FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

MEETING CHALLENGES

As I write this column, I'm beginning my last week of full time work as a librarian. I know that the new year will bring many challenges (not the least of which is getting serious about housework!), but at the moment, I'm not sure what all of them are. I do know that challenges provide growth and that being too comfortable does not.

Many librarians are feeling plenty of discomfort in their jobs: loss of funding and staff, the necessity for upgrading computer skills and dealing with bugs in new systems, continually needing to justify your role to you administration are just some of the more common examples. At times, these seem to be worthwhile challenges, but at other times they seem mere annoyances.

One way to deal with the need for challenge and growth is to accept new challenges. It may seem impossible when everyday problems loom large, but it is a way of keeping things in perspective. Librarians come to the field excited about the possibilities of obtaining and distributing information, but we often lose that excitement in the minutia of daily routines. Recapturing the excitement reminds us of why the daily routines are necessary.

Professional organizations are all about accepting challenges. We can accomplish togethers far more than we can do on our own. We can learn from each other more than we can learn sitting in our libraries. We can develop skills in a nurturing environment - skills in leadership, public speaking, computer use, writing and editing, and working with elected representatives and vendors.

My challenge this year is to make your membership in the Cancer Librarians Section an opportunity for personal and professional growth. Use the listserv to communicate with other cancer librarians ON A REGULAR BASIS. Volunteer to edit the newsletter, hold an office, contribute reviews to the Clinical Oncology List, or present a paper at MLA. Lead a team to communicate with NCI about our ability to promote their informational products and about our need for continued grant support. Take the Oncology CE course, then volunteer to be an instructor.

Finally, I'd like to thank those who have accepted the challenges this year: all the officers of the section and those who agreed to run and serve next year; Karen Albert and Margaret Vugrin for excellent work in editing the newsletter; Eve Ruff for setting up a listserv for us and for arranging our program at MLA; Dottie Maucione for designing a brochure for our section; Ann Marie Clark, who chaired the Nominating Committee, and Committee members, Karen Albert, and Stephanie Lipow; and Amy Butros, who is revising the Oncology CE course. It's been a joy working with you, and I wish you all the best in years to come.

Mary Edith Walker
CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION

OFFICERS 1994/95

Mary Edith Walker, Chair
388 Sherburne Cove
Cordova, TN 38018
901-754-9263

Eve Ruff, Chair-elect
Library Services - B1-010
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1124 Columbia Street
Seattle, WA 98104-2092
206-667-6845 FAX: 206-667-4737
eruff@fred.hcra.org

Barbara Bertram, Secretary
Library & Information Services
Glaxo Inc.
Five Moore Drive
Research Tri. Park, NC 27709
919-990-5391 FAX: 919-990-5328

Gayle J. Aboye, Treasurer
Medical & Scientific Library
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Elm and Carlton Streets
Buffalo, NY 14263-0001
716-845-5966 FAX: 716-845-8699
ablove@sc3101.med.buffalo.edu

Karen Albert, Newsletter Editor
Talbot Research Library
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Phila., PA 19111
215-728-2711 FAX: 215-728-3655
albert@hslc.org

Margaret Vugrin, Section Council Rep. and
Newsletter Co-Editor
Library of the Health Sciences
Texas Tech University
Health Sciences Center
Lubbock, TX 79430
806-743-2241 FAX:806-743-2218
m.vugrin@ttu.edu

Dorothy Maucione, Section Council
Alternate
Medical Library
Calvary Hospital
1740 Eastchester Road
Bronx, NY 10461
212-518-2229 FAX: 212-518-2676
dmaucione@life.jsc.nasa.gov

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. Desktop publishing is accomplished through the use of PageMaker 4.2.
CANCER SECTION PROGRAMMING FOR WASHINGTON

Here is our program information. I hope to see many of you there - it should be excellent:

"Healthcare Reformation — The OncoLink Saga"

Speaker: E. Loren Buhle, Jr. Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Medical Physics in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine,

Session Abstract:

This talk will discuss the motivation and creation of OncoLink, a cancer information resource for patients, physicians, healthcare workers and other interested parties on the Internet. OncoLink was created and championed single-handedly, using existing resources and no budget, to bring multimedia and hypertext information to 8-10 million people throughout the world. OncoLink averages 13,000 access per day from more than 92 countries.

This talk will cover the technical strategies of serving thousands of complex, intertwined documents to users with a wide educational background. The talk will explore the political realities of making available frank, balanced clinical and psychosocial information regarding cancer to the general population. Simple guidelines for putting together a resource will be discussed, as well as the general concept of putting medical information into the hands of consumers so they can take responsibility for their own healthcare.

If you have any questions about this program — or if you have any agenda items for the business meeting, please let me know. With Mary Edith's retirement, that means that I will be chairing the meeting. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Eve M. Ruff, M.S.
Head of Library Services
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1124 Columbia Street B1 - 010
Seattle, WA 98104

eruff@fred.hccrc.org
206.667.6845
206.667.4737 (fax)
MLA DOCKIT FOR SEARCH TECHNIQUES EXAMPLES NEEDS YOU

Finding appropriate and consistent examples for use in end-user instruction can be a very time consuming activity. The purpose of this DocKit, Electronic Searching of the Health Sciences Literature: Examples for End-User Instruction, is to provide tried and true examples which illustrate effective techniques in searching from various health science databases and providers. The completed DocKit will provide quick access to proven examples for use in end-user instruction.

The following categories represent the content breakdown for examples to be included:

Databases: MEDLINE, CINAHL, PSYCINFO, HEALTH, CANCER

Illustration of: Use of MeSH subject headings, subheadings, Boolean operators, keyword searching, field searching, positional operators, limiting to languages, years, etc.

Systems: NLM, Grateful Med, CD Plus, SilverPlatter, Compact Cambridge, Dialog, CDP Technologies

Audience Level: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced

A printout of the search strategy must be included with each example submitted.

Credit will be given to individual authors.

For information for submitting examples please contact:

Stephanie Fulton
Scott & White Hospital
Temple, Texas 76508
(817)724-2379
Email: sf4574@acs.tamu.edu

Barbara Henry
Scott & White Hospital
Temple, Texas 76508
(817)724-2230
Email: pww574@tamvm1.tamu.edu
DEVELOPMENT OF A CANCER PATIENT EDUCATION TOOL: ONE LIBRARY’S EXPERIENCE

Patient education is becoming an important part of the medical process, due to a number of factors such as consumer demand, the need for compliance with difficult regimes, and for consent or legal requirements. JCAHO has also placed a new emphasis on patient/family education. Patient education materials can run the gamut from purchased pamphlets to interactive computer programs to in-house production of materials. Medical libraries can play an important role in the patient education area through identification, evaluation, and even the creation of patient education tools.

The ValleyCare Health Library and Cancer Resource Center participated in the development of such a tool for cancer patients. The need for a tool was recognized by the library through its contacts with patients and family members within the cancer resource setting. Nurses also saw a need and were anxious to start a project. The library director formed a multidisciplinary task force to evaluate the needs of the community cancer patient and the type of educational tool that would best meet those needs. The committee included members from such areas as home health, oncology, pharmacology, medical/surgical, dietary, and hospice. The task force explored the idea of an educational tool that could be tailored to the individual’s cancer, treatment, and symptoms while also allowing for insurance record keeping, notes from health professionals and legal matters. The concept of a three-ring binder with front and back pockets to hold various types of information was decided upon. Sections developed for the binder were:

- History/Assessment
- Treatment Summaries
- Disease Information
- Symptom Control
- Early Detection/Continued Awareness
- Legal Matters
- Local Resources
- Notes

By using pamphlets and inserts, patients could fill the binder with information that suited their needs and unique cancer. The library supplied access to free pamphlets from various cancer-related organizations. The library also supplied reproducible patient teaching materials to be used as inserts. Other inserts were written by the committee using resources from the library collection.

After developing the concept of a binder, the committee applied for a grant from a local community organization. The grant paid for the costs of producing the binder, ensuring that the binder could be distributed to cancer patients in the community regardless of doctor or hospital affiliation.

Today the library remains the center of distribution for the binder, pamphlets and inserts. Binder and contents are routinely distributed to the hospital nursing staff, home health, oncology office, the local American Cancer Society, community support groups and individuals who visit the library and cancer resource center.

In evaluating the project, the following advantages to the library were evident:

- Library art logo and colors were used on the binder.
- Increased library’s marketing value to the community.
DEVELOPMENT OF A CANCER PATIENT EDUCATION TOOL: ONE LIBRARY'S EXPERIENCE cont’d.

Demonstrated the library’s informational sources and skills to staff.

Increased general awareness among hospital staff and local physicians of the library’s patient/consumer collection

Expanded library’s involvement in other patient education projects.

Role as distribution center ensured continued awareness among professional staff, cancer support services, community support groups, and cancer patients.

Cheryl Warren
ValleyCare Health Library

FAVORITE CANCER RESOURCES FOR CONSUMERS

In the September, 1994 issue of this newsletter, Margaret Vugrin asked for suggestions of favorite resources used to answer cancer-related questions. Since I am always on the lookout for useful materials, I was anxious to contribute, so I prepared a list of the sources most helpful to patrons using our collection.

ValleyCare Health Library & Cancer Resource Center is a consumer health and medical library that emphasizes a cancer collection. The library is sponsored by a small 100-bed hospital, with additional support from community sources. The library is accessible to patients and the public, as well as health professionals. To accommodate the different needs of our clientele, a variety of materials and formats is collected. In general, a specific reference pattern is followed when handling inquiries from the nonprofessional patron, starting with easy materials and progressing to the more complicated. Basic information is provided with pamphlets. If the patron expresses an interest in more detailed information, consumer level books and databases are provided, along with a printout from PDQ. After these sources are exhausted, a search through medical textbooks and Medline is done. Appropriate clinical trials can also be printed from PDQ when necessary. Audio cassettes, videotapes, and an extensive article file supplement the books and databases; and Internet addresses to various sites are also available. The library collects information not only on descriptions of various cancers and their treatment options, but also on coping techniques, nutrition, quality of life issues, hospice, and general wellness/prevention topics.
FAVORITE CANCER RESOURCES FOR CONSUMERS cont’d.

Lay or consumer level books that have worked well with ValleyCare clientele are:


FAVORITE CANCER RESOURCES FOR CONSUMERS cont'd.


Professional books that have worked well with ValleyCare clientele are:


Other sources frequently used:

Journals
Coping
CA: Cancer Journal for Clinicians
Cancer
Journal of the National Cancer Institute

Databases
Health Reference Center
Medline
PDQ

Internet
Breast Cancer Information Clearinghouse:
gopher to nysernet.org
WWW access at http://nysernet.org/

Cancernet
gopher to gopher.nih.gov.port 70

NIH
gopher to gopher.nih.gov.port70

Oncolink
gopher to cancer.med.upenn.edu or
WWW access at http://cancer.med.upenn.edu/

Cheryl Warren
ValleyCare Health Library

The Editors wish to thank Cheryl Warren for compiling this informative list.
Wanted: A Few Good Authors

"I have a great idea for a publication." You've said this to yourself (and perhaps others) many times before. You're in luck because MLA is looking for authors to publish their work through the MLA Books Program. We produce a variety of publications on health sciences librarianship and information management. These publications focus on the needs and interests of practitioners and students in library and information science, especially in the life and health sciences. They address the health sciences and include current and historical treatments in librarianship, information management, and literature.

Books may vary from a multivolume set, such as Current Practice in Health Sciences Librarianship; to an edited, multiauthored anthology; to a single author's volume on a topic relevant to health sciences literature, information management, or librarianship. Guides to information resources include information guides and annotated bibliographies, which may be organized by format, time period, language, or country of publication. These guides contain practical treatments of timely topics, designed for health sciences or other specialty librarians, information managers, health care professionals, or students in related disciplines. The bibliographies guide the reader to selected topics in the health sciences, including librarianship. DocKits are collections of representative, unedited library documents from a variety of institutions that illustrate the range of approaches to management topics related to health sciences libraries. Compilers add introductory information and briefly analyze the collected documents.

Become a published author. Submit your ideas NOW! Jot down your ideas. Work your way out of writer's block. Add an extra drive to your computer. Ideas for possible monographs or other publications are encouraged all year. For guidelines for submitting proposals or publication suggestions, contact Kimberly Pierceall at MLA headquarters, 312/419-9094; fax, 312/419-8950; PIECEAL@MLAHQ.ORG (Internet). Complete proposals should be sent directly to: Beverly Renford, chair, Books Panel, Biomedical Library, 0175B, University of CA at San Diego, 9500 Gillman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0175.

REMEMBER - USE OUR CANCER SECTION LISTSERV!

To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@mule.fhrc.org Leave the subject line blank and type the following in the body:

subscribe cancerlib <yourname>

Address messages to the CANCERLIB list to:

cancerlib@mule.fhrc.org

This list is a valuable site for sharing information, ideas and experiences.

Please remember to take advantage of this forum!

Karen Albert
SPANNING THE GLOBE WITH EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

This year, MLA’s 95th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. will reach out to the world of medical librarians to provide rare and exciting opportunities to gain knowledge and information. From Continuing Education and New Perspective courses to events for the Academy of Health Information Professionals, MLA will bring you opportunities that span the globe.

In experiencing “Health Information for the Global Village,” the Annual Meeting theme, start with educational courses to broaden your horizons. At this year’s Annual Meeting, MLA will host 41 full- and half-day Continuing Education (CE) and New Perspective (NP) courses. Meeting participants will be able to choose from a variety of courses including ones on medical terminology, research, MeSH, NLM, AIDS, Internet, World Wide Web, Copyright laws, management, and so much more. You won’t find another time when so much knowledge is just waiting to be consumed by medical librarians.

While enjoying your visit at this year’s Annual Meeting, stop by the Academy Booth located in the registration area. Here you can pick up forms, get answers to your questions, and keep current on Academy information. Members of the Credentialing Committee and the Professional Review Panel will be ready to answer questions about renewing academy membership, first-time applications, or portfolio preparation.

Stopping at the MLA Scholarship Booth provides a great way to make a contribution to your profession and to receive fun premiums for your donation. All donations to the Scholarship Booth go to support such important programs as the MLA Scholarship, Minority Scholarship, Continuing Education Grants, and Research, Development and Demonstration Project Grants.

Don’t forget the Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon and Ceremony, your opportunity to honor and recognize MLA’s most deserving professionals. The luncheon will be held on Monday, May 8. Tickets to this exciting event are just $35, so be sure to reserve your seat now.

For more information about CE and NP courses or events for the Academy of Health Information Professionals, please refer to the preliminary program or call the Professional Development department at: 312/419-9094.
VIDEO GUIDE TO THE INTERNET - A WELCOME TRAINING TOOL

Since we purchased this 45-minute video on Internet basics, it has been checked out constantly, with waiting lists of 5-10 people interested in viewing it. As the cover states, this video, "answers all of your questions about the Internet—with on screen demonstrations and graphics; an excellent guide from E-mail to the World Wide Web."

This video is aimed at those who have had little exposure to the Internet, but it is not so basic that it wouldn't be of interest to users who have had some some "surfing" experience. It covers the basics of E-mail, ftp, telnet, gopher, archie, veronica, WAIS, and the World Wide Web. Most of these functions are demonstrated on a Macintosh computer, but the information would apply to PCs in many cases. Produced by Visual Edge productions, the video explains and demonstrates Internet features in clear, understandable language. Dave, the narrator, is pleasant to watch, and he injects humor throughout to make the presentation more interesting.

I was so pleased with my $23.45 investment in this video that I recently purchased a second copy for the library. This one has also been checked out continuously, with a waiting list. This video can be ordered from:

Visual Edge Productions
2750 Highview Ave.
Altadena, CA 91001

E-mail: nightdave@aol.com

The video costs: $19.95 + $3.50 S/H (Ca. residents add $1.65 tax)

Karen Albert
MLANET DEBUTS ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The Medical Library Association (MLA) is pleased to announce the official pilot of MLANET on the World Wide Web. The MLANET home page contains up-to-date information on MLA, including membership services and benefits, the code of ethics for health sciences librarianship, and information about the 1995 Annual Meeting (MLA '95) in Washington, DC. All files can be reached through the home page; its uniform resource locator (URL) is <http://www.kumc.edu/MLA/> (MLA is upper case sensitive).

In the future, MLA hopes to hyperlink additional Web pages that other association units and chapters have developed to the MLANET home page, continually expand the use of the Web for member services, and regularly add hyperlinks to non-MLA pages of professional interest.

The MLA '95 pages on MLANET are being developed by a team headed by Brian Warling, University of California-San Francisco. These "Webmasters" are currently gathering and coding information about the meeting, registration, educational offerings, the program, and the concurrent 7th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, as well as tips about the Washington, DC, area. The MLA '95 pages will continue to be expanded during the meeting, allowing Internet users to check the Web site for up-to-the-minute information.

According to MLA Executive Director Carla J. Funk, "MLANET on the World Wide Web will provide the accessibility to information in multiple formats that our members require in this rapidly growing and changing technological age and enhance our ability to provide relevant member services."

NETWORKED HEALTH INFORMATION CONFERENCE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will sponsor a satellite teleconference, Partnerships for Networked Health Information for the Public, hosted by the Annenberg Center at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. The teleconference is scheduled for May 15, 1995, from noon to 3:00 p.m. (Eastern time) or 9:00 a.m. to noon (Pacific time).

Partnerships for Networked Health Information for the Public will explore various aspects of consumer health information, such as information that helps individuals stay healthy, participate responsibly in medical care decisions, and make smart consumer choices among health care providers. Participants will discuss how exciting new developments in technology challenge providers of consumer health information to look at new media approaches. The conference will offer an opportunity for a diverse group of interested parties to jointly explore the potential of network technologies and consumer health information applications. Attendees will include representatives of federal and public agencies responsible for ensuring and promoting health at the national, state, and local levels; nonprofit health organizations; libraries that provide access to health information in communities; managed-care and other medical institutions; and telecommunications companies that create or deliver vital health care information to the public.

Downlink sites should use the following satellite coordinates: satellite, SBS-6; Transponder 19; downlink frequency, 12174.0 Mhz; polarity, horizontal; audio, 6.2 and 6.8. Site coordinators may call 619/773-4530 or 619/773-4560 if they have trouble receiving the program on broadcast day. For additional information, including registration, call 703/273-2552. Preregistration for the conference will close on April 20, 1995.

For additional information contact Kimberly Pierceall, Director of Communications.
CANCER LIBRARIAN SECTION NEWS

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