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Contact: Ms. Jennifer Bergin, Royal Children's Hospital        Ph.:345 5107

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SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

The theme of the meeting was "seeking those elusive statistics", with speakers Pat Dawling, Australian Bureau of Statistics and Dr. Graham Giles, Director, Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Anti-Cancer Council.

Mr. Dawling explained that the small Information Department, with a staff of ten, handles 8,500 enquiries per month. A new system has been developed to diversify sources of information and 59 municipal libraries in Victoria are involved in the scheme. The Bureau has provided these libraries with statistical information, some of it on microfiche, which is available to the public. The result is that pressure on the Bureau staff has been reduced and the public has access to statistical information within easy reach. Regional data centres have also been established at locations such as Geelong and Ballarat.

Every five years the ABS conducts a general census which provides accurate information about our society. Smaller surveys are conducted regularly during the intervening period, using 30,000 homes in each sample. The results of the smaller surveys demonstrate trends but are not as statistically accurate as the census surveys. The Bureau has access to information from the Registrar of Births and Deaths and processes health statistics. The Bureau's main function is to provide information to governments, but it also provides a service to the public, adhering to strict rules of confidentiality, particularly with business statistics.

The ABS produces a number of publications including Causes of death in Australia and Causes of death in Victoria. Mr. Dawling explained that the publication Hospital Morbidity provides information about the time patients with different diseases spend in hospital. These figures can only be estimates, since health departments in each state may collect different information and private hospital patients are not included. The Quarterly Statistical Newsletter is another useful publication and Mr. Dawling suggested that Health Libraries Section members might like to place their libraries on the mailing list. Unpublished data may also be available. On the back of some publications there are lists of items which have been cross coded, and the Bureau can produce statistics on these items. Searches for unpublished statistics can take from a few days to two months and costs are negotiable. The ABS address is 525 Collins Street, telephone 615 7000 (general enquiries).

Dr. Giles entertained the meeting with a series of slides on cancer statistics. Much of his work involves cancer epidemiology and he is particularly interested in nutrition and its relationship to cancer. He recommended Richard Dall's The causes of cancer as an excellent text on this subject. Several of the slides demonstrated the demography of certain cancers, e.g. Victoria has the highest rate of breast cancer in Australia. The centre produces a number of publications for purchase including its Atlas of cancer mortality and incidence (priced at \$30). Another recent publication is the Victorian Cancer Registry 1983 Statistical Report. The publication Canstat is free. Statistics on AIDS are also available. The centre prefers written requests for orders.

Thanks to Enid Meldrum for providing the venue, and to Jan Riches for this informative report.

On Wednesday 12th October at the Telecom Theatre in William Street, about 80 people attended an information evening which compared four versions of Medline on CD-ROM. It was interesting to hear that 18 companies have signed contracts to produce Medline on CD-ROM with the National Library of Medicine, and that there are already eight versions available in Australia.

The evening progressed with each of the four vendors spending about five minutes explaining their products' enhancements, and then four librarians evaluated the respective versions, speaking for about ten minutes each. Two came from universities and two from institutes of advanced education which had nursing courses.

Since the NLM retains the copyright of Medline, all the vendors must abide by the rule of "one product - one user". This means that, for all the expense of setting up the hardware and software, only one person may access the CD at any one time. The large libraries have overcome this to a small degree by allowing users to book the workstations for up to one hour. However, several are seriously contemplating buying another set of equipment.

Another major point with CD-ROM products is that all superceded discs must be returned to the vendor, and all discs must be relinquished when a subscription is terminated. Therefore, when the library subscribes to the product, it can only keep the latest disc of the current year and any previous years that it pays for, and only for the length of the subscription.

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NEGOTIATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

Carol Wood-Rich, Staff Development Officer at the Austin Hospital, very competently enabled 14 librarians to learn, practise and develop negotiation skills which will help them in their professional and private lives. The group frequently discussed issues in smaller groups and then exchanged ideas altogether. After viewing an interesting video on negotiating, participants split into three groups with similar backgrounds/problems (e.g. amalgamations, staffing, funding, resources) and each chose a topic for discussion. Using the key learning points from the video, they prepared a case and then "role played" a scenario which gave them the opportunity to apply the skills necessary to achieving their objectives.

The four main phases to successful negotiation are: prepare, discuss, propose, and bargain. Based on very careful preparation, the negotiator can proceed through the phases but needs to be aware that concessions can be demanded of him/her by others, and that many variables can intrude which may alter the original proposal. The negotiator needs to be flexible enough to recognize these factors, but also firm enough (assertive) to ensure that a remedy eventuates.

Special thanks are extended to Anne McLean (VAUH) for organising the workshop and to Carol Wood-Rich for leading it. All 14 attendees gained much from their interactive participation.

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AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY WEEK (14-21 October)

Jennifer Treller (Alfred Hospital), Jane Oliver (College of Surgeons), and Veronica Delafosse (Royal Southern Memorial) had planned a number of activities and displays for the proposed marquee in the City Square during Library Week. Unfortunately, last minute circumstances prevented these from coming to fruition. The Executive Committee thanks the above mentioned three for their efforts.

UNION NEWS FOR HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS

Congratulations to our union, V.A.H.P.A., for successfully orchestrating and negotiating an anomaly agreement with the Health Department of Victoria and the Department of Labour. Librarians are the only profession in the present claim for professional rates and career structure with members employed outside the health field. V.A.H.P.A. won a difficult battle to fight for our continued inclusion in the claim against strong employer opposition and concern about flow-on implications.

The Industrial Relations Commission has advised it will be carefully examining each classification in determining appropriate pay rates for our claim. The Union's Steering Committee is currently looking at grade definitions and pay scales, and expects a resolution of the agreed anomaly before Christmas this year.

At the recent V.A.H.P.A. Annual General Meeting, members voted to disband the Industrial Advisory Subcommittee. Representation from the various membership groups will now be through ad hoc committees established to work on specific issues.

If you have any union queries, including how to become a member, Aina Zalitis (phone: 641 5371) or Kathy Hutton (345 5109) would be delighted to hear from you.

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AUSTRALIAN MOTTOES PROJECT

Mrs. Vivienne Sigley is compiling an analytical book on Australian mottoes, which will be published by the Library Association of Australia in 1989. To ensure that the health and medical section is as complete as possible, she has sought the co-operation of Health Libraries Section members.

The information required is:

1. Organisational motto (in original language or form).
2. Meaning (if translation or expansion is needed).
3. When and why adopted (if known).
4. Name of organisation, city/town.

Please reply to:

Australian Mottoes Project  
P.O.Box 667  
LISMORE, N.S.W. 2480

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1989 COMMITTEE

Nominations have been received for all positions except President:

Bill Freeman	Treasurer
Judy Stoelwinder	Minutes Secretary
Sarah Gauci	Professional Development
Jan Riches	Correspondence
Jenni Treller	Newsletter Editor
Veronica Delafosse	Past President

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SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED AIRMAIL

The Committee would like to update the list of journal subscriptions received by airmail.

Please send replies to Anne McLean, Austin Hospital by 30.11.88

COME AND SEE SPP

REMEMBER, WHEN IN TOWN, THERE'S A GREAT MEDICAL BOOKSHOP NOT FAR FROM MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY WHERE VISITING LIBRARIANS ARE MADE MORE THAN WELCOME

LIKE YOU, WE'RE KEEN TO SEE CUSTOMERS LEAVING WITH THEIR ARMS FULL OF BOOKS. UNLIKE YOU, WE DO NOT DEMAND THEIR RETURN WITHIN A FEW DAYS. NO, FOR A TOKEN PEPPERCORN OR TWO, YOU GET TO KEEP THEM.

SERIOUSLY - WE'VE LONG BELIEVED THAT A VISIT TO YOUR BOOKSHOP CAN BE A REWARDING EXPERIENCE, ESPECIALLY ONE WHERE LOTS OF NEW BOOKS ARRIVE ALMOST DAILY, WHERE THE STAFF ARE FRIENDLY AND WELL-INFORMED, AND THE COFFEE IS HOT AND NOT INSTANT.

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POSITION WANTED

Kerry Brown (telephone 874 2516) is available for casual work.

Kerry is familiar with AACR2 and medical terminology. Her main area of expertise is cataloguing, but she is willing to do other work too.

AUSTRALIAN DISABILITIES THESAURUS

The Australian Disabilities Thesaurus is now available from ACROD at a cost of \$10.

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CURTIN, A.C.T. 2605  
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Fax: (062) 813488

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P.O. Box 88, South Melbourne 3205

Mularski, C.A. and Bradigan, P.S.

Library workshops for special audiences: secretaries, research assistants, and other support staff.

Bull Med Libr Assoc 1988 Apr.;76(2):151-4

Zachert, M.J.

Educational services in health sciences libraries: an analysis of the periodical literature, 1975-1986

Bull Med Libr Assoc 1987 Jul;75(3):234-8

Stroyan, S.

Qualifications sought by employers of health sciences librarians.

Bull Med Libr Assoc 1987 Jul;75(3):209-13

Geyer, E.M. and Finlay, J.A.

Retrospective conversion: a survey of UNYOC/MLA members.

Bull Med Libr Assoc 1987 Apr;75(2):114-6

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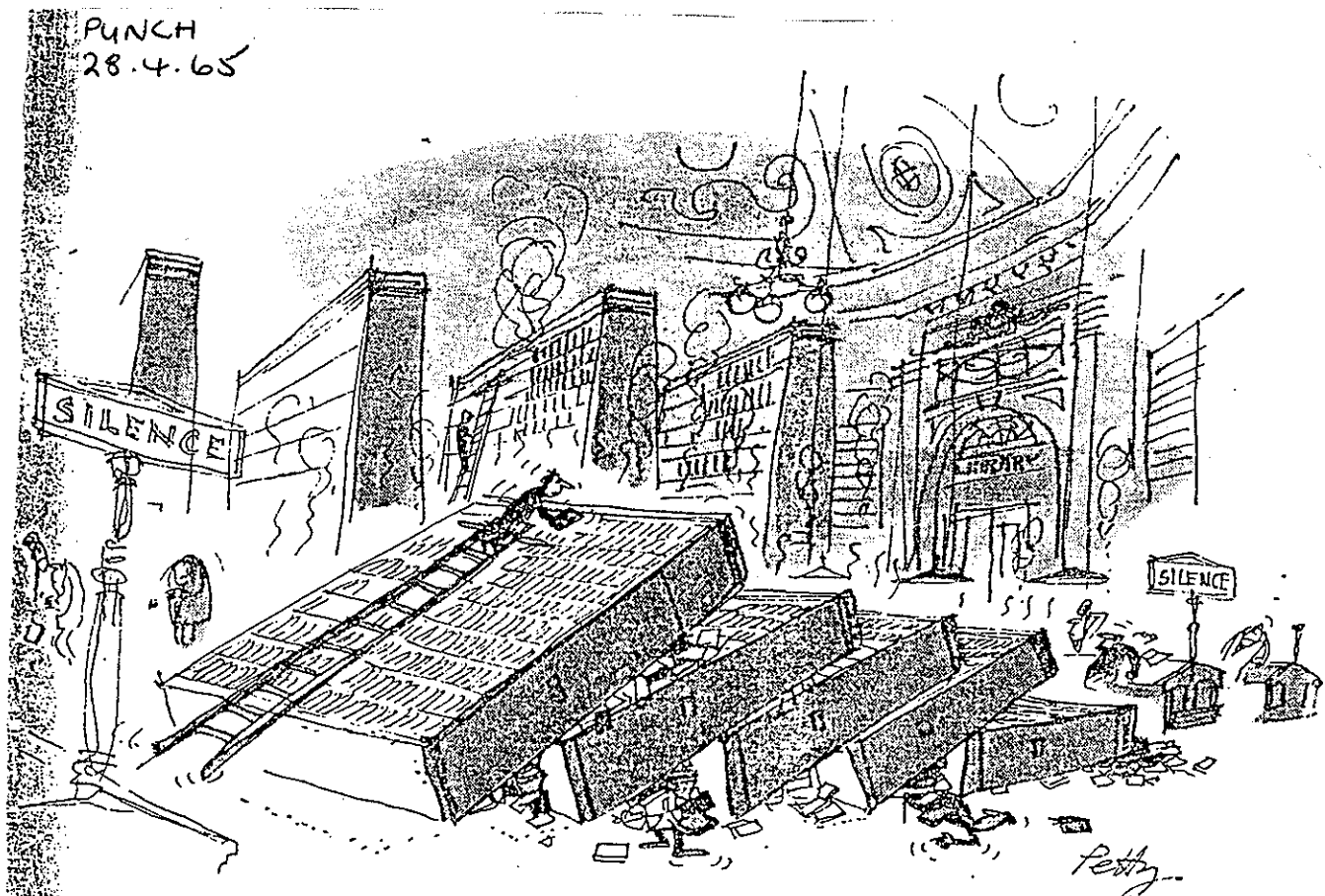
CUMULATED INDEX MEDICUS

ISA has some spare stock of Cumulated Index Medicus for sale:

Vol.24	1983	books 1-14	\$370
Vol.25	1984	books 1-14	\$370
Vol.25	1984	books 8-14	\$185
Vol.27	1986	books 8-14	\$185

If you are interested, please telephone ISA during business hours on (07) 371 7500 or STD-free (008) 777 134.

ISA has a spare stock of National Library of Medicine Current Catalog Annual Cumulation 1986 for sale at \$100, plus delivery costs.



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