



CANCER
LIBRARIANS
SECTION

NEWS



Issue No. 16

April 1994

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

One of the mandates MLA has given the sections is to move into the future. Our annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas this year promises to do just that. Eve Ruff, Head, Library Services at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, will be presenting information on Internet services such as listservs and gopher sites. With luck, she will also share with us some of her secrets of success with receiving a major grant from NCI for setting up a gopher server and possible uses of Mosaic. Our other speaker is Rosemary Laidacker, the Associate Director at the Texas Cancer Data Center in Houston. Rosemary will be talking about how they are providing information to folks in Texas on cancer and other health care facilities.

With the exponential growth of the Internet, this program is very timely. I would like to thank Mary Edith Walker for arranging what should be a very exciting, informative, and instructional presentation. Mark your calendars for this coup by our section on Tuesday, May 17 from 10:30 am until noon.

Speaking of business, the ballot for our new officers is in this issue. Please vote and return the ballot as soon as possible. Our incoming officers will want time to prepare for their new duties.

Please forward your issues and items for the business meeting to me before April 15. My e-mail address is pkittle@llu.edu. My voice line is 909 478-8662, and my fax no. is 909 478-4526.

Many years ago, my desire to help get information to people led me from my Marriage, Child and Therapy practice (my first master's degree) to the field of Library & Information ---

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CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION

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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

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Science. Automation has been and continues to be an invaluable tool towards the achievement of this goal. In mid 1993, I was appointed to the directorship of the Office of Campus Network Administration at Loma Linda University. This meant that I had less and less time to also be the Library Director at the University Medical Center. As my duties and responsibilities increase for the campus, I find I have less time for the library. The goal remains the same, however, and I am pleased that the library remains as the centerpiece for the campus network. By the time the Annual Meeting rolls around, it will not only be the end of my tenure as Chair of the Cancer Librarians Section, but most likely, Library Director as well. I hope to still work with you all, my new duties, notwithstanding, of helping to build our campus wide information system, as well as the Loma Linda gophers and Mosaic servers.

I would like to thank all those who helped me during my two years as Chair-elect and Chair of the section. Two more years and I think I could get it all! I look forward to seeing you all in Texas. Maybe this year we can get Chris to show off her little helper!

Sincerely,

Paul Kittle
Chairperson,
Cancer Librarians Section.

CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION EVENTS AT MLA

Mark your calendars, and plan to attend the following
at the San Antonio Annual Meeting:

Cancer Librarians Section Business Meeting

Sunday, May 15 - 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Cancer Librarians Section Program:

CANCER ON THE INTERNET

Tuesday, May 17 - 10:30 am - 12 noon

Speakers:

Eve Ruff, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Rosemary Laidacker, Texas Cancer Data Center

Moderator:

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

MLA HOSTS '94 MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO

As you probably know, MLA will hold its Ninety-fourth Annual Meeting on May 13-18, 1994, at the San Antonio Convention Center in San Antonio, TX. Entitled "Emerging Roles, Enduring Values," MLA '94 offers you a wide choice of concurrent programming and timely insight from leaders in the health, information, and education fields.

Featured speakers include June E. Osborn, M.D., former chair of the U.S. National Commission on AIDS; Nina W. Matheson, widely recognized as a pioneer and innovator in health sciences information; Ed Krol, one of the most well-known proponents of the Internet and a computing communications expert for the past twenty years; and attorney, Sarah Weddington, longtime women's advocate and former member of the Texas House of Representatives.

Meet the vendors that serve health information professionals and institutions, as they demonstrate their companies' latest products and services at popular "Lunch and Learn" educational workshops, and test these offerings firsthand as you tour MLA's Hall of Exhibits, an annual meeting highlight.

All three participating hotels—the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk, and the Hilton Palacio del Rio—are within a short walk of the Convention Center and one another. For registration information about the meeting, contact :

MLA headquarters
Suite 300
Six N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60602-4805
312-419-9094

BRUSH UP ON COPYRIGHT LAW AT UPCOMING MLA MEETING

Knowledge of current copyright law is vital to your job if you disseminate information for your institution. MLA is pleased to offer a course on this subject on Friday, May 13, 1994, at the association's Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

NP 400, Copyright Law in the Age of Technology, will provide an overview of the current status of copyright laws, emphasizing the unique operating and ethical problems encountered by librarians. Participants in this full-day course will explore the Copyright Act and its amendments, rights of the copyright owner, fair use of copyrighted materials, libraries and photocopying, audiovisual and other technologies, library users of electronic databases, and future developments. Laura N. Gasaway, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will be the instructor.

If you cannot attend MLA '94 but need information on copyright law, order MLA's Copyright Law and the Health Sciences Librarian. Organized to make copyright law accessible to the practicing librarian or technician, this informational booklet can be obtained by contacting the Medical Library Association, Suite 300, Six N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60602-4805; 312/419-9094.

ASM JOURNALS ON CD-ROM

The American Society for Microbiology now has the full text of ten of its titles available on CD-ROM by monthly subscription. A special year-end archival disc is also produced for each title. Available titles include: Molecular and Cellular Biology, Journal of Virology, Journal of Bacteriology, Infection and Immunity, Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, and several others.

ASM journals on CD allow access to information in two forms; the original text in ASCII format, and images of the original pages in which text and graphics are fully integrated. The two forms are linked so that one can move easily between them. ASM journals on CD have a browse function permitting scanning of the table of contents to select an article and display it onscreen. From the ASCII text display, it is possible to toggle an image of each page of the article and even take a closer look at a chart or graph by zooming in and enlarging it up to 1000%. Page images with graphs, charts, and photos can be printed on a laser printer. Color images are included for display only. The retrieval software allows searching by many fields; e.g., author, full-text words, volume or issue. Boolean operators, wildcard searching, and adjacency are all features of the software. The software is available in IBM or Macintosh versions.

The Talbot Research Library at the Fox Chase Cancer Center has taken the plunge this year by instituting a CD-ROM subscription to the Journal of Bacteriology in place of our print subscription. We loaded the CD onto a new public access workstation which will also be used for other CD products, along with end user searching of Medline and other databases. Our order for the Journal of Bacteriology on CD was delayed, but we finally received our first disc of the year. If users accept this mode of access to the journal, we will consider placing subscriptions to the other titles produced by ASM. At the very least, this experiment with electronic journals will give us an idea of the problems and benefits inherent in this new mode of publishing.

Please share your experiences with other full text CD products by writing me with your thoughts:

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MLA ISSUES HEALTH CARE REFORM STATEMENT

The Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors (AAHSLD) have developed a joint statement, "Health Care Reform and the Health Sciences Librarian: Excellence in Health through Access to Information." The statement stresses the importance of comprehensive and timely information in the delivery of health care and advocates the involvement of health sciences librarians in any proposed reform of the U.S. health care system.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, chair of the White House Task Force for Health Care Reform, emphasized the need for an information management component in U.S. health care policy when she addressed the New York Library Association and the Ontario Library Association in November 1993: "Doctors use libraries to make life-saving decisions. I think librarians can help make legislative decisions as well, and that is why I enlist your support in this effort."

MLA and AAHSLD's key recommendations are summarized below.

According to MLA Executive Director, Carla J. Funk, "Quality health care is a complex endeavor that relies heavily on information from many sources. As developers and managers of knowledge-based information systems, health sciences librarians play essential roles in supporting the delivery of effective clinical care, medical research, and the education of health professionals."

- * The National Information Infrastructure should be expanded to include all libraries and to ensure basic information access for all health care providers. A computerized health information infrastructure will improve quality and reduce costs.

Health sciences libraries are natural nodes in this network, because librarians have long been leaders in applying technology and promoting its use by health care providers. Librarians are already involved in high-performance computing and communications initiatives that will enhance health care and information delivery.

- * Library and information services should be extended through outreach to underserved health care providers in urban and rural areas. Access to information reduces professional isolation, improves the quality of decision making, and reduces health care costs.

- * The cost of information should be factored into reimbursement programs. Informed decisions contribute to high-quality, cost-effective health care.

The production and distribution of health care literature and effective access to that literature provide a "knowledge infrastructure" for the professionals who make these decisions and for patients and health care consumers who are assuming increasing responsibility for their own health. Because information systems support informed health care decision making nationwide, the cost of maintaining and further developing these information systems should be factored into the reimbursable costs associated with optimal care.

* The National Library of Medicine's (NLM) leadership role should be sustained. NLM's National Network of Libraries of Medicine comprises more than 3,500 hospital and academic health sciences libraries nationwide. It is a network of information that supports networks of health care. NLM also maintains the world's preeminent collection of biomedical literature and provides systems to make it accessible. It supports research that determines the choice, development, and use of health information systems and the continued training of health sciences libraries.

The complete statement, "Health Care Reform and the Health Sciences Librarian," appears on pp. 15-19 of the January, 1994 issue of the MLA News.

Call for Submissions: A New Docket from the Medical
Library Association

**Descriptive Floor Plans of
Microcomputer Centers in Libraries**

This DocKit will include valuable details about size, setting, connections and services for academic, hospital and special libraries. Whether your patrons use a small cluster of two or more computers, or a large network, be sure your Center is included.

If you are interested in sharing floor plans of your microcomputer center, and are willing to complete a brief survey, please contact:
Robert J. Veenstra
Health Science Libraries, Pyrotek Center
Hartford Hospital
80 Seymour St.
Hartford, CT 06102-5037
(203) 545-2430 FAX (203) 545-2415
Internet via: kdaigle@neuron.uchc.edu

**CANCER SECTION, MLA
OFFICIAL BALLOT
1994**

CHAIR-ELECT:

_____ Eve Ruff
Library Services
Fred Hutchinson Cancer
Research Center
Seattle, WA

_____ OTHER

SECRETARY:

_____ Barbara Bertram
Library and Information Services
Glaxo, Inc.
Reserach Triangle Park, NC

_____ OTHER

MLA NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

_____ Pamela Ashley
Medical Center Library
Louisiana State University
E.A. Conway Medical Center
Monroe, LA

_____ 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 San Antonio.

RETURN TO:

Chris Fleuriel
Professional Staff Library
Dana Farber Cancer Institute
JFB 415
44 Binney Street
Boston, MA 02115

CLINICAL ONCOLOGY: A SELECTED LIST OF NEW BOOKS 1992-94

The anticipated publication date for the new 1992-94 edition of: **CLINICAL ONCOLOGY: A SELECTED LIST OF NEW BOOKS** is the May 15 meeting of the Cancer Librarians Section at the MLA Annual Meeting in San Antonio. This list is a review of current clinical oncology texts. Full citations, price approximations, journal review locations, and Brandon/Hill list information are given for each title. Also included is a review including audience, focus of the text, and other information which would help in the selection of cancer books.

The publication will cost \$10 per copy. To pre-order, submit a check made payable to: **MLA-Cancer Librarians Section** and forward to:

Susan J. Michaelson
Texas Medical Association Library
401 West 15th Street
Austin, TX 78701-1680

512-370-1541

Please mail a copy of :

CLINICAL ONCOLOGY: A SELECTED LIST OF NEW BOOKS 1992-94 to:

Name: _____

Organization _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Texas Tech University
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Lubbock, TX 79430

Lubbock, TX 79430
Reference Department
Health Sciences Center Library
c/o Texas Tech University
CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWS

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