



SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES
ASSOCIATION INC.

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Winter 2000

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Executive Board of ALHeLA held its first meeting of 2000 on January 21st at the Alabama Public Library Service in Montgomery. We had a full agenda to discuss and it sounds like it is going to be a busy and interesting year for ALHeLA.

This year, our association's 20th Anniversary Year, the 2000 Annual Meeting will be a joint meeting with MLA Southern Chapter. The meeting will be held in Mobile October 20-24 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Susan Deming, ALHeLA's President-Elect / Program Chair is sharing Local Arrangements co-chair responsibilities with Tom Williams of University of South Alabama. Martha Cook is an ex-officio member of the Program Committee. The committees have already begun their preliminary planning. Watch the Webpage for details as they become available.

This joint meeting should certainly be an enticement for entries in the UA Library School Student Scholarship competition sponsored by ALHeLA. Once again Steven MacCall at SLIS is helping to coordinate this effort.

Please watch both the ALHeLA web page and the Discussion List for details about an upcoming CE opportunity that Martha Cook is spear-heading for us. This Spring we are going to sponsor a mid-day workshop led by a librarian from the CDC in Atlanta. We should all be more effective searchers of the information on the CDC website after her presentation! We're attempting to locate a host site mid-state so that no will need to be out of town overnight in order to attend the workshop.

Thanks to Judy Burnham, the Alliance Manual update is underway. As we know, technology development continues at nearly warp speed and it is once again time to update the

MASA technology reference produced by our association. Several members have volunteered to rewrite sections of their choice.

Actions by the Board included voting to post the association's Synapse newsletter, the ByLaws, and the Handbook on the ALHeLA web pages; members' information will NOT be posted, of course. The Directory is being updated by Jan Burns and CJ Bryant; we should have some new materials shortly. Two additional committee chairs were added to the Executive Board: Website Coordinator, and Discussion List Moderator. The two positions can be chaired by either one or two members. Currently Pat Higginbottam holds both positions but, in the future, the chairs can filled separately. Please take a few minutes to read the complete minutes of the meeting.

As always, if you have comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact any Board member. Check the association's webpage periodically for news and updates. Sign on to the ALHeLA discussion list to participate in the organization's activities and plans - it is a great way to keep in touch with folks who are doing the same things you are....but who are not exactly next door!

Joan Lukins, ALHeLA President

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Synapse (ISSN 0829-5283) is the official publication of the Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc. (ALHeLA) and is published quarterly. Please send contributions to the editor: Diane Williams, Charles M. Biomedical Library, University of South Alabama, BLB 316, Mobile, AL 36688-0002, phone: (334) 460-6893, fax: (334) 460-7638, E-mail: dnwillia@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

SERHOLD Update

The new DOCLINE is scheduled for release late Spring 2000. SERHOLD will be available for viewing some time prior to that. After its release, DOCLINE libraries will be responsible for updating their holdings in SERHOLD, online. ALHeLA has in the past orchestrated an annual OCLC tapeload to update SERHOLD. The National Library of Medicine will not be accepting another tapeload until late 2000. This presents issues for ALHeLA members who have updated SERHOLD and ALICAT simultaneously through OCLC tapeloads. Considering the current changes with DOCLINE and SERHOLD, ALHeLA members are encouraged to continue to update their holdings in ALICAT.

Access to the new DOCLINE, which provides access to SERHOLD and DOCUSER as well, requires Internet access. For ALHeLA members who do not have access to the Internet and would like assistance from the Alabama state coordinator with updating their holdings in SERHOLD, please contact Beth Wescott at the Regional Medical Library in Baltimore at 1-800-338-7657. Ask her to provide the state coordinator, Ellen Sayed, with access to your holdings in SERHOLD.

Member libraries with Internet access are encouraged to update their own holdings, but those who would like assistance in this first round of change, are welcome to contact the Beth Wescott and in turn Ellen Sayed. Libraries interested in assistance with updating SERHOLD, please copy the SERHOLD update form from this newsletter, use it to document your changes, and mail it to:

Ellen N. Sayed
Information Services Librarian/
Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library
University of South Alabama
BLB 216
Mobile, AL 36688-0002

(334)460-7850
(334)460-7638 (fax)
esayed@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Other changes include update capabilities of DOCUSER and new LIBID. At this time, libraries can update their profiles in DOCUSER. Point your web browser to <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/test/> Enter your DOCLINE password and ID, and you have access to DOCLINE, SERHOLD and DOCUSER from the same screen.

The new LIBID consists of a two letter state code, a one letter country code (U for USA, C for Canada, X for other countries), and the library's SERHOLD code. The Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library at University of South Alabama's new LIBID is "ALUSOA". The old numerical LIBID will be mapped to the new one. This is especially applicable to our Loansome Doc customers.

DOCLINE members can try out the new DOCLINE at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/test/>
Send your comments to newdocline@nlm.nih.gov

Member libraries can also subscribe to the new DOCLINE listserv "DOCLINE-L". To subscribe, send a message to: lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov. In the subject field, type your new LIBID and the abbreviated name for your library. In the body of the message, type "subscribe DOCLINE-L".

To keep up with the new DOCLINE, point you web browser to:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/cas/newdocline.html>.

Submitted by Ellen Sayed

ALHeLA Web Page

<http://www.uab.edu/lister/alhela>

Be sure the check the ALHeLA web page when you have questions about the association. Recently revised and updated, the page has information about the Executive Board, annual meetings, membership, and grants and awards available. You can also find links to libraries within the state and other library associations. The page is maintained by Pat Higginbottom, who welcomes your comments and suggestions at phiggin@uab.edu

Submitted by Pat Higginbottom

ALHeLA Discussion List

alhela@lilbit.lhl.uab.edu

The electronic discussion list for ALHeLA has recently changed its address. If you have not resubscribed in the last few months you need to do so. The ALHeLA discussion list is open to anyone and is available for asking questions of other members or sharing information. The new address to subscribe is majordomo@lilbit.lhl.uab.edu. Questions can be directed to the list moderator, Pat Higginbottom at phiggin@uab.edu

Submitted by Pat Higginbottom

News from Alabama

The Birmingham VA Medical Goes Virtual

An executive decision was made by top management at the Birmingham VA Medical Center that the Medical Library should be converted to a "virtual" format. This change took place two weeks after the decision was announced, November 1999. The Medical Library was downsized and placed in a temporary location while awaiting renovations to the new location.

The library's paper collection consists mainly of management type books and training videos. The "virtual" library currently consists of: MD Consult; Harrison's Textbook Online; Ebsco Journals Online (4 databases); ProQuest Direct (4 databases); MicroMedex (full content); and a few individual journal titles. The databases are working well, but have left large gaps in our collection of resources. If any library has suggestions of online resources, or questions about this new format and what is currently being done, please do not hesitate to call Jan Burns, Administrative Librarian, (205) 933-8101, x5415, or email Pamela.burns@med.va.gov.

Submitted by Jan Burns

InfoFair 2000 Keynote Speaker, George Lundberg, MD, Announced

Plans are shaping up for the Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library InfoFair 2000 to take place in the College of Medicine Conference Room at the University of South Alabama on April 12-13. The keynote speaker will be Dr. George Lundberg, current Editor in Chief of Medscape (<http://www.medscape.com/>) and former long-time Editor of JAMA. Dr. Lundberg, a figure of national prominence and highly respected in medical and publishing circles, will be a welcome addition to our InfoFair experience. Dr. Lundberg will be speaking on the morning of April 12 in the MSB Auditorium. He will speak on "New Developments on the Medical Internet."

InfoFair 2000 will showcase the services of the Biomedical Library and the Media Production Services department of the College of Medicine and will bring exhibits of interest to health care professionals, educators and students. Scheduled for exhibition are: Elsevier's Science Direct, Gold Standard Multimedia's Integrated Medical Curriculum, ISI's Current Contents Direct, Journal Citation Reports, and Web of Science, Medscape, Alabama Virtual

Library (NAAL), PubMed and Internet Grateful Med (NN/LM), telemedicine technology, computer graphics and distance education. Other exhibitors will be added as plans are finalized. Other exhibitors will be added as plans are finalized. Visit <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/infofair/> for updates.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

University of South Alabama Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library Faculty and Staff News

Diane Williams has been granted the status of Senior member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP). AHIP is the Medical Library Association's peer-reviewed professional development and career recognition program. The Academy recognizes the personal investment of time and effort required for exemplary professional performance and for contributions to the association and to the profession. Gentry Holbert presented a session entitled "Designing Your Own Web Page" at the 15th Annual Southeast Regional CME Symposium. At that same meeting, Judy Burnham presented a session on "Locating CME on the Internet."

Submitted by Judy Burnham

Best Wishes to These Recent Retirees!

- ~ **Inez Pinkard** from the VAMC in Tuskegee
- ~ **Bobby Powell** from Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham
- ~ **Lisa Rains Russell** from the Health Sciences Library at the University of Alabama

News from NLM

New NIH Clinical Alerts (3/14/00)

NLM has made new arrangements with the NIH Institutes to receive Web-based clinical alerts as they are issued. Links to the alerts are on the NLM web site at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/alerts/clinical_alerts.html. Links to this page are available from NLM search systems like PubMed and IGM. Also, NLM will retain an archival copy of each alert for reference purposes

National Institutes of Health Launches *ClinicalTrials.gov* (02/29/00)

Database gives public easy access to information about research studies

(BETHESDA, MD) -- The National Institutes of Health today announced the launch of the first phase of a consumer-friendly database, *ClinicalTrials.gov*, with information on more than 4,000 federal and private medical studies involving patients and others at more than 47,000 locations nationwide. The new database may be reached at <http://clinicaltrials.gov/>.

Clinical trials are medical research studies that seek to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new drugs, medical procedures, or other means of treating, diagnosing, or preventing diseases. This type of research helps investigators learn how different people respond to medications or other therapeutic approaches, and such investigations may lead to new or improved treatments. Trials are conducted when there is no proven treatment for a specific disease, or to test which treatment works best for a particular disease or condition.

ClinicalTrials.gov provides patients, families and members of the public easy access to information about the location of clinical trials, their design and purpose, criteria for participation, and, in many cases, further information about the disease and treatment under study. There are also contacts to individuals responsible for recruiting participants for each study.

Acting NIH Director Ruth L. Kirschstein, M.D., said, "Through this new database, NIH offers up-to-date information on promising patient-oriented research on hundreds of diseases and conditions. Most of the 4,000 clinical trials now in the database are funded by NIH

Institutes and Centers, and result from a long, fruitful partnership between NIH and the American people who support and participate in our work."

"If we are to continue making the giant strides in diagnosis, treatment, and cure of illness that marked the last century, we must have active participation in clinical trials by well-informed volunteers," said Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., Director of NIH's National Library of Medicine, which developed and administers the new database. "*ClinicalTrials.gov* is a resource that will benefit trial participants, researchers, health care professionals and, over time, the general public."

Dr. Lindberg noted that *ClinicalTrials.gov* may also be reached through the National Library of Medicine's Web site at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov> and through its consumer health information service, MEDLINEplus at <http://medlineplus.gov>. MEDLINEplus has extensive links to information about 350 diseases and health conditions, much of it from the NIH Institutes and Centers.

ClinicalTrials.gov grew out of 1997 legislation that required the Department of Health and Human Services, through the NIH, to broaden the public's access to information about clinical trials on a wide range of diseases by establishing a registry for both federally and privately funded trials "on drugs for serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions." (Section 113, "Information Program on Clinical Trials for Serious or Life-Threatening Diseases," Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997, Public Law 105-115.)

"The project is proceeding in several major phases," noted Alexa T. McCray, Ph.D., who directs the *ClinicalTrials.gov* project at the National Library of Medicine. "In the first phase we were interested in collecting information primarily about studies that are being funded by NIH, or that are being conducted right here on the NIH campus. With the release of *ClinicalTrials.gov*, the first phase is well under way. In the next phase we will include non-NIH sponsored trials from other Federal agencies and private industry."

ClinicalTrials.gov is a completely confidential Web site. No registration or personal identification of any kind is required. People who search the site will not be contacted by the sponsors of clinical trials or by anyone else.



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Alabama Health Libraries Association
Executive Committee Meeting
January 21, 2000

- I. Joan Lukins, President, called the meeting to order at 10:45am.
- I. Joan Lukins introduced the rest of Executive Board members for 2000. They are as follows: Past President -- Jie Li; Vice President / President Elect – Susan Deming; Secretary – Marian Morris; Treasurer / Bookkeeper – Lisa Russell; Members-At-Large – Yvonne Kozlowski, Valerie Gordon, Nelle Williams; By-Laws Committee – Pat McGee; Continuing Education – Martha Cook; Directory – Jan Burns, C.J. Bryant; Liaison – Tracy Powell; Membership – Carolyn Holmes; Synapse – Diane Williams; Union List Coordinators – Robert Avant, Ellen Sayed.
- II. The minutes of the August 1999 Annual Business Meeting were approved as written.
- III. Announcements: The Biomedical Library at the University of South Alabama is now officially titled the Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library.
- IV. Old Business:
- A. Student Scholarship and Meeting Rate : Joan raised the question of whether this procedure needs to be formalized in the handbook. Discussion followed on various membership levels, etc. Carolyn Holmes, Pat McGee, and Lisa Russell will follow up on these issues and report back to the committee.
- B. Exchange Committee Removal : This committee was disbanded in 1996. The committee moved to remove this committee from the bylaws.
- C. ALHeLA Brochure : Joan expressed an interest in all members of the Executive Board having a small supply of brochures. We may need to re-print the brochure to have enough for this. The brochure needs to be updated instead of just reprinting the 1996 version. We need to clarify the membership categories and add information about the website. Carolyn and Lisa will discuss and report back to the committee.
- D. MLA CE Certificates : Joan is still trying to obtain the certificates from last fall's CE courses; they will be mailed to you.
- E. History for SC/MLA : Jie, Joan, and Pat Higginbottom will work on this.
- F. Copyright Training : Jan Burns has asked if we were interested in a copyright class of some sort. Judy Burnham suggested that we could perhaps do something with MASA. Lisa Russell reminded us that the "copyright librarian" is Laura Gasaway, a librarian and law professor at UNC. Joan suggested that we wait until the Internet copyright issues are more clarified, or just concentrate on print materials. Perhaps ALHeLA can provide an article to be printed in MASA Review. Anyone is welcome to provide an article; but it should probably be coordinated with Judy.
- VI. New Business:
- A. Web Coordinator and List Moderator positions for Executive Board inclusion : Joan suggested that we consider adding these positions. SC/MLA has a similar position on its executive board. A motion was passed providing that the website coordinator and discussion list moderator be voting members of the ALHeLA executive board; in the event that both positions are held by a single person, that person will have only one vote. Pat Higginbottom was appointed to the position.

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- B. Retirements : Inez Pinkard has retired from her position at the VAMC in Tuskegee; and Bobby Powell has retired from her position at Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham. In addition, Lisa Rains Russell recently retired from the University of Alabama.
 - C. Spring Educational Opportunity with CDC Librarian : The committee discussed the options for this class. Sandra Bonzo from the CDC would teach the 2-3 hour session. Her proposed agenda is to explain the CDC's structure, public health vs. clinical medicine, and the content of the various CDC websites, with time allowed for questions and some hands-on practice. We will try to have this in a central location so that those from Huntsville and Mobile will be able to attend without requiring an overnight stay. It was suggested that we hold the class in Montgomery on the same day as the next board meeting or move the board meeting to coincide. The expenses should be minimal because the CDC librarian will provide this instruction without significant compensation. Joan, Martha, and Tracy will pursue the scheduling and CE credit for this educational opportunity.
 - D. Alliance Manual Update : Judy Burnham distributed a list of the pertinent dates for the update and the format guidelines. She also stated that there are still a few open sections that need volunteers to update the content.
 - E. 2001 Annual Meeting with Georgia Health Sciences Library Association : A motion was passed for ALHeLA to commit to participation in this annual meeting. The meeting will be in Columbus, GA in March or April of 2001. Pat Higginbottom reported that Cathy Woolbright is the GHSLA Program Chair for this meeting; Pat will work on the ALHeLA portion of the meeting. There will be separate business meetings. Because the meeting occurs so early in the year, we will probably select our Vice President earlier so that he/she can assist Pat with the conference planning.
 - F. Newsletter on the Webpage : A motion was passed to have *Synapse* included on the ALHeLA website with open access; we will continue to have a paper copy also. Another motion was passed to include the handbook and the bylaws on the website; neither the directory nor personal information will be posted.

VII. Treasurer's Report : Lisa Russell reported that our current balance is over \$8,300. The treasurer's report was approved as presented. We need to clarify the different types of membership.

VIII. Committee Reports:

- A. Bylaws : No report.
- B. Continuing Education : Martha Cook reported that she has been in contact with Lynn Fortney concerning plans for this fall's SC/MLA meeting in Mobile. Martha is an ex officio member of the Program Committee.
- C. Directory : Jan Burns reported that C.J. Bryant will assist with the institutional directory updates this year while Jan works on the rest of the directory. Jan distributed a new sponsorship form to be included in the Forms section of the directory.
- D. Liaison : No report.
- E. Membership : Marian Morris reported for Carolyn Holmes. The membership renewal invoices were mailed the last week of December. We currently have 26 members, 15 individual and 11 institutional. We have four new members -- Cynthia Cockerham (Lister Hill), Sue Loper (EBSCO), Rita Smith (Jacksonville State), and Tony Waterman (Carraway).
- F. Synapse : Diane announced that as usual, the deadline for submissions is two weeks after the meeting, February 4, 2000. She urged folks to get their submissions in on time.
- G. Union List Coordinators : Robert Avant requested that we continue to send our updates for the union list; AULS will continue to be an important resource since you can search by title. The offline serials union list products are as follows: paper, microfiche, 1600 bpi tapes, 6250 bpi tapes, IBM cartridges, and FTP through EDX or Product Services web. ALICAT is currently available in CD-ROM and on the Internet; the CD-ROM version may be discontinued after this year. Ellen Sayed reported on the changes that DOCLINE is undergoing.

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- H. Web Coordinator / List Moderator : Pat Higginbottom reported that the website has a new look and some revised sections. She will be adding *Synapse* soon.
- IX. Review of 2000 Annual Meeting with SC/MLA : Susan Deming reported that the meeting will be October 20-24, 2000, at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile; room costs are \$93.00 per night for a maximum of four persons. Susan Deming and Tom Williams are co-chairing the Local Arrangement Committee. There will be a separate ALHeLA business meeting. A motion was passed for ALHeLA to donate up to \$2000 toward sponsorship of event(s) at SC/MLA, with specifics to be determined at the next executive committee meeting. This is ALHeLA's 20th Anniversary year; Joan and Jie will work on a special display for the meeting.
- X. Announcements : Joan will contact Stephen MacCall about this year's student award contest; this will be an agenda item at the next executive committee meeting.
- XI. Adjournment : There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Marian Morris, Secretary

Synapse
Newsletter of ALHeLA Inc.
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