

MHSLA news

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

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MEDLARS III

In May 1980, Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), appointed a Task Force to prepare a plan for a fully automated, integrated library system. The Task Force recommended the development of a computer-based system (MEDLARS III) to support acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, and interlibrary loan among other library operations at NLM. It also proposed that MEDLARS III be an open-ended system so that new technologies could be incorporated. Implementation plans and policies have yet to be developed.

Central to MEDLARS III is the use of a master bibliographic record (MBR). Acquisitions, cataloging, circulation and interlibrary loan staffs will use the same MBR to perform their work. For example, the circulation staff will extract from the MBR only those elements, e.g. call number and title, necessary to maintain a circulation file.

An important advantage of an integrated library system is that duplicate records are not produced by the staff. They build on the existing MBR instead of keying into the system the same information over and over again as different library operations need the same record or part of it. Also, a correction to any record would only need to be done once since all file displays use the same modified MBR.

Even though MEDLARS III is being developed to automate NLM operations, there are many features which will be of use to the online user community. A few examples may answer the question: "What will MEDLARS III do for me?"

Acquisitions. If the user needs prices, availability and source of a title on-order at NLM, that unique information could be displayed from the MBR.

Cataloging. When a bibliographic record is found in the data base, users will be able to order card sets online. The authority files will link MeSH to Library of Congress headings.

Serials. Users will be able to find out why NLM could not supply an interlibrary loan document. The MBR will keep track of the titles on order, volumes at bindery, issue not received or missing, etc. Also, MEDLARS III will support collection of summary holdings information of the Regional Medical Library resource libraries to assist processing of interlibrary loan requests. Data from libraries which have significant bibliographic resources, such as those of the Veterans Administration, hospital consortia or individual hospital libraries, will also be included.

Document Delivery. A new feature, DOCLINE, will enable the user to order journal articles generated from a MEDLINE search while online. DOCLINE will provide automatic routing to the most likely sources based on such factors as regional policies, geographic proximity and request loads. Access routes will still emphasize local resources first. NLM views its role: "... as an ILL switching center rather than a direct supplier of documents within the RML network."

Other System Plans. Natural language searching, multiple file searching, and online user aids are a few improvements planned to make the user-computer interaction easier.

These are only a few of the major highlights of the forthcoming services to be provided as MEDLARS III is implemented. For more information contact the KOMRMLN Central Office for loan of the Task Force Report.

-Jim Crooks, University of Michigan
Taubman Medical Library

"Now Is The Time..."*

As I look back over the past two years while serving as President-Elect and President, I can reflect on the changes in the mood and attitudes of the members of this Association. When I think back to the "hectic times" our members experienced in developing our constitution and bylaws, it seemed as though "we would never get our feet off the ground." Somehow we survived all the hurdles, and being a part of all of it has been an exciting and challenging experience.

One of the tremendous assets of being an officer is the opportunity for professional growth and the chance to work with individuals I have admired in our profession. Their advice and assistance have proved invaluable to me.

During my Presidency, I had the opportunity to visit other health sciences libraries in Michigan. Many were in hospitals. I was constantly amazed at what I observed. It really did not matter which library I visited, because the same single common denominator kept appearing in each. What was this common denominator?

I think we are witnessing in Michigan an extraordinary phenomenon in health sciences librarianship — a "renaissance" in information resources, in the professional qualifications of our librarians and in technical services. Just take a look at the number of hospital libraries in our state with a) MEDLINE terminals or whose librarians are applying for MEDLINE terminals and training, b) librarians who are now certified by MLA, c) librarians with graduate degrees, d) librarians taking CE courses to improve their management and technical abilities, and e) librarians who are developing quality collections, both print and nonprint.

Health sciences librarians are meeting the challenge of providing quality information resources and services to improve patient care. The demands for these resources and services come from all directions — students, residents, administrators, to name a few. Health sciences libraries are now exploring new areas and new directions, such as patient and consumer health education. What an exciting time to be part of our profession!

Working with eight local groups in Michigan has been an interesting challenge for me. The diversity among health sciences librarians has proved to be a tremendous asset to me. Out of this diversity has developed a strength among my colleagues — pulling them together to work for the good of the Association.

It has occurred to me that despite sophisticated computers and technology in health sciences librarianship today, the greatest single information resource we have is each other! The crucial priority for the 1980's will be "cooperative efforts in resource sharing."

At a time when the state of Michigan is experiencing an economic crisis, we must pull together to ensure the integrity of our professional and the quality of our services. Whether we work in hospitals, universities or the RML, we must strengthen our "cooperative efforts in resource sharing."

Now is the time to dedicate ourselves to the goal of assuming a leadership role and to become a model for health sciences libraries in other states. Let librarians look to Michigan for progressive and innovative trends in health sciences librarianship.

*Edited version of the President's farewell address, presented at the MHSLA Conference October 10, 1980 at Bay Valley Inn.

ship in the decade of the 1980's.

We must work together to develop our health sciences information resources right here in Michigan. Now is the time to produce a statewide union list of health sciences serials. Let us pull together our two great lists — ULOSSUM and MASH. The results will be "a commitment to excellence in health sciences librarianship."

My colleagues, if there ever was the "right moment in time" for our Association, that moment is now! The opportunities for a leadership role in health sciences librarianship are within our reach. I am confident as I finish my presidency that the members of this Association will accept the responsibilities, the challenges and the hard work that will be demanded of them in order to fulfill a commitment to excellence.

-Carole Colter
Midland Hospital Association

New Edition of Diabetes Catalog

The 1980 publication *Audiovisual Resources for Diabetes Education*, second edition, is now available through the Learning Resource Center of the University of Michigan Medical School for \$15.

Professional, patient, and general education materials related to all aspects of diabetes mellitus are included in the catalog. Full bibliographic data, content abstracts and distribution information are cited for over 400 audiovisual programs. In addition to a subject index, the catalog contains indexes by medical format, audience, and distributor, and a directory of ADA affiliates. The project was supported by a grant from the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Diseases.

Purchase requests may be directed to the LRC, University of Michigan Medical School, 1135 E. Catherine Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109. For further information, contact Karen Metz at 313/763-6770.

Education Committee Survey Results

In April 1980, the MHSLA Education Committee conducted a needs assessment survey of the membership in order to document the composition of the group and point out directions for educational programs. Karen Metz, committee chairperson, reported the results at the MHSLA annual meeting in October. Highlights of her report are given here.

Of the 124 surveys distributed, 76 were returned. Results indicated that 65.5% of the respondents were employed in hospital libraries: 388.5 employees worked in these 76 libraries. MLS degreed librarians numbered 147.5; libraries with at least one MLS degreed librarian totalled 62. Thirteen libraries employ neither MLS degreed nor other advanced degreed professionals; 5% reported non-librarian professionals. Fifteen one-person libraries responded; libraries with fewer than 3 full-time employees totalled 40.

When asked about responsibility for and support of continuing education activities, 58% responded that the institution should assume 100% responsibility for CE support. No one indicated that continuing education is a personal matter that the employers ignore.

Sixty-six percent of the respondents identified a one-day workshop as the preferred type of CE activity. Reasons given for attending or not attending CE courses included subject matter, distance, time, budget, and staffing conflicts. Of those responding, 80% preferred that CE courses precede the MHSL annual conference, although 50% indicated probable attendance after or concurrent with the conference. Preferences for possible course locations in Michigan were Ann Arbor, Detroit, Jackson, Lansing, and Saginaw.

Suggestions for topics for future CE courses included publicizing library services, basic anatomy and physiology, design and utilization of existing space, and "burn-out" in the health professions. Other recommendations focused on better preparation of courses in terms of planning and meeting objectives, and widening the range of course offerings to appeal to the highly experienced library manager.

President's Column

Dear MHSLA members:

As I write this column an ice-like rain is pelting our snow covered Upper Peninsula landscape. The scene outside my window rivals a snowstorm in Dr. Zhivago and portends our future for the next few months, here in the north country. We have buttoned up and battened down, our wood-pile is stacked, and our skis are waxed — winter has presented its perennial challenge!

There is another challenge ahead, to begin the work of the two investigative committees mandated by our membership at our October business meeting: 1) Committee to Study Medical Library Association (MLA) Chapter Application, 2) Adhoc Committee to Study Affiliation with the Michigan Hospital Association. These committees will each be composed of three members. One member will study the *pro* question, one the *con* question and the third (chairperson) will write a report, in debate style, based on the *pro* and *con* findings. MHSLA members are encouraged to send their comments to the respective *pro* or *con* committee members listed below. Our intention is to have all comments received and reports submitted by each position to chairpersons by May 30, 1981. This will give committee chairpersons time to complete their reports for publication in the *MHSLA News* September 1981 issue. These same reports will be read to the membership at our October 1981 Educational Conference Business Meeting. (This rational approach to the affiliation and charter issues was suggested by Executive Board member, Kay Kelly).

Committee to Study MLA Chapter Application

Carole Colter, Chairperson
Midland Hospital Association
Library
4005 Orchard Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640

Barbara Coe Johnson — *PRO Question*
Harper Hospital
Libraries
2990 John R at Alexandrine
Detroit, MI 48201

Jeanne L. Hartenstein — *CON Question*
Bronson Methodist Hospital
Health Sciences Library
252 East Lovell St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Ad hoc Committee to Study MHA Affiliation

Janet Parsch, Chairperson
Michigan State University
Science Library
East Lansing, MI 48824

Lea Ann McGaugh — *PRO Question*
McLaren General Hospital
401 Ballenger Highway
Flint, MI 48502

Mary Hanson — *CON Question*
St. Mary's Hospital Library
200 Jefferson, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

There is, of course, other important committee work ahead. I have concentrated on the two committees mentioned because I felt the need for some lead time in order to comfortably complete the work involved.

-Mildred Kingsbury
Marquette General Hospital

Coupons for Payment of Interloans

Beginning October 1, 1980 the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) offered coupons for sale to all Michigan libraries in \$1, \$2 and \$4 denominations. The coupons may be used to pay for interlibrary loan transactions from a number of Michigan academic libraries. In general, the loans may be photocopies of journal articles, books or audiovisual materials, although policies may vary with the lending library. It is suggested that the borrower check with the lending library's interlibrary loan staff for current charges and interloan policies if there is a question.

The MLC coupon system is a direct result of the State Library's (Michigan) closing its access offices at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University. Federal funds, through the access offices, subsidized document delivery services for Michigan residents via their local libraries. Hospital librarians requested (and received subsidy for) non-health related materials through the access offices. When funding from the State Library ceased, the Michigan academic libraries felt they could not absorb the extra cost for interlibrary loan, since the service has increased substantially each year. To avoid the excess paper work, which was sure to result from interlibrary loan charges, Michigan State University and Wayne State University agreed upon the use of a coupon system, and the Michigan Library Consortium agreed to handle the sale of the coupons. Since that time Oakland University, Eastern University and the University of Detroit have agreed to accept MLC coupons.

Under the Kentucky-Ohio-Michigan RML Network system, MLC coupons may be used to pay for charges by a resource library (in Michigan only) to search and TWX a referral. Charges to fill the referral are subsidized by federal funds. No coupons should be sent with a direct access request because it is a form of referral and these charges are also subsidized by federal funds.

It is important to note that some university libraries will add an extra charge for filled requests if no coupon accompanies the request. The charge is to cover the expense of billing procedures and invoices. Some local networks have developed an automatic referral process to the local resource library when a request cannot be filled by a basic unit library. In such cases the request may reach the local resource library without an attached coupon and, if filled, be charged for at the higher rate. To avoid this situation, the requestor should note on the *interlibrary loan form* Do Not Refer To A Charging Library. It is equally important for the basic unit library staff that receives the request to watch for special notes to avoid unnecessary costs to the borrowing library. If a request cannot be filled among basic unit libraries and no special referral note is on the request, it is advisable to return the request to the originating library where a decision about referral to a charging library can be made. Coupons should be stapled to the interlibrary loan request, and each request should indicate the dollar amount of the coupons attached. Finally, basic units should not attach coupons when borrowing for each other. For further information on the participating institutions in the coupon system and/ or purchasing information, call the MLC at 313/ 577-4061.

Dr. Cummings Visits Ann Arbor

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the National Library of Medicine, spoke at the Michigan League on the University of Michigan campus on Thursday, November 6, 1980. Over 100 librarians and students from throughout Michigan and parts of Ohio attended the lecture, entitled "Library Issues and Developments on the National Scene." The event was scheduled as part of the School of Library Science Thursday Convocations. A reception for Dr. Cummings followed the talk.

Learning Resource Center Catalog

The Learning Resource Center of the University of Michigan has recently published *Instructional Materials*, a subject catalog of its audiovisual holdings. This computer-generated catalog arranges materials by the general subject categories of the National Library of Medicine classification system. Entries in each section cite bibliographic data, designated audiences and a brief content summary. The catalog also contains a title index and an author-title index. The introductory section describes the Center's facilities, policies and services.

The catalog is designed to assist in the identification of audiovisual resources. The two-volume catalog may be purchased for \$15. Orders should be sent to: Learning Resource Center, University of Michigan Medical School, 1135 E. Catherine Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.

The LRC has also made it possible for other institutions to directly access the LRC's computerized cataloging system through the Telenet network. Anyone interested in utilizing the data retrieval system should write to Karen Metz at the above address.

MRG/MLA To Meet In Detroit

The Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group will host the Midwest Regional Group/Medical Library Association meeting to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dearborn on October 11 - 13, 1980. The theme of the meeting is "Options for the Future". The conference builds on the 1980 St. Louis meeting and is intended to create an opportunity for librarians to stretch their minds and imaginations - to leap ahead in terms of projected needs and challenges of the future. In short, the theme and program will provide a capsulated intellectual bull session which will serve as a framework in which to judge the rapidly accelerating changes in both the technological and philosophical aspects of medical librarianship as they confront each librarian through the coming years.

To implement such a theme, a half-day session, to set the scene, will include a keynote speaker and a panel presentation representing several areas of interest. The meeting will progress with a day-long program designed along three tracks with a total of twelve presentations. The tracks will run concurrently, with a built-in provision for attendees to jump tracks, if they desire, in order to hear the presentations of their choice. Track I, entitled "Librarianship in the 21st Century", will include a discussion of topics, such as user demands, new technologies and information scientist vs. the traditional librarian. Track II, "Computerization in Libraries", will cover among other topics, MEDLARS III, concurrent searching, hospital information systems and online catalogs. Track III is called "National Policies and the Medical Library". It includes a discussion of topics such as copyright and new document delivery technology, the National Library of Medicine research and development, new legislation, etc.

Continuing education courses will be offered on Sunday, October 11. The Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association will meet jointly with the Midwest Regional Group/MLA. Further information will be distributed to the librarians of the region in early spring.

Library Assistant Program

A two-year associate degree program for library assistants is now available at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn. The program includes 62 credit hours, and prepares the student for employment in public, academic, medical, legal and business libraries. Most credits earned at Henry Ford Community College will transfer to any reputable university in the nation, including the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University and Michigan State University. For more information contact: Avram Rosenthal or Elizabeth King, Eshleman Library, Henry Ford Community College, 4101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, MI 48128. (tel: 313/271-0551)

Local Group News

Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association

The group's Spring meeting was held on May 16, 1980, at Holly's Bistro in Grand Rapids. An education program entitled "Selection of Biomedical Materials" was presented by members Mary Hanson and Tom VanDam. The group also voted to donate \$100.00 to the Grand Rapids Chapter of the Michigan Heart Association in memory of V. Peter Skuja, former medical librarian at Blodgett Memorial Medical Center in Grand Rapids, who died in December, 1979.

Flint Area Health Sciences Library Network

The first meeting of the 1980-81 business year was held at Flint Osteopathic Hospital on October 15, 1980. The election of officers was held and results were announced. An outline for programs for the next three meetings was developed and plans for establishing a library consultation service for small hospitals in the area were discussed.

South Central Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association

SCMHSLA members met on October 31, 1980, at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti. Members who had attended the MHSLA annual conference reported on the CE course, workshops, and business meeting held in Bay City. After a brief description of the activities of the Forensic Center by the Assistant Director, Karen Metz presented a program dealing with "Copyright and AV's." The film shown at the dedication of the Lister Hill Center for Biomedical Communications in May concluded the meeting.

Valley Regional Health Sciences Librarians

The Valley Regional group met at Midland Hospital Center on November 11, 1980. Members discussed the annual conference which they had co-hosted in October. A program was given by the Michigan State University Extramural Coordinator on the subject of "ILL Fees." The White Pines Library Cooperative was discussed in conjunction with the program topic.

Upper Peninsula Health Sciences Libraries Consortium

The Consortium has four new members. These are Betty Anderson of Bell Memorial Hospital, Ishpeming; Phyllis Hildebrandt, Veterans Administration Hospital, Iron Mountain; Paula French, Newberry Regional Mental Health Center, Newberry and Kathy You, General Hospital, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

Individual Items

Jane Claytor joined St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing in October as head of their library. Jane has a B.S. in Library Science from Concord College in Athens, West Virginia. She has worked in a number of library positions, most recently in the Science Library at Michigan State University. Jane would like to be included on the mailing lists for any and all exchange lists. Her address is: Medical Library, St. Lawrence Hospital, 1210 West Saginaw. Lansing, MI 48914 (Phone: 517/372-3610 ext. 2704).

Judy Coppola is the new Extramural Coordinator at Michigan State University. Judy earned her B.A. from Boston University and her M.L.S. from the University of Michigan. She can be reached through the Science Library at M.S.U. (Phone: 517/355-2347).

Metta Lansdale, Manager of Information Services, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, was elected the State Basic Unit Representative for Michigan to the Executive Committee of the Kentucky-Ohio-Michigan Regional Medical Library Network. All members of the Participating Library Advisory Committees (PLACS) in Michigan are eligible voters. The nominees were chosen by the University of Michigan PLAC.

Metta will serve a two-year term beginning with the April 1981 Executive Committee Meeting. She succeeds Pat Wolfgram, Librarian, Saginaw Osteopathic Hospital.

Brian Simmons is the new Medical Librarian at Blodgett Memorial Medical Center in Grand Rapids. Brian is a 1977 graduate of the University of Michigan School of Library Science. He had previously worked as Middle School Librarian for the Algonac Community School system for two years.

MHSLA NEWS is the official newsletter of the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association. Comments and inquiries may be sent to any member of the Publications Committee.

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