

MEDICAL LIBRARIANS' GROUP

(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

Newsletter, August, 1976.

Minutes of the meeting held at Prince Henry's Hospital Library on Tuesday, 3rd. August, 1976, at 6.30 p.m.

Refreshments were offered before the meeting, and our thanks go to Marjorie Pinder and to Jocelyn Brooks for this hospitality.

1. Apologies Ellen Archibald, Jean Foreman, Merle Hall, Margaret McKinnon, Esther Martin, Joan Martin, Gilda Nightingall, Susie Pacher, Bronwyn Pearl, Judith Quilter, Mary Rae, Yvonne Sullivan.
2. New members were welcomed: Jocelyn Brooks, Carole Hall and Rod Tiernan.
3. Business arising from minutes of previous meeting - dealt with under correspondence.
4. Correspondence
 - a. Letter to Professor Melvin Weinstock, University of New South Wales, indicated the Group's interest in the development of education programmes for medical librarianship. At the May meeting, support was expressed for Jac Baillie's suggestion that the Hobart conference would provide an opportunity for discussion on this topic, and this support was conveyed to Professor Weinstock.
 - b. Following receipt of information from the N.S.W. Branch re the Handbook of Health Manpower, a submission was made to John Vaughan of the L.A.A.. Mr. Vaughan is preparing material for inclusion. Our submission conformed with the style established in Part 1 of the Handbook and covered qualifications, desirable skills, avenues of employment, career associations. Also included with our submission was a copy of the Victorian Hospital Librarians' Wages Board Determination.
 - c. As A.M.L.G. Council representative, Sandra Russell wrote other representatives to advise of the extension of the Central Medical Library Organization union catalogues to cover audio-visual materials, and to enquire whether any similar catalogues are in existence in the various states. No replies have as yet been received. The opportunity was taken to express concern at the lack of response in the matter of the constitution, two responses only having been received (Queensland and Western Australia).
 - d. Letter from Elaine Spence of Western Australia Branch, advising that W.A. is drafting its constitution and requesting a copy of this Group's constitution. In responding, we indicated that we had been waiting on ratification of the national constitution, but would be interested to see W.A.'s when completed.

- e. Bookmark entry update was invited, and will list our current national representative and Council convenor, Sandra Russell.
- f. In a letter from the Hospitals and Charities Commission, we were formally advised of Mrs. Patricia Nakouz' appointment as Regional Medical Librarian, and the Consultative Committee was asked to continue as advisor to the Commission.
- g. Jean Conochie wrote to advise that Dr. Pauline Vaillancourt (School of Library and Information Science, State University of New York) will be visiting Australia shortly, and will be available for brief consultancies.
- h. As a result of discussion at our last meeting, we wrote the Special Libraries Section re the question of qualifications and L.A.A. membership of office-bearers. In response, President Jean Conochie indicated that office-bearers should be L.A.A. members, but need not necessarily be eligible for Associate membership. After discussion, it was agreed that office-bearers must also be L.A.A. members. While it was felt to be desirable for ordinary members to join the L.A.A., there would be no requirement for them to do so.

5. General business

- a. Following an earlier suggestion by Amy Bush, the Group approved purchase (and continuing up-date) of the Accreditation Guide for Australian Hospitals.
- b. A copy of the New Zealand Health Sciences Librarians' Newsletter has been sent to Mr. George Franki, as editor of our national newsletter.
- c. SSAL/SALSSAH compatibility has caused the expression of concern within the Group, and attention was drawn to the National Library's Information sheet (No. 88) which states that compatibility should be achieved. It was felt that the statement was, however, somewhat ambiguous.
- d. Following the A/V Workshop recommendation, Ann Hicks (Special Libraries Section, Victorian Division) was contacted re plans for the Division's seminar on microfiche readers. Ann indicated that the seminar was likely to be held over until 1977, and promised to keep us informed.
- e. Audio-Visual Workshop
 - i. Ann McCalliard tabled a letter from Marjorie Pinder and Jocelyn Brooks (Prince Henry's Hospital) expressing appreciation of the organization of the Workshop.
 - ii. The statement of expenses has yet to be finalized.
 - iii. Attention was drawn to the decision made at the workshop to extend the C.M.L.O. union catalogues to include A/V.
- f. Meetings of Consultative Committee with Group office-bearers and Mrs Patricia Nakouz (Regional Medical Librarian) covered
 - name of the service (Regional Medical Librarian)
 - handling of enquiries from individuals
 - standardization of forms, materials, processes
 - book lists

- union catalogues
 - equipment
 - training
 - Community Health Centres
 - visiting of libraries
 - demonstration libraries. It has since been agreed that the Western Region Community Health Centre Library will become one such library.
 - possible utilization of centralized cataloguing in the form of card sets acquired from the National Library. C.M.L.O. is currently piloting use of National Library card sets on behalf of a number of smaller health science libraries.
- g. Enid Meldrum queried the possibility of access to Minterlib (union catalogue of municipal libraries), in the light of an increasing number of unfulfilled requests for out-of-scope or "fringe" material e.g. sociology, administration. Wilna McMillan reported that it was possible to access Minterlib, but only by written request to a local municipal library. As an associated problem, Amy Bush and Anne Harrison expressed concern at an increasing number of requests received via municipal and sometimes school libraries for medical literature. While medical libraries wish to assist where possible, it is difficult to provide suitable material from collections which have been built up specifically for professional use by health services personnel. Anne Harrison indicated that further consideration would be given to Melbourne University's position in relation to this matter, and to the use of the C.M.L.O. union catalogue by municipal libraries. With reference to the problem of unfulfilled requests for out-of-scope material, Anne suggested that all libraries maintain a record for one month of all items not located through C.M.L.O./NUCOM. It might then be possible for C.M.L.O. to analyse and recommend plans to ameliorate the situation.
- h. Reminders
- Members were reminded of the Special Libraries Conference in Adelaide, and advised that copies of the enrolment form could be obtained from Sandra Russell.
 - Australian Library Week in Victoria is 10 - 18 September. A tour is available, but no medical library is included this year.
- i. MEDLARS Concern was expressed at the lack of consultation with librarians prior to the informal disclosure of possible introduction of charges for the service. It was pointed out that many library budgets had been allocated, and if charges were to be introduced at short notice, libraries would be faced with a burden of manual literature searching with which they would not be able to cope. The Group felt that this concern should be conveyed to the National Library.
- j. MEDLINE On-line access will be available via terminals located at Melbourne and Monash Universities. The date of on-line operation waits upon receipt of equipment at both universities. Fay Baker suggested that it would be useful to call a special meeting in September after the training session, at which Heather McDonald and Sandra Russell could brief members on the service. While University of

N.S.W. and Sydney University will be charging for the service, Melbourne and Monash will provide free access. However, if charges are introduced for the off-line search, this may necessitate reappraisal. The operation of MEDLINE will be demonstrated at a Special Libraries Section meeting in 1977.

- k. Book list draft version was tabled. Members were invited to peruse the revision and to comment upon it, particularly with regard to the introduction of new subject categories. After circulation to the Consultative Committee, the revised list will be sent to all members. Pat Nakouz suggested that the revised list be submitted to the Medical Board's Accreditation Committee through Professor Andrew, and this was approved by the meeting.

Enid Meldrum called for all libraries to send to her a list of periodical titles held by Friday, 6th. August.

- l. Library manual pro forma was tabled, having been circulated to the Consultative Committee for comment. It is felt that a highly specific index to the manual should be developed, although this could only be used as a check-list by the individual library.
- m. Jocelyn Brooks drew attention to the study of serial costs in the current issue of the Australian library journal.
- n. Following a suggestion from Ann McGalliard, it was proposed that the Group should invite Colin Freeman (Life Sciences Section, National Library) to address a seminar on medical library networks. The Group endorsed this suggestion, and indicated that Heather McDonald and Sandra Russell should consult Colin Freeman during their stay in Canberra.
- o. Val Strantzen enquired whether any seminars had been held in local hospitals on death and dying. It was indicated that Monash (Alfred) and St. Vincent's Hospital had held seminars and that the latest Postgraduate Medical Foundation newsletter had information on the subject. Prince Henry's Hospital has had a training programme of care for the dying, also.
- p. For information Mrs. Austin, Librarian at Emily McPherson College, has details of an 18 year old library assistant seeking employment. The assistant has worked at E.M., and is recommended by Mrs. Austin.
- q. Membership fees are now due. Despite the unratified national constitution, it was felt that \$5.00 should be levied as stated.
- r. Kerry Christensen has written to say that she is enjoying life in Hong Kong, but that jobs are elusive.
- s. Election of new office-bearers The following members have accepted nominated and have been duly elected:
 - Esther Martin - Chairman (nominated Heather McDonald, seconded Sandra Russell)
 - Anne McLean - Vice-Chairman/Treasurer (nominated Pat Nakouz, seconded Fay Baker)
 - Jean Foreman - Secretary (nominated Fay Baker, seconded Enid Meldrum).
- t. Sandra Russell expressed thanks to those who have contributed to the Group through
 - Consultative Committee (Fay Baker, Amy Bush, Anne Harrison, Enid Meldrum, Val Strantzen)
 - Standards Sub-Committee (Amy Bush, Judith Quilter)
 - Book/journal list revisers (Thora Grey, Ann McGalliard, Enid Meldrum, Elizabeth White)

- Workshop Committee (Sue Harvey, Ann McGalliard, Bronwyn Pearl)
- Special Libraries Section representative (Anne Harrison).

At the conclusion of business, our speaker was Mrs. Fay Baker. Fay reported on her recent W.H.O. consultancy in Korea. We thank her for a most interesting and informative address.

N.B. REMINDER Please submit a list of journal titles held in your library to Enid Meldrum (Alfred Hospital) as soon as possible. This will be of assistance in revision of the Group's list of recommended journals.