Medical Libraries Section
Victorian Group
Newsletter

April 1984
#6

L A A

1984 programme

Please note that the initial programme outlined in the last newsletter
has been modified. The revised programme is :

Meeting 2   :   Tuesday May 8. Medical Library Royal Children's Hospital.
                "Computer applications in Libraries"
                Part 1 : Feasibility and networking

Meeting 3   :   First week in July.
                "Computer applications in Libraries"
                Part 2 : Types of systems

Meeting 4   :   First week in October.
                Joint meeting with Public Libraries Section
                "Patient medical information"

Meeting 5? :   "Peer review"
                At a date to be arranged if possible.

Meeting 6   :   First week in December.
                Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party.

"Computer applications in Libraries" - What do you want from your Library
service? Part 1.

This meeting (May 8) is the first in a two part series that will be discussed
at our next two general meetings. This series will undoubtedly be valuable
to all librarians as this is a subject we can no longer ignore.

And what a beauty this next general meeting promises to be! Mr. Keith
Davison (Ballarat C.A.E.) is to be the guest speaker at the meeting, so
come prepared with all those questions you've always wanted to ask.
Keith will talk on such matters as:
  * how we define what we want from our library service, including an
    investigation into broad areas of the library service
  * detailed investigation of those areas in which problems occur
  * how we can communicate/translate those problems into terms comprehensible
    to Electronic Data Processing people - (people in the know!)
  * how we can produce a specification of what we want.

It's probably a good time now to begin to formulate questions that relate
to this very important area. This meeting is just too good to pass up,
so make an effort to come along to what will surely be a very stimulating
and informative session.

The second part of this series "How do we computerize it?" - Types of Systems,
Part 2, will be held in the first week of July. Details of date and venue
will be announced as soon as they are finalised.

Our first general meeting (March 7)

A most productive meeting, as the Conference Planning Committee for the next Australian Medical Librarians' Conference (Melbourne, 1985) was established. The committee comprises six members at present:

Rick Waterman,
Standish, Prideaux & Pye.
Ph: 347 7699

Joan Martin,
Brownless Medical Library,
University of Melbourne.
Ph: 341 5717

Jo Marshall,
Librarian,
Monash Medical School,
Alfred Hospital.
Ph: 520 2763

Stacey McKeown, (Treasurer)
Medical Library,
Royal Childrens Hospital.
Ph: 345 5107

Enid Meldrum,
Medical Library,
Alfred Hospital.
Ph: 520 3003

Jocelyn Dixon,
Library,
Mercy Maternity Hospital,
Ph: 41 0261 x 563

If any members feel that they would like to contribute or offer help for the 1985 Biggie, please don't hesitate to contact any one of the people listed above. Whether it be a suggestion you'd like to make, or even an offer to assist in some of the behind-the-scenes work, these will be most welcome.

Victoria, by the way, is to host the L.A.A. Medical Libraries Section (National) Executive Committee for 1984 - 85. This means, in effect, that your Executive members now have two roles to play!

New members for Continuing Education Group

Also at our first meeting this group was re-established. The new members are Andrew Rooke (School of Nursing Library, Prince Henry's Hospital) and Anne Parkhowell (Main Campus Library, Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences).

Andrew is very interested to hear from you if you have any ideas for workshops, seminars, etc. for the 1985 programme.

DID YOU KNOW...

** that audio-cassette tapes of talks given at the last Medical Librarian's Conference (Perth, 1983) are available from Aina Zalitis, Library, Cancer Institute, (602 1333 x 371)?

** on a similar subject, that tapes from the Information Sciences Conference (second week, following the Perth MLG conference) are available for loan from the Main Campus Library, Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, (342 0371)?

** that Joan Martin, Life Sciences Librarian, Brownless Medical Library, University of Melbourne, is our representative on the Victorian Branch Council? You didn't? Well this is just a reminder if you may have been wondering, or if it slipped your mind.

LAA Victorian Branch - 1984 programme

April 12 & May 30	"Retrospective conversion of catalogues" Joint meetings, held in conjunction with VALA.
June 21	"Human rights"
August 8	"The information industry and librarianship"
October 18	"Industrial relations"
December 14	Christmas party

More on our first general meeting

After the business side of things had been discussed at the meeting, members were treated to an interesting talk by Sandra Russell (Biomedical Library, Monash University) on her exchange visit to Seattle, Washington. The next couple of newsletters will include some impressions of her time spent there, particularly in regard to library matters.

sandra's say

. "Seattle, in the State of Washington, is a city of about one million people who have been blessed with a moderate climate and a beautiful environment of sea, lakes, islands, mountains and forests. Within easy reach of the city are facilities for boating, cycling, skiing, mountain-climbing and bush walking. This makes it a very pleasant place to live and a happy choice for a year's exchange.

The University of Washington is an old university (by Australian standards), teaching nearly 30,000 students. It has a reputation for high quality teaching and research. The university is State - funded, and since the state of Washington is suffering an economic recession, the university is also feeling the effects of limited budgets, and is finding it difficult to maintain standards.

The Health Sciences Library operates as a semi-autonomous unit within the university library system. It serves the schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing and rehabilitation studies. In theory, it is also the library for the affiliated teaching hospital in an adjoining building, but in practice, the library is seldom used by non-medical hospital staff. Most student users are at postgraduate level. This includes medical students, who must have a degree before starting medical studies. Teaching in the medical course relies very heavily on lectures and ward rounds, so students have very little time or motivation to use the library. They have no opportunity to develop information gathering skills.

The library accommodates two groups of affiliated staff. One librarian and an assistant are employed by the King County Medical Society to provide an information service to its members. All queries from those members are directed to these staff.

The second group are the staff of the Regional Medical Library, (R.M.L.) - this library is funded by the National Library of Medicine. These people are concerned with regional development and training, reference services to people not associated with the university or the K.C.M.S., and inter-library loans.

The library is divided into two main departments : reader services and technical services. The latter includes the loans and reserve book function. The reader services department is divided artificially into reference staff and on-line staff, although their duties are in fact almost identical. Each librarian is designated "co-ordinator" for one reference function, but no person is responsible for the whole department.

The segmentation of reference services and the structure of the Regional Medical Library system results in inefficiences in the library. All inter-library loans are received after an interview with the requester, by the reference staff. They verify the request, then pass it to the R.M.L. inter-library loan staff. Reference staff no longer know the status of the request, although they are expected to be the point of contact for the requester.

All requests cost a minimum of $7.00 (charged to the requester) and can be expected to take at least six weeks to arrive.

Because of the hierarchial nature and financing of the R.M.L. system, the library is expected to send its requests to another R.M.L. or to the National Library of Medicine. Requests cannot be sent down the hierarchy, e.g. to a local hospital library. This is becoming a more serious problem as university funds are lowered and fewer new titles can be purchased. A new R.M.L. system introduced in 1983 may enable changes to be made. Under the new regulations, any library may borrow directly from the N.L.M. at a cost of $5.00, providing the item cannot be located in the local Region."

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

WAIT - Don't throw them away...

Rather than discarding your unwanted books, journals and other materials, stop and consider these options. There are a number of libraries in universities and institutions in developing countries that may be very grateful for some of your material. Although not all discarded books and journals would be suitable for such libraries, this is a great opportunity to give assistance to people less fortunate than ourselves.

ACPAD (Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development) is a non-government voluntary development assistance organisation established in 1982. It acts as a 'middle-man' for the acquistion of academic books, journals and associated materials (mostly English) for despatch to universities and institutions in developing countries.

Emphasis is placed on careful matching of donated materials with identified needs of the recipient libraries. At present, ACPAD is limiting its activities to a pilot scheme involving five overseas universities. Priority subject areas include: food and agriculture, basic sciences, medicine, educational technology and economics.

Libraries or people who have material to donate are invited to contact the ACPAD Executive Officer - Major General R. A. Hay, PO Box 33, Monaro Cresc., Red Hill, ACT. 2603 (062) 95 2597 - so that the suitability of material can be assessed and a destination determined. ACPAD intends to draw upon expert comment on the suitability of material from the network of consultants which already exists around Australia as a result of the activities of the Australian Universities International Development Programme.

Please try and include a listing of material, as well as an idea of the volume to be shipped. In some instances it may be preferable for ACPAD to arrange for a consultant to visit and examine the material on site. To avoid double-handling, storage and associated costs, ACPAD encourages direct handling from donor to recipient wherever possible.

... So, if this scheme interests you please contact ACPAD's Executive Officer for further information. Perhaps one of the most significant queries to make is who carries the transportation/freight costs.

On the same subject of material you no longer require, Dr. Murray Lewis Ph (03) 342 0369 (B.H.) collects discarded medical books for Japanese medical students.

If you are aware of any other individuals or organisations willing to accept discarded material, please contact Brenda Lee, Nurses' Library, Alfred Hospital, 520 2547 so that details can appear in the next newsletter.

Greetings ...

Hello to Jean Foreman (Library, Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital), who is spending her weekdays at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre. We wish Jean a good recovery, and would love to see her back at work when she is well enough.

News from interstate

"GRATISSA" - First there was GRATIS in N.S.W. and now South Australia have their own GRATISSA. In its simplest form it means a free exchange of inter-library loans.

Adopted in November, 1983 by the LAA Medical Libraries Section, South Australia, some of the features/aims of GRATISSA include:

* the production and maintenance of a union list of periodicals for participants

* the provision of I.L.L. photocopies free to all participants

* the reduction where possible of dependence on the collections of larger institutions

* the co-operation on a group-to-group basis with similarly organized and subject-oriented networks (e.g. GRATIS in N.S.W.)

Membership is open to all South Australian libraries in hospital medicine and allied health fields. Each member must supply a complete list of periodical holdings for incorporation in the union list and must also complete a participation request form. An updated union list is then made available annually to all participants.

The list of participating libraries are ranked according to the number of current periodical titles, including donations. Requests are directed to the smallest library capable of satisfying the request. Members are asked not to over-use any one library. Requests to larger members and specialist collections should be reserved for material uniquely held by them.

GRATIS - Reciprocal arrangements. Once union lists are completed, these are to be supplied to network co-ordinators for distribution to local members. Where a South Australian location is not available, GRATIS (N.S.W.) should be used as a network of second resort. All transactions with GRATIS members are free of charge and the conduct of loan requests must follow the same rules as for GRATISSA.

ORDER FORM

Publication Working Group - Book List

*****   RECOMMENDED LISTS OF BOOKS, JOURNALS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS
        FOR SMALL HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES   *****

Compiled by a Working Group on behalf of the Library Association of
Australia, Medical Libraries Section, Victorian Group.
Published : 1984.

At only $5.00 per copy, what small health sciences library could afford
                          to be without one?

Please set aside .... copy/copies of this booklist at $5.00 per copy.

(a)   I intend paying for and collecting the booklist(s) at the next
     general meeting at the Medical Library, Royal Childrens Hospital
     on May 8, 1984.

                                      YES ☐

(b)   I would like the booklist/s posted to me at the address listed
     below. Payment is included with this order.

                                      YES ☐

NAME : ....
ADDRESS : ....
         ....
         ....
         ....

All orders to be sent to :   Medical Library,
                          Royal Childrens Hospital,
                          Flemington Rd.,
                          PARKVILLE.   VIC.   3052.