need to counter these false ideas of our capabilities, but we need to undertake this in a unified and organized manner. How should we achieve this? Your input on this issue would be appreciated.

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HEALTH INFORM was edited by Lisa Belkin, assisted Suzanne O'Callaghan, using the secretarial support to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. All contributions and correspondence to this newsletter should be addressed to: Lisa Belkin, CSIRO, Division of Biomolecular Engineering 343 Royal Parade Parkville, Vic, 3052, Australia. Tel. 03-342 4246 Fax. 03-342 4220
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