mhsla news

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

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President's Page
Judy Barnes

By now you all know about the significant announcement by the National Library of Medicine regarding their decision to cease charging NN/LM Network Member Libraries for the AIDS related databases, announced January 25, 1994. "Free access is the result of recommendations made at the NIH HIV/AIDS Information Services Conference, June 1993." Databases include AIDSLINE, AIDSDRUGS, AIDSTRIALS and DIRLINE. NLM should be congratulated for its efforts to contain costs for research in this devastating disease. If you are not a member of the NN/LM Network and wish additional information on this subject, please contact NLM at 1-800-638-8480, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time.

In the January issue of MLA News, are several articles that may interest our membership. I would recommend reading the article which discusses the Library's role in Health Care Reform. The article discusses key components of health care reform and compares them with the health sciences librarian's contribution. Much of this information can be utilized in our efforts to continue to market ourselves to our organizations. Also in this issue is an announcement of EBSCO's MLA Annual Meeting Grant. While the application for the 1994 grant has already passed, information is provided for next year's applications. Another little tidbit of information in this issue is a comparison of our salaries to other health professionals.

In the January issue of the MLA Bulletin, you will find very interesting reading as well. In particular, the article by Patricia Aburdene on "Megatrends for the information age" makes interesting reading. MACHIS members should note that the "Symposium: Medical Libraries and Patient Information Services" also appears in this issue.

With the merger of Ingham Medical Center and Lansing General Hospital, Osteopathic into a new entity called Michigan Capital Medical Center, comes news that MCMC will be inspected by a team from JCAHO as if it were a new entity. This will be the first time the Pennsylvania Campus, formerly Lansing General, will be inspected by JCAHO. Obviously, considerable preparations are being made for JCAHO's visit. With the implementation of a new version of the library applications software, addition of new computing equipment, and changes in staffing and scheduling of Library staff, this Librarian has a lot of work ahead in bringing policies and procedures up to date.

Members undergoing JCAHO inspection this year who are willing to participate in a panel discussion regarding their experience, at the Annual Conference, should contact Ria Lukes (313/762-8519), Barbara Kormelink (517/894-3782) or Doris Blauet (313/762-4587).

EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIVITIES:
Some time in April, members will receive a survey developed by the Research Committee, the Collection Development Committee and the Ad-Hoc Committee on Technology for Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery.

The survey will include questions on how members cope with older runs of journal titles. The purpose of the survey will be to determine how many libraries convert old runs to microfiche, or remove older titles to storage. An attempt will be made to determine costs involved and turn-around-time for delivery of materials via each process.

These committees will also investigate the alternative resources and services and develop recommendations for MHSLA members.

At the first meeting of the Executive Board, it was decided to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee on Marketing and Exhibits, which will plan and develop a display for exhibiting at annual meetings of the Michigan Medical Society, Michigan Nurses Association, Michigan Hospital Association, etc. The purpose is to bring information regarding our organization and medical librarianship to these groups.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on the Role of MHSLA in MLA continues its research and the President has made contact with the Canadian Health Libraries Association and will arrange to meet with their President in the Spring.

By now you have received your membership renewal applications from the Membership Committee. Prompt return of these applications is necessary to assure your member discount for the Conference. FINAL deadline is March 1, 1994.

The Document Delivery Committee has also been hard at work delivering the MISHULS list. If you have not received your order form, contact Barbara Kormelink, (517) 894-3782.

This is the first issue of MHSLA News to be published by the 1994 Publications Committee. If you have information you would like to convey to the membership, please contact Mary Griswold, Chair at (616) 341-6318.

As you can see, the Board is off to a great start. If you would like to contribute and are interested in joining a Committee, please contact me at (517) 377-8389 to discuss the possibilities.

CALL FOR POSTERS

Instead of contributed papers, the Education Committee has decided to invite members to present posters at the annual conference. All members interested in presenting a poster should submit an abstract in writing to the committee by June 30, 1994. You may send or fax your abstracts to Robin Alanen Mosher at -

Battle Creek Health System
Professional Library
300 North Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49016
(fax) 616-966-8332

1994 FALL CONFERENCE PLANS

The Conference Planning Committee and the Education Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Board, developed a tentative schedule for the 1994 MHSLA Educational Conference. Dates for the Conference this year ar Wednesday, September 28 through Friday, September 30. The tentative theme is BRIDGING COMMUNICATION.

Based on post-conference surveys and membership surveys, the Committee has recommended that the two CE's be on Health Information Services for the Layperson and Benchmarking. The Executive Board meeting will follow the CE's.

Health Information Services for the Lay Person (MLA CE910) will be taught by Kathleen Moeller of Overlook Library, Summit, NJ. Kathleen has also agreed to be our keynote speaker. Benchmarking (MLA NP107) will be taught by Holly Shipp Buchanan of Greenblatt Library, Augusta, GA.

On Thursday, as usual, the Business Meeting will follow the Keynote Address. A buffet lunch will follow with presentations from the Research Committee, Collection Development Committee and the Ad-Hoc Committee on Technology for Document Delivery and Interlibrary Loan. The Committees will discuss findings of the survey of library storage and microfiche practices among MHSLA Libraries. After lunch, instead of the usual presented papers, poster sessions will be available as well as videos on library and educational topics for review. Attendees will also be able to take part in a "fun activity in downtown Frankmenmuth". That evening, there will be a meeting for MACHIS members and a special event to follow.

On the last day, Friday, attendees will be able to take part in one of two tracks.

Track one will be involved in various technology applications for libraries. Track two will include panel discussions on JCAHO inspection, and a session on alternative careers for librarians.

WILKOMEN TO FRANKENMUTH!

Doris Blauet

Grab your drindles and lederhosen and cross the covered bridge to little Bavaria for MHSLA's 21st annual educational conference. At the Bavarian Inn Lodge the guest rooms will make you think you've been transported back to the old country.

This year the Committee has tried to allow ample time during the conference for "networking" (meeting and greeting old and new friends, strolling around Frankenmuth, watching the Glockenspiel, playing golf, shopping at Birch Run's many (!!) outlet stores, antiquing in Chesaning, visiting the newly expanded Bronners, etc.)

Don't eat too much on any of your trips because there is the world famous Frankenmuth Chicken dinner waiting for you back at the Inn or at Zenders. Even though we are a little early for Octoberfest, there will be plenty of activities in town to keep you busy.

Mark the dates in your planners --- September 28-30!

If your group needs any special meeting rooms, please let the Committee know fairly soon so arrangements can be made.

Auf Wiedersehen, and see you there!!

NOMINEES SOUGHT

The MHSLA Nominating Committee is beginning the search for potential candidates for this year's election. Please contact a member of the committee by March 15, if you have suggestions, or are interested in running. The slate will include the following positions:

President Elect
Treasurer (2 year appointment)
Nominating Committee Members 1
    from each local group)

Thank you in advance for your help and participation. The Nominating Committee members and their phone numbers are:

Ellen O'Donnell, Chair 313/343-3734
Jane Claytor 517/377-0354
Ken Nelson 906/225-3429

ASCII:
New Uses for an Old Standard
Sandy Swanson

At the *Computers in Libraries* 1992 conference, one of the CD-ROM vendors presenting information about the developments in the CD-ROM document storage astounded his audience with the information that they were working with a standard that was over forty years old. As the audience paused to consider the state of computer science in the 1950s (remember Tracy & Hepburn in "Desk Set"?), he told us that standard was ASCII.

ASCII is the American Standard Code for Information Interchange. The standard assigns numerical values to upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, punctuation, and some non-printing characters such as the space created by a space bar and the carriage return produced by the Enter key. Using the ASCII character set, data can be transferred between different wordprocessors such as Microsoft Word to Wordperfect, between different types of software such as database-to-wordprocessor, and between different types of computers such as mainframe-to-PC.

Other formatting options commonly used by various computer programs, such as "centering" and "italics", are not part of the standard ASCII character set and are ignored, omitted, or transferred as odd characters -- as we saw when we used "Print Screen" on our IBM PCs and found that the boxes that appeared on our screens printed out as uppercase italicized *D*s and *M*s.

We have all used ASCII when we communicated with online services from our Pcs (and even our Texas Instruments terminals); the ASCII standard is what allowed our local computers to recognize the characters sent by the database vendor's mainframe. As we became more sophisticated and began transferring our search results (from online sources or CD-ROM) into our wordprocessing software to clean up the copy, we were able to do so because of the power of the ASCII standard.

This standard has been around a long time. Why is it "news" now? There are a couple of issues on the leading edge of technology that require that we know what ASCII is and how we can make use of it.

One issue is that brought up by the CD-ROM vendor: the issue of electronic storage of documents. There are two ways to store documents electronically -- as ASCII characters or as "image files." The "full-text" materials available online through DIALOG or on CD-ROM through CMC ReSearch are ASCII files: each word is recognizable and searchable; and the files take less storage space

and the files take less storage space because each character in the document takes a single byte of storage space. However, ASCII files are pretty much "unformatted" and print out as solid blocks of text 80 characters across unless they are manipulated by a wordprocessor before printing. This is not the most readable format for difficult material as is printed in medical journals. Also, the ASCII file cannot include the photographic materials included in an article, so photos are either unavailable -- in DIALOG -- or attached but difficult to print -- on CMC ReSearch disks.

The other way to store the document is as an image file. This is an electronic version of microfiche -- the full image is there, including advertisements and readable page layouts -- but the computer cannot recognize the characters on the page to search it. When the image is saved, it must be attached to an index -- and the retrieval can only be as good as the indexing. Image files take much more storage space than ASCII, since the computer is storing a bit of data for each pixel or "dot" on the page, with a finer resolution representing more "dots per inch." If a fax machine or a dot-matrix printer prints 75 "dots per inch" and a laser printer prints either 300 or 400 -- one can imagine how many "dots" a journal page would have to have to store a useable photo of a pathology slide, for example. (The February *PC Computing* says that a photo on conventional film can contain 2 million to 60 million grains!) The image-file approach to document storage is also being used to store journal images on CD-ROM, in the ADONIS and the UMI Business Periodicals Ondisc products.

More important to our membership at this time is a more common and more necessary use of ASCII text -- we must each learn to produce ASCII files as we become senders of files rather than merely receivers. I will be sending this

article for the MHSLA newsletter on a

disk -- but I use Microsoft Word, and newsletter editor Mary Griswold uses Wordperfect. The easiest way for us each to handle this is for me to send it in ASCII, which Wordperfect will recognize. If I were sending the article out over the Internet to Mary's e-mail address, again, I must send it in ASCII to avoid sending Word-specific character codes, which Mary's software would not recognize at all -- and which would look peculiar on her screen. The same is true if I were to upload the article to an electronic bulletin board; if the article is to be read online or downloaded to another PC, it is necessary to send ASCII.

To save a document as ASCII in Microsoft Word, the menu choices to select are *File...Save As...Type...DOS text (.tx8)*. In First Choice, use *F2 Files... 2-Save as a different type of file...1-ASCII*. For Professional Write, change the "N" to an "A" on the "Save" box to change from "Normal" to "ASCII"; the software will give a warning message that all formatting will be lost. For other wordprocessors, check your "Save" menus for **ASCII, Text only,** or **DOS Text** options.

Creating an ASCII text file is not difficult, and is something that each of us will want to become proficient in to avoid the embarrassment of sending an unreadable file to our colleagues on the Internet. Take a few minutes to find the commands in your wordprocessor.

Due to a lack of space, St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit has deleted all journals prior to 1975. Please update your interlibrary loan information to relfect this change. Our DOCLINE and MISHULS records are in the process of being updated.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN STATISTICS

Enclosed with this issue of the News ia a copy of the 1993 Statistical Survey for the Document Delivery Committee of MHSLA. Each year the Committee gathers statistics to measure interlibrary loan practices among Michigan health sciences libraries. Please complete the survey after you receive your DOCLINE annual statistics and return it to Barbara Kormelink, Chair, Bay Medical Center Library, 1900 Columbus Avenue, Bay City, MI 48708-6880. If there are any questions about the survey, please contact Barbara or Jane Claytor.

EXHIBITORS

The Sisters of Mercy Health Corporation (SMHC) Library Group exhibited at the annual meeting of the Mercy Health Services Continuing Nursing Education Network on October 25, 1993, in Lansing. We put the whole thing together in only five weeks. The exhibit included a Grateful Med/NN-LM display from RML; materials from CINAHL; and books, bibliographies, posters, and examples of services from many of our member libraries. Watch for a full report of the exhibit in a future issue of *3 Sources*.

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD
1993/94

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AD-Hoc Committee on Position of MHSLA in
 MLA . . . . Marge Kars
AD-Hoc Committee on Technology for ILL /
 Document Delivery . . . . . . Craig Mulder

GRM Representative . . . . Ellen Marks
State Council RepresentativeLynn Sorenson Sutton

Michigan Chapter, Special Libraries Association

PRESENTS ITS
FOURTH ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES
FEATURING OUR GUEST LECTURER

JAMES F. WILLIAMS II
DEAN OF LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1994
FORD MOTOR COMPANY WORLD HEADQUARTERS
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

"THE GREAT AMERICAN LIBRARY JOB: OUTSOURCING AS A MEANS TO GETTING SOME OF IT DONE"

2:00 p.m. Registration
2:30 p.m. Lecture
3:30 p.m. Questions/Answers
4:00 p.m. Reception, including coffee and dessert

THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER THANKS
EBSCO
FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT

PLEASE SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO *MI CHAPTER SLA* BY MARCH 21, 1994 TO:

Sherry Schmidt Macomb County Library 16480 Hall Road Clinton Township, MI 48038 Phone: 810-286-6660 Fax 810-228-8530

Registration Form

Name:_____

Organization:_____

Address:_____Phone:_____

Amount enclosed: Member: $12.50 ___   Student: $10.00 ___   Non-Member: $15.00 ___

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

Document Delivery Committee

1993 Statistical Survey

To assist in compiling information regarding interlibrary loan practices among Michigan Health Sciences Libraries, MHSLA's Document Delivery Committee would appreciate the following information based on the 1993 calendar year:

Institution_____

Library_._____

Address_____

City_____State_____ZIP_____

Libid_____   OCLC/MLC/MISHULS Code_____

Statistics

Total Number of Items Borrowed . . . . ._____*

    -Number Borrowed DOCLINE   _____

    -Number Borrowed Non-DOCLINE   _____

    -Number Borrowed OCLC   _____

    -Number Borrowed FAX   _____

    *Subtotals do not have to equal "Total Number Borrowed" i.e. you might request on Docline that the ILL be faxed: therefore, you would include it under "Number Borrowed Docline" and "Number Borrowed FAX", but it would only be counted as one in the "Total" box.

Total Number Items Loaned . . . . ._____*

    -Number Loaned DOCLINE   _____

    -Number Loaned Non-DOCLINE   _____

    -Number Loaned OCLC   _____

    -Number Loaned FAX   _____

Journal Information

Number of current Library journal titles . . . . . ._____
(Include those at no cost.)

DOCLINE Cell Information

What cell do you prefer to be in as a lender? _____

Specific cell guidelines (i.e. Cell 1 = Area Library Groups only, etc.)

_____

_____

This information will be reported in the MHSLA News.

Thank you for your cooperation in returning completed survey by March 30, 1994 to: Barbara Kormelink, Bay Medical Center Library, 1900 Columbus Ave., Bay City, MI 48708-6880.