



THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MEDICAL LIBRARIES SECTION

NO. 4

NEWSLETTER

JULY 1985

1. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This year the National Executive of the Medical Libraries Section of the L.A.A. is in Victoria, as we are hosting the 1985 6th Biennial Medical Librarian's Conference. The office bearers and committee members are as follows:-

President	Joan Martin	Brownless Library, University of Melbourne
Secretary	Sandra Russell	St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
Treasurer	Barbara Jacoby	Biomedical Library, Monash University
Committee	Enid Meldrum	Alfred Hospital
	Anne Parkhowell	Lincoln Institute
	Jo Marshall	Walter & Eliza Hall Institute
	Mary McGill	Royal Melbourne Hospital
	Aina Zalitis	Central Cancer Library, Cancer Institute.

2. CONFERENCE NEWS

6th Biennial Australian Medical Librarians' Conference, Melbourne  
26th-29th August, 1985.

Early indications suggest that our Conference will be well attended. If you are wavering, the Conference Planning Committee commends the programme (which has attracted favourable comment within and outside the profession), the venue, and the fair city of Melbourne, whose weather in August is likely to provide, at the very least, a talking point. Reserved conference accommodation is all within easy walking distance of the venue, and the Top of Collins Street provides ample opportunity for boutique shopping lunch breaks.

Members of the Committee have been in regular correspondence with distinguished international guests Shane Godbolt, from the U.K. and Nina Matheson, from the U.S.A., both of whom are excited at

the prospect of participating in our Conference, and who are looking forward to meeting and talking with Australian Medical Librarians. Their papers promise to be most interesting.

A word of warning : tickets for the evening at The Victorian Arts Centre (including the Bolshoi Ballet) are being taken up very quickly. We have been able to block-book some additional seats for the Bolshoi Ballet only, in the hope of avoiding disappointment to registrants, but if this entertainment is your bag, you are urged not to waste any time in getting your application in. The Bolshoi tour is limited, and they will not be appearing in all capitals.

Closing date for Registration (without the late fee) is July 31st, 1985.

5th International Congress on Medical Librarianship (5ICML), Tokyo. 30th September - 4th October 1985.

Representatives from Australia will be attending the above conference in Tokyo. As there is no planned group booking, people who are interested in attending can make their own travel arrangements. Further information about this and brochures on the conference are available from Ms. Sandra Russell, the Secretary, Medical Libraries Section, St. Vincent's Hospital Library, Fitzroy 3065.

L.A.A. Conference in Darwin. 30th June - 4th July 1986.

Advance notice is given of this Conference, wherein part of the program will be designed to interest the Medical Libraries Section of the L.A.A.. Please take note that this Conference is earlier than usual and falls within the same financial year as the 6th Biennial Medical Librarians' Conference and the 1st Asian-Pacific Special and Law Librarians' Conference.

3. L.A.A. GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, CANBERRA, 29th & 30th MARCH, 1985

Joan Martin attended this meeting as our observer, wearing her Medical Libraries' Section National President's hat, and learned much about the democratic way in which our Association is governed. She was pleased to be invited, along with other observers, to participate in discussion on any item on the Agenda, and discovered that vocal observers can influence the feeling of the meeting, if the President is benign enough to allow them the opportunity! You will be familiar with matters discussed, both through information from State Branch Councils, and from the very full report of the meeting in InCite.

Joan reported that after this experience she had a much stronger impression of cohesion and shared concerns within the organization, and kinship between its many parts. She urges the Section to ensure that it sends an observer to future General Council meetings. She hopes to attend the next meeting in Sydney in August.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 28th AUGUST, 1985

A word from our President, Joan Martin -

State Groups are urged to give early consideration to matters for the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting. Time will be limited, as you will see from the Conference program, and I would hope therefore to be able to restrict discussion to items on the Agenda, which might include motions on notice.

A call for Agenda items will be made in late July, and, hopefully, the Agenda and papers will be distributed sufficiently in advance of the meeting to allow prior discussion at States level to occur.

5. DIVISION ELECTIONS

InCite No.11, 12th July, 1985 will contain a call for nominations for the National Executive of the Medical Libraries Section of the L.A.A..

You are reminded that until the Annual General Meeting to be held at the 6th Biennial Conference on Wednesday 28th August 1985, we will not know the location of the 7th Biennial Conference, and you are therefore asked to withhold your nominations until after that meeting.

Any state wishing to bid for the 7th Biennial Conference is asked to consider that possibility well in advance of the A.G.M..

6. JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

The National Executive has been monitoring Library positions advertised in the daily papers in Victoria. If State groups are taking similar action, and need any support from the National Executive, copies of the advertisement, together with relevant comment, can be sent to the Secretary, National Executive, Medical Libraries Section, C/o St. Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy, 3065.

7. STANDARDS FOR HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

Those who follow the activities of General Council will note that, at the meeting on 30th March, 1985, there was discussion on Library standards. The (unconfirmed) minute of this discussion is as follows:-

Library standards

Item 21

GC 273/85 asked the Industrial Information & Research Officer to examine the progress on standards for particular types of libraries, and the present proposals to Council

Library standards

Item 21 (continued)

for establishing and/or revising these standards. Council was advised that standards have been published for library services for external students, and multiculturalism in libraries, and policy and performance guidelines for public libraries. Work is to commence on evaluation measures for public libraries, and this will lead to standards. A preliminary draft of special libraries standards has been published, and a second draft is due shortly. No work is being done on university libraries, and some enthusiasm in N.S.W. for college library standards has waned. The Victorian Group of the Medical Libraries Section has prepared Draft Minimum Standards for Victorian Hospital Libraries, and circulated these for comment.

At its last meeting Council abolished the Committee on Standards for Library Services for Handicapped Readers, because of lack of activity but there is now some impetus in this area and it was proposed that the Committee be reappointed, with its title reflecting the current terminology of 'people with disabilities'. The 1984 A.G.M. of the School Libraries Section had raised the matter of standards, and it is understood that some work has commenced with ASLA.

Resolved that the Industrial Information & Research Officer be asked to investigate ways of further assisting the Special Libraries Section in its work on standards.

Resolved that General Council request the President of the Medical Libraries Section, Victorian Group to contact medical library groups in other states to determine whether the Draft Minimum Standards for Victorian Hospital Libraries could be used as the basis for developing national standards for hospital libraries, and that Council offer to assist in the project.

Resolved that General Council notify the University & College Libraries, T.A.F.E and School Libraries Sections, and Sections that would cover joint-use libraries, that it is willing to assist in the development of standards documents, and invite submissions as to how standards could best be developed.

Resolved that:-

- (1) the Committee on Library Standards for People with Disabilities be reconvened with Jane La Scala (Convenor), David Barron, Jennifer Berryman, Cliff Law, Valerie Moon and Val Watson as members;
- (ii) the Committee be appointed until the final meeting of General Council in 1986, provided that a satisfactory report is provided for the final meeting of 1985;
- (iii) the Committee be asked to contact the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled for its views on the need for library services for people with disabilities.

It is clear that the L.A.A. is treating the question of standards very seriously. The work of the Victorian Group on Draft Minimum

Standards for Victorian Hospital Libraries was commended, but General Council accepted your President's comments (based on your earlier response) that other states generally felt them unsuitable for direct application outside Victoria. The National Secretary has subsequently received a letter from Louise Lansley (L.A.A. Industrial Information and Research Officer) requesting specifically that the Section "discuss the feasibility of developing national standards for hospital libraries, or for other types of medical libraries if this is appropriate."

In response, the Victorian Standards Working Group is about to reconvene. This Group, which now has some experience in the area, is anxious to commence work with other states on the development of national standards, and the National Executive believes it should be possible to establish a nationally-based working group, which should at the very least enrich Australia Post and Telecom.

State groups will shortly be receiving from the National Executive a "call to arms." Accompanying this will be yet another copy of the Draft Minimum Standards for Victorian Hospital Libraries which we hope you will find useful as a basis for discussion on National standards. They were devised for local use, so when the time comes, we hope no-one will be shy about criticising their more general applicability.

We would like to bring together some time during the August Conference in Melbourne the people who are interested in developing National standards, particularly those who are willing to involve themselves with a National working group.

## 8. CORPORATE PLAN AND REVIEW

The L.A.A. has circulated a letter to all Secretaries with reference to the Corporate Plan and Review Committee. Submissions will be welcomed from all interested parties on this review of the Library Association of Australia.

If any states are interested in a co-ordinated response from the Medical Libraries Section on the subject of the Corporate Plan and Review, please get in touch with either Joan Martin, at the Brownless Medical Library, University of Melbourne, or Sandra Russell C/o St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.