FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It is with some regret as well as deep appreciation that I announce that effective immediately Gayle Ablove will replace me as Chair of the Cancer Library Section. As many of you know, I am facing some health problems which necessitate my cutting back on a variety of responsibilities, as well as reducing my hours here at the Hutchinson Center.

Gayle, our Chair-elect, has graciously agreed to step in, ahead of schedule, to lead the activities of our section. I know that each of you will join me in recognition of her willingness to do so. You can be sure that my need to “scale back” doesn’t mean that I expect to disappear, and I will be able to stay involved in some capacity. I also know that many section members, currently active ones as well as some of our newer members, will be more than glad to respond to the call for assistance, once they know that help is needed!

We have a newsletter to get out, annual meeting programming to move forward, brochures to complete, a slate of officers to nominate, and new activities to embark upon. There will be no change in the management of our listserv; it will continue to reside at the Hutchinson Center.

I know that each of you will respond to this message by offering your support to Gayle and reaffirming your commitment to the section.

It certainly is my privilege to work with many of you. I can’t tell you how many times I have turned to section members for advice on one issue or another — only to find how much we have in common and how much we have to learn from each other. Thanks in particular to Karen Albert and Margaret Vugrin for helping me make this difficult decision.

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Do You Want to Get Involved?

If you are interested in being on Cancer Section’s Nominating Committee for this next year’s elections please let Gayle Abody know of your interest by March 1.

If you would like to run for Vice-Chair (Program Chair for Seattle MLA and Chair the following year), or for Secretary, a one year appointment, call or send Gayle a message by March 1.

 Officers gain additional points for membership in The Academy of Health Professionals. They certainly impact the organization with which they work and as an additional benefit get to know the members of their section.

Would you like to run as our representative to MLA Nominating Committee?

"Representatives facilitate the selection process [of MLA officers] by advising their sections of the timetable established by the Elections Committee."

Must be able and willing to attend 1997 MLA meeting in Seattle. Can not have been a voting member of MLA Nominating committee in the last five years nor a candidate nor officer. Each section submits a name, only nine nominees are elected to serve, however. Please notify Gayle by March 1.

Cancer Librarians Section NEWS is published three times a year, January, April and September by the Cancer Librarians Section of the Medical Library Association. Deadline for copy is the 15th of the month prior to publication. 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: Margaret Vugrin

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

Issue No. 20
Cancer Section News
January 1996
Minutes: Annual Business Meeting  
Sunday May 7, 1995, Washington, D.C.

The meeting was brought to order by Eve Ruff, Chair-elect. All of the attendees introduced themselves, and all current and incoming officers identified themselves. Eve Ruff then introduced the agenda.

The future of the Clinical Oncology: A Selected List of New Books  
Susan Michaelson, the current author of this list, has asked to be relieved of this duty. Several of the attendees agreed that this was a useful source of information as well as a useful source of revenue. No decision was reached. (See related Article on page 7.)

Chapter Business:

Gayle J. Ablove, Treasurer, distributed copies of the treasurer’s report. The balance as of 4/30/95 was $275.2. Expenses for 1994 totaled $798.81, incurred from production and mailing the newsletter and the Clinical Oncology bibliography. The income for 1994 totaled $29,000, from dues, interest, and sale of the Clinical Oncology bibliography ($1020.00). A motion was made and passed to have the cost of mailing the treasury archives borne by the section, instead of by the outgoing Treasurer, or that individual’s institution.

Brochure:

Dorothy Mauconie introduced a mock-up of a brochure to advertise and recruit members to the section. Suggestions were made to add the brochure to MLANet and the homepage for next year’s Kansas City meeting. Eve Ruff and Margaret Vrugrin would follow up on these suggestions. Various content suggestions were made, including: adding current membership numbers to the history section, adding information about the CANCERLIB listserv, adding information about the booklet and including a telephone number or contact name and address for the section. Various format suggestions were made, including: how to make the best use of the space, questions of whether the MLA mailing address on the brochure was needed since an envelope would be needed to return the membership application with a check. The color of the brochure was also addressed. The section’s logo is blue and white, but adding another color to the brochure would increase the cost. Dorothy was asked to obtain information on the cost of various printing options. Attendees were asked to submit other suggestions to Dorothy by September 1.

Newsletter:

On a trial basis, the newsletter would be posted simultaneously to the CANCERLIB as well as sent through the US mail. This dual system would be used this year with hopes of phasing out the printed version at a future date. Attendees were instructed on how to subscribe to the listserv.

Section Program for 1996 MLA meeting:

Gayle Ablove asked for program suggestions for next year’s meeting. The overall theme for MLA in 1996 is “The Information Frontier.” MLA stresses cost control; if a section has to pay for a speaker, it must have the money to cover the cost. (There is some possibility of NPC funding, but no guarantee.) One person suggested an update from the National Cancer Institute, including information on funding opportunities from the NCI. Another person suggested obtaining a speaker from the Kansas City area to cut travel expenses. Instead of paying for a speaker, the section could have a program of contributed papers, with a section driven jury. The selection would be blinded and the jury would then pick the best papers. The program topic could be broad to allow for a wide range of good papers. Various topics were suggested including: consumer information, training patrons on the Internet, or studies on how people are using the information found on the Internet. MLA wants the program title, format and a contact name by June 5. Everyone was urged to post program ideas to the listserv. That was followed by the suggestion to post the program topics for the previous five years on the listserv, in order to avoid replication.

MLA Oncology CE course:

Karen Albert stated that Amy Butros, one of the instructors for this course, is asking for additional instructors for the course and suggestions for revisions to the course. Karen distributed a course survey on Amy’s behalf.

cont’d. page 4
Minutes: Annual Business Meeting
Sunday May 7, 1995; Washington, D.C. cont’d, from page 3

Section Program for 1995 MLA meeting:

Eve Ruff mentioned the scheduled program, “Health Care Reformation: the Oncolink Saga”, which will discuss the ethical issues of putting information on the Web.

Other business:

Eve started a discussion of the future of the section.

What do new members want from the section? How can the section continue its membership growth? This type of information would help set goals for the year. The section encompasses a wide range of interests, including clinical information, patient education and basic research. There is a concern that the booklist might be discontinued, therefore limiting the visibility of the section. A suggestion was made to expand the booklist to cover publications and resources other than books.

Section Council Report:

Margaret Vugrin presented news and information from the Section Council.

1. Currently MLA receives 60% of its funding from the meeting, with the remainder of its funds coming from membership dues.
2. MLANet is up and running.
3. MLA News might start asking for contributions from sections.
4. The Philadelphia meeting will be the 100th anniversary of MLA, so MLA wants the history of the sections. Currently this section has an oral history which is in need of updating.
5. The NPC would like to see informal section gatherings next year. These would be structured like the library school reunions, with some food and a cash bar, to give section members a chance to meet and talk. People interested in various sections are not always able to attend the section business meetings. Margaret will report back that the section agreed to participate in this.

Eve Ruff closed the meeting.

CANCERLIB Celebrates
First Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to CANCERLIB!

The Cancer Librarians Section listserv was developed by Eve Ruff just one year ago and has done much to facilitate communication among members. Members use the list as a forum for section business and to share ideas, questions, and announcements.

To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@mule.fhccc.org.
Leave the subject line blank and add only this message in the body:
subscribe CANCERLIB <your name>

Messages for list members should be addressed to:

CANCERLIB@mule.fhccc.org

CANCERLIB receives technical support from the
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Public
Health Sciences Administrative Computing Depart-
ment and Library Services.

Dues Reminder

Cancer Librarians Section dues are paid with your annual MLA dues renewal form. Please remember to include the Section in your list of renewing sections.

The Section provides a ready-made network of nearly 100 librarians with a strong interest in oncology collections and research. Recent articles in the section newsletter have included a feature story about one library’s cancer collection for consumers and another’s report of its experience with a recent JCAHO survey. Cancer related Internet resources has been a repeat topic, with new sites listed regularly in recent issues. The Section also compiles and publishes the highly-regarded list of recommended titles, the Clinical Oncology: A Selected List of New Books.

Membership includes, 72 individual members and 20 institutional members as of February 13, 1995, as reported by Gayle Alobe in the Treasurer’s Report, 1995 Annual Business Meeting.
The Medical Library Association has produced a research policy statement, *Using Scientific Evidence to Improve Information Practice: The Research Policy Statement of the Medical Library Association*. Produced by the Research Task Force of MLA chaired by Prudence Dalrymple, this statement presents the Association's vision of research as a foundation for excellence in health information practice, for new and expanded roles for health sciences librarians and for drawing talented people into the profession. The document outlines the individual's responsibility for increasing the profession’s research contributions, and outlines how librarians can increase their real and perceived value in the health info community by contributing to an expanded knowledge base through research.

The statement specifies that health science librarians have the unique opportunity to make positive contributions to health care and information policy, and that in order to do so, they must first understand that the knowledge base of their profession applies to health information problems that go beyond bibliographic data and library collections. Second, they must increase their ability to analyze and appraise research results in their own discipline as well as those of their users. Third, they must use the health information science knowledge base to design, develop, and market new health information systems and services, including those that integrate scientific literature and other types of health-related information. Fourth, they must apply the health information knowledge base by carrying out research that is broadly relevant to the organization, delivery, use and impact of information on healthcare, biomedical research, and health professionals' education.

In order to meet the needs of its members, MLA will work to create an environment that assists members to increase the production and use of research. The goals of the Association are to provide educational and training outlets, to aid members in securing adequate funding to conduct research, to provide incentives for collaborative research with other health professionals, and to promote employment opportunities which encourage and support research by employees.

Currently, the Research Policy Implementation Task Force of MLA, chaired by Joanne Marshall, is distributing the document to information professionals and related organizations in an effort to highlight the key relationship between research and the profession of health sciences librarianship.

To obtain a copy of *Using Scientific Evidence to Improve Information Practice: The Research Policy Statement of the Medical Library Association*, send a stamped ($1.00 postage required), self-addressed envelope to MLA, Professional Development Dept., 6 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60602-4805.

### 1996-1997 NLM Associate Program

Applications are available for the September 1996 - August 1997 NLM Associate Program. Library school students and librarians are invited to apply. The filing deadline is March 1, 1996.

The program is open to U.S. citizens receiving a Master's degree in library/information science by August, 1996. The international program is on hold for 1996/97; it may, however, resume at a future date.

For further information contact:

Martha Fishel, Coordinator, NLM Associate Program
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Library Information Management Plans

The compilers of a new MLA DocKit invite your submissions for *Library Information Management Plans: A Collection*. The compilers, Kay Wellik and Mary Jarvis, are seeking library information management plans for inclusion in an MLA DocKit which will aid hospital librarians in the formulation of plans in fulfillment of the current JCAHO requirements.

MLA DocKits are collections of representative, unedited library documents that illustrate the range of approaches to health sciences library management topics. Expert compilers add introductory information and a brief analysis of the documents contained in the kit. To comply with MLA's guidelines for DocKit production, submissions should be:

* clean copies, with very clear type
* printed single-sided if possible
* bordered by 1" margin adequate for three-hole punching or binding
* printed on white paper with black ink on 8 1/2" by 11" paper

Submission of an information management plan implies that your organization grants permission to have it reprinted. Please indicate whether your institution's name should remain on the documents or whether all identification should be crossed out so that it is not visible. Also, list the name of the contact person in case there are questions about the document.

The compilers look forward to producing a timely and useful DocKit that will be of practical value to hospital librarians involved in formulating information management plans, either for the library itself or as part of the institution's plans. The deadline for submission is March 31, 1996. Please submit hospital information plans to:

Mary Jarvis  
Methodist Hospital Medical Library  
3615 19th St.  
Lubbock, TX 79410

For more information contact:

Ms. Jarvis at (806) 793-4178  
jarvis@life.jsc.nasa.gov;  
or  
Kay Wellik at (602) 406-3299  
kwellik@mha.chw.edu.

Mark Your Calendars!

MLA's 1996 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, begins with continuing education programming Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1. The actual meeting begins Sunday, June 2 and concludes with another continuing education day on Wednesday, June 5.

If you have not yet done so, here is the opportunity to participate in CE 313, Oncology: Concepts and Resources, scheduled for Saturday, June 1.

Visit the MLA '96 Web site at:  
http://www.kumc.edu/MLA/MLA96

This interactive site will provide up-to-date meeting information, including complete program and registration details, daily schedules, photos, speaker profiles, maps of the meeting facilities, and local attractions. Authors and presenters will be submitting abstracts and other official program information directly to MLANET, ensuring the currency of the Web site.

Author! Author!

What's new in your library [oops], Resource Center!

Have a new way to cope with consumer requests or management's downsizing demands? Found a great new research site on the Web or a terrific textbook others may have missed?

Write a brief report and send it to the Cancer Librarians Section News. This newsletter is YOURS and gains its strength from the articles YOU submit. Make a New Year's resolution to contribute one article, book review, or handy hint to the News in 1996.

Electronic submission is preferred, disk is accepted. Send your articles to Margaret Vugrin, Editor. Address and Phone number on page 2.
Call for Volunteers to Work on Booklist

A committee has been formed to produce the Cancer Librarians' Section update to: *Clinical Oncology: A Selected List of New Books 1992-1994*.

This list, like previous ones, will review clinically-oriented texts, in order to facilitate selection of such books in libraries with a limited oncology collection. The committee would also like to include reviews of patient education resources and relevant Internet sites.

Volunteers are needed to write brief reviews of these resources. Instructions and sample reviews will be sent to those willing to participate in this project.

Please indicate your interest in working on this list by contacting one of the people listed below.

Also, please let us know if any knows how we can contact Susan Michaelson, formerly of the Texas Medical Association Library, the former editor of this booklet.

Cheryl Warren
ValleyCare Health Library
ValleyCare Health Systems
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or

Karen Albert
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Fox Chase Cancer Center
Phila., PA 19111
215-728-2711
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Creative Connections- CHLA Meeting In Toronto

The 20th Anniversary Conference of the Canadian Health Libraries Association/Association des Bibliothèques de la Sante du Canada (CHLA/ABSC) will be held at the Delta Chelsea Inn in Toronto, Ontario, from June 12-17, 1996.

The theme of the conference, Creative Connections, will allow participants to explore the concurrent themes of:

* Technology
* Community
* Education, and
* Clinical Care

...within the context of today's expanding global neighborhood and the realities of the shrinking distances between health science information professionals, their suppliers, and their customers.

Registration packets will be mailed in March. To receive information, send your name, mailing address, phone and fax numbers to the following e-mail location:

cpha96@ices.on.ca

For more information, visit the Conference Home Page at:

http://www.imr.on.ca/~contact/chlas96.html

Valda Poplak
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Look for an article about our section written by Gayle Aboye in one of the upcoming issues of MLA News.

Neighborhoods share databases

Rockefeller’s library now provides greater and faster access to six biomedical databases thanks to a new computer collaboration with neighboring institutions.

The venture brings thousands of medical journals to more than 9,000 researchers and health care professionals at RU, Cornell University Medical College, Hospital for Special Surgery, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The effort, formalized by the institutions’ librarians in a signing ceremony Mon., Aug. 28, is the first electronic data project of the four organizations.

“The collaboration allows for shared access of equipment, software, and databases that greatly enhance the research capabilities of faculty members and clinicians as they pursue and exchange information,” said Francis C. Lees, chief information officer and director of Rockefeller’s Information and Computing Services, which oversees the daily operations of the collaboration.

Lees began the project last year, Cancer Section News January 1996

Joint resources increase speed

and scope of RU’s access to information

more than 1,000 connections completed as of July.

When MEDLINE access first arrived, 100 RU scientists opened accounts and logged onto the service 400 times a week. In less than two years the tally has doubled to 200 accounts with more than 700 weekly logins. With each account representing as many as five to ten people, “RU’s usage is gigantic,” Lees reported, “and the access is unlimited. Now we can look forward to a similar explosion of use with Current Contents and soon the Oxford English Dictionary.”

If you have other NEWSWORTHY items please send to Margaret Vugrin, Editor.
HealthSTAR
New Addition to NLM Databases Through Merger

As some of you may already know, the Health Planning and Administration (HEALTH) and the Health Services/Technology Assessment Research (HSTAR) databases are being merged into one database. The new database will be called HealthSTAR and will be available in late February or early March. The new combined database will incorporate the subject scopes of both HEALTH and HSTAR by citing literature on health care administration, economics, planning, and policy, as well as health services research, clinical practice guidelines, and health care technology assessment. HealthSTAR will include citations to journal articles, monographs, monographic series, technical and government reports, meeting abstracts, conference papers, book chapters, and newspaper articles. Initially, the database will contain over 2.43 million citations, including citations from MEDLINE and CATLINE, citations indexed by the American Hospital Association, retrospective NHPIC (National Health Planning Information Center) citations, and citations specially indexed for the National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR), a component of the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Journal literature cited will be post-1975; CATLINE records will be from 1985 forward and there will be no limitations on language. Because of the extremely large number of citations, HealthSTAR will be divided into a current file and one backfile. The inclusive dates of these two divisions are yet to be determined.

HealthSTAR will continue and expand upon the cooperative venture between the National Library of Medicine and the American Hospital Association. Both NLM and AHA are sensitive to your concerns about document delivery and journal indexing and are committed to working together to provide to you the information services that are effective for your needs. Once the merger has been completed, there will be additional information in future issues of The NLM Technical Bulletin and NLM News.

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