



CANCER
LIBRARIANS
SECTION

NEWS



Issue No. 13

MARCH 1993

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

MLA IN THE WINDY CITY

I hope as many of you as possible will be attending MLA this year. The overall program looks good. Our section program sounds good too, thanks to our Chair-Elect, Paul Kittle, who is from the Medical Library & Information Center, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA. He will be speaking, from personal experience, about the pros and cons of developing a database. The one Paul has been involved in developing is devoted to proton beam therapy, a relatively new type of radiation therapy.

The business meeting for the Cancer Librarians Section is to be held the Monday morning of the Annual Meeting, and the section program is scheduled for Monday afternoon. If there are items you particularly want to have addressed during the business meeting, please let me know. You can contact me by phone: (617-632-3508), FAX: (617-632-2488), or e-mail: (christine_fleuriel@dfci.harvard.edu).

When I became Chair-Elect, it was with no small amount of trepidation. I'd been a member of the section only two years and had never attended any of the business or section meetings and didn't know anyone. Well, I shouldn't have worried. I have had plenty of support and guidance, and it's been a great way to meet and get to know people in the section. I'd like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all who helped me.

Unfortunately, as much as I was looking forward to attending MLA this year, I will be unable to be with you. My husband and I are expecting the arrival of our first child just about the time MLA is meeting, and it seemed a better idea to stay near home.

Enjoy Chicago, and maybe I'll see you in '94.

Chris Fleuriel Chairperson,
Cancer Librarians Section

CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION

Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials Survey

OFFICERS 1992/93

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Last issue's survey on OJCCT yielded 10 responses, and only 4 of these libraries are current subscribers to this electronic journal. Advertised as containing the "highest quality peer reviewed research... and capabilities far beyond printed journals," this venture into electronic publishing has not completely lived up to its expectations. As noted on one of the survey responses, as of the end of 1992, there were only 30 documents in the journal, and only 8 of these were original articles. The remainder are reprints, letters, editorials, corrections and a book review.

I recently confirmed with AAAS (American Society for the Advancement of Science), one of the publishers of the journal, that no new articles appeared between late December, 1992 and February 24, 1993. A new article did appear on February 25; however, it is fairly lengthy, and it took over 40 minutes to download it onto my hard drive. The cost for retrieving this one article was \$5.33. OCLC informed me that I was doing everything correctly, but that the system is slow. Fortunately, connect hour rates are low.

AAAS indicated that the number of current subscribers cannot be divulged. They said that a subscription to the journal will increase from the 1992 rate of \$110 to rate of \$120 for 1993.

None of the subscribing libraries who answered the survey indicated any patron use of the journal. Two of the libraries were displaying the list of documents in OJCCT on the library's Bulletin Board, and the third library publicized the journal's existence at Medical Staff Education Committee meetings.

The Online Journal's latest development is its availability through Internet. A new set of software was recently sent to subscribers who wish to cut down on telecommunication charges by accessing the journal in this way.

Karen Albert,
Fox Chase Cancer Center

MLA COURSE HIGHLIGHTS:

NEW JCAHO STANDARDS

MLA will offer a one-day course that explains and interprets the new information management standards proposed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). NP 108, "Continuous Quality Improvement and the Hospital Library," will be taught by Christiane Jones on Saturday, May 15, 1993 at MLA's 93d Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The continuing education course will examine the three initiatives that make up JCAHO's "Agenda for Change" and how these initiatives will affect the hospital library. Participants will learn how to apply JCAHO developed methods of quality improvement to their own libraries, as well as how to contribute to their hospitals' overall continuous quality improvement programs.

Ms. Jones, who is chief, Library services, at the VA Medical Center in Biloxi, MS, says of the standards,

"The proposed information management chapter of the JCAHO Accreditation Manual for Hospitals offers librarians many opportunities to demonstrate the contributions we make to patient care. I believe the proposed standards are stronger than previous standards, even though they are not prescriptive, and that health sciences librarians can thrive in the integrated information environment they will create."

The 1994 draft standards emphasize functions and activities that affect patient care, as opposed to focusing on specific hospital departments.

For further information, contact Reneta E. Webb at MLA, 312-419-9094.

SECTIONS' TABLE AT MLA

The Communications Committee of Section Council is planning a Sections' Table at the MLA Annual Meeting in Chicago. This will provide an opportunity for sections to display brochures, publications, and membership information. During the hours of expected high traffic, it will be important that the table be staffed by representatives of the various sections. These people need not be section officers, but need to agree to staff the table for one hour. Each section is asked to select two of the hours suggested below for coverage, but will only be asked to actually cover one of the two hours.

Times available are as follows:

Days	Hours			
Sunday	12-1	1-2		
Monday	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1
Tuesday	12-1	1-2		

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our Section Council Representative: Margaret Vugrin, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Library, Lubbock, TX 79430
phone: 806-743-2241
fax: 806-743-2186

CANCER CENTER LIBRARY RESEARCH TO BE PRESENTED AT MLA

How often have you phoned a colleague in a comparable Cancer Research library to learn whether they have local access to MEDLINE or if they are pursuing the development of an Integrated Library System?

When budget time rolls around, do you get on the Internet surveying others to find out about journal budgets, staffing ratios, ILL traffic - so that you have justifications from a parallel institution?

Are you part of your Center's Computing and Information Services team? To whom do you report? Is your Core Grant up for renewal this year? Do you have a 12,000 square foot library - or a cubbie hole?

Inquiring minds want to know!

Sharing answers to questions such as these is critical for those of us who are managing and staffing Cancer Libraries. Not only is a little professional camaraderie stimulating, but knowing what the other Cancer Center Libraries are doing (or facing) provides direction and justification for each of us. More so than ever since the passage of the National Cancer Act, our libraries face numerous unique and complex challenges. Many of the issues we deal with are different from those of our colleagues in strictly clinical or academic environments. Our small professional staffs, usually with highly specialized collections and limited or restricted funding, must maximize services to a diverse and sophisticated clinical, research, student, and consumer clientele.

A thorough review of the professional literature and conversations with several of you revealed that no exhaustive study of this group of libraries had been undertaken and that the information would be welcome and have broad relevance for many applications. I raised the idea of a survey of our group at the Cancer Librarians Section Business Meeting at MLA in Washington, D.C., 1992. It was well received by those present.

As a result, Heidi Heilemann (a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Washington, Seattle) and I have undertaken a project to collect and analyze comparative data about library services and resources at NCI-designated Cancer Research Centers. Together we designed a survey instrument and mailed it to 55 Centers. Chris Fleuriel of Dana-Farber, Karen Albert of Fox Chase, and Mary Edith Walker of St. Jude Children's all provided expertise, experience, and constructive appraisal of our preliminary survey.

Survey questions specifically addressed:

institutional demographics, library administration and personnel, funding sources and fiscal resources, institutional network and computing environment, library operations, and user services.

We hope that you will join us when we present preliminary results of our work in Chicago at the 1993 MLA Annual Meeting, during the contributed papers session, Research in Health Sciences II: Innovative Research Methodology, Monday afternoon, May 17.

We also expect to make the data collected for this project available for librarians who may want to request reports customized to their needs. We plan to suggest that the Cancer Librarians Section take on the responsibility for updating this base of information every one to three years.

Eve M. Ruff

Head of Library Services Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

SECTION AND MLA BUSINESS RELATIONS

At the 1991 Midwinter Finance Committee Meeting an analysis of the legal issues involving the Medical Library Association and its individual sections was presented. Historically, sections offered fewer programs, society was less litigious and tax laws were simpler. Therefore, sections and MLA had a more informal relationship. Now is the time however, to examine these interrelationships in order to strengthen the organization as well as to avoid legal or business problems.

The basic legal relationship between sections and MLA is defined by the association's bylaws, history, and culture. While it is the policy of MLA to provide considerable autonomy and responsibility to sections, these sources indicate that sections are part of the corporate and legal entity of the Medical Library Association, Inc. This means that from a legal perspective, **sections and MLA are one single legal entity**. This legal concept lays the foundation to address a range of legal, tax and business issues. For example, if a section did not pay a bill from its annual meeting, MLA could legally be held liable for this non-payment.

Regarding tax matters, the IRS treats sections and MLA as one tax entity. This means that sections must abide by tax regulations for 501 (c) (3) organizations. Violations will place MLA's tax exemption status at risk. In order to comply, MLA will need to gather uniform financial data from sections, specialized forms will be designed for this purpose, similar to annual reports.

Business issues that will be addressed include: contractual obligations, fund raising, insurance coverage, section programs, directory listings, section standards, section newsletters and legal documents.

The recommendations that came out of the Midwinter meeting include the following actions:

1. The above information will be shared with section leaders.
2. MLA staff and section council will develop a gathering and reporting mechanism for financial information.
3. MLA staff and section council should examine business issues and develop guidelines only where necessary and appropriate.

Excerpted from:

Medical Library Association Section and MLA Business Relations.
December 1992.

BOOK REVIEW

Turk, Dennis C. and Caryn S. Feldman:
NONINVASIVE APPROACHES TO PAIN MANAGEMENT IN THE TERMINALLY ILL.
Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, 1992 (also published as *The Hospice Journal* v. 8, numbers 1/2 1992). ISBN 1-56024-300-7 (hard bound); 1-56024-301-5 (soft bound). \$44.95 (hard), \$35.95 (soft)

Pain is a significant problem in any facility which treats cancer. While many of the efforts to control pain focus on pharmacological methods, this book looks at other possibilities. It emphasizes psychological means of pain control, but it also covers cutaneous stimulation. Some chapters deal specifically with cancer patients, while others are more general.

The book would have profited from more careful proofreading by a human being; examples from p. 2: "used to improve comfort at [and?] quality" "requires skil[ed?] management". Unfortunately, this kind of error is seen increasingly in all types of books. In spite of this failing, I believe the book would be worthwhile in any facility treating advanced cancer.

Mary Edith Walker
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Cancer Librarians Section NEWS is published three times a year by the Cancer Librarians Section of the Medical Library Association. It is distributed to Section members as part of membership benefits; others may subscribe for \$5 per year. Contributions or requests for information should go to:
Karen Albert, Newsletter Editor, Talbot Research Library, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA 19111.

The newsletter is designed, produced and distributed by Co-Editor Margaret Vugrin, Library of the Health Sciences, Texas Tech University. Desk top publishing is accomplished through the use of Pagemaker 4.2

VOYAGE TO BYZANTIUM

The travelers in this excellent videotape are all people with cancer. Adults of different backgrounds and perspectives, they are at different stages in their journey. But they have all faced the greatest challenge of their lives and have found depths of courage and strength.

The poet, William Butler Yeats, wrote of Byzantium, the holy city of the imagination, a symbol of triumph over time and death. "Voyage to Byzantium" provides practical information about therapies, testing, and other facets of the journey made by those who are diagnosed with cancer. This information is delivered within a powerful message of hope. It is intended to encourage, comfort, and uplift its viewers.

The 28-minute videotape was produced by the Memphis Cancer Center Foundation, of whose board I recently became a member. I was personally impressed and touched when I saw it, and I recommend it for any cancer library.

Order information:

Total price per tape: \$18 (includes postage)

Make check payable to:
The Memphis Cancer Center Foundation

Mail prepaid order to:
Shirley Stagner
The Memphis Cancer Center Foundation
1068 Cresthaven #500
Memphis, TN 38119

Mary Edith Walker,
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

**CANCER SECTION, MLA
OFFICIAL BALLOT
1993**

CHAIR-ELECT:

_____ **Mary Edith Walker**
Biomedical Library
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, TN
(Former Newsletter Editor)

_____ **Other** _____

SECRETARY:

- **Mary Sprague**
Health Sciences Library
_____ **The Ohio State University**
Columbus, OH
(Current Secretary, Bylaws allow a second term)

_____ **Other** _____

MLA NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

-
_____ **Other** _____

Please mark your ballot and return to the nominating committee by April 15. The new officers will be announced at the MLA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Return to: Dottie Hawthorne
Special Projects Coordinator
Mayo Medical Library
200 First St. S.W.
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CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWS

c/o Texas Tech University
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