



Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

Volume 1, No. 4

October, 1981

ALHELA To Hold Second Meeting

ALHELA members, get out your convention hats! Get ready for an even bigger and better meeting than before! The Birmingham Hilton is going to be the site on November 13th and 14th. Starting things off on the 13th at 10:00 will be the business meeting.

This is a very important one, since the slate of candidates for ALHELA officers will be presented. A mail ballot will be sent out shortly after the meeting so that all members can select leaders for the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee consists of Barbara Doughty, Chairman, B. J. Grampa, and Nancy Clemmons.

They are hard at work at this very moment to get together an outstanding slate of candidates.

The afternoon and Saturday sessions will feature various programs for the enlightenment and edification of ALHELA members. Rachel Jones is the chairman of the Program Committee, and she is being assisted by Lynn Fortney, Bob Donnell, Kathy Jones, and Joyce Sims. Watch your mailbox for further details! The April meeting was attended by 50% of the ALHELA membership. Let's try for 75% this time!!

Medical Library Association Holds Annual Meeting In Montreal

By Lynn Fortney
President, ALHELA

The 81st Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association was held in Montreal, Canada, May 29-June 4, 1981. At least twelve members of ALHELA were among the 1,437 people who attended the meeting.

After pre-conference meetings of the Board of Directors and 26 continuing education courses (which were attended by 700 people), the conference opened with an aperitif reception at McGill University, the host institution for the annual meeting. Monday morning, June 1, we were officially welcomed by Frances Groen, Life Sciences Area Librarian from

McGill University and heard the Keynote address by Dr. Sidney Lee entitled "Health Policy - A Social Context." Later that morning, 186 exhibitors opened their booths and provided the opportunity to examine such things as newly published materials in the health sciences, library equipment, and bibliographic data bases. This also gave attendees a chance to talk to agents about magazine subscription services and book selling.

The theme of the conference was "The Biomedical Information Connection", and this was explored throughout the week-long meeting in general sessions on "The Social Connection: Health Policy and Health Information", "Regulation and Consumer Issues", "The Management Connection", and "The Computer Bibliographic Connection". Other important connections were described in the various invited paper sessions, including the publishing world, continuing education for health sciences librarians, and legal issues.

Tuesday morning, Robert Cheshier, Librarian, Cleveland Health Sciences Library, gave the annual Janet Doe Lecture to an overflow audience. In this lecture, "The Limits of the Comprehensible: Reflections on Medical Librarianship", he discussed the philosophical basis for the practice of medical librarianship. He focused on the remarkable success of the regional medical libraries, but suggested that the time has come

(Continued on Page 4.)



"Focus on Alabama Health Libraries" features the Reynolds Historical Library. (See page 2.)

SYNAPSE is the official publication of the Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHELA) and is published and distributed by the Southeast Alabama Medical Center, P.O. Drawer 6987, Dothan, Al. 36302.

FOCUS ON ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES

The Reynolds Historical Library



by Mary Claire Britt
History of Medicine/Reference Librarian



The Reynolds Historical Library

The Reynolds Historical Library is a collection of rare and important medical books and manuscripts. Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, a native Alabamian, gave his library to the University of Alabama Medical Center in 1958. This collection has continued to grow since then through funding from Dr. Reynolds' original endowment, from the Reynolds Associates, a support group for the Library, and from individual donors.

Located on the ground floor of Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, the Reynolds contains approximately 10,000 items—books, manuscripts, prints, photographs, and medical manikins. The Reynolds has notable collections of incunabula (books printed prior to 1500), dental books, Arabic books and manuscripts, the Pittman Collection on Endocrinology, and perhaps the best collection of works by and about Daniel Drake, a pioneering American physician.

Also included in the library's resources are letters of William Osler, Louis Pasteur, Florence Nightingale, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., Pierre Curie, Albert Einstein, and George and Martha Washington. Others represented in first editions are Alexander Fleming, James Parkinson, Thomas Addison, Sir Isaac Newton, and such literary figures as Walt Whitman, Rudyard Kipling, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Lord Byron, and Robert Browning.

Among the outstanding books in the Reynolds are William Harvey's *DE MOTU CORDIS* and the *DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA* of Andreas Vesalius. Harvey's work is considered to be the most important book in the history of medicine and was published in Frankfort in 1628. He proved experimentally that in animals the blood is impelled in a circle by the beat of the heart, passing from arteries to veins through pores. Vesalius' works were published in 1543 and were the first anatomical texts based on dissection.

Other significant works in the collection include one of the first medical books to be set up in type, Celsus' *DE MEDICINA*. Written about 30 A.D. it was still considered important as the best account of Roman Medicine and thus was printed

in Florence in 1478. The first page of this book is illuminated in gold, green, blue and lavender. Celsus compiled this large-scale cyclopedia as a "Medical Home Companion" for the rich landowner and he wrote it in an impeccable Latin.

Another particularly beautiful work is the *REGIMEN SANITATIS*...by Arnold of Villanova (1235 - 1312). This textbook on hygiene contains 362 rules of health for daily life, all of them couched in easy jingles of the "apple a day" variety. The jingles were easy to memorize; they left no doubt about what to do or what to avoid. There were specific herbal remedies for gout, phlegm or ague, and relatively sound advice about diet, sleep, sex, drink, and diversion. The *REGIMEN SANITATIS* became "the backbone of all practical medical literature" up to the 18th century and became the most popular medical book ever written.

Besides publishing a newsletter, *The Reynolds Library Associates Newsletter*, the Reynolds sponsors an annual historical lecture as well as a series of seminars. On February 3, 1981 Professor Bengt E. Gustafsson spoke on the history of Nobel Prize. Former secretary general of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine, Dr. Gustafsson has won several national honors in Sweden and is widely recognized for his work in the metabolism of germfree animals. Four seminars were hosted by the Reynolds Library throughout the past year. Topics included midwifery, the life of Dr. Reynolds and his collection of the books in the Reynolds Library, the history of the influenza epidemic in Alabama in 1918-19, and the history of anatomy.

The Library also has a multi-media presentation entitled "A Handful of Books: Dr. Reynolds And His Library" which has been shown to several organizations across the state. Anyone interested in having this presentation made to a group can contact the Librarian, Mary Claire Britt, or her assistant, Suzanne Ellis, at (205) 934-4475.



Reynolds' History of Medicine/Reference Librarian Mary Claire Britt displays one of the medical manikins in the library's collection.

The Reynolds Library Associates is a support group of friends of the library which provide leadership as well as financial assistance. Additionally, rare books are purchased by organizations and individuals who donate them to the Library.

Open to the public from eight until five, Monday through Friday, the Reynolds is available for research and perusal of the collection as well as conferences and seminars which employ works of the collection for discussion. The Library does offer reference services and although none of the collection is allowed to circulate photocopying of the less rare material is allowed.

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to any readers who may wish to visit the Reynolds when they are in Birmingham. I would also like to ask the members of ALHELA to encourage the users of their libraries to visit the Reynolds. When we know in advance, we can arrange to be open at night or on weekends. And if your library does not have a copy of our printed bibliography, *Rare Books and Collection of the Reynolds Historical Library* we have them for sale for \$25.00.



Librarian Mary Claire Britt with one of the beautifully illustrated books in the Reynolds collection.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Head Medical Librarian. Competitive salary, extensive benefit program that includes hospital insurance, dental insurance, salary protection insurance, life insurance, etc. Requirements: M.L.S. with a concentration in medical libraries or appropriate experience. Contact: Arthur W. Middleton, Personnel Director, Human Resources, Baptist Memorial Hospital, 1007 Goodyear Ave., Gadsden, Alabama 35999, (205) 492-1240. (9/3/81)

CLINICAL LIBRARIAN

The Department of Anesthesiology at The University of Alabama in Birmingham is searching for a qualified individual to fill the vacancy of the Department Librarian position. Duties include reference and research support, on-line search services, library instruction and maintenance of the Departmental library. Qualifications include previous library experience, preferably in the medical field, and preferably an undergraduate degree. MEDLINE training desirable. This position has a competitive salary with full UAB benefits. Send resume to: Edward A. Ernst, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, The University of Alabama in Birmingham, University Station, Birmingham, Alabama 35294.

SAMC LIBRARY AWARDED GRANT

The medical library at Southeast Alabama Medical Center has been awarded a \$4,000 Resource Improvement Grant by the National Library of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

William H. Cassels, associate administrator-operations, said the Medical Center will provide \$1,000 in matching funds. He called it a "significant step forward in the improvement of medical information resources available in the Wiregrass area."

Cassels said much of the credit is due SAMC Library Director Kathy Dexter for the work she did in preparing the application. It was reviewed in May by the National Library Board of Regents.

The funds will be disbursed to SAMC on a monthly basis starting in August and will be used to purchase books for the library.

Ms. Dexter said, "A strong textbook collection is essential for providing health care professionals with the information they need to provide high-quality patient care in the community hospital. These funds will enable the library to provide a full range of health information services to all library users."

Funds for the program are provided by the Medical Library Assistance Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson Oct. 22, 1965. In its 16-year history, approximately \$32,587,000 has been awarded for Medical Library Resource Improvement Grants and Project Grants. Resource Improvement Grants provide "seed monies" to enable community hospitals to establish basic collections of information materials to help meet the day-to-day needs of health care providers.

In fiscal year 1980, \$593,000 in grants were provided to 30 single institutions and to 17 consortia, representing 176 member institutions.

"The lack of health information centers in the Wiregrass as well as the geographic isolation from major teaching institutions has been a hindrance in the past," Ms. Dexter said. "These funds will eliminate the problems we've had in the past in providing timely information for patient care. In addition to SAMC staff and physicians, we assist other Wiregrass health care providers, occasionally from as far away as Eufaula."

Ms. Dexter said she believes the upgrading of the library at SAMC will benefit the entire Wiregrass area.

The improvement of the medical library has been a continuing effort at SAMC, culminating in the opening of the new 1,400-square-foot facility in February. The library offers a variety of services, including computerized literature searches of the MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) data bases made available through the National Library of Medicine.

Using a small computer terminal, the librarian can retrieve references to articles on any medical subject. Presently, the system contains over half a million references on all aspects of health and medicine.

Steve Phelps, SAMC administrator, said, "We set out to build and equip a medical library that would be as up-to-date as the Medical Center which many professionals consider to be 'ahead of its town.' That is exactly what we have done."

HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT: LIBRARIES CAN PARTICIPATE!

By Mary Ann Donnell

Although the hospital library is not a revenue producing department, it does have a place in cost containment.

In an initial survey of departmental resources at Providence Hospital, some predictable facts were readily assessed concerning periodical subscriptions:

1. certain departments had substantial money in numerous and sometimes very expensive subscriptions;
2. there was understandably loose control over, and maintenance of these subscriptions;
3. but there would be needless duplication if the library also subscribed to these titles.

As librarian, one of my first decisions in transforming the collection from primarily School of Nursing to Health Science had been to add INDEX MEDICUS and HOSPITAL LITERATURE INDEX; therefore, I held access to the contents of these subscriptions and so decided I needed to keep track of where they were for when I would need them.

In time my questions regarding jobbers, renewals and claiming gave me credibility with a busy Purchasing Dept. staff. When the Materials Manager made an informal overture regarding my coordinating subscriptions, I accepted feeling it was in the best interests of the library and the hospital.

My next step then was to change to a more reliable jobber for what I thought was the largest portion of annual renewals. (Later I was to discover that there were probably that many subscriptions and more being started and renewed which had never been given to a jobber.)

So then I followed this with a plan working with the Purchasing Dept. on new requests and renewals to have the mailing labels read LIBRARY above the department name so we could check or claim as appropriate before sending them to the designated area.

Some interesting facts have surfaced in the renewal process. Pathology was made aware that an infrequently used item which had previously been renewed without review had gone from \$80 to \$150 to \$310 annually in a matter of two years; that the Dialysis Dept., thinking they had not renewed, did so again when the journal's computer regurgitated a notice resulting in a double subscription to a \$510/year periodical.

It will take a year or more to implement the plan for gradually assuming responsibility for ordering, renewing and maintaining these subscriptions, but I feel we will be gaining several things including--

1. fiscal control of an expensive budget item for many departments;
2. the good will of enumerable department secretaries who were frustrated trying to make sense from serials;
3. better acquaintance with these departments, often acquiring the previous year's collection for the library without having to subscribe ourselves; and

4. items for the current awareness bibliography obtained from scanning the table of contents in new issues and, thereby, broadening the subscriptions' usefulness to the entire hospital.

As librarians assume responsibility for such hospital expenditures, they will show an awareness of the hospital's cost containment program beyond the traditional role of "book keeper."

ALHELA Fall Conference

"Alabama Libraries:
Where We Are...
Where We Can Be"

NOVEMBER 13 - 14

BIRMINGHAM

Medical Library Association: (Continued from page 1.)

to cut away some of the bureaucracy, and to look for more local funding so that libraries can find their appropriate place among the many necessary programs which are competing for shrinking dollars.

Also on Tuesday, regional groups and interest groups officially became chapters and sections, respectively. Each chapter, i.e., Southern Chapter, South Central Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, etc., sent a delegate to the Chapter Council and each section, i.e., Hospital Library Section, Nursing Libraries Section, Medical School Libraries Section, etc., sent a delegate to the Section Council. The two councils elected their own chairmen, who will represent the councils to the MLA Board of Directors.

Three business meetings centered around reports from the various MLA Committees and the revision of the certification and recertification process. Two amendments were offered to the certification code: one to expand Definition One of the code to: "1. School must have been accredited by the ALA within 10 years after the date of graduation", and another to "within three years". Both amendments failed.

This year, there was a choice of 47 contributed papers, covering audio-visual resources, specialized information services, minicomputers, on-line search services, cooperation and development of hospital libraries, consumer health information, library user behavior, collection development, indexing, networking, and the future of health sciences libraries. Since all contributed papers were held in concurrent sessions, the maximum number to attend was eight. The scope of the papers made the selection of eight papers out of 47 difficult indeed.

The meeting was drawn to a close by a Farewell Party - Un soiree d'adieu - appropriate to Montreal. Guests were provided with a continental atmosphere including a strolling trio, a kaleidoscope of Canadian scenes, a supper buffet of European delicacies, and French wine. This capped a delightfully stimulating week of interesting programs, fantastic restaurants, and intermittent sightseeing in the beautiful city of Montreal.

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1981

NAME _____ DATE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

JOB TITLE _____

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS (CHECK ONE) HOME BUSINESS

PHONE NUMBER: HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

DUES: \$10 PER YEAR

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (MAKE PAYABLE TO ALHELA) TO:

Ms. BOBBY POWELL
MEDICAL LIBRARY
CARRAWAY METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER
1615 NORTH 25TH STREET
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35234

PLEASE RATE YOUR TOP THREE PREFERENCES FOR PROGRAM TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROLE OF THE HEALTH LIBRARY | <input type="checkbox"/> COPYRIGHT LAWS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH INFORMATION RESOURCES | <input type="checkbox"/> JCAH STANDARDS FOR LIBRARIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROMOTING THE LIBRARY TO THE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR | <input type="checkbox"/> INTERLIBRARY LOAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC LIBRARY TRAINING WORKSHOP | <input type="checkbox"/> NLM GRANT PROGRAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NETWORKING AND UNION LISTS | <input type="checkbox"/> STATEWIDE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | |



Editor's Notes

By
Kathy Dexter

Fall brings new experiences and new faces to the *Synapse* staff. I will be hitting the school books full time this September. Ms. Lisa Rains is the new Medical Library Director at the Southeast Alabama Medical Center. Lisa was formerly the research assistant at the School of Community and Allied Health at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. I will remain the *Synapse* editor, with Lisa serving as the assistant editor. *Synapse* readers can look forward to more enlightening and (we hope) interesting features in the future.

This month, our regular column "Focus on Alabama Health Libraries" features the Reynolds Historical Library at UAB. I hope each of you have the opportunity to visit this beautiful library when you are in the Birmingham area. I'm sure you'll be as fascinated as I was by this step into the past. The history of medicine is an extremely interesting field, and some of the beautifully illustrated books are truly awe-inspiring. I'd like to thank Reynolds' history of medicine/reference librarian Mary Claire Britt for contributing a fine article to this month's *Synapse*.

Want to have your library featured? Contact Lisa Rains at 793-8102.

See you at the next ALHELA meeting!

How To Win Friends and Influence Others On The Health Care Team...

by Mary Ann Donnell
Health Sciences Librarian
Providence School of Nursing
Mobile, Alabama

One way the librarian can get involved in the total operation of the hospital is to help members of the health care team keep up in their field by calling their attention to articles which they would not ordinarily see or hear about. This type of "current awareness" service can show other departments how the library can benefit them in the day-to-day operation of the library.

For the.....

HOSPITAL FINANCE OFFICER:

"Sounding board; DRG CREEP, a new hospital-acquired disease." *New England Journal of Medicine* 1981 June 25; 304 (26): 1602-1604.

MATERIEL MANAGER:

Clark, GB "Impact of oil shortage on plastic medical supplies." *Public Health Reports* 1981 March; 96(2): 111-115. (Has good bibliography)

STAFFING NURSE:

Thompson, Arlene "Quantity first, then quality--a hospital looks at cost-effective staff utilization." *Canadian Nurse* 1981 May; 77(5): 22-26.

HOSPITAL EDUCATOR/LIBRARIAN

Wimmer, Katherine "Media management in a hospital library." *Biomedical Communications* 1981 May; 9(3)L20-22.



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