

Medical Libraries Section
Victorian Group



Newsletter

May 1987
No. 18

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Jenny Waddell from the Health Education and Promotion Information Service (HEAPS) will be the guest speaker at the July MLS Vic Group general meeting.

Jenny will outline the development of the HEAPS files and will demonstrate online access to the files. Please note, we are trying to obtain a large screen to enable an effective group demonstration.

Details are as follows:

- DATE: 23 July 1987
- TIME: 6.00 for 6.30 p.m.

- VENUE: John Lindell Library
Victorian Department of Health
555 Collins Street
MELBOURNE Vic 3000

- RSVP: Jocelyn Dixon
Ph. 419-0031
Please reply by 16 July 1987

GENERAL MEETING REPORTS.

MARCH MEETING

About thirty people attended the first 1987 General Meeting held at Lincoln Institute Library. Sandra Russell launched the new fully revised edition of 'Recommended list of books, journals and reference materials for small health science libraries'. Sandra outlined the many obstacles faced by the Publications Subcommittee in producing this new edition, including the traumas encountered with the uncompromising page 34. Copies of the booklist are available from Andrew Rooke, Medical Library, Prince Henry's Hospital, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. Ph. 62-0621 ext. 2351. Prices are \$17.00 LAA members, \$25.00 non-members. Please make cheques payable to Medical Libraries Section, Victorian Group. Prices include postage.

The guest speaker for the evening was Alan Saunders from the Victorian Drug Information Centre (VDIC), Royal Melbourne Hospital. Alan spoke on the history of drug information; the services provided by the VDIC; and its relationship to the National Drug Information Service (NDIS) based in Canberra. The NDIS produces detailed profiles of drugs available in Australia. Drug profiles are available online; as three-monthly cumulating microfiche; or as a paper updating service. Drug profiles are available free on request.

Alan suggested ways in which the VDIC and medical/hospital librarians can co-operate in providing information to their users. The common feature of drug information centres and libraries is the use of literature and secondary sources (abstracting and indexing services) to provide information to users.

The services differ in that DICs provide an analysis service. Relevant literature is evaluated by DIC staff and recommendations are made regarding patient treatment and the use of specific drugs. Another difference is that the centres are responsible for the information they provide. A record is kept of every written or verbal report made by the centre.

Alan is familiar with MeSH headings as he uses Medline for some pharmacological requests received at the centre. Alan kindly offered assistance to librarians in selecting suitable headings for drug related queries.

APRIL MEETING

The guest speaker for the second general meeting was Carolyn Fishel who was visiting Australia from the U.S.A. Carolyn is a consultant for CINAHL - Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, in addition to her work as Assistant Library Director, Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

Carolyn gave an overview of the development of CINAHL from its founding in 1956. A major revision of the CINAHL thesaurus in 1983 resulted in an hierarchical tree structure similar in format to MeSH headings and including 70% MeSH terms. CINAHL uses the same subheadings and check tags as MeSH. Searching CINAHL is very similar to searching Medline.

CINAHL can be accessed via BRS, Dialog or Datastar.

Two advantages of CINAHL over Medline are:

- thesaurus terms are more current and more specific than MeSH: new headings are added with minimal delay
- indexing is completed and records are added to CINAHL up to two months before they appear in Medline

The second component of Carolyn's presentation was a discussion and demonstration of NURSE SEARCH, a menu driven package designed for end users. NURSE SEARCH is an index to 61 major U.S. nursing journals on floppy disk. Abstracts are not included due to space limitations. Equipment needed is an IBM PC or 100% equivalent with 256K and either two floppy disk drives or a harddrive. The cost is US\$150 per year. There are no other charges. NURSE SEARCH is not intended to replace online facilities: its purpose is to provide quick, non-comprehensive searching for students needing a few easy-to-get articles.

The evening was very well attended by both librarians and nurses: about 45 in all. One keen group had travelled from Ballarat to attend - we hope your visit was worthwhile!

Our thanks are extended to the Royal Melbourne Hospital for providing the venue and the catering; to OTC for providing free telecommunications to search; and to CINAHL for providing free online time.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

We welcome Jocelyn Dixon to the Executive Committee of the MLS Vic Group. Jocelyn is arranging activities and venues for continuing education. If you would like to hear a particular speaker, have ideas for topics, or can provide a venue for a general meeting, Jocelyn would like to hear from you.

Mrs. Jocelyn Dixon
 Librarian
 Mercy Maternity Hospital
 Clarendon Street
 EAST MELBOURNE Vic 3004
 Ph: 419-0031 or 411-0261 ext. 563

FACSIMILE ACCESS

In the Feb 87 Newsletter, readers were asked to supply details of electronic mail services and/or facsimile machines available for urgent interlibrary loans. Responses are listed below. A few points are worth noting: D.A. Book have recently acquired a facsimile machine; none of the respondents have access to electronic mail, except through ELHILL ORDERS file facilities; and in every case, the facsimile machine is located outside the library.

NUCOM SYMBOL	ORGANISATION	FACSIMILE NUMBER	GROUP NUMBER	CONTACT
VAH	Alfred Hospital Medical Library	(03) 529-4551	-	520-3003
VCI	Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute Central Cancer Library	(03) 67-3357	-	Aina Zalitis 602-1333
VMMH	Mercy Maternity Hospital Library	(03) 416-1261	-	Jocelyn Dixon 419-0031
VPHH	Prince Henry's Hospital Library	(03) 62-4039	-	Karen MacVean (ILL) 62-0621
VRCH	Royal Children's Hospital Library	(03) 345-5789	-	Kathy Hutton 345-5108
VSER	Commonwealth Serum Laboratory	(03) 389-1434	-	Theresa Leard (ILL) 389-1552
VSMH	Royal Southern Memorial Hospital Library	(03) 528-5838	2 & 3	Veronica Delafosse 528-6433 ext. 832
VSVH	St. Vincent's Hospital Library	(03) 417-7907	3	Sandra Russell 418-2201
VWEH	Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research Library	(03) 347-0852	-	Jo Marshall 345-2555
-	D.A. Book (Aust.)	(03) 873-5679		Richard Siegersma 873-4411
-	Moorabbin Hospital Library	(03) 570-4784 (03) 570-1852	- -	Bronia Renison 579-4444
-	Mount Eliza Centre Library	(03) 787-4435	-	Kathy Mowat 788-1200

ONLINE ILL ORDERING

A suggestion has been made for more medical libraries to take part in ordering interlibrary loans online, via the ORDERS file on ELHILL. Any library accessing MEDLINE files through ELHILL may also access the ORDERS file. Authorisation to participate in online ordering through ELHILL must be obtained from Life Sciences Section, National Library of Australia. (Ph. (062) 62-1541).

Advantages of sending orders online include: less time typing requests; no postal delays; unlimited flexibility for special instructions; and speedier responses if a request can't be filled. Significant efficiencies can result if participants dump order requests regularly and respond quickly to very urgent priority requests. Payment for photocopies is made by requestors sending a voucher by mail as soon as the copy is received.

Libraries throughout Australia and New Zealand are participating in online ordering via ELHILL. A full list of participants may be obtained from the Life Sciences Section, MLA. The Section will also supply details of how to make a request online.

D.A. Book (Aust.) Pty. Ltd is also a participant. The ORDERS file may be used for placing on approval requests for firm orders, using the code VDA. Full bibliographic details should be included for each order and an order number quoted if this is required by your institution. D.A. check for online orders daily so delays are minimized. The free format available in the ORDERS file also allows for any special instructions to be included. D.A. encourage libraries to use this facility.

HOSPITAL LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPH

Work on the Encyclopedia of Australian Archives, Information Services and Libraries is well underway. Mr. Harrison Bryan is editing the Encyclopedia.

A black and white photograph depicting a "typical hospital library" is needed to accompany an entry on hospital libraries.

If you have a photograph which you think may be suitable, please contact Sandra Russell, Librarian, St. Vincent's Hospital (Ph. 418-2201) before the end of July. (If you're in the picture too, here's a chance for you and your library to be famous!)

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We extend our congratulations and good wishes to the following people as they take up new library positions or move into new fields.

PAT NAKOUZ has retired from the Victorian Department of Health Library.

BEATRICE MCNEICE has left the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Library. JANE OLIVER, formerly at Royal Melbourne Hospital is now the Librarian at the College.

RUTH DOIG has left Frankston Hospital Library. FELICITY CARTER, formerly at Dandenong Hospital Library has moved to Frankston Hospital. CATHY ANDERSON has returned to Dandenong Hospital after a period of maternity leave.

VANESSA CRAVEN is now at the Western General Hospital Library. MARY ARNOLD left Western General to take up a position at the Department of Defence Regional Library Victoria/Tasmania. JANET KELLY left HEAPS some time ago and has joined the staff at Moonee Valley Regional Library Service.

ANNE HARRISON AWARD

The Anne Harrison Trust Fund was set up last year to further the development of medical librarianship in the areas of research, education and promotion. Applications are invited from librarians and from students of librarianship. An award of up to \$1,000 will be made in 1987 to assist a person in any activity which will further medical librarianship.

Submissions need not be for a research project, for example, serious consideration would be given to a person wishing to attend a medical libraries conference while overseas. A written report on proceedings and matters of interest would be all that's required from the assessment committee. All submissions are welcomed.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from:

Stephen Cramond
Librarian, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science
P.O. Box 14, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, 5001
ph. (08) 228-7681

Completed application forms must be returned to Stephen no later than 31 July 1987. Here's an opportunity to obtain some financial assistance in furthering your career and assisting your profession. Now, go for it!

UNION NEWS

VAHPA, the union for hospital librarians, is currently working on the inclusion of allowances for M.A. and PhD. qualifications in the Hospital medical ancillary services award.

VAHPA arranged stopwork meetings for hospital librarians, podiatrists, medical photographers/illustrators, orthoptists, orthotists, and prosthetists on the 25th March and 29th April. These meetings have ensured that the claim by allied health professionals for professional or 'science' rates of pay is being given priority by the Health Department of Victoria. A timetable has been established for a detailed submission and a meeting between VAHPA and Health Department officials to discuss the merit, timing and context of our claim.

VAHPA is putting a 100% commitment behind our claim, and has recently employed an additional part-time industrial officer, John Speirings, to assist with the work involved. With only 22 hospital librarians currently members of VAHPA it appears that as a group we are not matching VAHPA's commitment. Union fees for 1987 are \$169 p.a. for full-time librarians. Fees can be deducted from salary payments, and can be claimed as a tax deduction. Your VAHPA representatives, Elisabeth Giddy (phone 344-2398) and Kathy Hutton (phone 345-5109) would be pleased to answer any union queries and supply membership application forms.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a questionnaire from VAHPA designed to gather data on qualifications, gradings, etc of hospital librarians. Your prompt return of this questionnaire will assist John in collating information needed to support our current claim.

CONFERENCE NEWS

LIBRARIES ALONE: RURAL AND ISOLATED LIBRARIES CONFERENCE
21-23 July 1987 at the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education
Wagga Wagga, NSW

Contact for enquiries: Roy Sanders, Libraries Alone Steering Committee
C/- School of Information Science, RMIHE, P.O. Box 588
WAGGA WAGGA, NSW 2650

CONFERENCE NEWS (Cont'd)

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS - THE DYNAMIC COMMUNICATORS

7th Biennial Australian medical librarian's conference

13-17 September 1987 at the Hotel Adelaide, 62 Brougham Place, North Adelaide

Programme details and registration forms are now available from Muriel Ellis, Elliservice Convention Management (ph. (08) 332-4068)

LIBEX

The Library Association and its International and Comparative Librarianship Group have set up LIBEX, a scheme to assist library staff in organising exchanges between British librarians and librarians throughout the world.

Provided your employer agrees to the exchange, the procedure is simple. An application form giving basic information on your job and the country you'd like to exchange is first completed. Libraries may also apply for positions they'd like to exchange. Brief details are published in appropriate professional journals. Individuals replying to exchange requests are sent a copy of the original application form and can then contact the originator of the form.

For further information on the LIBEX scheme and an application form, please contact:

Tony Hillier, Co-ordinator - LIBEX
College of Librarianship Wales
Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS
Wales, Great Britain

LIBRARIANS AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

The LAA Victorian Branch presented a seminar on 6th Nov 1986 with guest speakers John Levett (U Tas) Colin Golvan, Bruce Whan and Judy Newbold.

The speakers addressed the problems of librarian-client relationships and the responsibility of librarians for information supplied. The LAA claims that librarians have:

- special expertise on information users, information organisation and retrieval;
- the ability to evaluate and interpret the most appropriate information sources;
- an active, mediating role; and
- a client-professional relationship.

If these claims are accepted, the library user could have valid cause for complaint if the librarian didn't fulfill them. The user could conceivably charge the librarian with negligence if the information sought was not provided when in fact it was available, and more care should have been taken in its organisation and supply.

However, this does not mean that the librarian is responsible for the content of the information disseminated, as long as he/she is not an expert in the field in question and does not claim to be an expert.

The limitations of information sources should be made clear in publicity about them. This becomes particularly important when fees are charged, and the information services may then be covered by the Trade Practices Act and laws of contract.

Librarians will not be taken seriously as consultant professionals until they develop sophisticated interview techniques, conduct proper confidential interviews, resulting in in-depth understanding and follow-through of the client's requirements. Special librarians are in the best position to develop professional-client relationships of a high standard and thereby raise the image of the library profession.

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Printing and postage costs donated by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories. Please send any items for the next newsletter to : Susan McNair, CSL Library, 45 Poplar Road, Parkville 3052. ph (03)389-1233. Closing date 13th July.