



# THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

NO. 6

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1986

### GREETINGS

Greetings to all our colleagues from the new National Executive Committee, now located in South Australia. Following is the current list of office bearers in the National Executive :

National President :	Miss Jan Heath, S.A. Institute of Technology, phn : (08) 236 2278
National Secretary :	Mr. Lindsay Harris, Lyell McEwin Health Service, phn : (08) 255 6644 ext. 277
National Treasurer :	Mrs. Barbara Miskelly, Modbury Hospital, phn : (08) 264 6000 ext. 2333
Branch Council Representative	Mr. Stephen Cramond, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, phn : (08) 228 7911 ext. 224
Newsletter Editor :	Ms Chris O'Loughlin, Repatriation General Hospital, phn : (08) 275 1649
Committee members :	Mrs. Elisabeth Gatehouse (Adelaide Children's Hospital) Mrs. Julie Freund (Road Accident Research Unit) Mrs. Jan Stokes (CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition)

### 7TH BIENNIAL AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL LIBRARIAN'S CONFERENCE

Dates for the next Biennial Medical Librarian's Conference have already been set by our hard-working Conference Steering Committee. The Conference will be held from the 13th - 17th September, 1987.

The theme of the Conference will be "Health science librarians - dynamic communicators" and each day's papers will revolve around communication with one of the various groups with whom we interact, such as our clients, administrators, other libraries and the public.

Members of the Conference Steering Committee are Elisabeth Gatehouse (Chairman), Nereda Wilkinson (Secretary), Barbara Miskelly (Treasurer), Irene Dorskatsch, Jan Heath, Julie Hooke, and Robyn Painter. Muriel Ellis of Elliservice has been appointed as Conference Organiser.

1986 LAA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, DARWIN

Two papers of special interest to Medical Librarians will be presented at the Darwin Conference. These will be a paper on ethical and legal responsibilities of the Librarian, by Annette Benson from the Central Coast Hospital and Area Health Services, N.S.W., and a paper on resources in alternative medicine, by Jan Heath who is Health Sciences Librarian at the South Australian Institute of Technology.

The Annual General Meeting of the Medical Libraries Section will be held on Wednesday, July 2nd, at 4.00 pm, at the Diamond Beach Casino, Function Room 2.

NATIONAL SEMINAR : HEALTH SCIENCES - ALTERNATIVES, CHOICES AND CHANGE

The South Australian College of Advanced Education and the S.A. Medical Libraries Section are jointly organising a seminar entitled "Health Sciences - alternatives, choices and change". Details are as follows :

DATE : 28th November, 1986. 9 am - 4.30 pm.  
VENUE : S.A.C.A.E., Sturt Campus, Bedford Park, S.A.  
TOPICS : Information needs of health professionals in country areas  
Microcomputers in health libraries  
Changing nature of nurse education  
Education for medical librarianship  
Peer review in health sciences

For further information, contact Mrs. Margie Russon, (08) 275 5289.

HOSPITAL STANDARDS

Following the circulation of Draft Standards for Hospital Libraries by the Victorian Section, various states have been working on their responses. Lindsay Harris (Lyell McEwin Health Service) is the National Convenor of the Working Parties. The various state representatives are :

Queensland : Susan Nelles,  
Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslopes. (07) 394 7152  
N.S.W. : Monica Davis,  
Biomedical Library, University of N.S.W. (02) 662 2055  
Victoria : Patricia Nakouz,  
Regional Medical Librarian, Health Dept. of Victoria. (03) 616 7756  
S.A. : Mary Jones,  
Royal Adelaide Hospital, Nursing Library. (08) 223 0230 ext. 6032  
W.A. : June Rider-Jones,  
Royal Perth Hospital. (092) 325 0101

A meeting is planned for the Darwin Conference to discuss the Draft Standards. The National Executive has set February 1987 as the target for all comments to be received. It is planned to then have them presented for ratification at the Biennial Medical Librarians' Conference in September 1987. The ultimate aim is to have these standards accepted by the Australian Council on Hospital Standards as part of the Accreditation Standards for Hospitals.

ANNE HARRISON FUND

Following the resolution passed at the 1985 A.G.M. to examine the possibility of establishing a fund to assist medical librarianship and to promote professional development, the Victorian Group has submitted a proposal to the LAA asking for approval to use the profits from the last conference to establish this fund. The fund is to be known as the Anne Harrison fund.

AWARDS

A letter of recognition has been awarded by the LAA to Elisabeth Gatehouse, Medical Librarian at the Adelaide Children's Hospital. The award is in recognition of Elisabeth's outstanding contribution to medical librarianship in South Australia, particularly her work towards the production of the GRATISSA scheme's union list of medical periodicals in South Australia. The award was presented to Elisabeth at a very pleasant and well-attended dinner held at the Bangkok restaurant, on the 9th April by the S.A. Branch President, Alan Bundy.

Gunela Astbrink, Librarian at the Disability Information Resource Centre in Adelaide has been awarded \$4,000 to investigate library and information services for the disabled in Vancouver, Toronto, Washington D.C., London and Manchester.

NEWS ON UNION LISTS

The New South Wales Group of co-operative libraries known as GRATIS launched their union list on the 2nd May, and their South Australian equivalent known as GRATISSA plans to launch its list shortly. Both lists have been produced with the assistance of the University Co-op Bookshop, and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

News from Queensland is that a similar list is proposed there, and the Victorian medical librarians are examining the possibility of establishing a GRATIS-style network there. If the South Australian experience is anything to go by, such schemes and union lists are well worth the effort.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CENTRAL MEDICAL LIBRARY

A model of the proposed new Health Sciences Library has been unveiled as part of the University of Adelaide Faculty of Medicine's Centenary celebrations. The building will be funded by an appeal to medical school graduates and to all members of the medical and health professions in South Australia. The proposal is for a five-storey building with surrounding car parking facilities, and construction on a site, possibly in the vicinity of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, is expected to begin early next year.

Meanwhile, Touche Ross Services Pty. Ltd. has been appointed as a consultant to "work out the organisational and administrative arrangements for the Central Medical Library and to consult closely with the University of Adelaide Faculty of Medicine Centenary Committee regarding the funding of accomodation for the library". At present, no final decision has been made about which institutions will participate in this joint venture.

COURSE IN MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

The Graduate School of Librarianship at Monash University is proposing the establishment of either a course or an elective in Medical Librarianship. The School is hoping to offer the course in 1987, and anticipates contacting the Victorian Group for suggestions regarding specific topics and possible lecturers.

PEER REVIEW

Frances Bluhdorn represents librarians on the National Allied Health Professionals Quality Assurance Committee (NAHPQAC) of the AMA/ACHS Peer Review Resource Centre. State Peer Review contact officers are :

Queensland : Susan Nelles,  
Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslopes. (07) 394 7152

N.S.W. : Frances Bluhdorn,  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. (02) 516 8997

Victoria : Sandra Russell,  
St. Vincent's Hospital. (03) 418 2201

S.A. : Irene Doskatsch,  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital. (08) 45 0222 ext. 7373

W.A. : June Rider-Jones,  
Royal Perth Hospital. (092) 325 0101

TRANSFER OF NURSING EDUCATION

Following the widespread concern evident at the Melbourne Biennial Conference last year over the problems being encountered with the transfer of basic nursing education from hospitals to institutions of tertiary education, and the subsequent motions passed at the A.G.M., a number of developments have occurred in this area. The previous National Executive wrote to a wide range of Commonwealth library and educational authorities outlining the issues of concern to medical libraries and urging that appropriate planning be undertaken to overcome such difficulties.

Replies have now been received from virtually all of these bodies. The general tenor of these responses is perhaps best summarised in the letter from an Assistant Commissioner of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission in which he noted the Commonwealth Government's announcement in 1984 to transfer nursing education in a phased manner to C.A.E.s by 1993 and to provide financial assistance to the States to support this transfer. The Assistant Commissioner stated that "the distribution of this recurrent financial assistance to the States between competing priorities, such as libraries and other recurrent expenditure, is a matter for the relevant State authorities". In their reply, AACOBS took the view that there was no reason to believe, on the information before it, that C.A.E.s would not make proper provision for their nursing students and it is as yet too early to assess the impact of the new nurse education courses upon hospital libraries. Probably the most positive answer was from ALCAE, which has listed the issue for consideration at its A.G.M. in Darwin.

It seems clear the transfer of nursing education is regarded as primarily a matter for the State authorities to manage. The Victorian Group, for example, have received favourable responses from the State Joint Interdepartmental Committee for the Transfer of Nurse Education and from the UCLS National Executive, which this year is domiciled in Victoria. The N.S.W Group is conducting a survey amongst hospital libraries to ascertain problems and collect hard data. The S.A. Group is at present approaching State authorities to obtain their views on the issue.

The L.A.A. has now written to the National Section expressing its concern at the situation and offering to take up the question of nursing education on a national basis if the Section is willing to make specific recommendations. The matter has been placed on the agenda for the Section's A.G.M. in Darwin and the National Executive will be looking for future direction, if any is desired at the National level, from the State Groups so as to respond to the offer of assistance by General Council.