



EDITORIAL

CRYSTAL BALL GAZING

The future format of the scientific journal is currently an issue which is being hotly debated. Though the paperless society has been forecast for thirty years, cynics will say, is the end in sight for the 350 year life span of the paper journal? Views certainly differ. According to George D. Lundberg II and Stephen P. Lock, two distinguished physicians and editors of notable medical journals, *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* and the *British Medical Journal*, respectively, argue that at the end of this millennium, physicians, medical students, clinical scientists, and allied workers will continue to receive most of their new medical information from printed periodicals. Other information forms, such as videotapes, CD-ROM, and formal education, will merely supplement rather than supplant traditional methods.¹

Contradictory views are put forward by Richard Smith, also an editor of the *British Medical Journal*, who argues that with the emergence of services such as CASIAS (Current Awareness Services and Individual Article Supply) and CARL (Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries), it is becoming more economical and systematic to obtain information via these alternative avenues. It isn't only reduced library budgets that are making electronic information more attractive, it is the fact that many journals within libraries are only being consulted a couple of times a year, coupled by the realisation that only a few articles within journals are scientifically sound and of direct use to most end users.

The author concludes the article by stating that only general journals will remain in hard copy form and specialist journals will cease and only be available electronically.²

How are you preparing your end user for the future?

Lisa Belkin

¹ Hoffman, Kathryn. 'Print still favored medium for biomedical information.' *College and Research Libraries News*, October 1991;52(9):592.

² Smith, Richard. 'The end of scientific journals? No longer so far away.' *British Medical Journal* 28 March 1992;304:792-3.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Those of us who attended the demonstration of the FAIRFIELD CAMPUS INFORMATION NETWORK (FCIN) on 21st May were amused to notice the message "please remain calm" following connection to the network.

I think this is a most important message for librarians at present when coping with the stress induced by new technology which is moving at breakneck speed.

We must address the questions of coping with technological stress and remaining confident that we are able to provide the best possible information service to our users.

This year in particular your HLS is concentrating our meeting topics on specific technological developments in order to provide a practical information forum for members.

We must share our resources and experiences with new technology and most of all "remain calm!"

Jo Marshall

ALIA HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION, GENERAL MEETINGS

Subscription Services: A view from SWETS

The second General Meeting was held amid the very cultural atmosphere at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute on the 26th of March, 1992. The wines and finger food were provided with the compliments of SWETS and set a high standard that continued throughout the evening.

The speaker was Kevin Ward, Sales Manager of the SWETS Subscription Service based in the Netherlands. Jo Marshall, the Librarian at WEHL began her introduction with an overview of Subscription Agencies

now, and what we can expect in the future and noted that SWETS was one of the many options available to librarians. She thanked Kevin for providing them with the opportunity to see and evaluate the SWETS system.

Kevin updated the audience on the latest trends and developments in the handling of subscriptions in the library environment.

Document delivery appears to be the issue that has undergone the most change. Technology and the means of information transfer make it possible for journals to be available to the user quicker and more reliably than ever before. The days when a journal was posted sea mail in a far off country and the rest was left to chance have gone.

More and more librarians are looking to the subscription agencies to extend their services and to provide support not only in delivery of journals but also in claims. The DATASWETS system is available on-line and is extremely comprehensive in the kind of service it can offer. It allows the librarian to check the progress of any title at any time, when the journal was posted, such as when the next issue is due and other details.

Kevin Ward was also able to report on concepts such as delivery on disc of contents pages of non-subscription journals to libraries on a weekly basis. As journal subscriptions are the thorn in many librarians side the talk by Kevin gave everyone the opportunity to glimpse the future and to provide a yardstick by which other subscription agencies can be measured in terms of service and delivery.

Jenni Rusciano

FAIRFIELD CAMPUS INFORMATION NETWORK

Anyone who has visited Fairfield Hospital will recognize the challenge it poses to those determined to provide information across the campus. The multitude of low-rise buildings housing Fairfield's various departments and associated agencies may foster innovative and independent development. Nonetheless, Fairfield's geography tends to create "islands of expertise". Add to this situation resources distributed across two libraries and smaller departmental collections, library users queuing to use the standalone CD ROM units, a management enthusiastic about information, and an Information Systems Department not only ready but eager to be involved, and you have an environment ripe for change.

Evolution

The catalyst came with the networking of the Hospital's computers. Using Ethernet cabling, the libraries were able to offer network access to library catalogues, single CD ROM drives and electronic mail to more than 60 internal PC and Macintosh users.

This very quickly evolved into a more complex service controlled by the WILDCAT! Bulletin Board System. The service was named FCIN (Fairfield Campus Information Network) and allowed users to access the Network internally via the Ethernet cables and externally through a modem. Users could now browse and download text files, consult the library catalogues, search up to seven CD ROM databases located in a central tower, request interlibrary loans and database searches, read through current awareness files and send electronic messages to the library and to each other 24 hours a day, and all with the help of a menu system.

Access

Delivery of library information has been revolutionized. No longer are library users confined to library space and opening hours to search for information. Staff can

show the information from June 1992 pdf, or even their home - particularly important for those continuing research while on leave. Database searches can be undertaken from the user's desk - no more impatient queues in the library.

Access to FCIN has been an important factor. It is central to Fairfield's public health role that its resources are shared and the community is provided with information on infectious diseases and related areas. Through FCIN's modem access facilities, centres associated with Fairfield and other interested agencies are now allowed remote entry to the Network.

The development of the Network has not been without its problems. Difficulties in obtaining the CD ROM tower from the US delayed CD ROM networking for weeks. Some CD ROM database producers also introduced charges and limitations on networking. At present charges on networking are affordable and well worth the extra expense. However, we have learned to monitor the overseas situation closely - with the assistance of our CD suppliers.

The future

FCIN has expanded rapidly in the 10 months since it was initiated and has great potential for further development. Changes to the Network are user-driven. Through joint projects with Northcote City Council and other community agencies and the new public health role taken on by the Hospital, FCIN will continue to diversify its information on infectious diseases and public health.

General Meeting, Health Libraries Section

On Thursday 21 May the Health Libraries Section, Victoria held its General Meeting in the Medical Library at Fairfield Hospital for a presentation of FCIN. Suzanne O'Callaghan, the Education Centre Librarian, outlined the background to the Network and Jenni Rusciano, the Medical Librarian, and Michael Astill, the Information Systems Manager, gave an online demonstration of FCIN at a local level.

Our thanks to Jo Marshall for her excellent introduction to the session. We were pleased to see that so many health librarians were brave enough to tackle the wilds of Fairfield for the presentation. We hope the visitors enjoyed the hors d'oeuvres provided by our Food Services Department (of whom we believe we are justifiably proud) and found food for thought in our demonstration of FCIN.

Suzanne O'Callaghan

GENERAL MEETING TOPICS

Both country and local members are invited to submit suggestions for General Meeting presentation topics. One of the ALIA Health Libraries, Section of Victoria objective is to assist members with professional development by presenting topics which are intended to help us keep up with developments in library services.

Let us know if you have any areas that you would like us to cover! Your suggestions are welcomed. Please address them to the Section's Professional Development Officer, Jenni Rusciano, phone 280 2436 or fax 280 2914.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Our next General Meeting will be held at the Brownless Medical Library, University of Melbourne on 15 July 1992.

Dorothea Rowse will present ADONIS at the Brownless Medical Library and discuss its implementation and progress.

AIRMAILED SUBSCRIPTIONS

The ALIA Health Libraries Section, Victorian Group would like to compile a listing of our members' subscriptions that are received via airmail.

Could those libraries prepared to have their titles included on a listing that will be distributed to any requesting library, please submit their lists to:

Lisa Belkin,
CSIRO, Division of Biomolecular
Engineering,
343 Royal Parade,
Parkville, Vic. 3052.

SCHOLARSHIPS/ SPONSORSHIP

Scholarships to the value of \$10 000 are offered by Globe Subscription Agency to the library community. Globe Subscription Agency is committed to seek and implement innovative ideas which assist to maximise the resources of the library in managing serials. In the past this agency has granted scholarships for overseas travel and research, and has sponsored many worthy library causes. Further information can be obtained from:

Mr David Hawkins,
National Committee Administrator,
Globe Library Scholarships,
PO Box D1001,
Dundas NSW, 2117
Fax. 02 389 9988

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

HIGH FLYERS!

The flight magazine, *Golden wing*, (March 1992, pp.30-33) recently included an article "Looking for information", which promoted the emergence of the information broker as an upcoming professional. According to the article Australia has about 20 information brokers, "many of them former librarians who have become commercially savvy and user-friendly."

The article points out the strategic value of information in developing commercial ideas and the fact that many Australian researchers are guilty of under-utilising knowledge available from worldwide sources.

Interesting findings include that Georgia Tech found its on line information service saves \$1.2m a year in faculty time and Texas Instruments' Houston Library has shown an estimated return on investment of 515 percent. These are valuable indicators for management; rather than being viewed as a financial burden for an organisation, input of funds into an information service can be perceived as a form of investment.

Conference Reports

Unity Through Diversity

- First National Allied Health Services Conference (Held 23/24 April 1992 at the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg)

This exciting first for Allied Health attracted 280 participants from every state and from every discipline represented in the diverse allied health group.

While there will be no printed proceedings from the conference, all sessions were taped and the tapes are now available for sale.

Some of the speakers involved included:

- * Maureen Lyster (Victorian Minister for Health)
- * Rosalie Boyce (Research Fellow, QUT)
- * Nicholas Saunders (Professor of Medicine,

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- * Debbie Picone (Director of Nursing, Concord Hospital)
- * Jenny Macklin (Director of the National Health Strategy)
- * Elizabeth Steeper (Chairperson of the Australian Council of Allied Health Professionals)
- * Joan McMeeken (Professor of Physiotherapy, University of Melbourne)
- * Colin Chapman (Director, College of Pharmacy)
- * Heather Gardner (Dept of Behavioural Sciences, La Trobe University)

For those who were unable to attend the conference, an outline of the programme and ordering details for the tapes are listed below:

Session A:

1. Opening & Symposium of Allied Health Structures (C90 Tape - \$15)
2. Comparative Analysis of Allied Health Structures (C60 Tape - \$15)
3. Other Players and Stake Holders (C60 Tape - \$15)

Session B:

1. Symposium on the Future of Health Services

Quality Assurance and Productive Measures Pt 1 (C90 Tape - \$15);
Quality Assurance and Productive Measures Pt 2 (C90 Tape - \$15)

Session C:

1. Models of Allied Health Training Pt 1 (C60 Tape - \$15)
2. Models of Allied Health Training Pt 2 (C60 Tape - \$15)
3. Clinical Supervision (C90 Tape - \$15)

Session D:

1. Career Development (C90 Tape - \$15)
2. Marketing Allied Health (C90 Tape - \$15)

To order tapes send your request and cheque (payable to Allied Health Services Conference) to:

Director of Allied Health
Austin Hospital
Studley Road
Heidelberg Vic 3084.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

For those of us whose standards of practice are set by the Australian Council of HealthCare Standards (ACHS), the question of library representation is one of great concern.

The Health Libraries Section finds its voice in the ACHS through the Australian Council of Allied Health Professions. The Council was formed in 1977 to give the allied health professions representation on the board of the ACHS.

The Council's success in this venture has led it to take on a wider promotional role for the allied health professions. If you are interested in learning more about the activities of the Council, it will soon be releasing a brochure outlining its role and membership. For further details contact Enid Meldrum, Health Sciences Library, Alfred Hospital (phone: 276 3003) or write to:

The Secretary
Australian Council of Allied Health
Professions
PO Box 574
Carlton Vic 3053

LIBRARIES ON THE AGENDA

Is it something to be said for the profile of health libraries in the U.K. that a report on libraries in a nursing magazine could provoke debate in the House of Commons?

Between February and April 1992 *Nursing Times* ran a series of articles examining nursing library services and evaluating the libraries' ability to respond to the new British educational projects.

Although the surveys pointed to a "patchy" library service, the *Nursing Times*' campaign was not an attack on the libraries

themselves but rather on the authorities who consistently underfunded these services.

The reports, in fact, played the role of advocate for the libraries, highlighting the importance of library services to education. In the end the campaign was a very effective example of collaboration between libraries and their users to improve conditions. It was not the libraries but the *Nursing Times* who lobbied for better standards; and the *Nursing Times* was able to discuss issues such as library budgets, staffing levels, organisational structure and access to new technology at a national level. The wide publicity ensured that libraries remained high on the agenda at both a national and a local level.

There are lessons for Australian health libraries from the success of this campaign. Engaging our users as powerful lobby groups may provide us with much-needed support in these dangerous economic times.

The articles outlining the *Nursing Times* campaign are well worth reading:

Snell, J. "Libraries: brought to book" *Nursing Times* Feb 12 1992; 88(7): 26-28.

Carlisle, D. "Libraries: just the ticket?"

Nursing Times Feb 12 1992; 88(7): 29-31.

Trevelyan, J. "Libraries: could do better" *Nursing Times* Apr 15 1992; 88(16): 69-71

ITS : INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SNIPPETS

ADONIS AT THE BROWNLESS MEDICAL LIBRARY:

The Brownless Medical Library at the University of Melbourne has acquired a subscription for 1992 to **ADONIS**, the periodical full text document delivery system. **ADONIS** covers approximately 350 journals in the biomedical area.

The journals are indexed and scanned to disc, and the discs despatched weekly, 3-4 weeks after the journal publication date. Airmail of the journals themselves is faster but exorbitantly expensive. **ADONIS** promises to provide speedier access to a larger number of titles.

Some of the potential advantages are a reduction in the time taken for material to reach the library, and in the shelf space, processing costs and binding costs needed for titles on the CDs. The system has only been available for a few days but it is perceived as being user friendly by academic staff who have looked at it.

The royalties costs will be passed on to the users and materials costs will be borne by the library. Any articles supplied on inter-library loan will be invoiced separately. Vouchers will not be usable as payment.

As the service is experimental for this year, accounting procedures have been set up which are not amenable to the user of ILL vouchers.

*Dorothea Rowse,
Life Sciences Librarian.*

ADONIS BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barden, P. **ADONIS** - The British Library experience. *Interlending and document supply*: 1990; 18(3):88-97.
Korwitz, U. **ADONIS**-between myth and reality: trial document supply using CD-ROM technology. *IFLA journal*: 1990;16:215-219.

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Stern, B.T. and Compier, H.C.J. **ADONIS**-document delivery in the CD-ROM age. *Interlending and document supply*: 1990; 18(3):79-87.

AARNet

The Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet) is a computer network connecting universities, research and other organisations throughout Australia. AARNet provides a platform for data communications within Australia and to 100,000 other international computers via a link from Melbourne to California (Internet).

AARNet was established in 1990 as an initiative of the AVCC (Australian Vic Chancellors' Committee) as a service to participating member institutions of the AVCC and CSIRO. It is funded by AVCC and subscriptions by member organisations.

The most commonly available services on the network are:

- *Electronic mail exchange
- *File Transfer
- *Remote interactive login via Telnet
- *News, conferencing and bulletin boards

Members have access to hundreds of library catalogues throughout the world and the communication costs for remote login to overseas data bases (eg. DIALOG) are picked up within the community thus allowing considerable savings to members.

Non commercial and educational institutions can apply for affiliate membership to allow them access to the above services.

For information on AARNet and membership enquiries contact:

Australian Academic and
Research Network
GPO BOX 1142
Canberra 2601
Tel. 06-249 3385
Fax. 06-249 1369

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Maxwell Electronic Publishing (MEP) have announced the availability of the *New England Journal of Medicine* on CD-ROM. This edition contains original articles, special reports, editorials and case records, as well as letters to the editor and includes tables from 1986 to 1990. The CD-ROM also includes NEJM citations and abstracts from the NLM's MEDLINE database back to 1966.

Other CD-ROM products available from MEP include, the *British Medical Journal*, *The Lancet*, *Compact AIDS Library* and *Viral Hepatitis*.

Chemical Abstracts 12th Cumulative Index is also another product that Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) plans to make available on CD-ROM. A contract to design this product has just been finalised with Cambridge Scientific Abstracts. This product is to be offered early in 1993.

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SPORT AND RECREATION INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Those whose clients deal with the disabled may be interested in N I C A N, an Australia-wide information network on recreation and sport for people with disabilities. N I C A N is available through O Z L I N E. For further details contact Peter Ferguson:

ph: (06) 285 3713
FAX: (06) 285 3714
TTY: (06) 282 4333

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For further details:



C.D. ROM AND ASSOCIATES

Ph.: (03) 872 3211
Fax: (03) 872 4814

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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LOCAL

Reference and Information Service Section
Victorian Group presents a workshop:

Organising Reference Services in Response to Technological Change.

To be held: Tuesday 16 June 92
Time: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm
Venue: Conference Centre,
Council of Adult Education
256 Flinders Street,
Melbourne

Cost: ALIA member \$55
Non ALIA members \$80
Non-salaried Librarians \$30

For further information contact :

Christine Maher 479 2926
Julie Marshall 479 1927
Cathy Burton 344 6823

ALIA Biennial Conference

Topic: Libraries: The heart of the matter
Date: 27 September - 2 October 1992
Location: Albury Convention Centre,
Albury-Wodonga
Contact: ALIA Conference Manager,
PO Box E441
Queen Victoria Terrace
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600
Phone: 008 020 071
Fax: 06 282 2249

OVERSEAS

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

7th World Congress on Medical Informatics

Topic: MEDINFO 92
Date: 6-10 September, 1992
Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: Symporg SA, Symposium and
Conference Organisers,
108 route de Frontenex
CD-1208 Geneva
Switzerland
Fax 41 22 786 40 80

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 Montpeillier
France
Tel. 33-67400133
Fax. 33-67756321

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

Topic: New Worlds in Information
Documentation
Date: 22-30 October 1992
Location: Madrid, Spain
Contact: FID'92 Organizing Committee
ICYT, Joaquin Costa 22
28002 Madrid, Spain
Tel. 34-1-563 54 82

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS VIC HLS Health Inform June 1992.pdf

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Statistics can be useful as indicators of library performance, for comparisons with library standards and comparisons between libraries, and can form part of your argument against threats to your budget.

The following hospital library profiles and statistics were selected from the 1990/1 Health Libraries Annual Survey. Survey respondents will shortly receive a summary of statistics from 26 hospital libraries and all hospital libraries will be asked to complete a 1991/2 survey. The survey form has been revised to provide information that will allow comparisons with the ALIA's *National minimum standards for hospital libraries*.

Hospital Library Statistical Profile Compiled from the 1990/91 Survey

	Small	Medium	Large
Potential clients	200	600	2700
Resources			
Librarians	0.5	0.8	3
Technicians	-	-	1
Clerks	-	-	-
Bookstock	1123	1800	4750
Journal subscription	71	91	291
Services			
Book loans	742	690	3843
Journals circulated	no	no	no
Journal loans	-	-	30
ILLS in	303	642	772
ILLS out	167	290	776
Brief enquiries	1357	n/a	2800
Extended enquires	110	n/a	954
Photocopies	1284	2895	441
Contents pages	n/a	3160	1261

The following technology was available in libraries surveyed:

Online databases

ABN search & holdings	4
ABN search only	1
Medline on Elhill	22
Dialog	1
Viatel	1
Apais	1

CD-Rom databases

Medline	12
Cinahl	6
Health	3
Austrom	2
Aids	1
Possum	1
Consult	1
Scinfo	1
Oxford Textbook of medicine	1

CD-ROM systems

Compact Cambridge	6
Silverplatter	2
Dialog	1
Datastar	1

Library software

Inmagic	5
Microfusion	2
Datatrek	3
Bliss 2	1
Book	1
Urica	1
Sea-Urica	1
Dynix	1

Electronic mail

llanet	3
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Kathy Hutton

MARY DELAFIELD — 1927-1992

It was with great sadness that Mary's friends in the library world heard of her sudden death on Thursday 23rd April.

Mary's career had spanned many years. She started library work at CSIRO's Central Library, under Jean Conochie, and then worked at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. She took a break to rear three delightful children, and recommenced work, once her children were a little older, at the Baker Institute where she stayed until retiring in 1988.

During her long association with libraries, Mary made a large number of friends who delighted in her keen wit and wicked sense of fun. Her speech at her retirement afternoon tea party was a classic. She spared none of her users as she portrayed their various library foibles - from those who were renowned for removing the latest

issues of the most wanted journals; to those who could always come up with the most exotic excuses as to how they had lost material.

She also had a host of interests outside librarianship - all forms of art, literature, books, music, Scottish Country dancing, embroidery, etc...To all these she brought her energy and enthusiasm and her admirable gift of making friends.

Her memorial service was a moving tribute to a most interesting and entertaining woman. The church was packed with those who came to pay their respects, but we noticed afterwards that there was laughter amidst the tears as people remembered "Mary" stories.

She will be missed.

Enid Meldrum

SPP

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HEALTH INFORM was edited by Lisa Belkin, assisted Suzanne O'Callaghan, using the secretarial support of 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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