FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It seems traditional for the chair to tell a little bit about his/her institution. This issue I am including a blurb about Loma Linda. Loma Linda University and Medical Center are the educational and research hubs for the Adventist Health System—a health care network comprised of nearly 500 institutions worldwide. Loma Linda University Medical Center and its predecessor, Loma Linda Sanitarium, have served the Southern California area since 1905. Personally founded by one of the early leaders of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, it remains the training facility for health science students at Loma Linda University.

Databases at Loma Linda University and Medical Center include its Tumor Registry and the ProLIT database of particle-beam research. The Tumor Registry has been in existence since 1947 and is a charter member of the California Tumor Registry.

Recent additions to cancer care at Loma Linda University Medical Center include the world's first proton-beam accelerator dedicated to medical treatment, cancer research, and education within a hospital setting. A Cancer Research Institute is under construction to enhance our goal of being a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Moving into this new building will be the Medical Center's Medical Library & Information Center, of which I am Director.

In closing, I wanted to mention that MLA is really getting on the Internet bandwagon. Recently, my mid-winter report was due (it was a little late), and I

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CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION

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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, Phila., 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.
SECTION MEMBERS NEWS

Our chairperson, Paul Kittle, will become an international traveler again this January when he makes his second trip to Kasturba Medical College in Manipal, India. As part of Loma Linda University’s faculty exchange program with Kasturba, Paul became involved in helping to automate the Indian institution’s medical library. Officials at Kasturba have been so impressed with Paul’s assistance that they named a section of the library after him. The computerization project has allowed the library there to provide access to full text journal articles on computer four months before the actual journals arrive in the mail. According to an administrator at Loma Linda, the medical officials at Kasturba think Paul is “the greatest thing in the world.” During his stay in India, Paul will be working on CD Plus installation and training, CD-ROM networking, electronic security systems for the library, networking existing hospital databases, and many other projects. Paul comments, “Think I’ll be busy enough?”

Eve Ruff, Director of Library Services at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, recently received a $56,000 supplemental CORE grant from NCI to purchase a Sun systems server and 8 Macintosh workstations to use in implementing a Gopher at the Fred Hutchinson Campus Wide Information System. She reports that they are probably going to implement Mosaic on top of the gopher. The gopher is presently under construction and is oriented towards distribution of internal information, but it also has all of the standard and creative links to the Internet world. It is in the early stage of development, but can be reached by pointing to gopher.fred.fhcrc.org (standard port 70) with client software. This effort is a collaborative project of the Library and the Biocomputing Shared Resource in the Basic Sciences Division and was initiated under the auspices of the Center Computing Advisory Committee. Mike Parker, Manager of Biocomputing, wrote the grant proposal along with Eve.

NOTE: If you would like to report news from your library or about your accomplishments, publications, grants received, etc., please write, fax, or e-mail:

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Plans are already in place for our section’s program and business meeting at the MLA Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The program will take place on Tuesday, May 17 from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

Topic: Cancer on the Internet
Speakers: Eve Ruff, Head, Library Services, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Rosemary Laidacker, Associate Director, Texas Cancer Data Center, Houston

The Internet offers medical librarians fast and powerful access to information about cancer treatment and research. The first speaker will present an overview of the different kinds of information available from telnet sites, listservs, and gopher. She will also address the possibility of an Internet information sharing forum for the Cancer Librarians Section. The second speaker will describe the Texas Cancer Data Center, which provides information on health facilities and services, cancer statistics, population and community resources in Texas. She will explain how this information is collected and made available to others.

The section's business meeting will be on Sunday, May 15, from 3:30 until 5:00 p.m. We hope to see all of you at both the business meeting and the program.

Mary Edith Walker
St. Jude’s Childrens Research Hospital
NP 410 - "Searching the PDQ Database for Novice and Advanced Users will be offered at MLA's 1994 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX on Saturday, May 14.

PDQ has changed substantially within the last two years. The menu structure has changed to make the menus more descriptive of database content, and strong additions to content have made the database an outstanding source of up-to-date cancer treatment information for patients and physicians. PDQ now contains guidelines for screening and prevention for the most common types of cancers, as well as a list of registered mammography centers. An expanded supportive care file for management of side effects of cancer treatment is currently being written, and a new drug file for investigational drugs has just been made available.

In addition to searching the database online, PDQ information is also available through several other communication media; FAX, Internet, and CD-ROM. PDQ's CancerFAX is now the industry standard for all information systems which supply information through fax-on-demand systems.

All of these changes have taken place since the last time a PDQ course was offered at MLA's Annual Meeting in 1992. The morning session includes an in-depth presentation of the database content, plus online demonstrations and hands-on practice. The afternoon session for advanced students includes information on special searching problems and extensive online practice in which you will be challenged to do complex searches. Each session is worth four MLA contact hours.

Both sessions have limited seating, so early registration is recommended. Look for your Preliminary Program in January for complete details on this course and many others. If you have any questions about this course, please call the professional development department at 312/419-9094.
NEW TOOLS FOR KEEPING CURRENT

The Informed Librarian

This Table of Contents service for librarians covers 130+ domestic and international library and information-related journals on a monthly basis. Titles covered include everything from Virtual Reality World to The One-Person Library and the Wilson Library Bulletin. Since it's impossible to subscribe to all of the relevant titles these days, this is a valuable tool for maintaining currency in a broad range of areas. Medical and health sciences library journals are covered, as well as journals devoted to the Internet and electronic documents.

The Informed Librarian even has an article delivery service covering most of the journals included in the monthly issues. Most articles cost $10 plus any applicable copyright fees. Published by Infosources Publishing, 140 Norma Road, Teaneck, N.J. 07666, subscriptions to The Informed Librarian are available for $99/year. Editor, Arlene L. Eis, reports that sample issues are available upon request.

DOODY’S HEALTH SCIENCES BOOK REVIEW JOURNAL

This unforgettable title is a new tool for assisting librarians in making collection development decisions. Covering the major publishers of English language professional and preprofessional health sciences books and nonprint material, Doody’s Journal employs reviewers who thoroughly survey each new book. Besides providing a list of detailed bibliographic information including number of pages, chapters, illustrations, tables, references, index entries, etc.; the reviews include an overall assessment of the book and a quantitative rating. Reviewers, who are academic specialists in designated areas, are only given 4 weeks to complete a review, so that critical assessments of books can be available as early as 9 weeks after a book’s publication. It is the aim of Doody’s Journal to provide reviews of books that are between 2 and 6 months old.

Since medical books are so expensive, a tool of this sort can provide valuable assistance to selectors in helping them decide on the best books to purchase to suit patron needs. An annual subscription to Doody’s costs $195. To place a subscription, contact:

Doody Publishing, Inc.
1145 Westgate Street, Suite 200
Oak Park, IL 60631-9918
800-219-9500

CANCER-L Listserv

This relatively new discussion group was mentioned in the October MLA News, without any explanation of its scope or content. Further investigation resulted in only a little more information. The e-mailed review command produced a reply, “This list is a public list for the discussion of CANCER-related topics.” The last few months of messages seem to be mostly from survi-
NEW TOOLS continued.

vors, patients, and foreign physicians seeking information on the latest trends and treatments in cancer. At least the CancerNet people seem to read the messages, and they respond to some of the questions with detailed information from PDQ/CancerNet.

If you have any interest in subscribing to this list, type: “subscribe listname yourname”. The listserv address is:

LISTSERV@WVNVM.BITNET

Request the Instructions and Contents List for a listing of the User Guide components and codes. It is also available as an ASCII text file by anonymous FTP from the National Library of Medicine (ftp nlmpubs.nlm.nih.gov). Login as nlmpubs using your email address as the password. The file is in the online directory (cd online) under the name pdq.txt.

To access CancerNet, send a mail message to:

cancernet@icicb.nci.nih.gov

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the mail message, enter HELP to receive the instructions and most current contents list. If you have a problem accessing CancerNet, please call 1-301-496-7403.

CancerNet statements are available in Spanish. To request the Instructions and Contents List in Spanish, enter SPANISH in the body of the mail message. If you would like to request the statements in Spanish, substitute the prefix "cs-" in front of the number (e.g., cs-100022 to receive the statement on anal cancer in Spanish). All of the physician, patient, and supportive care statements are available in Spanish. Selected news articles marked with a "#" in the Contents List are available in Spanish.

CancerNet is available on the NIH gopher server. Point gopher client soft-
NEW TOOLS continued.

ware to gopher.nih.gov, or telnet to a public access site. Select #3 Health and Clinical Information, and #1 CancerNet information. For a listing of other sites where CancerNet information is available, request Redistribution of CancerNet (cn-400030). This news article also has information on the conditions that apply when redistributing CancerNet information.

Please send comments or questions to:

Cheryl Burg
International Cancer Information Center
Internet: cheryl@icicb.nci.nih.gov

CORRECTION

Due to an oversight in the last issue of the News, Pia Fish was incorrectly listed in our Section Meeting minutes as being affiliated with Harrison Memorial Hospital. Pia currently works at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Continued from page 1.

asked both the MLA section rep. and MLA if I could e-mail it. MLA said YES! They said they wanted to start using e-mail as their main method of communication. So, our section was the first to submit the section report via Internet! We are still examining the feasibility of an Internet list for our section.

Paul Kittle
Loma Linda University
and Medical Center
CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM MLA

The Medical Library Association provides support for the continuing education activities of its members by offering grants which are awarded annually. The purpose of these grants is to provide members with the opportunity to increase their competence in the theoretical, administrative, and/or technical aspects of health sciences librarianship. Grants range from $100 to $500. The Continuing Education Grant Jury (composed of 3 MLA members) evaluates all applications. Applications must be submitted to the Continuing Education Grant Jury chair by February 1, 1994. Contact MLA HEADQUARTERS (312-419-9094) for the CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM.

The Jury Chair for 1993-1994 is:

Judy Consales
Pacific Southwest Region NN/LM
Louise Darling Biomedical Library
10833 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1798
310-825-1200
ecz5con@mvs.oac.ucla.edu

CLINICAL ONCOLOGY BOOKLIST UPDATE

Editor of this annotated bibliography, Susan Michaelson, is getting started on the production of a new list. She very much appreciates the good response received for volunteers to work on the Booklist. Those of you who volunteered can expect to get an assignment from Susan in the next few weeks.

Anyone else interested in working on the upcoming list should contact:

Susan Michaelson
Texas Medical Association Library
401 W. 15th St.
Austin, TX 78701-1680
512-370-1550 (voice)
512-370-1630 (fax)
Certainly you are familiar with the American Cancer Society, but you may not be as familiar with the books they publish for the health professional. These resources are not very well-publicized, and I discovered many of them almost by accident when I telephoned our local American Cancer Society office recently. Their “Professional Education Literature List” is updated annually and lists publications that are appropriate to health care professionals. Since the materials are produced through funds made available through contributions, they are extremely affordable. Most publications are free, but a small charge is made to cover handling, distribution, and mailing.

Most of the Society’s publications are booklets or pamphlets but they also publish a few textbooks. Subject coverage includes general topics, age-related issues, cancer therapies, hospice care, management of side effects, nutrition, pain, psychosocial issues, sexuality, statistics, and cancer prevention. Described below are some of the books that we purchased for the library’s collection.

American Cancer Society Textbook of Clinical Oncology.


This is a comprehensive textbook that includes chapters on cancer statistics and trends, pathologic evaluation, cancer biology, tumor immunology, causes, prevention, diet, supportive care, and more. Chapters are written by leading oncologists and are extensively referenced. It contains many charts and illustrations and is indexed. We had to send this book to our binder for a heavy-duty binding due to its constant use in our reference collection.

A Cancer Source Book for Nurses.


This book, in its fortieth year of publication, is a project undertaken by the Nurses’ Subcommittee of the American Cancer Society and includes the work of many prominent oncology nurses (Susan Baird is Director of Nursing here at Fox Chase). Chapters include: cancer incidence, epidemiology, and biology, approaches to treatment, nursing management, and treatment of specific neoplasms. Additionally, a chapter listing self-help groups and services for cancer patients and their families is included.

Cancer Manual.


This edition marks the 50th anniversary of this publication. It is a concise, general and up-to-date guide covering significant aspects of cancer care.

To order these publications and/or the list, “Professional Education Literature List”, contact your local division of the American Cancer Society.

Beth Lewis
Fox Chase Cancer Center