

mhsa news

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

No. 29

WINTER

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The following is an approximation of the speech I made at the Grand Hotel during the Annual Educational Conference.

When I decided to accept the nomination for President of M.H.S.L.A., I asked myself "Why does M.H.S.L.A. work as well as it does?, What makes this organization a leader among health science library groups?" The conclusion that I arrived at was that M.H.S.L.A. is a leader because its members benefit from the group on several different levels.

On the personal level, each member benefits from the opportunities for continuing education that are provided by this group. Also, each member benefits from the opportunity for professional interchange with peers. One of the greatest benefits that the individual member receives is the opportunity to participate in committees, in offices and in educational conferences. This benefit is even more valuable now that this service is recognized and rewarded under the Medical Library Association's new credentialing system.

There are also benefits from M.H.S.L.A. that are received on an institutional level. The institutional members have access to a far larger body of resources through the resource sharing efforts which have been pioneered by this group. Institutions receive cost savings through the institutional discounts provided to M.H.S.L.A. members and also through cooperative collection development.

This is an increasingly important benefit in these cost-conscious times.

Institutions also are able, through this organization, to participate in grants for special high-cost items, such as the CD-ROM Committee is now investigating.

Finally, there are benefits from M.H.S.L.A. which are evident on a professional level. We benefit our profession by taking a leadership position and setting an example for the professional in areas such as resource sharing, cooperative collection development, surveys, and long-range planning. We benefit the profession by building a core of highly-motivated, active professionals who have served on the state level and will and have moved on to serve the profession regionally and nationally. We benefit the profession by our ongoing involvement in research studies such as the Hospital Library Survey, the Technology Directory and our newly formed Research Committee, which have added to and will continue to add to the body of knowledge about our profession.

During my term as president, I will encourage our organization to continue its contributions on all levels and I hope to encourage all members to take an active role in the future of M.H.S.L.A. and to fully experience its benefits on all of these levels.

Diane M. O'Keefe

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

MDMLG will host a meeting on March 8, 1990 at the Mt. Clemens General Hospital. The topic will be "Alternative Careers for the Medical Librarian". For more information, contact Diane Piskorowski, MDMLG Public Relations Committee 4325 Brush, Detroit, MI 48201.

WMHSLA (Western Michigan Health Sciences Library Association) will host a meeting in March in Kalamazoo concerning automation and practical applications in library software. For more information contact Sandra Swanson at (616) 774-1655.

MACHIS (Michigan Association of Consumer Health Information Specialists) will host a meeting at Port Huron Hospital on March 23, 1990. For more information or to join MACHIS, contact Glenda Evans at (616) 341-7723.

The 5th Annual Computers in Libraries conference will be held March 5-7, 1990 at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City at Washington National Airport. The program will include such topics as CD-ROM products & services; Local Area Networks; The Library Macintosh; Special Library Concerns; Expert Systems; Software Utilization & Training; Integrated Online Library Systems; Workstations; Hypercard, and Electronic Mail. Computers in Libraries boasts 78 sessions with over 100 speakers including Michigan Librarians, Doris Asher of Sparrow Hospital in Lansing and Judy Barnes of Lansing General Hospital. To receive a brochure for the Conference contact the Meckler Corporation at (800). 635-5537 or (203) 226-6967.

DON'T FORGET TO "GEAR UP FOR THE 90'S" WITH MLA IN DETROIT IN MAY

Newsletter Article Deadlines

Spring Issue - 3/15/90 (April 1990)
 Summer Issue - 6/15/90 (July 1990)
 Fall Issue - 9/15/90 (Oct. 1990)

**NEW FAX SITES
IN MICHIGAN:**

Providence Hospital
 Helen L. DeRoy Medical Library
 Fax # (313) 424-3201

Flint Osteopathic Hospital
 Herzog Memorial Medical Library
 New Fax # (313) 762-3533

Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric
 Hospital Staff Library
 New Fax # (616) 388-2288

Hackley Hospital
 Medical Library
 New Fax # (616) 728-0365

MHSLA EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

We are pleased to announce that 2 of the courses presented at the fall conference have received 3 hours of credit. They are How to hire, how to fire and Costing library services.

Certificates were issued to the How to Hire class but not for the Costing Library Services. Somehow in the shuffle, the sign up list for "Costing" did not get returned to the Education Committee. Therefore, if you attended that class and wish to obtain credit, please contact Yvonne Mathis at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids, and she will see that you get your certificate.

We are still waiting for word on credit for the other 3 hour classes. We'll notify you when we hear from MLA.

**MHSLA PUBLICATIONS DIRECTORY
PROJECT**

The Technology Committee will embark on a new project this year called the MHSLA Publications Directory. The directory will include citations to articles, or other printed materials authored by members of MHSLA. If you would like your publications to appear in the

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directory, please send the citation to Judy Barnes at Lansing General Hospital, 2727 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48909-3490 or fax it to (517) 372-0341.

INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSES:

Several information clearinghouses exist right in our own back yards. Bill Nelson has been kind enough to pass along the following resources for publication:

The Michigan Department of Public Health, Center for Environmental Health Sciences at 3500 N. Logan, P. O. Box 30035, Lansing MI 48909 provides us with the following quick reference numbers:

Center for Environmental Health Sciences
Lansing (517) 335-8350

Toxic and Health Hotline
Lansing (800) Mi-TOXIC

Michigan Agent Orange Hotline
Lansing (800) 648-6942

Toxic Substances & Emergency Service
Lansing (517) 373-0440

Toxic Chemical Evaluation Section
Lansing (517) 373-2190

MDPH Emergency Notification
Lansing (517) 335-9030

Toxic Substance Control
Communication
Lansing (517) 373-1031
Toll Free (800) 292-0528

MSU Center for Environmental
Toxicology
East Lansing (517) 353-6469

The Center for Health Promotion
Michigan Special Hotlines include:

AIDS (800) 872-AIDS

Mignonne Radja enjoys playing a role in reducing everyone's exposure to tobacco smoke. If you would like

information call her at (517) 335-9125.

Smoking (800) 537-5666

Health Promotion (800) 537-5666

Poison Control Centers 24 Hour Services

Grand Rapids	800-632-2727
Detroit Metro Area	313-745-5711
Area Code 313	800-462-6642
Marquette	906-225-3405
Other UP areas	800-562-9781

Workplace Exposures:

Detroit	313-422-7660
Pontiac	313-373-8878
Lansing	517-335-8250
Saginaw	517-771-1726
Grand Rapids	616-456-1885
Kalamazoo	616-344-6109
Marquette	906-225-1264

Federal Government Listings

Federal Inform. Center	313-226-7016
Food & Drug Adm	313-226-6260
Consumer Prod. Safety	800-638-2772
EPA	312-353-2000

REPORT FROM REGION 3 BY DAVID KEDDLE "YOUR VOICE IN CHICAGO"

New telefax directory will be published by the region in January 1990.

National Library of Medicine Report: The new emphasis from NLM will be to make sure that all underserved areas of the country are all served by the Regional Medical Library Program.

The National Library of Medicine is conducting a survey to Health Professionals. To find out if running a Medline search does make a difference in patient care.

If you need informational materials about the National Library of Medicine for any program that you may be having, just give NLM a call.

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History of Medlars Online User Codes:

Online User Codes:

1971-1976 1,000 New Codes Issued.

1984 4,000 Codes issued

1986 8,000 Codes issued

by September 1989 30,000 codes issued.

Now available is a Mac version of Grateful Med.

Med Tutor is now available for PC's at \$24.95 from NTIS.

Decline Report:

Total Decline Libraries 1819

Any questions or concerns that you may have just give me a call at Ingham or fax it to me. Phone (517) 334-2270, Fax (517) 334-2552.

AUTOMATING LIBRARIES USING GENERIC DATABASE SOFTWARE

Judith A. Barnes

Medical Librarian

Lansing General Hospital, Lansing, MI
and

Doris H. Asher

Department Manager, Medical Library
Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI

Librarians the world over, whether their libraries be small or grandiose in size, have been seeking the ultimate quick fix in integrated Library systems. Systems on the market today ranges from the sublime to the ridiculous. There are turnkey systems, which include hardware and software; integrated systems for mainframe, mini and micro; and a multitude of small programs to automate individual library tasks.

How long have librarians been at it? In 1965 the University of Chicago submitted a 3 year plan to the National Science Foundation to develop an "integrated computer-based bibliographic data system." The Initial grant awarded was for \$118,000. OCLC was not established until 1967.

With the myriad of software and/or systems available, sorting out what and when to buy can be a nightmare. The price of the off-the-shelf software product is usually a fraction of the library specific product. And, for the small to mid-size library with budgets to match, the cost of library specific systems may be mind-boggling, if not prohibitive.

Both Sparrow Hospital and Lansing General Hospital Libraries are small and would have great difficulty justifying the purchase of software packages which cost thousands of dollars. Because of this, both opted to develop specific library applications on off-the-shelf software and share the files or individual applications with each other.

Although implementing library packages may appear simple, and less time consuming than the do-it-yourself approach, the package may not do everything you want, or do things exactly the way you want them done. When this happens you will find yourself duplicating work, and implementing additional software that is not or cannot be integrated into your existing system.

By doing it yourself you have the advantage of knowing the system well. You also can get feedback from operators such as personnel, volunteers and users which will help in constructing screens and macros which make their lives easier. If you develop the system yourself, you can make the upgrades right on the program without disturbing the data or having to import it.

Once you embark on using a library specific package, you are committed to that piece of software, which usually comes with annual service contracts or upgrade fees and the difficulties of converting data from the old version to the new.

If you decide to go the do-it-yourself route, your first and

foremost consideration should be system requirements. Will the program you desire work with the hardware you currently own? Are you upgrading or requesting new equipment? The software should be capable of running on the DOS you are using and at your computer's clock speed.

The software and documentation should be at the level of understanding of the person who's going to run it, although most often, all it takes is a person who is willing to explore a program to the point that they can get what they want out of it. Look for programs that are visual or menu driven. If you have to learn a new (computer) language to run the program, it will probably require more work than it is worth. Don't buy a program that's more complicated than you need.

Before selecting software, determine its size limitations with relationship to the number of items in your collection. How does the program handle the data? Does it use variable length fields or fixed fields? Consider these limitations: records per file, fields per records, and characters per field.

Consider the flexibility of the software to take changes. These should include the ability to reshape fields without losing data, and the ability to reformat output screens without losing data. Screens should be easy to design for output forms. You should be able to revise the screens or add screens once data has been entered.

What types of data fields are available within the program? You should be able to change the type of field once data has been entered. What search options are available within the program? Are boolean, relational or wild-card operators available? Sorting capabilities are very important. The program should be able to sort on several fields simultaneously. Can you search more

than one field at a time?

Output capabilities are also important attributes of a database program. Printing capabilities should include variable page length, character spacing and line lengths. The program should also be capable of exporting to disk in a true comma delimited ASCII format. This capability could be essential in the event that you upgrade to other software in the future.

What are the limits of relational capabilities within the program? Fields should be sharable between files, not just look-up only.

Traditional routes to automating libraries begin with circulation. Entering books as they circulate builds a "working" database of the collection. Later, acquisitions is added to the system to further build the database. Coupling cataloging to the acquisitions system then updates records for the on-line catalog. Other library applications follow.

Sparrow Hospital chose to automate acquisitions first. Data for books ordered was entered to produce printouts. As books were received and cataloged on OCLC, supplemental data was added to the book records. All re-cataloging of library materials was done directly on the database. Lansing General Hospital took the process a step further by adding records as books circulated and using Library volunteers to enter shelf-list data.

The data that was entered was used to produce labels for book pocket, book card and spine. Catalog card formats were assembled so that cards could also be produced from the database. The same information was then used to produce monthly acquisitions lists for Library users.

Sparrow approached serials by using an existing database, importing it

into the new software and creating fields to form a daily check-in screen. Later, holdings lists were printed from the information in the database and screens were added to produce vendor claims, etc.

Circulation was accomplished by linking the patron database to the monograph and serials databases.

When a significant number of records had been entered, each Library opted to bring up the on-line catalog. From that point on, no cards were entered into the card catalog. As books are withdrawn from the collection, their cards are pulled and the catalog is emptied a little at a time. Now, because both libraries are using the same software, they are able to share data creating a cooperative catalog.

One of the great advantages to the do-it-yourself approach is that you have the opportunity to explore other automation projects. At Sparrow and Lansing General, a bibliographic tracking database was established which not only printed a cover letter but maintained statistical information concerning literature search services.

Although interlibrary loan services were not part of the original project, Lansing General opted to create a system for ILL which utilized plain paper. The system also produced statistics for both borrowing and lending activities.

Budget and statistics are other projects now being explored by Lansing General.

Working with one module at a time, one library operation at a time, both Sparrow and Lansing General have developed a fully integrated system, which includes acquisitions, on-line catalog, circulation, serials control, interlibrary loan and bibliographic tracking, all on one piece of off-the-shelf software costing less than \$300.00. It took these libraries two years,

but even with library specific software, this is not unreasonable. The experience was rewarding, educational, productive, satisfying and fun.

**THE FOLLOWING WAS SUBMITTED BY
DAVID KEDDLE, DIRECTOR,
JOHN W. CHI MEMORIAL MEDICAL
LIBRARY, INGHAM MEDICAL CENTER**

I am pleased to announce longer hours for the Chi Medical Library:

Mon-Thu 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

The following new staff members have been added:

Ruth Krause is a new full time Medical Library Technician handling serials, binding, processing of new library materials and circulation.

Jane Vick is a new part time Medical Library Technician assisting with interlibrary loans.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to announce the promotion of my Secretary Mary Andrick to the position of Library Coordinator. Mary has worked at Ingham since 1975.

As you talk with my staff take time to welcome my new staff members and to congratulate Mary on her promotion.

Ingham is pleased to announce that the computerization is now complete on a fully library integrated system. The system is the Data-Trek System for online catalog, online circulation, online serials and online acquisitions.

Anyone who wishes to view this system is most welcome. Just give Dave Keddle a call at Ingham Medical Center and set up an appointment.

(Continued on Pg. 7)

News from Ingham (Con't.)

Feel free to call me anytime (517)
334-2270.

Please give the following numbers to
anyone in the state who needs
information on how to quit smoking.

(800) 537-5666

(517) 334-2031

The Health Promotion Clearinghouse
is running a quit smoking hotline
for the purposes of helping people
to kick the smoking habit. So
encourage your patrons to give the
Clearinghouse a call.

The Health Promotion Clearinghouse
is operated by Ingham Medical Center
and Dave Keddle is the Director of
the Health Promotion Clearinghouse.
For more information feel free to
give Dave Keddle a call.

**THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED BY
JUDY BARNES, MEDICAL LIBRARIAN
K. M. BAKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY
LANSING GENERAL HOSPITAL**

The Lansing Cooperative Online
Catalog now consists of holdings
from the Libraries of Lansing
General Hospital, Sparrow Hospital
and St. Lawrence Hospital.
Projects underway at these Libraries
have resulted in the compilation of
records for over 4500 titles.
Lansing General Hospital has
completed the data entry of its
entire shelf list. Sparrow Hospital
has been adding records for new
books received since 1987 and
continues to do re-cataloging
directly on the database. St.
Lawrence Hospital began data entry
of its shelf list in July 1989 and
has entered 1/3 of its records using
only Volunteer time. Both Sparrow
and Lansing General have free
standing computer catalogs on which
users can view the collective
holdings records of the three
libraries. This project has been
received very well by physicians and
staff at all three locations.

In October of 1989, Lansing General
Hospital made its online catalog
available to its users via remote.
Users can dial in to the Library's
computer catalog using any IBM
compatible computer and use it as
though they were sitting at the
terminal. Also available at the
terminal are any of the software
programs loaded into the computer as
well as the PC-SIG CD-Rom database.
LGH also made a Library BBS
available to its users. Users can
dial in to the Library BBS and leave
and receive messages as well
being able to upload and download
software.

Sparrow Hospital has moved back to
its original quarters and has been
fully re-decorated. Its revitalized
area now includes a PC Laboratory,
complete with 3 IBM compatible AT's
and a CD-Rom workstation with
Ebsco's version of Medline on CD-
Rom. Library users can access a
variety of programs for word-
processing, graphics, and database
functions.

A temporary installation of Ebsco's
Medline on CD-Rom is now on location
at St. Lawrence Hospital. Also
loaded into the CD-Rom workstation
is the Lansing Cooperative Online
Catalog. Library users will have
the advantage of being able to view
both new technologies from one
location.

If you have any questions, please
feel free to contact:

Doris Asher, Sparrow Hospital
(517) 483-2274

Judy Barnes, Lansing General
(517) 377-8389

Jane Claytor, St. Lawrence
(517) 377-0354.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Rich Barnes (517) 349-0513
Louise Dorman (313) 467-2455
Lora Robbins (313) 577-1088
Sandra A. Swanson (616) 774-1655

Bill Nelton
 Michigan Department of Public Health
 Library Resource Center
 3423 N. Logan, P.O. Box 30195
 Lansing, MI 48909

K. M. BAKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 Lansing General Hospital
 2727 South Pennsylvania Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48910-3490



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