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AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

HEALTH LIBRARIES SECTION
Victorian Group

Newsletter no. 30, May 1990

COMMENT AND OPINION

PARTICIPATION

After a few years of involvement, volunteers in organizations (such as the Health Libraries Section) start fraying around the edges and need special care to stay active in the organization. Following intense involvement, volunteers (be they committee members, office bearers or section representatives) can lose their spark and vitality. Burnout can happen in the volunteer arena just as in the work arena. Fortunately it can be prevented or lessened if other people are prepared to step in and take on the work required to keep the organization alive and progressive.

When being a volunteer is no longer enjoyable, when the ideas are no longer fresh, when meetings become exercises in endurance, then it is time for the volunteer to step back, move over, and let go - but **not** to disappear. The true sadness of volunteer burnout is when the frayed edges cannot be smoothed over, and the brightness and spark are completely gone. When a volunteer can remain active in an organization with less intensity but no less interest, then we are all fortunate. We cannot afford to lose these doers and leaders because of overuse and abuse of their time and talents.

We all need time out to refresh, recharge, and reassess who and where we are. As a result, new blood is essential to the survival of an organization.

Time is precious to all of us. There is never enough time to do everything we want to do. Yet volunteers get involved; they want to be a part of what's happening, to have a voice in the organization. They know that giving their time is rewarded in so many ways : increasing recognition for the organization, providing education programmes to members, and inspiring professional growth are among these rewards.

Is it fair to expect these volunteers to do the work while you share in the benefits of their endeavours? Is their time less valuable than yours?

How about getting involved? The Health Libraries Section needs your help to continue to grow and remain vital and attuned to our membership. Working together we can keep the Health Libraries Section alive and growing into the 1990s and beyond.

Call Ruth Lawrence (our current President) now to register your willingness to contribute ... or better still, come to the next General meeting to be held on Tuesday, 12th June at La Trobe University, Abbotsford Campus. We need your support.

See you there!

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INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

A study by ACLIS into inter-library loans in Australia has found a general resistance by libraries to the imposition of charges. This is particularly apparent in NSW and SA where 69% and 72% of inter-library loans respectively are received at no charge. In contrast Victorian libraries receive only 35% of inter-library loans at no charge. This difference can be partly attributed to the fact that at the time the survey was conducted, May 1989, GRATIS and GRATISSA were fully operational, but VICGRATIS was only starting up. 95% of loans supplied to public libraries are done so at no cost, and the study could find no evidence that the increase in inter-library loan charges in 1987 had had a major impact on public libraries.

The report is critical of the time taken for successful completion of inter-library loans. It found that only 21% of inter-library loans are supplied within a week; 77% are supplied within 4 weeks. There is however a wide disparity in turn around times across library sectors. Special libraries have completed twice as many inter-library loans within a week than do university libraries. Public, university, and CAE libraries are all notably slow in supplying inter-library loans.

University libraries are nevertheless identified as major suppliers to all other types of libraries with the exception of public libraries. On the other hand, CSIRO libraries contribute little to the inter-library loan system outside of its own sector. The survey confirms SAIL findings that most inter-library loans in Australia are transacted between libraries in the same region and in the same sector.

94% of all transactions monitored were successfully completed. CSIRO libraries, special libraries and CAE libraries recorded the highest rates for successful completion of transactions at over 96%. The report recommends that libraries target a fill rate of not less than 95%. The most likely reasons for the abandonment of requests is because there are "no locations in Australia" or "no identified location could supply". An attempt was made by the survey to identify titles requested by users but not held in Australia. 212 titles were reported but information in most cases only includes the title and not the issue required. This list however will be of concern to health science librarians because over half of the titles listed are medical journals.

Inter-library loans in Australia: traffic patterns and charges May 1989 / Colin R. Taylor. Canberra : Australian Council of Libraries and Information Services, 1989, is available to ACLIS members from the ACLIS Secretariat.

Ruth Lawrence

INDEX MEDICUS ON MICROFICHE

Any members who are still experiencing problems receiving **Index Medicus** on microfiche are asked to contact Scott Holmes, Library, Bendigo Base Hospital, on (054) 41 0424. Apparently this was a problem last year, however, the Committee is unsure who it was affecting and therefore whether it was resolved.

ALIA 1992 CONFERENCE, ALBURY-WODONGA

The Programme Sub-Committee is already hard at work and needs input from all Sections in order to create the best possible programme with something for everyone!

So "Bring forward your issues, superstars, grouches (constructive) about past conference content and unrealised (feasible) ideals."

Ideas can be forwarded through your Committee. Contact : Judy Stoelwinder (03) 450 5636.

ABOUT PEOPLE ...

Congratulations to Kathy and Nigel Hutton on the birth of a beautiful daughter. It all happened slightly ahead of schedule ... Kathy and Tessa are still to have their handover ... but we're sure you will cope Tessa!

Welcome back to Judy Czuchnowski (PANCH Nursing Library)

Joan Martin, Life Sciences Librarian extraordinaire, has taken the plunge and decided on something we all often think about. Joan is to take early retirement as of 13th July, 1990. To say Joan will be missed is the understatement of the decade, but Joan we all wish you well.

*** If you have any gossip that might be of interest to others then please contact the **Newsletter** editor (03) 450 5636.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 12th June **GENERAL MEETING**

Developing an audio-visual collection
Gaetano Raiti, Audio-Visual Librarian, Abbotsford Campus Library, La Trobe University. 6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. start.
RSVP : Ruth Lawrence 813 1611 (ext. 296) by 11th June.

Friday, 22nd June **EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION WORKSHOP**

A one-day workshop for those responsible for the supervision of staff or who wish to learn the principles of effective supervision.
Workshop leader : Gary Terdich, Senior Lecturer, Management, Training and Development Department, Footscray College of TAFE. 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
(see separate leaflet for more information and application form)

BMJ : THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

No articles from the **British medical journal** on the 1990 Medline compact disc! There have to be! None on the 1989 disc either, but hundreds for 1988. Is it a Yankee plot to downgrade the British? What sabotage has been at work? **British medical journal** is listed and there are articles from **Lancet.** Perhaps the Compact Cambridge people have accidentally "bumped off" all articles from the **British medical journal.** We'd better investigate pronto. What a discovery! Then again, could be it's listed another way? Let's try **BMJ.** Eureka! Paydirt of 1000 + articles in 1989! Why? WHY? Has there been a change of title? We investigate further ... Consulting the 1988 volumes, we find **British medical journal** is the title until June 1988 and **BMJ** after that. We'd never noticed. We'd always called it "**BMJ**" anyway!

The NLM Health Sciences Serials listing and NUCOS both have new records for **BMJ** from July 1988 onwards, but **ONLY ONE** location in Australia is shown on NUCOS. What a relief! Maybe we're not the only health library in Victoria not to have noticed the change.

Nota bene! Beware!

British medical journal ISSN 0267 0623, finished June 1988
BMJ ISSN 0959 8138, began July 1988

To coincide with its fifteenth anniversary of service to the Medical Industry, The Education Company, a subsidiary of Computer Interface Australia Pty Ltd, has just released the new version of the Microfusion Automated Library Resources System for hospitals.

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  - *Catalogue Cards,*
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* *Conversion of data from any other previously-used, automated system to the Microfusion System*
* *A single library system can cater for the needs of multi-campuses (neighbouring hospitals), or multi-sites (unconnected libraries within the hospital)*

THE SYSTEM

*Total automation of all possible library functions * Designed by librarians for librarians * Continually evolving from constructive suggestions and ideas of users * All upgrades in the program are free for Registered Users * True multi-user system * Menu driven * Fast retrieval of data * Suits any sized library * System runs on P.Cs, Mini computers, or Mainframe computers * Each site has the same program which is easily configurable by the librarian to suit individual library needs * Over 20 types of user defined codes * Variable length fields speed up reaction time, and conserve hard disk space * Choice of monochrome or E.G.A. colour monitors * Uniform authority file maintenance * Rapid terminal response * Rapid movement between menus and work screens * Staff computers can be switched from the library system to MSDOS functions, and back, using simple keystrokes, while the rest of the library system functions normally.*

SEARCHES

*Extremely fast searches of all types * Expanded word searches * Full Boolean search with up to 100 operands * A search for items from a 10,000 item database will display in 1 second * Patrons can search by all fields, by titles (word or full title), by subjects, by notes, by authors, or by series * Search for item locations * The phonetic search (by sounds) is great for bad spellers * The library staff can search for patrons by surname, by borrower type, by group, by interest or by status * Complex searches*

CIRCULATION

*Very fast loans and returns performed simultaneously on the one screen (2 sweeps of a light pen) * Very fast bulk returns (1 sweep of a light pen) with full display of transaction details * Printed details of all circulation transactions * Patron barcodes in alphabetical or in group lists, printed by the system * Patrons may reserve their own items (at the librarian's discretion) * Every conceivable circulation report available (on screen or printed) * Items can be identified by accession number or by barcode * Simple loan extensions on the main circulation screen * Temporary loan time changes can be made on a single item, or on all resources by an author, a subject, or a title * Choice of tone warnings or optional voice messages from the circulation workstation * Staff at the circulation counter, with specified access level may over-ride loan restrictions * Choice of patron identification - Short name, or PIN, or Barcode * Loans do not become due on specified dates e.g. weekends or public holidays * Item location checks include identity of current and previous borrowers * Patrons' passwords may be accessed, altered or deleted by the librarian * Book Hire and Return*

RESOURCE ENTRY

*ABN catalogue data or ASCIS data simply loaded * Multiple copies added automatically during accessioning * Barcodes may be used for items and/or patrons * Fixed barcode readers (for circulation) and portable barcode readers (for stocktake) available * Extended fields of up to 1500 characters (for titles, subjects, notes, etc.) in the Accessioning and Cataloguing screens) * User defined codes reduce work for the operator * GMD code determines the format of the cataloguing screen * Unique, complete handling of periodicals and serials, including ordering, renewals, binding, missing issues, and circulation routes*

COMMUNICATION

*Full communications system is available * Patron comments * Resource item comments * Message sending and notification (to a patron, a group, a borrower type, an interest group * Diary functions (current or future) * Communication gateways * Modem maintenance * File transfers * Interested patrons informed of the arrival of relevant new items * Activity logging (on workstations or circulation transactions) may be viewed or printed*

REPORTING

*User defined formats (bibliographies, catalogue lists, etc.) * No limit to the number of possible reports * Two types of stocktake - Comprehensive and Fast - both with automatic statistical analyses and graphs * Complete stocktake reports * Spooled printers * Printing of Patron Barcodes listed in any order * Printing of Spine Labels and Catalogue Cards*

MANAGEMENT OF DATA

*Easy database management * Backing-up and restoring of data using menu options * Global changes may be made throughout the database * Menu driven, database management, indexing and updating * Four choices of back-up media - 5.25" double density floppy disks (360 kb), 5.25" high density floppy disks (1.2 Mb), 3.5" floppy disks (720 kb), or streaming cartridge tape (up to 60 Mb) * Total hardware and software solutions from the one company * No loss of data, if conversion from another automated system to the Microfusion system*

USER HELP

*Easy to back-up * Engraved function keys * Tutorial programs available, using non-live data * Complete, easy-to-read manual supplied * Personal tuition for librarians, on site (assuming no prior knowledge of computing) * User group meetings organised * Option bars at the base of every work screen * Uses of function keys are uniform throughout * Telephone answering service available for library enquiries or problems * Common TCL PICK commands are fully explained in the manual * Easy logoff and power-off procedures * Error messages warn of incorrect operator keystrokes or the entry of invalid data * Help with the setting of the system parameters is given to the librarian prior to installation * Over 130 program screens are catalogued in the manual * Help information is available for the user, at every point in the program*

FINANCES

*Listing of Desiderata * Compilation of Order Lists * Automatic printing of Orders for Suppliers * Complete budgeting * Instant printing of current budgetary situation*

SECURITY

*Security of data * Activity logging for any workstation * By simple backing-up * Optional uninterrupted power supply * Off-line circulation using a stand-alone computer, and transferring to the system later * Two forms of time-out (the durations are user defined)*

*Security of the system * By keys * By passwords * By users' access levels * Using separate public access search accounts*

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JOURNALS RECEIVED BY AIRMAIL

Early in 1988 we produced a **List of subscriptions received by airmail or SAL.** It would seem that this was a worthwhile exercise and one useful to continue. There was however some confusion over which journals were actually received by SAL so this time we have limited the list to those received by AIRMAIL.

Any changes or additions to the list below should be forwarded to Anne McLean, Health Sciences Library, Austin Hospital, Studley Road, Heidelberg, Vic. 3084.

Any Victorian Health Sciences Library is welcome to make a contribution.

ADVERSE DRUG REACTION BULLETIN	VBHH
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF DISEASES OF CHILDREN	VRCH
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HEMATOLOGY	VDOR VSV
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY	VWH
ANTIMICROBIC NEWSLETTER	VDOR
ARCHIVES OF DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD	VRCH
BLOOD	VWEH
BRITISH JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY	VWH
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL	VSV VAH VPHH VRCH VSMH VWH VAUH VBHH VRMH
BUSINESS WEEK INTERNATIONAL	VSMH
CANCER	VCI
CELL	VWEH
CLINICAL LAB LETTER	VDOR
CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE	VDOR
CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY NEWSLETTER	VDOR
CLINICAL NEPHROLOGY	VAUH
CLINICAL PHARMACY	VBHH
CURRENT CONTENTS : AGRICULTURE, BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	VMOU (Biomedical)
CURRENT CONTENTS : CLINICAL MEDICINE	VMOU (Biomedical) VRMH
CURRENT CONTENTS : LIFE SCIENCES	VRMH VAH VAUH VRCH VWH VCI VMOU (Biomedical) VU (Brownless)

CURRENT CONTENTS : SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	VMOU (Biomedical)
DIABETES	VWEH
EMBO JOURNAL	VWEH
EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF IMMUNOLOGY	VWEH
EXPERIMENTAL HEMATOLOGY	VWEH
FERTILITY AND STERILITY	VWH
GUIDE TO BIOMEDICAL STANDARDS	VDOR
IMMUNOGENETICS	VWEH
IMMUNOLOGICAL REVIEWS	VWEH
IMMUNOLOGY	VWEH
IMMUNOLOGY TODAY	VSMH
JAMA	VHCV
JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY	VWEH
JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE	VWEH
JOURNAL OF IMMUNOLOGY	VWEH
JOURNAL OF PEDIATRICS	VRCH
JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY	VWEH
LAB REPORT FOR PHYSICIANS	VDOR
LANCET	VAUH VPHH VRMH VRCH VSMH VWH VBHH VWEH VU (Brownless)
MMWR. CDC SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES	VDOR
MMWR. MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLEY REPORT	VDOR
MMWR. SUMMARY OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	VDOR
NATURE	VRCH VAUH VCI VWEH VMOU (Biomedical) VU (Brownless)
NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE	VRMH VPHH VRCH VBHH VWEH VU (Brownless) VDOR
NEW SCIENTIST	VRCH VU (Brownless)
NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH	VWEH
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY	VWH
PARASITE IMMUNOLOGY	VWEH
PEDIATRICS	VRCH

PHYSICS IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY	VRMH
PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	VWEH
SCIENCE	VAUH VRCH VWEH VU (Brownless)
TRENDS IN BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES	VWEH
TRENDS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY	VWEH
TRENDS IN GENETICS	VWEH
TRENDS IN NEUROSCIENCES	VWEH
VIRUS INFORMATION EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC	VDOR
WORLD MEETINGS	VRCH

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES 1990

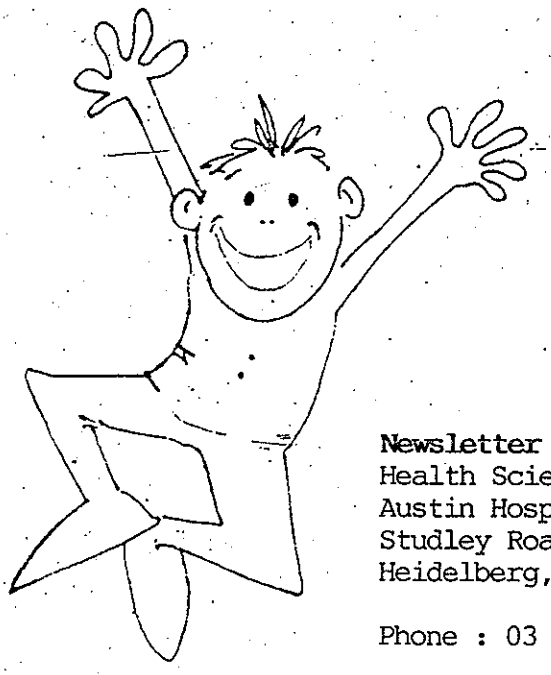
Contributions to the **Newsletter** will be most welcome. The proposed deadlines are as follows:

August 1/8/90
November 31/10/90

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Rates:

Full page $60.00
Half page $30.00
Quarter page $15.00



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