



THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

NO. 5

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1985

1. THE FESTIVE SEASON

The President and members of the current National Executive Committee, Victoria, wish every reader greetings for Christmas and the New Year. The following reports indicate the success of the present committee and the achievements of the Conference Planning Committee, and now after two years in office, we will be handing over to the 1986-1987 National Executive in South Australia.

2. ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 1986 : SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The following persons were unanimously elected as office-bearers for the National and State Section Executive Committee in 1986.

National President:	Jan Heath, S.A. Institute of Technology.
Vice-President:	Elisabeth Gatehouse, Medical Library, Adelaide Children's Hospital.
National Secretary:	Lindsay Harris, Lyell McEwin Health Service.
National Treasurer:	Barbara Miskelly, Modbury Hospital.
Branch Council Representative and Section Newsletter Editor:	Stephen Cramond, I.M.V.S.
Assistant Secretaries:	Julie Freund (nee Niemz) Road Accident Research Unit. Nerida Wilkinson, Nursing Library, Adelaide Children's Hospital.
Assistant Treasurer:	Jan Stokes, C.S.I.R.O. Division of Human Nutrition.
Assistant Newsletter Editor:	Chris O'Loughlin, Repatriation General Hospital.

3. CONFERENCES

Report of the 6th Biennial Australian Medical Librarians' Conference. 25th-29th August, 1985.

The 6th Biennial Conference of the Medical Libraries Section of the LAA was held in Melbourne at the Regent Hotel in Collins Street, the theme being "Medical libraries - new directions".

Delegates from all states and territories were welcomed at a Sunday evening reception on the glass-canopied Terrace of the Regent, providing a warm and friendly start to the activities of the next four days.

Mrs. Joan Martin, as President of the LAA, Medical Libraries Section, officially opened the Conference on Monday morning and was followed by Sir Gustav Nossal's introductory address "The challenge of biotechnology".

Sessions on medical history followed, the speakers including Professor Russell (University of Melbourne), Dr. Bryan Gandevia (RACP, Sydney), Mrs. Shane Godbolt (Charing Cross Hospital and Westminster Medical School, London) and Miss Brenda Heagney (Westmead/AMA Library, Sydney). The afternoon sessions covered changes to nursing education and its effects on medical libraries, patient education and continuing education in librarianship, the papers being presented by Vicki Williamson (Armadale CAE), Moira Bryant (Westmead Hospital) and Dr. Joanna Richardson (Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education), respectively.

Mrs. Nina Matheson (Johns Hopkins University, Maryland) jolted us out of our complacency on Tuesday morning with a glimpse of our future as she sees it - technology playing a major role for both librarian and end-users alike.

Her paper was followed by a session dealing with library planning and design, covering the architectural aspect; plus awards for the end results; and the perils of moving a collection to new quarters.

Ethics, both medical and library, were covered early on Tuesday afternoon, followed by peer review and industrial relations as they affect libraries in the health field.

Tuesday evening was a memorable occasion. The conference dinner was held in the Grand Ballroom at the Regent. The glittering setting, the large number of delegates and friends, the delicious food and wines and the subtle background music from a group of wind players, all combined to form the perfect evening. The highlight was, without a doubt, the hilarious address given by Mr. Morley Fairfax, Director of Information Services for WHO, alias Campbell McComas, a well-known Melbourne after-dinner speaker.

Wednesday morning brought a session on computers in information and management with papers from Glenn Sanders (Sanders Information Management Services), Monica Davis (Royal Newcastle Hospital) on Paperchase and Sandra Henderson (NLA) on Australasian Medical Index. Mr. Bert Pribac (Australian Department of Health) followed with a paper on Healthnet and Brian Carr (NLA) then outlined developments relating to Medlars 3.

Management and marketing were covered during the afternoon sessions following by a magnificent evening at the Victorian Arts Centre with a performance by the universally acclaimed Bolshoi Ballet.

Thursday morning brought some challenging papers on the future, especially telecommunications and applied technology. An informal lunch and library tours brought the Conference to a close.

A comprehensive trade exhibition was a feature which attracted many delegates during refreshment breaks and provided a ready means of making contact with the various commercial companies associated with libraries and librarianship.

The Victorian Section felt that it was a most successful conference but would be interested to hear any comments or useful suggestions from delegates. They look forward to passing on the responsibility for the 7th Biennial Conference in 1987 to our S.A. colleagues.

5th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, Tokyo.
30th September - 4th October 1985

From September 30th to October 4th, 1985, 18 Australian Medical Librarians joined some 600 delegates from 68 countries at the 5th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (5ICML) in Tokyo. Barbara Proud, Director of Information Management at the Health Department of Western Australia, delivered the theme paper on "Services' entitled 'Provision of a comprehensive information service to support isolated health workers by metamorphosing the traditional librarian into an information manager'. Other Australians contributed by chairing sessions; another, Monica Davis, was called upon to join the team of rapporteurs, and had an unexpectedly busy time. All delegates contributed uniquely to the exciting exchange of ideas and information, and to the wonderful good will and friendship generated by the occasion.

The organisation of the Congress was almost faultless, and our gracious Japanese hosts went to great trouble to ensure the comfort and well-being of their guests. They entertained us royally at a magnificent welcome party at the Meiji Kanen Kan which was built in 1881 as a conference room and banqueting hall for the Imperial family, and which is set in beautiful gardens. Dinner was a spread of superbly prepared Japanese or European food, and guests were entertained by the Japanese librarians playing traditional instruments, performing a modified version of the tea ceremony, and displaying Ikebana flower arrangements. They were also treated to the Shishi-Mai, or lion dance which was suitably frightening. The Sayonara party, too, was characterised by beautifully presented food and abundant liquid refreshment, the latter helping to ameliorate the sadness felt at the parting of good friends.

Five pre-conference continuing education courses were offered by Medical Library Association, U.S.A. The conference programme proper included a choice of three library tours; to the Japan Information Centre of Science and Technology, to the National Diet Library, and to both the Medical Library, University of Tokyo, and the Library and Information Centre, Keio University. Twenty-four booths for hardware and systems were occupied by a wide range of exhibitors, many demonstrating new technologies not yet available in Australia. There were also nine printed materials booths, some containing old friends, and others for scientific exhibitors which included the National Library of Medicine. But all else was eclipsed by the

excellent international programme. If there were any criticism to be made of the Congress it would be that it was so difficult to choose between many interesting concurrent sessions.

There were four theme papers, reflecting the title of the Congress, 'Medical Libraries - one world: resources, co-operation, services'. The first theme paper, on 'services' was Barbara Proud's, the second, on 'Co-operation' was entitled, 'Medical information world-wide: the challenge continues', and was given by Nancy Lorenzi from the University of Cincinnati. The third, on 'Resources', was given by Mr. Adrian Senadhira from the World Health Organisation in Geneva. The last one, delivered by Dr. Shun-Ichi Yamamoto was on 'Medical Librarianship', and opened the proceedings of the final afternoon. Nina Matheson, who contributed so much to our own recent conference, was discussant to Nancy Lorenzi's session, as well as later delivering her own paper, 'Integrated Academic Information Management Systems: trends in U.S. academic health centres'.

The forty-five concurrent sessions, most containing three or four papers, encompassed a very wide range of topics, including information management systems, national information systems, training, co-operation, new technologies, consumer information, Third World developments, networking, audio-visuals, services for primary health care, etc.

The final plenary session included a short address by Mr. S.K. Anand which heralded the Sixth International Congress on Medical Librarianship to be held in India in 1990.

Joan Martin

4. TRANSFER OF BASIC NURSING EDUCATION FROM HOSPITALS TO COLLEGES OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

The idea for a seminar to discuss the implications for libraries of the transfer of nursing from hospitals to colleges was discussed at an ALCAE (Vic) meeting in July. Chisholm Institute Library agreed to organise and host the seminar.

Dr. Graham Trevaskis (Associate Director, Administrative & Educational Services), Don Schauder (Institute Librarian), Dr. Bess Deakin (Nursing Consultant), and Megan Lilly (Academic Services Librarian) planned the seminar, with help from Joan Martin (Life Sciences Librarian, Melbourne University and President, Medical Librarians Group).

The Medical Librarians' Conference in August also provided an excellent opportunity for us to talk to librarians from interstate who had been through the transfer, and the issues listed for discussion at the Seminar were partly identified and clarified through the Conference.

Following is a report of the Seminar held at Chisholm Institute on 24th October, 1985.

This important seminar was attended by college and hospital librarians, and nurse educators from colleges and hospitals.

Representatives of the Victorian Post Secondary Education Council and the Victorian Nursing Council outlined the events leading up

to the decision to transfer nurse education, and the planned timetable for the various participating colleges. They also discussed the proposed funding levels for the colleges. At government level, no consideration has been given to the need to provide funds to hospital libraries so that textbooks can be made available during students' clinical assignments. Nor has any special provision been made to colleges to ensure that adequate library resources will be available when the new courses are started.

Nurse educators explained the differing approaches to nurse education which are being taken by hospital and college schools of nursing. College-based programs will begin with an emphasis on health maintenance and community health issues. Hospital-based work will not be taught until second and third years. Courses will emphasize problem-solving, and students will be expected to use research techniques. Thus, students will require a much wider range of library materials, and will be more dependent on library resources. A survey at Phillip Institute of Technology has shown that nursing students use the college library more heavily than students of any other department.

The new teaching methods are likely to have two major effects on hospital libraries. Lecturers involved in clinical teaching will need easy access to library materials, particularly periodicals, in order to keep up to date. Nurses trained under a more academically oriented system are likely to be more aware of information needs for professional development, and be more capable of finding things out for themselves. This would mean an increase in demands on hospital libraries from qualified nursing staff. Nurses working in community health areas will suffer frustrations due to a lack of access to information resources, and will make demands on the libraries of familiar hospitals and colleges.

Librarians, Joan Martin and Vicki Williamson cited experiences of similar transfers interstate (N.S.W. and W.A.) and overseas (U.K., New Zealand and South Africa). During planning stages, little, if any attention was given to the need for library resources, particularly in the college libraries. Staff and students were forced to make heavy use of the well-established hospital libraries, often to the point of being nuisances, and interlibrary loans demands on hospital libraries increased. College librarians found that their ignorance of nursing and medical literature and terminology was a serious handicap at first. They had to rely heavily on hospital librarians for advice and support. Students at country colleges have few additional resources available to them in local hospitals. In N.S.W., some college-hospital agreements have been set up, such as that between Armidale CAE and Tamworth Base Hospital. Unless a strong program of lobbying is undertaken, there is a danger that funds will not continue to be available to hospital libraries to maintain sufficient library resources for nurses.

When the meeting was opened to group discussions on possible co-operative activities, general agreement was reached on several points:

- .. Co-operation between libraries would need to be at a regional level.
- .. The relevant Sections of the Library Association of Australia should undertake lobbying to appropriate government, health and education institution
- .. Short-term staff exchanges should be considered, particularly as a form of training for college librarians.

- .. Resources outside the main public hospitals (eg. private hospitals, community health centres) should be determined and developed.
- .. The extensive use of microfiche and computer-based union catalogues should be developed.
- .. Special interlibrary loan or reciprocal borrowing arrangements should be investigated.
- .. Clinical teaching hospitals for each college will need to be identified as soon as possible.

Three specific proposals for action were recommended:

1. A letter indicating librarians' concerns should be sent to the Government Steering Committee as soon as possible.
2. A larger committee, representing college and hospital librarians, and nurse educators, should be formed to draw up a formal statement of goals and objectives, identify subjects for lobbying, and plan a course of action.
3. A follow-up seminar should be held in 12 months time.

5. NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

This seems to be the spot for collecting together those bits and pieces that don't really fit anywhere else in the Newsletter. Firstly, let me tell you that I am writing this in my hotel room in Sydney, after the first day of the last General Council meeting for 1985. I decided at the beginning of the year that I would try to attend all such meetings as our Section's observer. (I failed, missing the August meeting through illness). It seemed time for us to be a little more visible to our elected leaders, and to be finding out even more about the governance of the Library Association of Australia, so that we may function more effectively with and within it. One of 'our' issues came up today, that of the national standards for hospital libraries, and because observers are permitted to speak, I was able to give the latest news from our Section. Tomorrow at 9.00am, the applications for special grants will be considered, and I may be able to contribute to the discussion on Victoria's application for a recoupable grant to bring out a 2nd edition of the Booklist which has proved so popular in its early form. (More details of this meeting will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter).

I am disturbed that more Sections or other Divisions not directly represented on Council do not take advantage of the opportunity to send an observer to Council meetings. I spoke to the President about this today, and he agrees that more should be done to encourage the attendance of observers. Even if this is not followed up by General Council, let us make sure that our Section is represented at each General Council meeting in future. There is a contribution to be made and much to be learned. The observer does not have to be the Section President - not all will find it easy to travel - but someone from the host city who is prepared to communicate matters of importance to the National Executive or to the Section membership via the Newsletter, should be nominated to go. It could be an excellent learning experience for people who aspire to office within the Association.

This visit has also given me an opportunity to talk further to LAA officers about our proposed Anne Harrison fund, and to explore views

on the problems of libraries which may be affected by the move of nursing education into the tertiary sector.

Now for some odd spots from the Tokyo Congress:

We heard that 105 countries contributed to the IFLA Directory, that it is in press and due in February 1986, and that it will cost approximately \$36.00.

The NLM is producing a MEDLARS pocket card entitled 'The Basics of Searching Medline: a guide for the health professional'. This sets out basic commands and search strategies and is designed primarily for training health professionals who wish to be direct end-users. I thought it would also be a useful aid-memoire for a librarian who was returning to or beginning searching. It should be out very soon and I was told that copies would be sent to the NLA.

May I use this opportunity to thank other members of the current National Executive for their hard work this year and to again express appreciation of the efforts of the Conference Planning Committee.

My very best wishes to all, especially to the South Australians, to whom we now happily hand over the reins.

Joan Martin
President

6. HOSPITAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At present, the convenor of the Hospital Standards Committee is Mrs. Pat Nakouz, Health Commission, Victoria. However, in 1986 Elizabeth Gatehouse, Medical Library, Adelaide Children's Hospital, and Vice-President of the National Executive of the Medical Libraries Section of the LAA, will take over as convenor, and will organize a committee to meet at a later date. South Australia is happy with the work already prepared in Victoria, and will discuss these draft minimum standards as a basis for developing national standards for hospital libraries.

Meantime, Mrs. Pat Nakouz is willing to remain as Convenor of the Victorian Standards Committee with the present committee of Jocelyn Dixon, Kathleen Gray and Mary McGill.

7. REPORT OF LAA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, 29 - 30 NOVEMBER, 1985

This meeting was to have extended for three days, but discussion of the Corporate Plan and Review was postponed, for reasons beyond the control of General Council, until a later meeting. That meeting will not be open to observers.

The following items may be of interest to members of the Medical Libraries' Section:

Statement on Professional Ethics

A draft of the Statement on Professional Ethics was considered not yet ready for publication. It will be discussed again at the March meeting.

Library Standards

Council received written and oral comments on progress with standards for School, TAFE, Medical, Joint-Use and Special Libraries. The Industrial Information and Research Officer will continue to monitor the development of library standards and will report to the March meeting of the Council.

Australian Information Technology Council

The LAA will become a founding member of this Council, together with The Institution of Engineers, Australia, The Telecommunications Society of Australia, and the Australian Computer Society, provided the draft terms of reference and constitution are acceptable. It is hoped that joint activities, such as seminars, publishing, and sharing of overseas speakers will result, to the benefit of LAA members.

International Year of Peace

The LAA's proposal for a grant to mount an International Year of Peace project was accepted, and an initial grant of \$15,000 has been approved. It is intended that the LAA will work with the Public Libraries Division in each state to recommend libraries where the project will be mounted.

National Information Policy

The LAA National Information Policy statement has been revised, and a brief version has been prepared for statement to parliamentarians. The statement will be circulated to Divisions for comment.

1986 Budget

Of particular interest to Section members in the new budget is an increase to allocations to Divisions. The allocations to Sections, \$1,200 in 1985, will be \$1,500 in 1986.

Special Grant Applications

Council agreed to fund a number of applications. Of particular interest are a recoupable grant of \$2,000 to the Medical Libraries Section, Victorian Group for publication of the booklist for small health science libraries. This is subject to the pricing structure

being brought into line with that recommended by the Publications Board. The Special Libraries Section has been awarded a \$9,000 recoupable grant for a new edition of the Directory of Special Libraries. IMCA (The Information Management and Consulting Association) was awarded a \$1,500 recoupable grant for publication of its 1986 Directory.

Membership

Membership details to 31st October, 1985, were provided at the meeting. The Association records 6,863 financial members and 1,627 unfinancial members. The Medical Libraries Section is reported as having 325 members, and 59 unfinancial members. Of comparable size is the Acquisitions Section which has 370 financial but 155 unfinancial members. All Divisions are to be contacted to submit ideas for recruitment, which will be channelled back through the Branches.

Sale of LAA Membership Lists

This issue is still not resolved. A paper will go to the Divisions with more information.

1986 Biennial Conference

The committee considered a report on planning for the Conference and a Conference budget. The programme appears to be shaking down nicely, and a draft will appear in InCite shortly. The two papers selected for Medical Librarians are entitled tentatively 'Alternative Medicine Resources' and 'Legal Responsibility in the Provision of Patient Information'. At present no speakers' names are recorded for these papers. Social activities include many attractive outdoor events and the combined Special/Medical Librarians' social will be a spit roast with folk music and dancing to be held at Fanny Bay Gaol. Note that this is only the draft programme.

1988 Biennial Conference

Planning is already proceeding for this Conference, which will be held in association with the IFLA Conference, 1988.

IFLA 1988

Planning is already very well advanced for this Conference, to be held in Sydney from August 30 to September 3, 1988.

Proliferation of Conferences

Council did not regard the proliferation of conferences as a major problem.

1986 Meeting Dates for General Council

General Council will meet in Sydney on Friday/Saturday 21-22 March, in Darwin on Friday/Saturday 27-28 June, and in Melbourne on Friday/Saturday 21-22 November. Observers may attend.

Mary T. McGill
Editor