

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP

(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 1977.

Minutes of the Meeting held at Monash Biomedical Library, 9th February, 1977, at 6.00 p.m.

1. Apologies. Anne Ensten, Bruce Kirk, Libby White, Wilma McMillan, Yvonne Sutherland, Judith Quilter and Muriel Harvey.
2. New Members. Karen Roberts, Frankston Community Hospital; Elizabeth Ross, Prince Henry's Hospital; Sheryl Soafkin, St. Kilda; Nora Worswick, Ballarat Base Hospital; Beryl Mansoura, Southern Memorial.
3. Personal. (a) Val Strantzen, formerly Repatriation General Hospital, and Judy Burn, formerly of Frankston Community Hospital, have each had a daughter.

(b) In Remembrance of Thora Gray. A tribute to Thora's generosity in helping the M.L.G., her participation in group activities, her ever willing cooperation in making Lincoln Institute's facilities available, was much appreciated.

Thora's untimely death whilst on holiday saddened us all, especially as she had reached a point in her career when she could look back with a sense of achievement with her activities over the last few years. She had taken charge of the Lincoln Institute Library, at a crucial stage of its development, expanding into new fields and broadened and deepened the scope of the collection and services, as well, during this period. Thora had just completed, with part-time study, the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Melbourne University.

It was decided to forward the Group's appreciation to members of her family.

4. Scales of Salary. A letter in relation to scales of salary of medical librarians was received from Mr. Brian Henderson, Industrial Officer, Library Association of Australia. It was decided to forward this letter to Enid Meldrum, Secretary to A.H.H.S.L.V.
5. Pro-Forma for Hospital Library Manual. Thanks was expressed to Sandra Russell, Heather McDonald, Enid Meldrum, and the Consultative Committee, for their assistance in the preparation of the manual.
6. Book List. The Group also expressed thanks to the Sub-Committee, Enid Meldrum, Libby White, Anne McGalliard, and also to Pat Nakouz and H.C.C., who aided them in reproducing and collating the lists.
7. Journal List. This list is still in preparation. Preliminary work has been done by Enid Meldrum, Anne McGalliard and Libby White.
8. Medical Librarians in Adelaide. A list of medical libraries situated in Adelaide is available from Esther Martin.

9. Hospitals and Charities Commission. (a) Untrained Medical Librarians: Approval was expressed, providing the course conforms to the guidelines. The Group is forwarding a letter of approval to the Hospitals and Charities Commission.
- (b) Pat Nakouz spoke on recent developments in the Hospitals and Charities Commission, concerning their Library. Pat is now in charge of the Commission's library, and it is hoped that the staff will be expanded to five members in order to create a new resource centre for the proposed Health Commission, which will incorporate various small collections from the present Department of Health, the School Medical Service, etc. The library is in spacious premises in a new building, at 555, Collins Street (corner King and Collins).
10. Health and Manpower. An advertisement appeared in the "Age", 19th January, 1976, inviting submissions to the Working Party on Health and Manpower, with final submission 30th April, 1976. Formation of a Sub-Committee under the convenor, Pat Nakouz, was suggested, and is to consist of members Fay Baker, Amy Bush and Esther Martin. Pat Nakouz will be convenor.
11. Auditing. As there is no constitution, the Group is not legally bound to have an audit carried out, but the Executive has a responsibility to its members. Therefore, Anne McLean will arrange to have the auditing done.
12. "The Librarian in the Changing World of Medicine". Copyright deposit copy has been claimed by the State Library of Victoria.
13. Reminder. The dates set for the next two meetings of the Group are 5th May, and 8th August. The May meeting will be at C.S.I.R.O. Central Library at 6.00 p.m., to give time for commencement at 6.30 p.m. Topics, and August location, to be decided.
14. New Medical Librarians' Group Directory. Heather McDonald discussed the format of the updating of the new directory. Copies displayed consisted of bond paper, with holes for ring binding. Economic and fast production has been offered, with the unit cost being 34¢ (50 copies), and the master being \$4.00.
- Air mail subscriptions were discussed, and the desirability of an index to air mail titles in the directory was discussed and approved.
- Because of the alteration in size, new binders will be required. A quotation is to be obtained before any decision is made. It was also suggested that the binders could be purchased from M.L.G. funds.
15. College of Nursing, Australia. Joan Martin announced that this College has become the School of Nursing of the Lincoln Institute.
16. Relationship of M.L.G. with L.A.A. Following the L.A.A.'s Victorian Branch rejection of the M.L.G.'s submission for special project funds pending classification from the L.A.A. Executive, concerning the M.L.G.'s status in relation to the L.A.A., members were requested to consider the status and future of the Group as a whole. The M.L.G. was founded as a result of united common interests and a necessity to advance the needs of medical libraries. At the foundation there were not enough professional members of the L.A.A. to fill its requirements for affiliation as a section and so the M.L.G. was started independently with the approval of the L.A.A. However, there appears never to have been any final affiliation and this is what

the L.A.A. Victorian L.A.A. Branch is now querying. Similar groups - the Law Libraries, and the Music Libraries - are undergoing the same recruiting.

Members were asked to consider the future of the M.L.G. Should we continue as a separate and independent group, striving for a national framework, or should we, now that such a large proportion of members are already professional members of the L.A.A., become affiliated? Most of us are already members, and the L.A.A. plans to introduce reduced rates for participation in seminars, conferences, etc., to members.

The L.A.A. would provide a constitutional, administrative and regional framework.

Members were asked to think over the matter and discuss it at the next meeting.

17. Correspondence. There has been a request from the Darwin Hospital Librarian in relation to library tools, bibliographies and reference works. There was some discussion as to whether this was a Health Department matter. However, it was decided to forward copies of the M.L.G. book list and pro-forma.

18. Questionnaire. Sandra Russell has asked for the help of members in answering a questionnaire which she will forward. This is to aid her in obtaining her Master of Arts and Librarianship.

19. Medlars On-Line Searching and Search Strategy. We wish to thank Fay Baker, Sandra Russell, Suzy Pacher, Bruce Davidson, and all at the Monash Biomedical Library for their participation in the Medlars demonstration. The programme commenced at 6.00 p.m., and the search strategy consisted of Energy Metabolism, Muscle Metabolism, and Nerve Regeneration. Charges for services were also discussed and this information is available from the Biomedical Library at Monash.

The programme was very successful, and left us all much wiser as to the technicalities and use of Medlars.

Many thanks to Fay Baker and all her staff, especially those who provided the sign-posting, and for helping to make a pleasant and interesting meeting.

20. Subscriptions. Members were reminded to fulfil their subscription obligations. There was some discussion on types of subscription, and it was proposed that for members living in Victoria and working in medical libraries the charge should continue to be \$5.00 p.a. For those living interstate, or who are not currently employed, the subscription should be \$2.50 p.a.

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP

(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

Addendum to Newsletter February, 1977.

Re: MEDLARS

1. MONASH UNIVERSITY

The service at Monash has now been in operation since last August. During this period, the staff operating the service have become quite proficient, and the service is functioning very effectively. It has now been decided to introduce charges for the service, and from 1st April, 1977, the cost of each search made through the Monash terminal will be \$10.00. This amount covers the communication line charges between Canberra and Melbourne only.

Searches prior to 1971 must be sent directly to the National Library of Australia.

Requests for MEDLINE searches should be sent in the usual way addressed to the Biomedical Library "MEDLINE" Service. The requesting library will be invoiced by the University's Finance Office in due course.

2. MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

Melbourne University Library provides service to its client body, including staff of its teaching hospitals. The service is also provided to other health professionals who do not have direct access to MEDLINE. Requests should be directed to Miss Heather McDonald, MEDLARS Analyst, Brownless Medical Library.

Costs

This University is able to offer a free retrospective search of the files 1971 to date. Charges are made for

- a) "back-file" searching, i.e. years 1966-1970, where cost is \$15.00.
- b) SDI or current awareness searches, where cost is \$50.00 p.a. Payment should accompany the request form, where charges are involved. Payment is to "MEDLARS Service".