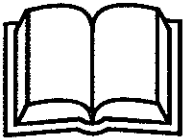


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September 1998

**National Newsletter**



**Health Libraries Section  
 Australian Library & Information Association**

**VISIONS OF THE FUTURE - REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST  
 REPORT ON THE CENTENNIAL MEETING OF THE  
 MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,  
 PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, 23-27 MAY, 1998.**

Rolf Schafer, Chief Librarian, Walter McGrath Library,  
 St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, NSW. Email: rschafer@stvincents.com.au

Philadelphia, 'the City of Brotherly Love', was the venue for this year's annual meeting and the launch of MLA's centennial year. It was here in May 1898 that four librarians and four physicians met in the editorial office of the Philadelphia Medical Journal to establish an association of medical librarians. One of the physicians, Dr George M. Gould became the first president, serving for three years. In the minutes of this first Association meeting it was recorded that, "the object of this Association be to encourage the improvement and increase of Public Medical Libraries." [1]

One hundred years later, the 1998 National Program Committee delivered a meeting program that honoured the Association's past achievements and rich professional history. The program also increased our awareness of the technical and organisational changes vital to future achievement in medical librarianship. Hence the twofold conference theme: 'Visions of the Future - Reflections on the Past.'

Registrations for the centennial meeting totalled 3103, with 101 of these from outside the United States, Canada and Mexico. Six delegates travelled from Australia to attend the

convention. This was the second largest number of registrations for any MLA meeting. And by most accounts it was the best for high quality programming and fun. [2]

A total of thirty five continuing education courses were offered during the conference. Two all-day symposia also took place.

Saturday

The Centennial Kickoff Party was held on Saturday evening with an exciting high-tech "happy birthday" to mark this historical occasion. Everyone fell into a joyous and celebratory mood when the world-famous Mummers string band performed a musical set that is uniquely Philadelphia. The Welcome Reception and the opening of the Hall of Exhibits followed. Here more than 114 companies and vendors displayed their products and wares. The trade hall also contained posters, the Internet and Learning Centres, and some electronic displays.

Sunday

The 100th annual meeting commenced with a welcome session at which President Rachael K. Anderson greeted delegates on behalf of the Association. Welcoming remarks and salutations followed from Patricia Wilson, chair of

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**Clinical Information Access Project**  
**State News**  
**HealthWiz Online**

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the Philadelphia Regional Chapter, and from Frieda Weise, chair of the National Program Committee. Rachael Anderson then delivered her presidential address which was punctuated by the screening of 'centennial moments'; short highlights of Association events and personalities, selected from the past 100 years. After a coffee break, delegates reassembled for Plenary Session I - The John P. McGovern Lecture. In a unique format for the McGovern Lecture, two speakers provided insights on the past and emerging worlds of medicine and microbes. The first speaker, Dr Kenneth Ludmerer spoke about 'Preserving traditional values amid changing paradigms of medical education and practice.' Laurie Garrett, Science and Medical Writer for Newsday followed with a paper entitled 'Emerging diseases behind the former Iron Curtain.' Garrett provided a fascinating account of the epidemiology of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis which are rampantly spreading in the former Soviet Union.

Following lunch, members attended Business Meeting I where the treasurer's report and other annual reports of the Association were formally adopted. Recently elected office-bearers were also announced. Contributed Paper sessions, sponsored by different sections of the MLA filled the remainder of the afternoon. I attended a session sponsored by the Collection Development Section on electronic journals. Afterwards I joined other international librarians at the International Visitors Reception hosted by the International Cooperation Section.

#### Monday

The morning began with Plenary Session II - The Janet Doe Lecture. Wayne J. Peay, Director of the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah delivered this year's lecture. His topic was 'Strategies and measures for our next century.'

The annual National Library of Medicine (NLM) update held after morning coffee, attracted so many people that additional rooms with video link-up were set up to cope with the overflow from the main salon. Dr Donald Lindberg, Director of the

NLM assisted by two senior members of his staff gave the update. Lindberg spoke of the success of providing free access to Medline on the World Wide Web since last June and of the enhancements made to the PubMed program. Version 2.5 of IGM (Internet Grateful Med) will shortly undergo alpha testing at NLM. (<http://igm.nlm.nih.gov>) The search features of the current IGM software were demonstrated and explained. It was also announced that beta testing of the Toxnet databases on the Web was to take place.

At the conclusion of this session I accompanied Saroj Bhatia (Canberra Hospital) and Monica Davis (University of Sydney) to the Awards Victorian Luncheon and Ceremony. Former MLA President Fred W. Roper was the recipient of the Marcia C. Noyes Award, MLA's highest honour.

The afternoon was devoted to Section-sponsored programmes and to Section Business meetings. I attended a session on the design and implementation of benchmarking studies, offered by the Hospital Libraries Section.

#### Tuesday

At 7:00 am I joined several other colleagues for breakfast at a 'sunrise seminar' hosted by Ovid Technologies. Ovid's Vice President of Clinical Information, Bill Detmer, introduced Ovid's newest clinical product, Evidence Based Medicine Reviews. By 9:00 am we were ready for Plenary Session III, 'The Digital Estate: strategies for surviving and thriving in an interactive age.' The speaker, Charles Martin, President of the Digital Estate Group discussed concepts which he believes are vital to success in a world of 'E-business.' Change is happening at lightning speed and Martin is convinced that everyone must change and adapt, even librarians in order to compete in the new world of the 'digital estate.' The third session of concurrent section programmes occupied the remainder of the morning. It was a case of standing room only for many librarians who attended the popular session on 'Evidence-based medicine: the library's role in twenty-first century medicine.' The topics that were presented included: an overview of the Cochrane databases, the impact of EBM on the

*(Continued on page 4)*

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**H.....C.....N**  
**HEALTH•COMMUNICATION**  
**NETWORK**

## Australia's first and largest Clinical Information Access Service!

In a \$1.2m agreement, Health Communication Network (HCN) and Ovid Technologies in partnership with the NSW Health Department are providing access to a suite of key health information resources for rural and metropolitan clinicians, aptly called the Clinical Information Access Project.

**The Minister for Health, Dr Andrew Refshauge** commented: *"This important partnership provides a new dimension in online support for our clinicians. It means that rural clinicians now have faster access to the latest information, access to a broader base of knowledge as they make vital decisions about the care of their patients. Better support for our rural clinicians can only mean greater peace of mind and greater security for rural patients and their families".*

This Internet based service, available to every health professional within the 230 Public Hospitals and Community Health Centres of NSW, ensures equity of access to information required to keep up to date in patient and practice management.

An exciting feature is the access to interlinked full text articles from a comprehensive list of key international medical journals. Some titles available include: The Lancet, The British Medical Journal, JAMA, Paediatrics, Journal of Advanced Nursing and Nurse Researcher, all delivered to the desktop in the wards at the click of a button.

With this service, clinicians can search Medline, MIMS and CINAHL as well as the growing collection of systematic reviews that support the practice of **Evidence Based Medicine**, with the Cochrane Collaboration supplying their international library database as part of this project.

According to HCN Managing Director Mr Mike Gregg. *"This is the biggest online health reference information project we know of, anywhere in the world. The NSW Health Department are literally leading the world and HCN with partners Ovid Technologies are proud to be working with them".*

24 hours a day, clinicians from Bourke to Bowral to Bankstown can now search this amazing online resource to assist in patient care, leading to better health outcomes throughout the NSW health care system.

For more information regarding the Clinical Information Access Project please contact:

**Allison Hartman**  
**Marketing Manager**  
**Health Communication Network**  
**(02) 9906 6633**  
**04111 80236**

**Rebecca Charles**  
**Media Adviser**  
**Minister for Health - NSW**  
**0417 275 691**

(Continued from page 2)

role of librarians, and the creation of a web-based EBM learning module.

(<http://jeffline.tju.edu/Education/aisr/ebhc/index.htm>)

At midday, Saroj Bhatia and I joined other invited guests at the BIOSIS Customer Appreciation luncheon held in their Head Office in downtown Philadelphia. Afterwards we were taken on a tour of the production process of Biological Abstracts and BIOSIS Previews. In the evening, a 1950's theme party was held at the 30th Street train station complete with Marilyn Monroe and Elvis!

### Wednesday

Another early morning start as I attended the International Cooperation Section Business meeting. An update on planning for the 8ICML in London was given by Tony McSean. (BMA Librarian).

Plenary Session IV followed and provided much welcome relief after the intensity of the past three days. 'Laugh for the health of it' was the title of Dr John Morreall's presentation. Morreall provided tips on how to develop the skills needed to take advantage of the lifesaving benefits of humour so that we can remain creative under pressure. He also explained how to take ourselves lightly while taking our job, problems, and challenges seriously. Was the amount of laughter generated by delegates at this session an indication that his message got through? Or did we only see the funny side?

Once the laughter had subsided, a call to order was issued and resolutions of thanks were offered. An invitation from Chicago, host city for the 1999 conference preceded the inaugural address of the incoming MLA President, Jacqueline Donaldson Doyle. Once the MLA time capsule was sealed by Lois Ann Colaianni, the 1998 annual meeting adjourned.

### References

1. Association of Medical Librarians. Minutes of first meeting May 2, 1898. Reprinted in Bull Med Libr Assoc 1998 Apr; 86(2):228.
2. Ray Naegele, Medical Library Association. [Personal communication]

## News from the Sections

### ACT

On June 24 the ACT health librarians meeting heard about the Commonwealth's project to provide health information to the nation. Shelley Bazzana, Director, Web Business Solutions, Department of Health and Family Services, spoke to the meeting about the new \$6.6m Information Gateway being set up by the Department. This was announced in this year's federal budget and the aim is to provide health information for all Australians, leading to healthy and informed consumers.

The Department is providing a framework for the development of the information gateway, which is aimed at the end-consumer of the information. A Fact Sheet on the development is on the Web at

<http://www.health.gov.au/pubs/budget98/fact/hfact8.htm>

A pilot service will be launched later this year, with new phases to be added over the next 4 years. Considerable interest has been expressed in the project and there are already many potential information providers interested in data provision. Although access will be available to all through the Internet, users may register to receive more targeted information as it becomes available.

### South Australia

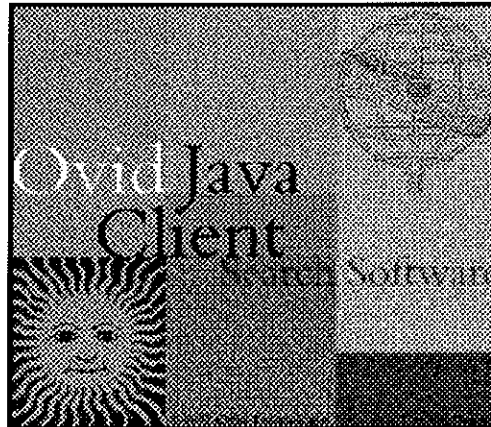
The SA section nominated Nereda Wilkinson for a Merit Award and this was awarded to her by the State Branch of ALIA in recognition of her exceptional commitment and service to the profession. Nereda was a key figure in the formation and maintenance of GRATISSA. Additionally, over the last fifteen years Nereda has held every position on the Health Libraries Section (SA) Committee and has invested a considerable amount of effort into the section. The announcement of the award was made at her well-attended farewell on 7 July 1998.

September 1998

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Ph : (1800) 226 474 or (02) 9231 5599  
Fax : (02) 9231 5599 email : [andrewr@ovid.com](mailto:andrewr@ovid.com)

**ALIA Board of Education  
Library and Information Sector: Distinctive or Dispensable?**

Join the ALIA Board of Education for a pre-conference meeting with educators  
and practitioners, focusing on articulating the core body of knowledge,  
and education and research priorities for practice in the 21st Century.

Sunday 25 October 1998 9.30am – 4.00pm

Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library  
University Of Adelaide

Cost: \$15.00 including lunch

Please register through the ALIA 1998 Biennial Conference brochure  
Hartley Management Group

Ph (08) 8363 4399 email [sgt@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sgt@ozemail.com.au)

For further information contact Jennefer Nicholson at ALIA National Office  
Ph (02) 6285 1877 email [jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au](mailto:jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au)

**NEWS ALERT \* NEWS ALERT \* NEWS ALERT \* NEWS ALERT \* NEWS**

### **HealthWIZ Online New Health Information Library on the Net**

Australia's health sector is set to further embrace the Internet with *HealthWIZ Online*, a revolutionary health and population database for health planners and professionals. With its superior ease of use, its features make it a world first for a database of this kind on the Internet. *HealthWIZ Online* delivers significant collections of statistical health data, gathered from the nation's major health agencies. The database will prove an invaluable tool for hospitals, community health services, health planning agencies, Divisions of General Practice and all those interested in essential health issues. New data collections will be added regularly to create a continually expanding and updated library of integrated health data.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services funded project was developed by Prometheus Information Pty Ltd to be easy to use, even for the most statistically challenged. Designed to be used primarily by health care professionals, the Internet version increases the availability of key Australian health and welfare information to organisations, the media, students and individuals who are interested in raising awareness about health issues.

Mr George Preston, Director, Prometheus Information, believes that *HealthWIZ Online* is a fantastic achievement. "No other country in the world has such an integrated database with mapping made available and easily accessible through simple-to-use software," he said.

Health Communication Network's involvement with *HealthWIZ Online* represents its ongoing commitment to providing access to health information over the Internet. HCN was working in partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services on the project. As Australia's leading provider of a complete range of health information products and services via the Internet, HCN will host and market the new service nationally.

### **Online Health Services Unite**

Health Communication Network (HCN), Australia's leading online health information service, and South Australia's General Practice Information Management Company (GPIMC) Ltd., have joined forces. Based on synergies created by their shared aim to deliver a total communications solution for health professionals via the Internet, the new alliance will significantly increase the number of specialist Internet health information and communication services available to its 1,000+ subscribers consisting mainly of GPs.

*Health on the Net*, the Internet service provided by the GPIMC, was funded by the South Australian Health Commission and launched in August 1997. The GPIMC has as its members 11 out of the 14 South Australian Divisions of General Practice. The remaining three divisions are currently in the process of becoming members.

Through the combined resources of the two service providers, health professionals around Australia will now have access to a wider world on the web. One of the main features is the innovative HCNNet, Australia's first open and secure email network which links hospitals, GPs specialists and pathologists and enables clinical information such as pathology results to be transferred over the Internet in confidence.

All subscribers will also have access to Australia's largest and best-researched biomedical library, other internationally renowned health databases, such as the Cochrane Library and MIMS OnLine, as well as future software rollouts. Practitioners can use clinical and general practice management software to improve the efficiency of their practices and join discussion groups with their colleagues.

*Health on the Net* believes that the Internet will also change the way in which GPs their patients communicate. Already some patients are discovering the benefits of being able to arrange appointments, obtain results and access research over the Internet. The combined power of the two companies will position Australia on the cutting edge of health information services.

**The assistance of the Health Communication Network and Ovid Technologies is gratefully acknowledged in the production of this newsletter.**

For further information about the news releases contact Allison Hartman, Marketing Manager, HCN  
Ph 61 2 9906 6633 Fax 61 2 9906 8910 email [allison.hartman@hcn.net.au](mailto:allison.hartman@hcn.net.au) <http://www.hcn.net.au>

**Notes from the National President**

**National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries**

All states have now nominated a representative for the committee to review the *National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries* and voting is underway for a convenor. Please all examine the guidelines as I have asked all State Presidents and committee members to forward the results of the review to the convenor before the end of 1998. It is planned to have the reviewed guidelines ready for the Annual General Meeting in Tasmania in 1999.

**ICML 2005**

I have asked Virginia Walsh, who is attending the IFLA Conference in August 1998, to continue to lobby for support for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Medical Librarianship to be held in Sydney in 2005.

**Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Health Libraries Section ALIA will be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 1998 at 8.15am in the Adelaide Convention Centre. Hoping to see you there. The Agenda for the AGM follows on page 8.

Tricia Scolaro  
National President  
Health Libraries Section ALIA

**National Executive  
Health Libraries Section, 1998**

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**Newsletter Deadlines**

The Health Libraries Section National Newsletter is produced quarterly in the first week of  
**March, June,  
September and December.**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE  
DECEMBER ISSUE:  
6 NOVEMBER**

Copy can be sent on IBM formatted disc,  
faxed to the editor on (08) 9340 1124, or  
emailed to gillian.mccardle@health.wa.gov.au

Postal address:  
**Health Information Resource Service  
King Edward Memorial Hospital  
374 Bagot Road  
SUBIACO WA 6008**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION**  
**HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION**

**AGENDA**

To be held on Tuesday 27th October 1998 at 8.15am in the Adelaide Convention Centre at  
*Pathways to Knowledge Adelaide 98*

1. Welcome to visitors. Present and Apologies.
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting 15th October 1997
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Anne Harrison Report
6. Treasurers Report
7. 9th International Congress on Medical Librarianship 2005
8. National Guidelines for Hospital Libraries
9. Physical Requirements for Hospital Libraries
10. *Strait to the Future* Tasmania 1999 - progress report
11. Survey Instrument - Cheryl Hamill
12. Promotional Leaflet - Gillian McCardle
13. National Executive 1999 - 2001
14. Other business