

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP
(VICTORIAN BRANCH)
NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER, 1975.

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 13th. November, 1975, at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Refreshments were offered before the meeting commenced. Our thanks go to Ann Burgin for this hospitality.

Apologies: Mrs. Fay Baker, Miss Jean Foreman, Miss Esther Martin, Mrs. Gay McManus, Miss Helen Murphy, Miss Anne Shepherd, Mrs. Val Strantzen.

1. New member A welcome was extended to a new member - Mrs. Wilna McMillan of the Western Regional Community Health Centre.
2. Announcement of new Committee members' positions:

Sandra Russell	- Chairman
Kerry Christensen	- Vice-Chairman and Treasurer
Heather McDonald	- Secretary
3. Appreciation was expressed for the excellent work done by Marion Rock and Val Strantzen, the Group's Co-Conveners in 1974/75. Mention was made of a letter from the L.A.A. Conference Committee Chairman, Mr. J.E. Scrivener, expressing the Committee's gratitude for organization of the Workshop. The Group endorsed Mr. Scrivener's comments, and congratulated Marion Rock, Val Strantzen, Esther Martin, Thora Grey and all who contributed to the arrangement of the Workshop.
4. Future meetings Discussion indicated that the present time of 6.30 p.m. is still convenient to most members, and that rotation of venues is desirable. A list was circulated for signature by those librarians able to offer suitable meeting places for the Group.
5. Submission for finance Kerry Christensen reported on the submission for finance to the L.A.A. Branch Council. A submission for \$100 was made, based on cost estimates of general expenses - stationery, duplicating costs (directory, etc.). The necessity of advance planning, particularly of special projects, was emphasized as a tangible basis for future submissions. Proposed increase in subscription to \$5.00 was mentioned - \$2.50 of which would be payable to the national Council.
6. Amy Bush's resignation as Victorian representative on the Australian Medical Librarians' Group Council was announced with regret. Thanks go to Amy for her work as Convener, and also to Fay Baker, proxy representative at the Council's inaugural meeting in August, 1975. Nominations for our new representative were requested, and should be made to a Committee member by 28th. January, 1976. Election will take place at the Group's next meeting.
7. Anne Harrison reported on Dr. Martin Cummings' visit to Melbourne University in November, 1975. In his capacity as Life Sciences Consultant to the National Library of Australia, Dr. Cummings addressed a small group of librarians, representing medical and paramedical libraries and senior staff of the Baillieu Library. He illustrated his conception of the elements

of a health information system by means of a graph. Basically, he proposes for Australia a pyramid structure similar to that of the Regional Medical Library Program of the United States. At the apex of the pyramid would be the National Library of Australia, - the library of last resort within Australia, the medium for international cooperation, and the source of support funds for intermediate or regional resource libraries. Four or five regional resource libraries should be envisaged for the system. It was emphasized that "working group" collaboration between local libraries was more effective and economical than trying to service the whole load from one major resource library. Services proposed for the system were inter-library lending, bibliographic and reference services, and information services. Local library requests might move through several levels of the pyramid, but would be satisfied direct to the original requester. Dr. Cummings has recommended that the user pay the cost of accessing regional nodes for on-line bibliographic services. At this juncture, concern was expressed by Jac Baillie and others at the possibility of the introduction of charges for the MEDLARS service. Mrs. Baillie also mentioned here the difficulty of the new MeSH format for students who were using/learning to use a decimal classification scheme in a library.

8. Agreement was general on the desirability of an audio-visual workshop in 1976. Volunteers to assist in organizing, together with suggestions for same would be welcomed by the Committee.
9. Jac Baillie announced that following a request from the Australian Hospital Association, Monash Biomedical Library will be the official reference and referral centre for the A.H.A., from January, 1976.
10. Jac Baillie announced the appointment of Fay Baker as her successor at Monash Biomedical Library. The Group offers its congratulations to Fay, in her absence.
11. On the Group's behalf, Sandra Russell expressed warm appreciation of Mrs. Jac Baillie's contribution to medical libraries and to medical librarianship, in view of her approaching retirement. Mrs. Baillie's outstanding qualities and achievements as librarian, leader and counsellor are well-known to medical librarians. We congratulate her on her achievements and wish her well.
12. Judith Quilter drew attention to the Australian Health Department's publications Australian Health Manpower and its Handbook on Health Manpower - no reference is made in either publication to the role of medical librarians. It was felt that the Committee should express the Group's concern at this omission to the Department, and should apprise the Council's members of its action.
13. Thora Grey tabled tapes of the Conference Workshop addresses and discussions. Members are welcome to borrow these from Heather McDonald. It was noted that one of the duplicated Workshop papers was incomplete - this to be rectified in due course.
14. Ann Burgin queried usage made of microfilm for storage of journals. Apparently, microfilm is used to a very limited extent by the Universities only.
15. Amy Bush, vice Fay Baker, reported on the national group's inaugural meeting. The draft constitution, circulated to

members prior to the meeting, was then discussed. (The proposed constitution, as amended at the meeting, is enclosed). This amended draft will be put to the Council in due course. Our thanks and appreciation go to Amy and to Fay for their work in the production of this document. After a lengthy and interesting discussion and debate on its clauses, the Group's final meeting for 1975 was closed.

AMENDMENTS TO MEDICAL LIBRARY DIRECTORY

Members are asked to make the following amendments:

1. Austin Hospital - amend name of Librarian to Miss Elizabeth White.
 2. Preston and Northcote Community Hospital - amend telephone number to 44 0241 ext. 424.
 3. Royal Children's Hospital - amend name of Librarian to Miss Ann M. Burgin.
 4. Walter and Eliza Hall Institute - amend name of Librarian to Mrs. Gay McManus.
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The next meeting of the Group will be held on Monday,
16th. Febraary, 1976.

Venue: Conference Room, Alfred Hospital, Commercial Road,
Prahran. Use the main entrance and from foyer, turn left, past
the Pharmacy, along the corridor through a door marked "Medical
and Nursing Administration". Go along this corridor to lifts on
right hand side and take lift or adjacent stairs to floor below
i.e., lower ground floor. In corridor to the right, conference
room is about three doors along, on left hand side.

Time: 6.30 p.m. Refreshments will be offered from 6.00 p.m.

Members are reminded that election of the Group's representative
on the Australian Medical Librarians' Group Council will take
place at the meeting.

Guest speaker: Professor Perry Morrison of the Department of
Librarianship, University of Oregon, will speak on education
for medical librarianship.

Parking facilities will be available in the hospital grounds,
and in the Monash Medical School grounds, next to Casualty
Department.

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