FROM THE CHAIR--

There have been so many changes in the medical field and also the health science library field of late. This is certainly an understatement! For this issue I have put together a short survey to find out what other libraries are doing about (1) keeping their bound journals from past years (from what years), and (2) are they getting both the electronic and the paper versions of current journals.

This survey page can be returned to me. (See p. 3) Once the surveys are returned and the information collated, I will post a summary on CANCER-L as well as include it in the next issue of the News.

**Electronic vs. Print Journals Survey**
Please circle the appropriate answer.

For 1997, will your library get both the paper and electronic versions of a journal when a publisher offers them? **yes no**

Is your library planning to advertise the electronic subscriptions that come with your print journals in 1997? **yes no**

In 1997, if the electronic version is the primary subscription, will your library pay extra for a print subscription? **yes no**

In 1997, if the paper version is the primary subscription, will your library pay extra for an electronic subscription? **yes no**

Are you planning to cancel printed subscriptions and just get the electronic versions of journals? **yes no**  If yes, when?

Are you planning to maintain archives of electronic journals? **yes no**
If yes, will the library maintain them?  yes no unknown
or will the computer center/management information services
department maintain them?  yes no unknown

My library maintains back volumes from bound journals from:
(give earliest year housed in library):
(give years housed off-site):

We are planning to discard bound journals from (give range of years, e.g., 1930-1949):

Type of library: (Check all that apply)
Hospital (No. of beds:______)
Corporate research institute__ Private research institute __
Academic Center___
Public (government, state or federal)___ Other: ___

Does your institution have (check all that apply):
graduate students? yes no
undergraduate students? yes no
allied health specialty program students
(e.g., radiation technology, nurse anesthetist) yes no

How many total volumes are in your library?

How many current subscriptions (include both journals and serials/standing
orders) do you have?

How many subscriptions (current/inactive) do you have?

How many subscriptions have you cut in the last two years?
Numbers: Percentage of collection:

Have you had a library visit under the JCAHO 1995/new guidelines? yes no

Would you be willing to share information regarding the visit? yes no

(Optional) Info: Name Phone:
Institution: e-mail:

Thank you for sharing this information. I’m sure we will be interested in the responses.

Gayle Ablowe
Chair, Cancer Section
Cancer Section Listserv

To subscribe, send a message to:

listerve@mule.fhcrc.org

leave the subject line blank and type the following in the body:

subscribe cancerlib <your name>

To address messages to the list:

cancerlib@mule.fhcrc.org

Cancer Section Seattle

The Cancer Section together with the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section and International Cooperation Section is sponsoring a contributed papers session:

“Diverse Cultures, Diverse Responses: Meeting the Challenge of Health Information for All”

Tuesday, May 27
11:30am-12:30pm
SEE BACK COVER FOR PROGRAM

Business Meeting
Monday, May 26
7:30am-9:00am
CANCER SECTION BALLOT

For Vice President/President Elect:
Vice President/President Elect will serve as VP, planning the 1998 meeting and will be President for the 1999 meeting.

Mary Sprague

Other

For Secretary:
Secretary is a one year position.

Nancy Peterson

Other

Please return ballots by March 15, 1997 to:
Margaret Vugrin, M.S.L.S., AHIP
Cancer Section Rep.
TTUHSC Library
Lubbock, TX 79430

or send vote by e-mail to: hlrnv@ttacs.ttu.edu
Websites Offering Cancer Information to Patients and Their Families.
(The addresses were verified as of December 1996)
By Beth A. Lewis, MLS, Assistant Librarian,
Talbot Research Library, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA

The development of the "World Wide Web", a protocol for the exchange of hypertext, video, color images and sound, popularized "surfing the web" for millions of people. One can not view a TV commercial or read a newspaper without noticing that just about everything has its own URL, or address on the World Wide Web. Millions of people are sitting in front of computers and surfing for all kinds of information everyday. As cancer librarians, we can point cancer patients and their families to some easy to use and authoritative sites on the WWW. Here are a few sites to recommend.

OncoLink (http://cancer.med.upenn.edu/) was developed and is supported by the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center to educate health care personnel, patients, and families. OncoLink includes original material written by Penn authors, original material submitted by faculty from other institutions, and authoritative publicly available material from other sources, such as the NCI and the American Cancer Society. All content is reviewed by an Editorial Board consisting of health professionals at Penn. Material is posted as soon as it is accepted by the Editorial Board, almost on a daily basis.

It offers one-stop shopping to collections of valuable cancer information. From OncoLink's homepage a user can link to a variety of menus that include information about specific cancers, information about medical specialties that deal with cancer, cancer causes and prevention, medical supportive care, as well as coping information and financial issues. Information about clinical trials are also included, which I think is quite unique. OncoLink also supports a WAIS (Wide Area Information Server) search engine that is easy and quick to use and delivers prioritized search results to the user.

I have used NCI's Cancernet to deliver readable, accurate, and authoritative information to patients as well as physicians for several years. It is now available on the Web at http://www.icic.nci.nih.gov. It provides quick access to cancer information statements from PDQ and the NCI covering treatment, supportive care, screening and prevention and information about investigational or newly approved drugs. It contains both Spanish and English versions of treatment and supportive care summaries.

The American Cancer Society (http://www.cancer.org) has placed many (but not all) of its publications on its web site. Additionally, it contains sections devoted to breast and prostate cancer (Breast Cancer Network and Prostate Cancer Information). The popular statistical publication, Cancer Facts and Figures, is also available. The site also contains an electronic request form to have materials sent, but I have never been successful in receiving any that I requested. Hopefully, this "bug" will be worked out and they will continue to add more publications to this limited, but potentially useful site.

The New York State Education and Research Network maintains a website for breast cancer patients and their families. The NY State Breast Cancer Information Clearinghouse (http://nysernet.org/bcic/) contains information from the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society,
Websites Offering Cancer Information to Patients and Their Families con't...

and NY State Dept. of Health. It offers a list of 800 numbers and information hotlines, information about breast cancer legislation, and a newsletter for patients called Bone Marrow Transplants. It also contains an easy-to-use search engine.

A great source of current books for patients and consumers is Login Brothers Consumer Database Lookup (http://www.lb.com). From the homepage the user links to "bookstore" then "bookshelf database", "consumer health" and then clicks on the subject, i.e. "cancer". Presently, it lists over 70 titles for cancer, many of which are recently published or are awaiting publication. Each book entry includes basic bibliographic information. Some entries include commentary and some are rated as "best bet" and/or "sizzler".

These are just a few of many web sites to try and to recommend to library patrons. Keep in mind that the sites change quickly; many will contain additional information and will look completely different in the near future.

Your Input: Response

In response to our "Wanted: Your Input" column M. Francisco Gonzalez wrote that he is developing protocol guidelines for the most frequent tumors seen in his institution. "It may be considered as a preliminary approach to critical care pathways applicable to Medical Oncology. Physicians in our community under pharmaco-economic pressures need to develop a cost effective management keeping (a.) quality of life, and (b.) overall survival under primary consideration." Mr. Gonzalez wrote to us from the Medical Oncology Library, Center for Cancer Treatment and Research, Columbia, SC.

The MLA Cookbook Project

The November 1996 MLA News announced the MLA Cookbook Project. In short, the project is an activity of the MLA Board of Directors to honor Dan Richards, former member of the Board of Directors and Director of Dartmouth's Dana Biomedical Library. Dan made many friends in MLA and beyond the association, and he shared his enjoyment of life with them. This cookbook project serves as a fun activity to show our enjoyment in the pleasures of food, wine, cooking, eating and entertainment.

MLA members and their friends and colleagues are welcome to submit recipes for the MLA Cookbook. The criteria for submitting a recipe is that it is one of your favorites or a favorite of those you know. Relatively easy preparation and quick cooking times are also good characteristics. Ethnic dishes, potluck specials or other satisfying food and drink items are all needed to provide plenty of recipes for the first MLA cookbook. Friends of Dan are encouraged to submit recipes of memorable dishes shared with him.

Another facet of this project is its publication in time for MLA's 1998 centennial. Cookbook sales will begin at the Philadelphia meeting. A special feature of the cookbook will include historical graphic material that will be solicited from the special collections of MLA member libraries; details will be announced later in the year.

To make editing and publishing easier, electronic mail will be the preferred means of submitting your copy. Direct all submissions to: MLAckbl@listserv.acns.nwu.edu. For members without email, seek a colleague who can submit the material for you since all copy must be in digital format. All submissions should use the following outline.
Your name: (as it will be published; do not use degrees or Academy status)

Your geographic location — city, state: (as it will be published)

Contact information: (how can the editors reach you for clarification)

— email address:

— work phone number:

— mailing address:

(If you are not an MLA member, indicate here that you are a 'friend of MLA').

Name of the Recipe:

Ingredients: Use U.S. Customary System only; in order of importance; use the following abbreviations — T for tablespoon, t for teaspoon, c for cup, lb for pound.

Instructions for making recipe: Be meticulous in providing complete details. Use complete sentences. Add special notes regarding ingredients.

“Story”: What is the ‘story’, if any, behind this recipe — why is this recipe important? how is it unique?

Source/Credit: Are you getting this recipe directly from a known source? If so, please provide the source name and other relevant information.

Index: Indicate the most important and/or unique ingredients of this dish (as you would want to find it in the book’s index).

Category: Indicate the best category for this dish — Appetizer, Soup, Salad, Meat, etc.

OPTIONAL — Favorite or unusual cookbook: (If you have a favorite or unusual cookbook and would like to share a reference to it, please supply the bibliographical information and tell us why it is special.)

If you have any questions, please contact: James Shedlock, j-shedlock@nwu.edu. This project should be a fun effort to celebrate Dan’s life and contribution to MLA. The editorial group and the Board of Directors appreciate your interest in the project.
Library Associations Pleased with Move Toward Balance in Geneva Copyright Treaty

Based on agreements reached December 20, after more than two weeks of international negotiations, the Medical Library Association (MLA), American Association of Law Libraries, American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, and Special Libraries Association, have expressed cautious optimism that the rights of both copyright proprietors and those who use copyrighted materials can be accommodated in the new digital information environment.

Some 160 governments participated in the diplomatic conference on intellectual property issues convened by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva. The final treaties represent significant progress over earlier proposals in balancing the rights of copyright proprietors with the interests of users of copyrighted materials.

Adam Eisgrau, legislative counsel for the American Library Association’s Washington Office, represented the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) at the Geneva conference. He cited as particularly noteworthy the diplomatic consensus in favor of the extension of limits on copyright, including fair use, into the digital environment.

He also noted that many participants expressed deep opposition to a proposed treaty for a broad new system of database protection in addition to copyright. The proposal, which was not adopted, had been opposed by the five library associations as being overly broad. Also, it had not been subjected to domestic scrutiny in the U.S.

The library community had worked with many other interest groups and organizations to ensure a balanced process and outcome in the treaty negotiations, including scholarly, scientific and research societies, education organizations, public interest groups, online service providers, and telecommunications and high tech industries.

Like many treaties, the Geneva agreements impose broadly-phrased obligations on signatory nations. In many countries, including the U.S., the treaties will require domestic approval and legislative implementation.

The five library associations are engaged in further analysis of the Geneva agreements, and will continue to work with the Administration, Congress, and other interested parties.

MLA is a professional organization of more than 1,200 institutions and 3,800 individual members in the health sciences information field. MLA members serve society by developing new health information delivery systems, fostering educational and research programs for health sciences information professionals, and encouraging an enhanced public awareness of health care issues.

Tomi Gunn
Medical Library Association
Suite 300, 6 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60602-4805
312/419-9094; fax 312/419-8950
mlams@mlahq.org

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The Medical Library Association (MLA) recently released *DocKit #9: Policies for Visitors to Health Sciences Libraries*, a new DocKit designed to provide a variety of examples of policies that health sciences librarians use regarding visitors to their libraries. For libraries without policy statements, this compilation may prove helpful when developing library visitor policy statements. Compiled by Terry Wiggins of the Eli M. Oboler Library at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, it may also be useful to those libraries interested in revising their current visitor policy statements.

By highlighting such issues as fees, time limitations, visitor privileges, categorization of clients, and equipment and material privileges, the DocKit explores some of the many different approaches taken toward library rules and policies.

*DocKit #9: Policies for Visitors to Health Sciences Libraries* also covers the various means through which libraries inform patrons about their policies including World Wide Web pages, brochures, and flyers.

The policies contained in the DocKit were taken from public and private institutional libraries throughout the United States. These institutions include a variety of schools—ranging from those devoted to a single program to those serving a full complement of health sciences schools and programs as part of a university. The hospital libraries are affiliated with both hospitals that meet patient care needs and those devoted to research and education.

The libraries are grouped by type and are arranged by National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) regions within each group.

DocKit #9: Policies for Visitors to Health Sciences Libraries can be ordered from MLA headquarters at a cost of $20.00 for members and $26.00 for nonmembers, plus shipping and handling. Call 312/419-9094 to place an order or visit the Catalog on MLANET at http://www.kumc.edu/MLA for more information about MLA products.

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Medical Library Association
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Chicago, IL 60602-4805
312/419-9094; fax 312/419-8950
mlams@mlahq.org
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The Medical Library Association (MLA) announces that it will renew its endorsement of Doody’s Health Sciences Book Review Journal and Doody’s Electronic Journal (formerly Doody’s Health Sciences Book Review Home Page). The endorsement extends the successful association between MLA and Doody Publishing.

MLA Executive Director, Carla Funk stated, “MLA looks forward to continuing its endorsement of Doody’s Journal as well as the Electronic Journal. We believe they continue to be valuable benefits for our members”.

Doody’s Journal is a tool for collection development, reference, and cataloging in health sciences libraries. Each issue of Doody’s Journal, which is published bimonthly, contains original reviews by qualified physicians and allied health professionals of more than 150 newly published health sciences books, with extensive bibliographic and quantitative information on 100 additional titles.

Most books reviewed in the journal have been published during the preceding six months and many during the preceding three months. The journal provides health sciences librarians with an independent, objective, and expert evaluation service, covering more than ninety medical and allied health specialties. Doody’s Journal also reviews books on health sciences librarianship and information management, as well as other health-related topics.

Launched in the spring of 1995, Doody’s Electronic Journal provides instant access to Doody’s entire database via the World Wide Web. This electronic database contains reports on more than 5,200 health sciences books with approximately 200 new titles added each month.

MLA members may order Doody’s Journal at 20% off the North American ($180.00) or foreign ($200.00) subscription price. A one year, full-access subscription to Doody’s Electronic Journal is available to MLA members for $240.00, 20% off the regular subscription price. Limited access subscriptions to the Electronic Journal are also available to MLA members for a discounted price of $100.00. For ordering information, please contact Doody Publishing at 800/219-9500.

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Chicago, IL 60602-4805
312/419-9094; fax 312/419-8950
mlams@mlahq.org
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The Medical Library Association is pleased to announce three additions to its distinguished list of corporate partners:

KNIGHT-RIDDER INFORMATION, INC.
RITTENHOUSE BOOK DISTRIBUTORS
TETON DATA SYSTEMS

For the past eight years, MLA’s corporate partner program has provided a forum for the leaders of those companies that provide products and services to health information professionals. This alliance has also provided funding for the research and development of information systems and services.

MLA Executive Director Carla J. Funk voiced her support of MLA’s corporate partner program. “All of our members have benefited over the years from our relationship with the corporations who supply products and services to the medical and health information profession. Through MLA’s corporate partner program, these companies have an opportunity to support MLA’s educational efforts and future mission.”

Businesses are invited to join MLA’s corporate partner program with annual contributions of $500, $1,000, or $2,500.

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Tomi Gunn
Medical Library Association

THE VISIBLE LIBRARIAN

The 33rd annual conference of the Upstate New York and Ontario Chapter of MLA

CALL FOR POSTERS!

"The Visible Librarian" will be hosted in Albany, New York, October 15-17, 1997. The Desmond, a hotel known for its "unique, elegant colonial ambience" will be the site of the event.

Dr. Michael J. Ackerman, Head of the High Performance Computer and Communications Office, NLM, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Information, will speak on aspects of the Visible Human Project.

Dr. Herbert S. White, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Indiana University, will speak on the current climate in the provision of health care and the librarian's role. Dr. White is expected to deliver an engaging session as insightful and opinionated as his regular column in ALA's Library Journal.

Confirmed CE's planned around our theme are "Molecular Biology Information Resources" taught by Renata McCarthy of the National Center for Biotechnology and "Developing the Hospital's Information Management Plan" taught by Christiane Jones from the VA Medical Center, Biloxi, Mississippi.

The UNYOC '97 Conference Committee invites your submissions for posters to be presented at this upcoming event. Be a part of our program by sharing your expertise. We need your help to prepare for the future as The Visible Librarian. Let's be prepared for the challenges that await us, now, by giving back to our colleagues. Deadline is April 1, 1997.

Please send poster title and abstract submissions (list all authors and institutional affiliations; maximum 250 words) to:

Debra Locascio
Albany College of Pharmacy
UNYOC '97 Publicity Chair
106 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, NY 12208-3492

locascid@panther.acp.edu
FAX: 518-445-7202
attn: Debra Locascio
NEW AWARD ASSISTS HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS

This release is also available at www.kumc.edu/MLA.

A new award proposed by MLA's Hospital Libraries Section was approved by MLA's Board of Directors at their September 1996 meeting. The Hospital Libraries Section/MLA Professional Development Award, will be offered twice a year to librarians who have been employed in hospitals or similar clinical settings within the last year. The award provides librarians with financial support for educational or research activities, and award winners will receive a cash prize of $800. Recognizing that many librarians would like to be involved in scientific research, but cannot obtain financial support from their institutions, the Hospital Libraries Section specifically included support for research. The award preamble states:

An endowed professional development award has been established by the Hospital Libraries Section of MLA to encourage participation in professional programs that will aid librarians working in hospitals and other clinical care institutions in developing and acquiring the knowledge and skills delineated in Platform for Change (MLA’s Educational Policy Statement) and Using Scientific Evidence to Improve Information Practice (MLA’s research policy statement). The award may also be utilized to support reimbursement for expenses incurred in conducting scientific research such as professional assistance in survey research design, statistical analyses, etc.

MLA expects to present the first award in the Fall of 1997. The application deadline is July 15. An application form will be available on the Hospital Libraries Section Web site (www.njc.org/hls/hls.html) by March 1 or by contacting Beth Ruddy, Research and Professional Recognition Coordinator, Medical Library Association, Suite 300, Six North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60602-4805.

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