MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to everyone who has been so helpful during the past year. The coming of the new millennium certainly kept us all busy in one way or another. The technology of our rapidly changing times will continue to impact each of us both personally and professionally. The Medical Library Association and each of its sections provide us with a forum for sharing experiences and ideas. In order to get maximum benefit from this forum, particularly our own section, we need to make sure that we all provide input and give feedback. The more we give the greater the benefit.

Our section is working hard toward having its own web site, which we hope to preview in the near future. Much credit and thanks to Ann Marie Clark for working to finish this project and for hosting the web site at her institution, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Our thanks to Margaret Vugrin for her many years as editor of our section newsletter. Helen Flitton and Tanya Smith at Huntsman Cancer Institute have bravely stepped forward to take Margaret's place.

I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting MLA / 2000 in Vancouver.

I submitted the following annual report on behalf of our section:

MLA ANNUAL REPORT: CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION 1999-2000

Goal 1: Information Technology
The Cancer Librarians Section's web site is near completion. Primary content areas have been developed. Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is hosting the site. Ann Marie Clark, Librarian, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is the web site editor.

Goal 2: Professional Development
a. The Cancer Librarians Section is co-sponsoring a joint contributed papers session at MLA 2000 Annual Meeting in Vancouver with the Hospital Libraries Section and the Pharmacy and Drug Information Section. The title of the program is "Demystifying the Library: Expanding Horizons in EndUser Training - New Roles and Techniques for Librarians."

b. Core List of Cancer Resources is in the final stages of development. Materials considered basic to clinical collections as well as patient education/consumer collections are being compiled. The Core List will be featured on the Cancer Librarians' web site. The Core List will be updated and maintained by a committee.

Goal 4: Communication
a. The Cancer Librarians Section discussed the lack of activity on its listserv, CANCERLIB, at the last business meeting. Steps to improve the use of CANCERLIB include detailed instructions in the newsletter on use and need of the listserv. Emphasis on the importance of the listserv for communication among the section members has resulted in more frequent use for business-related matters.

b. The section continues to publish two newsletters a year in the fall and spring. The new format of including a special topic with suggestions for collection development and web sites along with a literature review is working well. Newsletter editors have changed. The new editors are Helen Flitton and Tanya Smith, Huntsman Cancer Institute, who are working toward an electronic version.

Cheryl Warren, Chairperson
Cancer Librarians Section
MLA Annual Meeting
May 5-11, 2000
Vancouver, Canada

User Training Via the Web
Learn the Latest at MLA in Vancouver
Monday, May 8, 2000
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Co-sponsored by our section and entitled “Demystifying the Dragon: Expanding Horizons in End-User Training – New Roles and Techniques for Librarians,” this highly-relevant contributed papers session will take place at MLA on Monday, May 8, from 4:00 - 5:30 PM. Additional co-sponsors are the Hospital Libraries Section and the Pharmacy and Drug Information Section, however, most of the planning was done by our section. Please attend to support our efforts and to learn about the latest techniques for providing instruction remotely and electronically.

The following papers will be presented:

Moderator: Penny Coppennoll-Black, AHIP, Kelco Biopolymers, San Diego, CA

Reaching Out to the Point of Need: Developing and Evaluating a Web-Based Student Information Training Program
Gang Wu, Information Services Librarian; Shiffman Medical Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Demystifying Distance: Videoteleconferencing and Web Site Design to Deliver End-User Training to Clinicians at Remote Telemedicine Practice Sites
Gerald (Jerry) Perry, Head of Information Services, Arizona Health Sciences Library, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Providing Instruction Anywhere and Any Time
Julia Shaw-Kokot, Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Virtual Classrooms: Integrating Learning Technologies into Remote Library Instruction Programs
Terry A. Henner, Head, Information and Education Services, Savitt Medical Library, University of Nevada, School of Medicine, Reno, NV

Submitted by:
Karen Albert, Chair-Elect, Cancer Librarians Section
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Philadelphia, PA

Cancer Librarians Section
Business Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2000
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order / Approval of Minutes

II. New Business
A. Newsletter Editors
   - Introduction of New Editors
   - Content of Issues
   - Electronic Version
   - Support of Newsletter with Ads or Educational Grants
B. Web Site
   - Introduction of Web Site Editor
   - Content Issues
   - Policy & Procedures
   - Formation of Sub-Committee Groups
C. CANCERLIT
   - Discussion of Policy

III. Publications
   A. Core List

IV. New Officers / Introduction

V. Adjournment

This represents a preliminary agenda of what will be covered in the business meeting. Any new additions or thoughts can be emailed to Cheryl Warren, Chair at cherylw@valleycare.com

CANCERLIB Listserv
All members of Cancer Librarians Section are encouraged to join the section's official listserv, CANCERLIB. Hosted by the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center, CANCERLIB listserv subscriptions can be requested by sending an email to: majordomo@pony.fhcrc.org
In the body of the message include only: subscribe cancerlib <your email address> (Don't use the angle brackets, & leave the subject line blank.)
tools that let you do more

Want to deliver accurate cancer information?
Need a resource to learn more about cancer and its treatment?
CancerSource.com gives you the tools to do more.

CancerSource.com is a comprehensive, trusted source of cancer knowledge and services for health professionals. Our content is endorsed by a world-renowned Medical Advisory Board, led by Vincent DeVita, Jr., M.D., Director of the Yale Cancer Center. CancerSource.com gives you instant access to a wealth of up-to-date facts and research, and detailed data on specific diseases and treatment options.

With the overwhelming amount of cancer information available today, you can count on CancerSource.com to provide the timesaving resources and tools you need, when you need them. The result is professional growth, better patient care, and the knowledge that, with CancerSource.com, you CAN do more.

CancerSource.com is a powerful FREE resource for the cancer community.

ARIEL Document Delivery Software Use

Are you a long time user of the ARIEL document delivery software, an ARIEL newcomer, or an ARIEL wannabe? Do you want to know what ARIEL is and how it works?

The Biomedical Library at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is interested in hearing from you.

If you would like to learn more about how to operate your system now or in the future, please contact:

Deborah W. Brackstone
Document Delivery
Biomedical Library
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
332 N. Lauderdale St.
Memphis, TN 38105-3300

Or e-mail deborah.brackstone@stjude.org

Newsletter Editorial Notes

As our outgoing Chair, Cheryl Warren says - let's make this newsletter a dynamic and useful forum for the exchange of ideas and information. Please consider contributing an article to the newsletter that would be of interest to other members.

Topics you might consider writing about include:

- Library/Learning Center organizational issues.
- Funding.
- Rare cancers.
- Educational events you have organized.
- Promotional campaigns.
- Web site ideas and issues.
- Collection development/literature reviews.

If you attend a conference, study day or seminar that you think was particularly helpful, consider writing up a report of this for the benefit of other members.

Please send all contributions to the Newsletter by the following date: October 31st 2000 (Autumn/Winter issue) Contributions should preferably be in electronic format and should be sent to either Tanya or Helen at the following addresses: helen.fliton@hci.utah.edu

tanya.smith@hci.utah.edu
CancerLit - Not What It Once Was

Once the premier database for cancer information, especially for the cutting edge material found in meeting abstracts, CancerLit, produced by the NCI, is now quite different. No longer searchable through Internet Grateful Med, it is only widely accessible through Ovid or through its own, somewhat limited interface on the CancerNet web site at: http://cancernet.nci.nih.gov/cancerlit.shtml

Besides being limited to these search interfaces, the most noticeable change is the lack of inclusion of primary oncology meeting abstracts in CancerLit. Once the main resource for locating meeting abstracts of important societies like ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) and ASTRO (American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology), the CancerLit database no longer indexes these sources. Instead, one must hunt around the society's individual websites or elsewhere to locate bibliographic information regarding these meetings.

When emailed recently about this problem, an NCI representative provided the following response:

Currently, the only meeting abstracts in CANCERLIT from the years 1998 and 1999 are those that are cancer-related from MEDLINE. A decision was made two years ago to end the contract that added these supplementary documents to CANCERLIT. We plan to add the 1998 and 1999 ASCO abstracts to CANCERLIT this spring. However, they will not be indexed with MeSH. We may also add unindexed abstracts from other meetings.

Indexing these abstracts had become rather costly, and it often took more than six months to enter them into CANCERLIT. Entering them faster would have been more expensive. This lack of currency reduced their value, and no one values them as highly as other published literature. Many of the societies are marketing their abstracts now as CD-ROMs and adding them to their Web sites for members and sometimes the public.

There are others, like you who have expressed their displeasure with this policy. I will pass on your comments to our Director. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

James W. Carter
National Cancer Institute
(301) 594-3382
jcarter@exchange.nih.gov

It was certainly good to hear that the ASCO meeting abstracts will eventually be added, albeit without MeSH terms. However, it is regrettable that in this highly electronic era, access is being limited rather than expanded. The timely addition of the major meeting abstracts should be a priority of NCI's. Oncologists frequently need to locate such resources, and having dispersed, unreliable access via the individual societies is definitely a step backwards in the provision of information in this critical area of medicine.

"... the most noticeable change is the lack of inclusion of primary oncology meeting abstracts in CancerLit."

K. Albert

If you agree that this policy needs revision, attend the Cancer Librarians Section business meeting at the MLA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 9, from 12:30 - 2 PM, for further discussion of this issue. Alternatively, email your concerns to: James Carter, National Cancer Institute, at: jcarter@exchange.nih.gov or to Karen Albert, Fox Chase Cancer Center, km_albert@fccc.edu

Karen Albert
Chair Elect, Cancer Librarians Section
Fox Chase Cancer Center
km_albert@fccc.edu

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Cancer Librarians Section Newsletter to Go Electronic?

It won't have escaped your notice that many journals and newsletters are now available online or via email. More people than ever before have access to computers and we are proposing that the Cancer Librarians Section Newsletter be made available in electronic format in future issues. This reduces the mailing costs and makes it easy for people who receive the newsletter to circulate it to interested parties in their organization.

Let us know your thoughts on this issue by emailing or phoning us at the numbers/addresses below. Hard copies of the newsletter would still be produced for the MLA archive and any subscribers who do not have access to a computer.

Helen Flitton
801-585-0039
helen.flitton@hci.utah.edu

Tanya Smith
801-581-4945
tanya.smith@hci.utah.edu
MLA Cancer Librarians Section
1999/2000 Officer Roster

CHAIR
Cheryl Warren
ValleyCare Health Library
5698 Stoneridge Dr
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-734-3315
925-734-3372 fax
cherylw@valleycare.com

WEB SITE EDITOR
Ann Marie Clark
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1100 Fairview Ave., N
Seattle, WA 98109
206-667-2992
206-667-4737 fax
aclark@fhcrc.org

CHAIR-ELECT / PROGRAM CHAIR
Karen Albert
Fox Chase Cancer Center
7701 Burholme Ave
Philadelphia, PA 1911
215-728-2710
215-728-3655 fax
albert@hslc.org

SECTION COUNCIL
Margaret Vugrin
TTUHSC Library
Lubbock, TX 79430
806-743-2241
806-743-2218 fax
librmv@ttuhsc.edu

SECTION COUNCIL ALTERNATIVE
Annelie Sober
Tilderquist Memorial Library
Miller-Dawn Medical Center
502 E. Second St.
Duluth, MN 55805
218-720-1362
218-733-2322 fax
asober@mcmcduluth.com

PAST-CHAIR / NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR
Mary Sprague
The Ohio State University
Health Sciences Center
376 West 10th Ave.
Columbus, Oh 43210
614-292-4863
614-292-5717 fax
sprague.3@osu.edu

NEWSLETTER EDITOR / COEDITORS
Margaret Vugrin
TTUHSC Library
Lubbock, TX 79430
806-743-2241
806-743-2218 fax
librmv@ttuhsc.edu

Mary Sprague
The Ohio State University
Health Sciences Center
376 West 10th Ave.
Columbus, Oh 43210
614-292-4863
614-292-5717 fax
sprague.3@osu.edu

TREASURER
Christine Fleuriel
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Smith 314
44 Binney St
Boston, MA 02115
617-632-2489
617-632-2488
christine_fleuriel@dfci.harvard.edu

Helen Flitton
Huntsman Cancer Institute
2000 Circle of Hope
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
801-585-0039
801-585-0900 fax
helen.flitton@hci.utah.edu

SECRETARY
Halyna Liszczynskyj
Faxton Hospital
Medical Library
1676 Sunset Ave
Utica, NY 13502
315-738-6253
315-732-3275 fax
faxton@dreamscape.com

Tanya R. Smith
Huntsman Cancer Institute
2000 Circle of Hope
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
801-581-4945
tanya.smith@hci.utah.edu

CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWSLETTER ISSUE 27 SPRING 2000 (5)
CHAIR
Karen Albert
Fox Chase Cancer Center
7701 Burholme Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19111
215-728-2710
215-728-3655 fax
albert@hslc.org

CHAIR-ELECT/PROGRAM CHAIR
Gayle Above
Edwin Mirand Library
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Elm & Carolton Streets
Buffalo, NY 14263
716-845-5966
716-845-8699 fax
ablove@sc3101.med.buffalo.edu

PAST-CHAIR/NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR
Cheryl Warren
ValleyCare Health Library
5698 Stoneridge Dr
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-734-3315
925-734-3372 fax
cherylw@valleycare.com

SECRETARY
Beth Lewis
Talbot Research Library
Fox Chase Cancer Center
7701 Burholme Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19111
215-728-2711
215-728-3655 fax

TREASURER
Christine Fleuriel
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Smith 314
44 Binney St
Boston, MA 02115
617-632-2489
617-632-2488
christine_fleuriel@dfci.harvard.edu

SECTION COUNCIL
ALTERNATIVE
Annelie Sober
Tilderquist Memorial Library
Miller-Dawn Medical Center
502 E. Second St.
Duluth, MN 55805
218-720-1362
218-733-2322 fax
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WEB SITE EDITOR
Ann Marie Clark
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1100 Fairview Ave., N
Seattle, WA 98109
206-667-2992
206-667-4737 fax
aclark@fhcrc.org

NEWSLETTER COEDITORS
Helen Flitton
Huntsman Cancer Institute
2000 Circle of Hope
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
801-585-0039
801-585-0900 fax
helen.flitton@hci.utah.edu
Tanya R. Smith
Huntsman Cancer Institute
2000 Circle of Hope
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
801-581-4945
tanya.smith@hci.utah.edu

CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWS
c/o Huntsman Cancer Institute
Patient & Public Education
University of Utah
2000 Circle of Hope
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-5550