

Health Libraries Australia



Volume 1, Issue 2

March/April 2001

Financing our Heritage

Jane Edwards

The Melbourne District Nursing Society (MDNS) began in 1885 after several influential people recognised the need to provide nursing care to the sick and poor in their own homes. The MDNS started with one Nightingale nurse. In 1966 the organisation was granted a Royal Charter and changed its name to the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS). As Australia's largest domiciliary nursing service, in 1999, our 1200 staff were responsible for providing 600,000 hours of care during 1,300,000 visits to 40,000 clients in their own homes.

Our 116 years of service has been recorded through photographs, newspaper clippings, uniforms and equipment and various documents including matrons reports, annual reports, correspondence, meeting minutes and staff notes. The collection is comprised of thousands of items. During 1999, as part of my position as librarian I 'inherited' the responsibility of managing and maintaining this collection of RDNS historical documents and realia. As a Librarian with limited time and no archiving or conservation / preservation skills this did, and still does seem a very daunting task.

I hope this article will be of interest for those of you with similar collections and responsibilities. It will not help you with the conservation and preservation issues related to historical collections; those, I am still attempting to master myself. But it will inform you of the funding opportunities available through the National Library's Community Heritage Grants Scheme (CHGS).

The CHGS has been operating for seven years and in that time over \$520,000 has been awarded to 172 different groups including galleries, archives, historical societies, libraries and museums. The goal of the CHGS is to promote preservation activities for, and access to, collections deemed to be of historical national significance. Funded projects have included preservation surveys and conservation treatments, oral histories, photograph reproduction and financing the purchase of expensive archival storage materials.

A copy of the application form can be obtained from the National Library's web site www.nla.gov.au/chg. It is vital to read the Guidelines for Applicants. These provide information on who is, and who is not, eligible to apply for grants and what types of projects would

(Continued on page 3)



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Inside this issue:

The future of health librarianship 4

Cochrane Library Survey 9

Rivers of Knowledge 11

Editorial Gabby Fennessy

More changes are afoot. It looks like there s a lot of vision and vigor has gone into thinking about a future direction for Health Libraries, in a meeting reported on by Melanie Kammerman. I found some of the ideas raised at the Sydney meeting very exciting. Jane Edward provides us with an account of archiving and getting the funding to do it. Steve McDonald provides an insight into what librarians think about the Cochrane library and how it is being used around Australia, the findings have a range of training implications. It will be interesting to see if the rise of States making web-based health information available will increase the librarian s training role and therefore the need to get to grips with what Cochrane has to offer.

Please keep sending in those articles, I never have enough. In the meantime I should apologise to those people who sent me larger articles for the last edition, I had to wait to get a Tax Office ruling to find out if we could pay contributors without having to take out money to pay GST, it s funny how the GST can come back to bite you in such indirect ways. So if you contribute to the newsletter you can receive our cash incentive, as long as few forms are completed.

In the meantime, I am working on the web-based Anne Harrison project, sorry for all of you who have been waiting with baited breath, time is has been lacking in recent months.

So enjoy this edition of HLA, any feedback is welcome.

Gabby

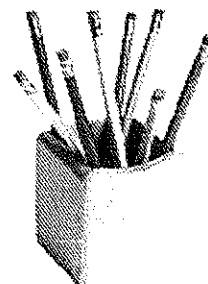
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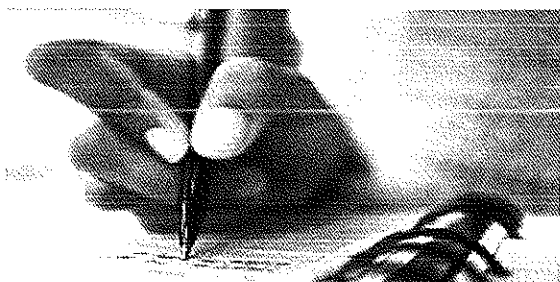
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**NEXT PUBLICATION DATE? September 2001, so get writing!**

Send your material to Andrew Rooke Librarian, Southern Health, 246 Clayton Road, Clayton 3168 Victoria

Email andrew@mmclib.med.monash.edu.au



Gabby Fennessy Editor

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(Continued from page 1)

and would not be funded under the scheme. The application is very detailed and to be considered you will need to be able to demonstrate the 'National significance' of your collection. All applications require a detailed budget, including written quotes for the project to be undertaken. If the grant is successful, money received can only be spent on the items listed in the quote. Also it is important that your organisation be prepared to demonstrate a commitment by contributing in part to resourcing the project.

As an organisation we have applied for and been awarded three grants. In 1996 we received \$1500 which allowed us to employ a consultant to assess the collection and provide us with a conservation strategy plan. The following year \$3173 gave us the opportunity to professionally restore and duplicate some of our historic photos and purchase suitable preservation supplies.

In recent years RDNS acquired a collection of historical documents relating to the formation of the service and its first 80 years of operation. Included in this collection are the original hand-written minutes of the inaugural meeting held in 1885 and an amazing collection of newspaper clippings dating from 1922.

Last year we applied to the CHGS for funding to have 16 of these historically important documents professionally restored. We were very grateful to receive our third grant, worth \$5472. The collection is currently undergoing the required preservation treatment.

In November 2000, as part of the CHGS award process, successful applicants were flown to Canberra for the presentation ceremony at the National Library with the Federal Minister for the Arts, the Hon Peter McGauran. While there, I attended a one and half day workshop conducted by specialist archivists from the National Library. The two days in Canberra were very informative and allowed me to meet and swap notes with the other 31 award recipients who had come from all over Australia.

We have been very fortunate to be awarded three grants in five years and the money received has provided us with the means to insure the collection is correctly protected and treated. The RDNS Foundation has also donated money to the project; with this, a collection development policy will be created. This policy will provide direction regarding what should be in the collection and what we need to be collecting now for the archives of the future. I will also be able to employ someone for a short period for cataloguing and data entry purposes.

The financial help received from the National Library's Community Heritage Grants Scheme and RDNS Foundation has given us a major boost to establishing an accessible and organised heritage collection. All I need now is more experience in the hands-on conservation / preservation techniques and much, much more time.

The future of Health Librarianship in Australia: a meeting held to discuss 7pm-

Pymont Room, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

Aims of the Meeting

The general purpose of the meeting, based on the agenda circulated by David Lloyd, was:

- to discuss and generate ideas about the vision of health librarianship in Australia; to look at who we are, what we want to achieve, possible structures we could work within
- to attempt to form a consensus view on a vision of health librarianship in Australia
- to not specifically discuss seceding from ALIA
- to determine how to move forward based on the ideas generated at the meeting

Helen Mandl, University of Wollongong, facilitated the meeting. The questions she posed to the group and the responses received are listed below.

1. When thinking about health librarianship or a health libraries association what are some of the words/phrases that describe the ideal? ie. if you were to belong to a group what would it be like?

- Collaboration
- High profile
- Dynamic
- Pro-active
- Lobbying
- Involved everyone
- Politically aware
- Modelling EBHC/EBL
- Respected
- Valued
- Consortia
- Surviving
- Thriving
- Consulted
- Knowledge Management
- Wealthy a wealth of riches
- An integrated health perspective
- Mechanism for CPD
- Power/leverage
- National

2. What are all the possible groups that fall within health librarianship?

- Hospitals
- Research institutes
- Universities
- Pathology
- Pharmaceutical
- Consumer groups
- Government departments

- Benevolent societies
- Vendors medical supply companies
- Human services organisations
- Public libraries
- Professional/para professionals & non professionals
- Students
- Private individuals
- Small government agencies
- NGOs
- GPs, AMA unions
- Disability areas
- Colleges
- Nurses
- Occupational health & safety
- Management organisations
- Private/public
- Biotechnology
- Food technology and nutrition
- Dental

3. What are the current strengths of health librarianship and/or the health libraries section?

- Only group representing the value of information to health professionals
- Collective knowledge of subject and health environment
- Powerful clients
- Volunteers
- Anne Harrison Award Money
- Multiskilled
- Willingness to share innovations
- High level of commitment
- History of networking
- Collective wisdom mix of age and youth
- Continuity
- Good mix of institutions
- Access to global resources
- Active communication discussion list, conference, newsletter
- Health CPD
- Reputation for innovation
- Strong collegiate friendships
- Existing structure that works
- No prejudice in support offered
- On the cutting edge
- Dynamic field
- Flexible
- Strong relationship with users
- Strong collections strengths
- Distributed collection

4. What are the issues critical for health

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

librarianship/health libraries/an association or section?

(each table contains an identical list of critical issues as nominated by participants, each list sorted according to the timeframe participants believed each should be acted on; some items clearly overlap but overall the lists provide a framework for action)

For space reasons, only the first year list of votes is included (Ed)

Critical Issue	No. of people who felt this item should be achieved in the 1 st
Strategic plan for health librarianship	11
Collaboration/consortia/ electronic networking of resources	10
Involvement in an association Increased and more active membership especially newer/ recent graduates Encourage wider membership of section from library techni-	9
Being involved with EBM and implementing it Evidence based perceptive for li-	7
Plugging into government initia-	6
Keeping up with the technology ñ evaluation, critical knowledge,	6
Adding value to membership	6
National cohesion	3
Recognition of the critical access (life & death) relationship with out	2

Motivation	2
Research	2
Accreditation (personal)	2
Electronic access versus physical libraries	2
Directory of electronic journals supported by	2
Encourage special interest groups nationally	1
Marketing of who we are, what we do and	1
Need for a separate identity at conferences	1
Become a stronger lobby group	1
Consortia approach to electronic products e.	1
Inclusiveness of the diverse health librarian	1
National government health information	1
Workable and representative structure	1
Understanding and utilising modes of communication More involved use of list servers for discus-	1
Retaining client-focus	1
Some industrial power	1

5. When thinking of a health librarians group/association, what form would it take? What would the structure be? How would it work?

National Structure

One person considered that there was a suitable, working structure already in place. Others felt that a truly national executive was required. Asked what the role of a national executive would be, responses included:

- Coordination and consultation
- Maintaining focus
- Leadership
- Some lobbying there are pros and cons to the national leadership also being a lobby group but it may be necessary that it lobby on some issues

(Continued from page 5)

- Communication
- Getting to people to act (empowering members)
- Delegation
- Strategic issues and thinking
- Organising conferences and CPD

Ask who should be on the national executive, the consensus seemed to be:

- Representative from a variety of states and sectors but not necessarily locked into a one state/territory, one representative model
- Members could be self-nominating / elected
- Members would have a 2-year term of office
- Ideally an Executive would comprise of 7 people

To date the National Executive has rotated through the states every 2 years and been linked to organising the conference. It was felt that it wasn't necessary to confine the Executive to a State as communication can occur via email and teleconferencing. State rotation puts stress on smaller states and territories, e.g. Northern Territory has not had an opportunity of becoming the executive.

State Groups

The meeting considered if there was a place for State groups and this led to discussion about how the States currently function. In some states there are strong networks outside of the current ALIA structure, for example, teaching hospital librarians, Department of Health/Public Hospital librarians, GRATIS collectives. Some states have no state HLS group.

It was felt that State groups need not be compulsory and that perhaps state groups could be self-nominating to the national group.

The possible role of State based groups would be:

- CPD
- Industrial issues
- Touchpoint for state-national issues
- Membership drive
- Networking

Special Interest Groups/Expert Working Groups

These types of groups could link members from across Australia who have a common interest and/or expertise in a particular area, and could better involve rural and regional members, i.e. regional or speciality driven. For example, the EBHC SIG, the Marketing Expert Group, the Lobbying Expert Group, Far North Queensland SIG, etc. SIGs could operate on a short term, project basis or be long term and ongoing.

It was suggested that a membership directory be created that contained detail of expertise and interests. If a need arose and a new SIG needed to be formed to work on a specific project, potential participants could be identified and targeted based on information in the directory.

Biennial Conference

Many felt the conference needed to be better utilised and that at least a half a day or a whole day either side of the conference be set aside to:

- Review the direction of health librarianship and undertake strategic planning
- Report on current projects and plan for future ones (time spent on AGM is not long enough or sufficient to make headway into planning strategically face to face)
- Allocate specific tasks and identify expertise

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

- Discuss resource requirements, funding and support/budget

One of the offshoots of the discussion was that as a group we need to be organised in order to know what we want. For example, it is difficult to ask ALIA for money/support if we don't really know what to ask for.

Communication

- It was considered essential that all members become members of the list this is the prime way in which we now communicate
- More members need to be encouraged to communicate and provide opinion not just the same names
- Need to use online or e-meetings
- A better/improved Web presence is required specific to health librarianship
- There needs to be better recognition of commitment and the roles people play we need to better celebrate achievements
- A clear sense of purpose needs to be communicated, including vision, strategies, purpose and outcome

6. The group was asked how the process should move forward and the timelines.

It was suggested that:

- A small working group be formed to articulate the vision and report back to current members of the HLS
- Working group should include people who attended the meeting. Names put forward included:

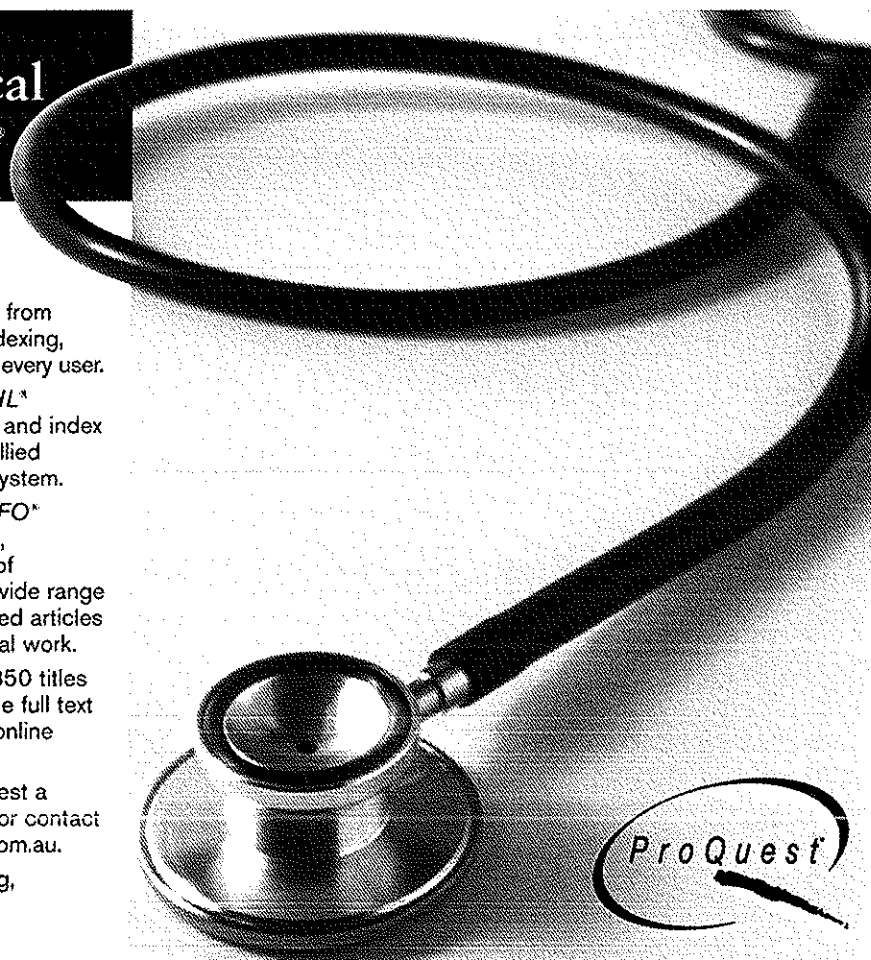
Key healthcare and medical databases from *ProQuest*

ProQuest healthcare and medical databases bring together the world's leading medical and healthcare journals and opens a vast range of subject areas to the researcher. Providing the full text of thousands of articles from hundreds of journals alongside detailed abstracts and indexing, *ProQuest* offers a variety of databases to suit the needs of every user.

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- *PsycINFO PlusText* – based on the definitive *PsycINFO* database from the American Psychological Association, *ProQuest's PsycINFO PlusText* provides the full text of thousands of articles, from 1887 onwards, covering a wide range of topics including all psychology disciplines, plus related articles in education, business, medicine, nursing, law and social work.
- *BasicBIOSIS PlusText* – comprises a core group of 350 titles selected specifically for smaller institutions and adds the full text and images for 55 of these titles using the *ProQuest* online information system.

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From the literature.

Stephen Due Geelong Hospital Library



The MLA rules

The Bulletin of the Medical Library Association continues to be the premier journal in medical librarianship (apart from Health Libraries Australia, of course). In January 2001 it carried two notable evidence-based articles, one on journal availability (1), and one on analytical cataloguing of book contents pages (2), which is shown to dramatically increase the usage of recently published books in the library. In the same issue, the perennial question of whether libraries should subscribe to journals in the names of individuals, to save paying the higher institutional subscription rate, is answered - in the negative - in a very interesting editorial (3).

A history of the MLA, recently reviewed in JAMA (4), although too specialised for many of us to consider reading it, raises several issues which are pertinent in Australia today. In particular the book documents the purposes of an association of medical librarians in America, and their successful determination, to resist pressure to be swallowed up by the ALA. Why have Australian medical librarians have been so keen to follow the other path?

Some years ago, the MLA started publishing its 8 volume series on Current Practice in Health Librarianship. The most recent volume is the seventh, which examines why and how health sciences librarianship practice has adapted to changes in the environment, including institutional issues (5) The eighth volume is to be on administration and management (6).

Meanwhile the MLA has also published a new edition of its Guide to Managing Health Care Libraries (7) (formerly called Hospital Library Management) which, if it lives up to its reputation, will be the gold standard in the field. It would be nice to see an Australian publication on health sciences library management.

1. Shaw-Kokot J, de la Varre C. Using a journal availability study to improve access. Bull Med Libr Assoc 2001 Jan;89(1):21-8.
2. Morris RC. Online tables of contents for books: effect on usage. Bull Med Libr Assoc 2001 Jan;89(1):29-36
3. Plutchak TS. What we don't know. Bull Med Libr Assoc 2001 Jan;89(1):77-8
4. Morse DH. Guardians of medical knowledge : the genesis of the Medical Library Association. JAMA 2001;285(2):216-7
5. McLure L. Health sciences environment and librarianship in health sciences libraries. MLA, 1999
6. Forsman R. Administration and management in health sciences libraries. In Press.
7. Holst R. Medical Library Association guide to managing health care libraries. Neal-Schumann, 2000

ALIA HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION**Anne Harrison Award 2001****Invitation to Apply**

The sum of \$3,000 has been made available by the Fund Trustees, and may be awarded for:

1. A research project which will (a) increase the understanding of health librarianship in Australia, or (b) explore the potential for further development of health librarianship in Australia,

OR

2. Assistance towards enrichment of knowledge and skills of Australian health sciences librarians, including funding (a) to help meet expenses of an approved course of study or study tour, or (b) to help meet expenses arising from a publication in the field of Australian health librarianship.

Conditions:

1. The Award is not limited to ALIA members
2. Current Health Libraries Section National Executive members are ineligible
3. Other conditions as set out in the Guidelines for applicants

The winner of the Award will be announced at the AGM in Melbourne in August 2001.
The closing date for applications is Friday 25 May 2001

Guidelines for applicants may be obtained from the ALIA website:

<http://www.alia.org.au/sections/health/anne.harrison/index.html>

or

from the Secretary: Stephen Due, Anne Harrison Award Administrators

Geelong Hospital Library,

PO Box 281,

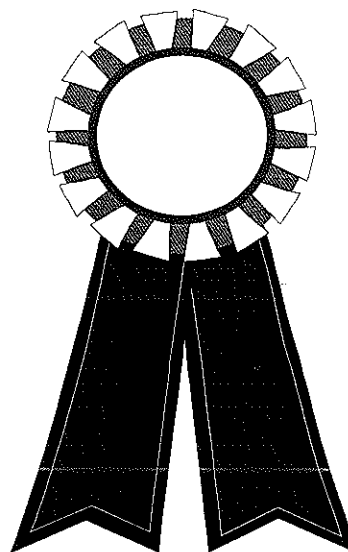
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Meditext: full Text Medical Information for Australasian Health Services

Paul Dourlay RMIT Publishing

Meditext is the latest full text product to become available from RMIT Publishing. This new online product will provide access to articles from 100+ journals focused on health and medical issues of particular relevance to the Australasian market.

Due to be released in April 2001, *Meditext* will link the Australasian Medical Index (AMI), produced by the National Library of Australia, to images of the articles indexed in that database. There are also plans to include an Australasian subset of records from Medline with links to images of those articles.

The development of *Meditext* builds on the partnerships RMIT Publishing developed in 2000 with the National Library of Australia and Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) in producing *Australian Public Affairs Full Text*.

We are very proud and excited to be developing another full text online product for the library and information sectors in our region, stated Sandra Oxley, Director of RMIT Publishing at Information Online 2001.

The response we received from the library sector last year when we released *Australian Public Affairs Full Text* convinced us that there is a place for Australian content products of this kind.

RMIT Publishing has also expanded their relationship with Silverplatter to become an authorized distributor of Silverplatter products for the Australian and New Zealand markets. The initial focus will be on the health services market where both companies have strong product offerings. RMIT Publishing will also host selected SilverPlatter databases, such as MEDLINE+, CINAHL and EMBASE on their Melbourne based servers to allow customers to simultaneously search RMIT Publishing-produced databases with products from Silverplatter.

Gary Gibson, SilverPlatter's Regional Manager for Australia and New Zealand says, this is a logical expansion of a proven relationship that will provide the region's library and research communities with one stop access to both local and international content, offered with proven customer and technical support.

The Launch will be staged in Sydney at the end of April.

For more information visit the RMIT Publishing website www.rmitpublishing.com.au or contact Paul Dourlay, National Sales Consultant on 03 9925 8212 or email paul.dourlay@rmit.edu.au

Report of the 2000 Cochrane Library survey

Steve McDonald

Background

In 1999/2000 the Australasian Cochrane Centre surveyed Australian medical and health librarians to find out about their current use and knowledge of the Cochrane Library. The survey was based on a 1998 survey of UK libraries so that comparisons could be made between the UK and Australia.

In Australia, responsibility for providing Cochrane Library training has largely resided with librarians at the local level. However, in order to provide some training support, the Australasian Cochrane Centre in association with the ALIA Health Libraries Section organised a national train the trainer event in October 1998 which was attended by at least one librarian from each state. Following this event, a series of Cochrane Library training sessions were held at the state level (mostly in the metropolitan areas) during 1999.

A further aim of the survey, therefore, was to gather data on the training librarians had received, and to find out whether there was demand for additional training.

307 medical/health libraries in Australia were sent a questionnaire in November 1999, with a follow-up questionnaire sent to non-responders in February 2000.

Response

237 replies were received, a response rate of 77%. (Thanks to everyone who took the effort to reply!)

Results

- 92% of respondents had heard of the Cochrane Library of those who had heard of the Cochrane Library, 65% either had a copy or had access to it from their library an additional 4% had access to the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews through Ovid
- of those who had the Cochrane Library, 59% promoted it in their library
- 42% of libraries accessed the Cochrane Library through CD-ROM
- among hospital libraries, which accounted for 59% of the responses, 76% had a copy of the Cochrane Library

Of the 65% who had access to the Cochrane Library

39% had received training

73% felt comfortable searching it themselves

59% felt comfortable demonstrating it to others

32% were aware of the free training materials provided by the NHS Centre for Reviews and

Dissemination

92% expressed an interest in attending a training event

Discussion

Training

The survey results indicated there was scope for improving the confidence of librarians in searching and demonstrating the Cochrane Library. In response to this and the high demand for further Cochrane Library training, the Australasian Cochrane Centre organised several training sessions for librarians in Victoria and Queensland in 2000, attended by over 75 librarians. An evaluation of this training will be carried out during 2001. The possibility of conducting further training

sessions during 2001 is being explored with a training session planned for Sydney in May. We hope that training events can be timed to coincide with the release of a new-look version of the Cochrane Library being developed by Update Software and due for release during 2001.

The percentage of hospital libraries subscribing to the Cochrane Library (75%) was similar to the level (69%) identified in an exploratory survey conducted by Ritchie and Sowter during April and May 1999¹. Both surveys were conducted as the transition to state-wide clinical information systems was gathering pace, and it's likely that many of the libraries in the public sector which may not have subscribed to the Cochrane Library previously, now have access to it.

At the time this survey was conducted only one state, New South Wales, had a state-wide c in the public sector - the Clinical Information Access Program (CIAP). During 2000, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia all launched similar systems, and one in Queensland is due to come online in 2001. With the exception of providing health information explicitly for consumers, all these systems are similar in scope to the UK National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) launched in November 2000.

The emergence of these state-wide clinical information systems has implications for the future delivery of Cochrane Library training to librarians. It will be important to assess the impact of these systems on the librarians role in providing training to health professionals.

Comparison with UK

Comparing these results with those of the 1998 survey of UK librarians, shows that both access to the Cochrane Library and knowledge of it tended to be higher among UK librarians. For example, a higher percentage (97%) had heard of the Library, and of those, 80% had a copy of it in their library (compared to 65% among Australian libraries). The UK survey also found that 88% felt comfortable searching the Library themselves, while 66% felt comfortable demonstrating it to others. The respective figures for Australia were 73% and 59%. Interestingly, a far higher proportion of UK libraries accessed the Library through CD-ROM (80% compared to 42%), however, with the advent of the new National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) the CD version is likely to become less popular.

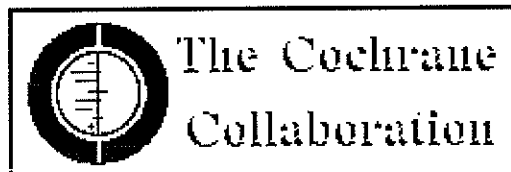
The survey questions and results of this and other surveys on the Cochrane Library can be found on the Cochrane Library User Group website at <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/clug.htm>

Reference

1. Ritchie A, Sowter B. Availability and accessibility of evidence-based information resources provided by medical libraries in Australia. *Aust Health Rev* 2000;23:77-89.

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Rivers of Knowledge Update

9th Special, Health & Law Libraries Conference (26 - 29 August, 2001 : Melbourne)

Welcome speaker: Phil Ruthven (sponsored by IBIS)

Phil Ruthven is the founder and Executive Chairman of IBIS, Australia's best known business information, forecasting and strategic services corporation. He is also a director of other companies, advisory boards and charitable organisations. Phil contributes regularly to radio, TV, newspapers, magazines as well as documentaries on business, economics and social issues. He continues to be one of this nation's most frequent and prolific commentators and is possibly Australia's most respected futurist. As a result, Phil is in big demand to speak at conferences all around the world. Phil has enormous optimism for Australia's future into the 21st Century and says it will be our best owners, managers and enterprises that will take us into the next golden age of prosperity."

Keynote Speakers

Lynn Fortney (Vice President and Director of EBSCO 's Biomedical Information Division) will be attending in her role as a member of the Board of Directors of the MLA Lynn was recently awarded the MLA's inaugural Daniel T. Richards prize for her work in furthering collection development for medical journals.

<http://www-au.ebsco.com/home/whatsnew/fortney.stm>

Lynn is being sponsored by EBSCO.

Scott Plutchek (Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama) will also be coming to speak on PubMed Central

The law key note speaker is **Charles Christian** of Legal News Media com, UK . The Committee is very grateful of our major sponsor, Butterworths

Richard Hulser content development director with Infotrieve and has over 20 years of international experience working in information management in many countries, including Australia, India and Belgium. Prior to Joining Infotrieve in August 2000, he held a variety of positions at IBM Corporation, including senior research librarian, technology Strategy planning consultant, and digital technologies product marketing manager.

He was recently a candidate for president of Special Libraries Association (SLA), named a Fellow of SLA in 2000, and served on the SLA Board of Directors as Division Cabinet chair. As a frequent workshop leader and presenter at a variety of professional association meetings, Hulser has focused on topics such as content management and portal technologies, copyright in the digital world, strategic technology planning, and the future use of technology for content and knowledge management.

He has authored a number of articles and book chapters related to technology use in libraries and information centres.

Nick Smith - Copyright

Nick Smith has been the Executive Officer of the Australian Digital Alliance and Copyright Advisor to the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee since May 2000. Prior to this he worked for the Intellectual Property Branch of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts where he principally worked on the Copyright Amendment

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

(Digital Agenda) Act 2000, as well as a number of other copyright issues. Nick is a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Conference Close Francis Johns

Francis Johns is a one time classical musician who did a law degree for the security. He graduated from Sydney University in 1991 and has worked for Butterworths since then in a variety of areas including editorial, marketing and commissioning roles. He was on the editorial team for the first volume of Halsbury's Laws of Australia, was trainer and helpline for the initial release of CDs in 1994 and also spent 3 years as account manager for Lexis-Nexis products.

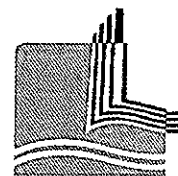
Johns is now in the product development area concentrating on technology initiatives. He has seen at first hand the revolution in legal publishing that has taken the industry from hard copy to CD to Internet to portals and ASPs. Johns is a regular presenter at legal research conferences and seminars.

Lesle Symes Memorial Lecture

Mr Phillip Kent - CSIRO Invited by the ALIA National Special Libraries Section to present the 2001

Lesle Symes Memorial Lecture

Title: "Who was Lesle Symes?"



Rivers of Knowledge
9th Special, Health & Law Libraries Conference

Announcement

EBSCO Publishing, Australia & New Zealand, is delighted to announce the appointment of Ann Ritchie (formerly of AIMA) to the position of Field Sales Representative for School, Public, and Medical/Health Libraries.

Ann has accumulated extensive experience working with libraries of these types in her more than 13 years of involvement in the library and information industry. Ann Ritchie has a background in health and medical librarianship, and has worked in both public and private organizations. Most recently she has been employed as a trainer and consultant for AIMA (Australian Information Management Association). In this role for the past 12 months, Ann has delivered workshops in Australia and New Zealand in conjunction with EBSCO in the latest developments and trends involved in the management of electronic serials.

Ann has been active in ALIA and has a particular interest in continuing professional development for librarians. She was awarded an ALIA study grant in 1999, when she visited the UK to research and learn about the information skills related to the implementation and practice of evidence-based health care. Since then she has delivered workshops for librarians and other health professionals in the skills of finding the evidence and critical appraisal. Beginning in January 2001, Ann's new position at EBSCO Publishing will be based in Melbourne.

Press Release

Ovid and HCN provide state-wide access to Medweaver™ across New South Wales, Australia

Sydney, Australia, March 31, 2001 Ovid Technologies and Health Communications Network Ltd. (HCN) have reached an agreement with New South Wales (NSW) Health to provide state-wide access to Unbound Medicine's Web-based differential diagnosis tool, Medweaver™. All health professionals at metropolitan and rural area health services across the state as well as NSW Corrections Service and NSW Ambulance Service will be able to access this clinical tool. By providing quick answers to their clinical questions, MedWeaver empowers clinicians to make informed decisions and will help improve clinical outcomes. Extensively integrated with Ovid databases and full text, MedWeaver is a unique Web-based decision support tool that enables clinicians to:

- Enter symptoms and perform a differential diagnosis
- Review a profile of each disease in the differential diagnosis
- Obtain an explanation as to why a disease was included on the differential diagnosis list
- Perform an assisted search of Ovid MEDLINE® and Ovid Full Text for a selected disease
- Explore vetted medical Web sites related to each disease

MedWeaver's differential diagnosis component consists of more than 2,000 diseases, 4,500 findings (signs, symptoms, and laboratory tests), and 65,000 relationships. With its disease profiles and detailed explanations, combined with assisted searching of MEDLINE® and clinical resources on the Web, MedWeaver delivers a truly integrated decision-support tool for today's clinicians.

Ovid has worked closely with NSW Health in the past to provide access to key clinical information sources, such as Medline, full text journals and electronic reference books. MedWeaver takes that one step further, as a real tool to aid in diagnosis, but still integrated with Ovid's information products when further information is needed, said Mark Schregardus, Ovid's International Director.

MedWeaver can be considered the missing link in online resources, said Dr Roger Traill, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown. Most educational tools, such as books or databases, assume clinicians know what disease a patient has and tell us how to best manage it. However, MedWeaver actually assists us in diagnosing the condition the patient might have, based on their symptoms and signs, and then links us to other resources that help manage the patient.

NSW Health's Clinical Information Access Program (CIAP) Website (www.clininfo.health.nsw.gov.au/) was established to support evidence-based practice at the point of care. It provides state-wide access to a broad range of clinical resources, including databases, full text journals, electronic textbooks, guidelines and drug information. The Website is available to the nurses, doctors, allied health and community health professionals of the NSW Health public health system. Unbound Medicine (www.unboundmedicine.com), a leader in the development of next-generation knowledge management systems, revolutionizes the creation, utilization, and dissemination of medical information. Unbound Medicine's handheld and Web-based technology platform and product suite help partners provide clinicians immediate, authoritative, and accurate answers to medical questions, wherever and whenever needed.

Ovid Technologies (www.ovid.com), a Wolters Kluwer International Health and Science company, is a leading provider of electronic information to the scientific, technical and medical markets. Headquartered in New York, Ovid develops sophisticated search software for institutions and bundles this technology with full text, bibliographic, and summary content databases. Ovid software is used by thousands of prominent institutions around the world, including private and public universities, library consortia, pharmaceutical firms, hospitals and governmental organizations.



For more information, contact Ovid at 61 2 9231 5599 or HCN on 61 2 9467 6119.

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**Ovid OpenLinks To Link To Journals Available From Crossref Member Publish-**

Links to more than 3700 journals to be added to 2100 existing titles available through OpenLinks, expanding access to full-text scientific, technical and medical information.

(April 2, 2001) OpenLinks, the full-text linking software from Ovid, is expanding to offer subscribers links to the more than 3700 journals available from CrossRef member publishers. Links to 1170 titles from CrossRef member publisher, Elsevier will be available immediately. Links to titles from more than 65 other CrossRef member publishers will be added soon. The total number of OpenLinks will increase from 2100 to more than 5000. First introduced in June 2000, Ovid OpenLinks is a leading software service that links researchers from Ovid's bibliographic databases to full-text scientific, medical and technical articles available on external publisher web sites. CrossRef is a nonprofit collaboration established by leading scholarly publishers to enable persistent links to full text articles at publishers sites. CrossRef has a database of metadata for 3 million articles from 3700 journals from more than 65 different publishers.

By adding links to the outstanding range of journals available through CrossRef, OpenLinks represents an unparalleled new single-source technology providing link access to full-text articles from today's most important publishers, said Diana Bittern, product manager for Ovid OpenLinks. Publishers deposit records to the CrossRef database consisting of bibliographic information about their own journal articles, along with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) for each article. This linking information is deposited in accordance with each member publisher's production schedule. Ovid will access the CrossRef database daily to provide the most recent range of links to OpenLinks customers. Access to the full text articles on publishers sites is controlled by each publisher's online journal system

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