

Medical Libraries Section  
Victorian Group  
Newsletter  
February 1984  
#5



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1984 programme

1. Date : March 7, 1984.-  
Notice of meeting accompanies this newsletter.
  2. Date : First week in May.  
'Computer applications in libraries'. e.g. R.C.H. loans system.
  3. Date : First week in July.  
'Patient medical information'.  
Possibly a joint meeting with the Public Libraries Section.
  4. Date : First week in October.  
'Peer review'.
  5. Date : First week in December.  
Combined Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party.
- (Dates and venues for meetings 2 - 5 yet to be finalised).

Our first general meeting - an IMPORTANT one!

We will be relying on your attendance and participation at this very important meeting, particularly in regard to the business side of things. Since Melbourne will play host to the next Australian Medical Librarians' Conference in 1985, it's well and truly time to establish a Conference Planning Committee. To make this conference a success we're going to need help from as many people as possible ... and that means for everyone to give a little!

Also at the meeting Sandra Russell (Biomedical Library, Monash University), is to talk to us on her exchange period in the U.S. Sandra spent a year working in the Health Sciences Library at the University of Washington. This is an opportunity to hear about the organization of this library, as well as its role in the regional medical library system operating in the States. Sandra was able to attend two M.L.A. meetings during her stay, and also an 'on-line' conference in New York. Come along and be entertained while learning something new!

Annual General Meeting, 1983

The AGM breakfast meeting on November 25, 1983 at Medishield Ramsay's Bookshop was a great success, and it was pleasing to see many of our members in attendance. Carmen Hannaker, Regional Librarian at the Moonée Valley Regional Library gave an informative talk on her role as our representative to the LAA general council. She stressed the point that if any members have complaints, suggestions and thoughts regarding LAA policy, it is the member's responsibility to communicate these feelings to the representative.

Happy news ...

Congratulations to Kathy Gray (Queen Victoria Medical Centre) on the birth of a daughter, born January 21, 1984.

Welcome to our new Executive members

Amidst the croissants, orange juice and coffee enjoyed at the '83 AGM, a number of nominations were received for the Executive. The new members - no nominations were knocked back! - are: Sandra Russell, Bio-medical Library, Monash University (541 3770); Anne Parkhowell, Lincoln Institute (342 0371); Enid Meldrum, Medical Library, Alfred Hospital (520 3003) and Mary McGill, Medical Library, St.Vincent's Hospital(418 2201).

Just a reminder of other executive members and their phone numbers: Susan Liepa (561 4243); Joan Martin (341 5717); Aina Zalitis (602 1333 x371); Stacey McKeown (345 5107) and Brenda Lee (520 2547).

Christmas Party

On the evening of December 8, 1983, approximately 35 people gathered at Suite No. 34, Gordon Place to celebrate Christmas. The gathering consisted of Medical Librarians (afterall, it was the Medical Librarians' Group Xmas Party), their friends, spouses and relatives. The celebrators were serenaded by classical guitarists whilst 'wining and dining'. A few more adventurous souls took to the water, ignoring warnings of drowning and exposure (i.e. exposure as in ill effects of the elements upon one's body). One well known Librarian came prepared with suitable attire - bathing cap and swimsuit; others improvised. After an invigorating swim most of the bathers (i.e. bathers as in people who swim, not bathers as in apparel worn by people who swim - did anyone else see the Pirates of Penzance?), retired to the sauna to dry off.

The evening drew to a close around midnight, although a few stalwarts stayed the night to clean up in the morning. It was an enjoyable evening of talking, music, eating, drinking and watching the swimmers. Thanks go to Standish, Prideaux & Pye, and Ramsays for their generous support for the evening.

(J.D.)

Other happenings in '84

- \*\* The RMIT Department of Librarianship will be holding a series of workshops extending from February through to November, 1984. There will be seven separate workshops, each dealing with a different area of the subject: Microcomputer applications in libraries. Bookings can be made through Glenda Key or Sue McGibbony, phone 341 2532, 341 2533. (Prices vary for each workshop, so do check if you're considering attending any workshops).
- \*\* VALA (Victorian Association for Library Automation) plans to hold a series of sessions on Microcomputers on alternate weeks to the RMIT workshops. Details will be announced as soon as they become available.
- \*\* LAA/NZLA Conference, to be held in Brisbane, August 27 - 31, 1984. This will include the LAA Medical Librarians Section AGM, as well as an item on medical librarianship as a conference topic. A great chance for medical librarians to meet and discuss common matters!
- \*\* 5th International Congress on Medical Librarianship to be held in Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 1984. The theme is "Medical Libraries - One World: Resources, Cooperation and Services". If you're interested in making this trek, details can be obtained by writing to:  
Mr. Toshi bobu Suga, Secretary General,  
5th ICML Japanese Organizing Committee,  
c/- Medical Library & Information Centre,  
Keio University,  
35 Shinomomachi, Shinjuku-ku,  
TOKYO 160 JAPAN.

Offer

Is anyone interested in Australian Journal of Chemistry, 1967 - present, (unbound)? If you are, then Jan Wright at the Library, Education Department, will be pleased to hear from you. Please phone Jan on (03) 651 0280.

Australian Science Index - to go the way of the do-do?

There is a lot of concern existing at present since CSIRO announced its decision to cease publication of the "Australian Science Index". Barrie Mitcheson, President of the LAA, has written to the Minister for Science and Technology, Barry Jones, seeking advice as to CSIRO's successor in producing a scientific bibliography in Australia. Ann Forbes and Margaret Findlay (LAA - Victorian Branch Councillors) have also written a letter to Barry Jones, requesting that funds be provided for the continuation of Australian Science Index.

Joint Australian Information Council

The initial suggestion for this Council was made in March, 1983, on the premise that it would represent a means of bringing together organisations with an interest in the information sector for regular discussion on matters of common concern. Thus the idea of a "Joint Australian Information Council" emerged.

Such a council (if established) would embody a wide range of members, e.g. AACOBS, ASLA, Australian Society of Archivists, National Book Council, Telecom, Australian Society of Accountants, the Institution of Engineers, to name just a few. All in all, a very diverse group! Some suggestions put forward for discussion might include: a national information policy, public/private sector operations for information dissemination, sales tax on computer hardware and software, copyright in relation to audio-visual materials, etc.

Interest would need to be gauged from the named organisations before such a council would be established. Discussion and comments continue to be sought before any decision is made about the support/non-support of such a council. If you would like to comment on such a proposal, please contact a member of your Executive, or write directly to the Executive Director, LAA, 376 Jones St., Ultimo. NSW. 2007.

Volunteer workers in libraries

How does the LAA view the use of unpaid volunteers in libraries? In times of financial constraint, some employers may seek to maintain library services by using unpaid, voluntary labour. A draft statement prepared on behalf of the LAA by Roy Stall (W.A. general councillor), is currently being circulated for comment by divisions throughout Australia.

The Association opposes, in principle, the concept of voluntary labour which may be used to compensate for the reduction/withdrawal of services caused by redundancies, non-filling of vacant posts or inadequate staffing establishments. The LAA does not wish to condemn those people who have traditionally provided supplementary services on a voluntary basis. It does however, oppose the substitution of established staffing practices with the introduction of voluntary workers.

Some of the reasons to support this view include - voluntary labour substitution would lead to a deterioration in the standard of library service; it would be wasteful of resources and detrimental to the interests of library users. There may also exist a risk to paid employment.

Well, this is certainly food for thought! If you have any thoughts on the matter and would like to pass them on, don't hesitate to contact a member of your Executive or write directly to the Industrial Information Officer, LAA in Ultimo, NSW.