

2/19/82



# Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1, NO. 5

JANUARY, 1982

## ALHELA FALL CONFERENCE

ALHELA members were out in full force for the fall meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Birmingham on November 13-14. Fifty members and other interested persons attended the enlightening meeting, and all went home with new ideas and a new feeling of closeness with fellow health science librarians in the state. The theme of the conference was *Alabama Health Libraries: Where we are...where we can be.*"

### DR. PITTMAN WELCOMES CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Dr. James Pittman, Dean of the University of Alabama in Birmingham School of Medicine, presented welcoming remarks and briefly discussed the growing importance of health science librarians. Because of the increasing numbers of health professionals that enter the field each year, more emphasis is being placed on the quality of the training that these people receive. This growing emphasis directly affects health science librarians, as they must insure that health professionals have the materials and information to remain current in their fields, as well as to comply with standards that have been set. Often, Dr. Pittman said, health professionals are required to earn a certain number of continuing education credits to retain licensure or certification. In some cases, standardized tests must be passed. Librarians must make sure that adequate materials are maintained and are readily available to meet these needs. Dr. Pittman concluded by saying that all of the new technologies in the library field such as computers and audiovisuals are great learning tools, but it is the medical book which contributes the most to learning.

### "ROLE OF THE HEALTH LIBRARIAN" DISCUSSED

A panel discussion, moderated by Gloria Holland, Coordinator, Learning Resources, VA Medical Center, Birmingham, allowed participants to explore the various institutional settings that have health librarians. Representing hospital librarians was Kathy Dexter, Director of the Medical Library at the Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan from 1979 to 1981. Ms. Dexter described a "typical" day in the life of a hospital librarian, drawing on various real life

experiences to give the audience an overview of the trials and tribulations of the one-person library. She emphasized that hospital librarians must often work in isolation, not only from the other hospital departments, but also from other librarians. Some of the incidents she described brought nods of recognition from colleagues in the audience.

Representing the academic health science library was Rick Forsman, Associate Director for Technical Services at the Lister Hill Library at UAB. Using a number of slides to illustrate his presentation, Mr. Forsman described the various programs and services of the Lister Hill Library. LHL has a library liaison committee which has staff members assigned to each school within the university. These individuals attend staff meetings in the school, and serve as a contact person within the library for those schools. The Library currently serves over 5200 faculty and students, and is, in addition, the state resource library. The library provides consulting services, interlibrary loans, and audiovisual services statewide, and is an OCLC participant. The Lister Hill Library has a strong commitment to partnership with other institutions as well as to individuals throughout our state.

The third panel member was Rachel Jones, the Math,  
(Continued on page 2.)



Dr. James Pittman addresses ALHELA Conference.

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.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Science, Health Science Librarian at Jacksonville State University. Ms. Jones described the unique situation at Jacksonville in which the 14-story Library (nicknamed the "Marble Monster") houses eight separate libraries, each with its own subject specialist. The pre-medical and nursing students at the school form the primary clientele for her section of the library. A recent study revealed that the nursing students read a total of 10,000 articles per semester, which gives some idea of the importance that the library plays in the education of health professionals. Ms. Jones showed several slides of the library facilities. She answered questions from the audience and stressed the fact that her major duties include reference and some selection of materials. Cataloging and other processing tasks are handled in a central department.

A very large health science library network exists in this country, and Mary Ann Knotts, Chief, Library Service at the VA Medical Center in Birmingham presented a brief overview for ALHELA members. A brief history of the Veterans Administration, from the first veterans benefits in 1636 at the Plymouth colony to the present day system, provided insight into the role the VA plays for millions of U.S. veterans. VALINET, the VA's library network, presently consists of 175 libraries in the U.S. The combined total assets of these libraries are in excess of two million print items. The system handles an average of 350,000 reference questions per year. These libraries serve the information needs of over 50,000 staff members and 90,000 students.

This panel discussion illuminated several points of interest concerning the field of health librarianship. First of all, there is great diversity in the types of tasks that health librarians perform, as well as diversity in the types of institutions which they serve. However, many common characteristics are shared by all of us, especially the common goal of quality health care.

A delicious luncheon followed the morning session, giving ALHELA members the opportunity to make new acquaintances and renew old friendships.



Panel discusses the Role of the Health Librarian. From left to right: Gloria Holland, Rachel Jones, Rick Forsman, Kathy Dexter, Mary Ann Knotts.

## AFTERNOON SESSION FEATURES VIDEOTAPE

Richard Fredericksen, director of the Lister Hill Library, presented a videotape dealing with the reference interview in health science libraries. This videotape featured four real-life interviews in which the library user was coached beforehand about the subject of the reference request, while the librarian did not know ahead of time what the subject would be. Both knew, of course, that they were to be videotaped. Each interview prompted some very interesting discussion from the audience. The first interview, obviously a staged one, presented a hopefully rare situation in which the librarian was decidedly unhelpful in assisting the library user. The other two interviews explored various helpful strategies in drawing out the reluctant library user and pinpointing the exact subject that a library user was interested in. Health science librarians could see a number of familiar problems in these videotapes, and the discussions which followed provided insight into the solutions.



Lynn Fortney, ALHELA President, 1981.

## BUSINESS MEETING

Lynn Fortney, ALHELA president, presided over a brief business meeting. Membership dues of \$10.00 are to be paid by January 1, 1982. A new membership form will be included with the ballots that are due to be sent out to the membership shortly. ALHELA currently has over 60 members, and the size of the membership should increase during 1982. Barbara Doughty, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the single slate of candidates for the up-coming year. They are: Mary Ann Donnell, Vice President/President Elect; Mary Claire Britt, Secretary/Treasurer; and Lisa Rains, Pat Rogers, and Malta Jones, Members-at-Large. ALHELA President for 1982 is Rachel Jones. Bobby Powell, Treasurer, presented a financial report for the Association. Rachel Jones thanked Lynn Fortney for her tremendous contributions to the Association over the past two years, and Ms. Fortney was given a round of applause by the membership.

## STATEWIDE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS DISCUSSED

Rounding out a full day was a panel of five people discussing their own state's cooperative efforts. Leading off was Mary Ann Donnell, past president of the Oregon Health Sciences Library Association. Ms. Donnell illustrated how geographics can play a major role in the success of cooperative ventures. Oregon's east and west sections are divided by



mountains, and this was to play a role in how the state's association came to be. Ms. Donnell outlined the various events that led to the formation of the Oregon group, culminating with the receipt of a consortium grant from the National Library of Medicine. This presentation was most helpful in showing how states differ in their needs, and how cooperation between institutions can have an enormous impact on libraries in the state. (Ms. Donnell is presently the Medical Librarian at Providence Hospital in Mobile.)

The Georgia Health Science Library Association was represented by its past chairman, Jocelyn A. Rankin, the Medical Librarian at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. The Georgia organization, which was started in 1976, has a very diverse membership all over the state. They publish a 12-page newsletter called *Update*. Their major accomplishments include telephone conferencing and a consultants register. Ms. Rankin described the latter in detail. The various steps involved in setting up such a register include the formulation of a statement about the role and function of a consultant, the development of forms, procedures, the screening and matching process, and publicity about the service. The minimum qualifications for those included on the register are a Master of Library Science degree, and certification by the Medical Library Association or three years of experience. Future projects of the association include a statewide duplicate journals exchange, interconsortia cooperation, electronic mail, and increased efforts aimed at sharing books and audiovisual materials.

Representing a state that has no association was R. Thomas Lange, Director of the School of Medicine Library at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Mr. Lange described various cooperative efforts currently underway in that state. The major accomplishment has been the development of an online Medical Periodicals Union List, which was begun in September of 1977. The system now includes 14,000 titles and is being utilized in 29 libraries throughout the state. Mr. Lange gave a detailed description of the system and the benefits that have been realized by the availability of the system.



R. Thomas Lange discusses cooperative efforts in South Carolina.

Tennessee was represented by Judith Hodges, Librarian at the Tennessee Hospital Association, Inc., in Nashville. Ms. Hodges was instrumental in the formation of the Tennessee Health Science Library Association (THeSLA). The Tennessee association is very closely aligned with the Tennessee Hospital Association and is an affiliated group, along with 29 other groups representing various types of health professionals. Ms. Hodges outlined the advantages of being affiliated with such a large organization. The association holds meetings twice a year in conjunction with the THA. A major project has been the development of a union list of serials, with 50 libraries participating. Development of a consultants register is another ongoing project.

Joe D. Acker, new editor of the *Alabama Librarian*, and coordinator of the District III Cooperative Library System in northwest Alabama provided yet another point of view on cooperative efforts. Rather than focusing on organizing one type of libraries, this cooperative effort seeks to include *all* types of libraries, including academic, public, and special. Mr. Acker feels that this provides a variety of perspectives on the problems and special needs of all libraries. This "development of relations" is a first step in establishing communication in this ten-county section of northwest Alabama. Participating counties include Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, Winston, Lamar, Fayette, Walker, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa. Continuing education is an important area of interest for the Cooperative Library System, especially in such areas as computer literacy. Plans are underway to provide management services for hospital libraries in the area. Among the goals of this organization are the formation of two consortia in the area with the possibility of acquiring grant monies to finance these efforts.



Rachel Jones, 1982 ALHELA President.

#### MEETING CONCLUDES

It was the conclusion of an exciting and informative day for ALHELA members. Lynn Fortney ended the conference by saying that this year we have *talked* about what we are going to do, and next year we'll *do* those things!

#### EVENING ACTIVITIES

No discussion of the November ALHELA meeting would be complete unless it included the social events which followed. EBSCO Subscription Services hosted cocktails and

dinner at *The Club*, one of Birmingham's most elegant establishments. *The Club* overlooks Birmingham and affords a breathtaking view of the city. About 25 ALHELA members attended the dinner, which was absolutely delicious. It was an evening that we won't soon forget.

#### MORNING TOUR

EBSCO Subscription Services provided a number of ALHELA members with a tour of their Birmingham facilities on Saturday morning. The various services that the company offers its customers were described.

One unique service is the company's Missing Copy Data Bank, which provides a journals exchange privilege to its customers free of charge. We thank EBSCO for the support they have given to ALHELA in making this meeting a success. ■



Kathy Jones ponders ALHELA's past, present, and future endeavors.

## 1982

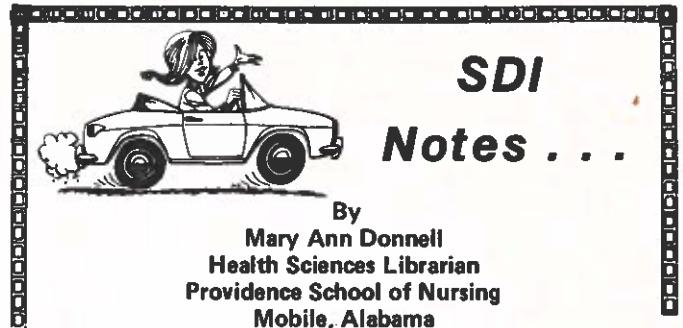
### Membership

### Dues

### Payable

### NOW!

See Membership Form  
on Page 5



Is your institution looking at ambulatory care services? In addition to the usual citations here are two complete with graphs and statistics:

Cornell, R. G.: Michigan ambulatory medical care survey: results and utility relative to the National Survey. *Public Health Reports* - July-August 1980 95(4): 369-75.

Rabin, D. L.: Ambulatory care in the community. *Public Health Reports* - November-December 1980 95(6): 511-9.

Who belongs on a code team: Hard to find citations? Look at:

Kanble, J. C.: A mock drill can save a life. *Supervisor Nurse* August 1981 - 12(8) 36, 38.

...then evaluate your code with:

Woodbery, P. M.: Prepare your unit to manage a code with a mock-emergency exercise. *Nursing (Horsham)* - December 1981 11(12): 32-34.

Are you considering implementing Primary Nursing? Read on...

Betz, M.: Some hidden costs of primary nursing. . .nurse satisfaction *Nursing and Health Care* March 1981 - 2:150-4.

...and let's not forget the Administrators...

Curran, W. J.: Law-medicine notes: Health Planning, Blue Cross and the federal anti-trust laws *New England Journal of Medicine* November 12, 1981 305(20): 1194-5.

and...

Schwartz, W. B.: Special article: the regulation strategy for controlling hospital costs *New England Journal of Medicine* November 19, 1981 - 305(21): 1249-55.

with a final note for the Infection Control Nurse:

Stamm, W.E.: Nosocomial infections: etiologic changes, therapeutic challenges *Hospital Practice* August 1981 16(8): 75-88.

and an editorial in the same issue:

Management of infection pp. 15-16.

These have come from in-house requests and interlibrary loans asked of us in recent weeks. I hope they are helpful to someone, somewhere. ■

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1982

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. Mary Claire Britt  
History of Medicine Librarian  
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences  
University of Alabama in Birmingham - University Station  
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

Please rate your top three preferences for program topics for future meetings:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ( ) Role of the Health Library                          | ( ) Copyright Laws                 |
| ( ) Health Information Resources                        | ( ) JCAH Standards for Libraries   |
| ( ) Promoting the Library to the Hospital Administrator | ( ) Interlibrary Loan              |
| ( ) Basic Library Training Workshop                     | ( ) NLM Grant Program              |
| ( ) Networking and Union Lists                          | ( ) Statewide Cooperative Programs |
| ( ) Other: _____  | _____                              |
| _____   | _____                              |
| _____   | _____                              |



ALHELA SYNAPSE

FORM FOR SUBMISSION OF COPY

1. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/LIBRARY REPORTING (GIVE MAILING ADDRESS):

---

---

2. PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, ACTIVITIES, ETC.:

---

---

---

3. NOTABLE LIBRARY NEWS, NEW PROGRAMS, ACQUISITIONS, GRANTS, ETC.

---

---

---

---

4. WORKSHOPS, CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA:

---

---

---

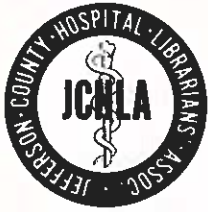
5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE YOU ARE WRITING FOR FUTURE SUBMISSION (GIVE ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE):

---

---

---

SUBMIT TO: KATHY DEXTER  
DIRECTOR - MEDICAL LIBRARY  
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. DRAWER 6987  
DOTHAN, AL 36302



## JEFFERSON COUNTY HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION

By Lisa Rains

The Jefferson County Hospital Librarian's Association (JCHLA) was formed in 1977 with three charter members, Romilda Cook, Baptist-Princeton, Ina Sims, Baptist-Montclair and Ruth McGuire, East End Hospital. Since then, the group has grown to include some 20 members representing fourteen hospitals and related organizations in Jefferson County.

The purposes of the organization are to provide area librarians with the skills and materials necessary to meet individual institutions' information needs for patient care, education, and research. Membership is open to all health sciences librarians in Jefferson County who are hospital librarians or support the objectives of the organization. Dues are \$7.50 per year and or payable by March 1 of each year. Membership in JCHLA provides access to a "Union List of Journals", free photocopy exchange, duplicate journal exchange, and continuing education activities as well as an informal means of communications with other librarians. Members are also given a printed membership card illustrated with the JCHLA logo.

The bylaws of JCHLA provide for the elected offices and frequency of meetings. Elected officers include the President and Vice President/Secretary who serve a one year term of office and Treasurer who serves for two years. The two year term of office eliminates the problem of changing the organization's bank account records annually. Meetings are held once a month with one of the members serving as host or hostess. The agenda of every meeting includes a business session and program or continuing education activity. Once every quarter a member hospital hosts a luncheon meeting.

Some of the continuing education activities the group has sponsored include a one-half day cataloging workshop conducted by Patty Parimore Grissett currently Librarian, Rush Jordan Library, Ida B. Moffet Nursing School, Samford University and former Medical Library Director, Eye Foundation Hospital, Birmingham; an *Experta Medica* Intermediate Level Training Course presented by Patti Corbett, Library Director, University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health; a Time Management Workshop conducted by Dr. Michael Laus, Director of Continuing Education, Department of Health Services Administration at UAB; and a Medline Workshop presented by Mary Ann Knotts, Chief of Library Services at the VA Medical Center, Birmingham and Pamela Pate, Medical Librarian, VA Medical Center, Birmingham. All of these workshops have been well attended and provided invaluable knowledge to the member librarians.

Perhaps the most valuable function of the group is to provide an informal means of communication among members. Every meeting provides another problem or amusing incident to discuss. Seldom does a day go by that one member does not call on another with a plea for "help", be it photocopying an article, locating a publication, or just letting off steam over day to day irritations.

The most demanding project the group has attempted has been the development of a "Union List of Journals". The completion of this project has been a goal of the group since its initial formation. Although the project is still not complete, a draft was provided to the members in May 1981, which has at least eliminated the need of sorting through twenty separate holdings lists to find a journal title. Initial work on gathering the lists, editing and correcting was done by Mary Ann Knotts, Chief of Library Services, VA Medical Center, Birmingham. Ina Sims then volunteered to produce the lists at her hospital

(Baptist-Montclair). When Ms. Sims became ill, Bobby Powell, Medical Librarian, Carraway Methodist Medical Center, took over the efforts distributing the draft copies. Ina Sims is continuing efforts of converting the list to her hospital data processing system so that it can be continually edited and revised.

The Jefferson County Hospital Librarian's Association has come a long way from its initial three member informal group to a 20 member viable organization. Hopefully, in the years to come the organization will be able to provide even broader resources and benefits to the members. The road to growth has not been an easy one; but the reward of the efforts has made the rocky areas worthwhile. ■

## Mini-Medical Libraries Available

The Rochester (Minn.) Rotary Club is participating in a World Community Service Program of awarding six standard medical texts to developing hospital libraries in order to help them meet health professionals' needs for current biomedical information. Each mini-medical library includes:

Wehrle, Paul F., and Top, Franklin Henry, eds. *Communicable and Infectious Diseases*. 9th ed. St. Louis, Mosby, 1981. \$56.50.

Sabiston, David C., ed. *Davis-Christopher Textbook of Surgery*. 11th ed. Philadelphia, Saunders, 1977. 2 vols. \$65.00.

Isselbacher, Kurt J. (and others), eds. *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*. 9th ed. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1980. \$50.00.

Vaughan, Victor C. (and others). *Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics*. 11th ed. Philadelphia, Saunders, 1979. \$49.00.

Danforth, David N., ed. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 3rd ed. Hagerstown, Maryland, Harper and Row, 1977.

Phipps, Wilma J. (and others). *Shafer's Medical-Surgical Nursing*. 7th ed. St. Louis, Mosby, 1980. \$25.95.

A number of these awards have been made world-wide, and librarians in developing hospital libraries are urged to apply. Applicants must: (1) formally apply by letter to the Rochester Rotary Club, in care of Jack D. Key, Librarian, Mayo Clinic Library, Rochester, Minnesota 55901; (2) solicit a sponsoring indorsement from a local Rotary Club in the applicant's area; (3) demonstrate the need for such a library in their area; (4) certify that the books will be placed in some convenient, accessible location and that they will be available to all health care professionals who wish to use them; (5) publicize the availability of the Mini-Medical Library; and (6) furnish a follow-up report (12 months after receiving the books) through their sponsoring Rotary Club to the Rochester Rotary Club, on the utilization and value of the Mini-Medical Library.

The Rotary Club sponsoring the applicant should be willing to share the cost of the Mini-Medical Library (approximately \$250.00) with the Rochester Rotary Club. For more information, contact Mr. Key. ■



## Editor's Notes

By  
Kathy Dexter

As the new year begins, it seems appropriate to reflect on the progress that ALHELA has made during the first year. Over sixty health librarians have banded together to pursue common goals and share common interests. The lines of communication from one end of our state to the other have been opened. We have had two important meetings, in Montgomery in April, and in Birmingham in November, and enjoyed stimulating programs and become better acquainted with each other. It has been an eventful year. As we look back over the year, we must recognize the tireless efforts of a number of people who have helped to get things rolling. If I started trying to name them all, I might 1) forget someone; 2) fill the entire back page of the *Synapse!* So, instead, I will just express, on behalf of the entire membership, a big THANK YOU to everyone who played either a large or a small part in this year's activities. And to each member, thank you for your support.

But what of 1982? We're on a roll, now! The momentum will carry us into a year of ACTION. Now that we have



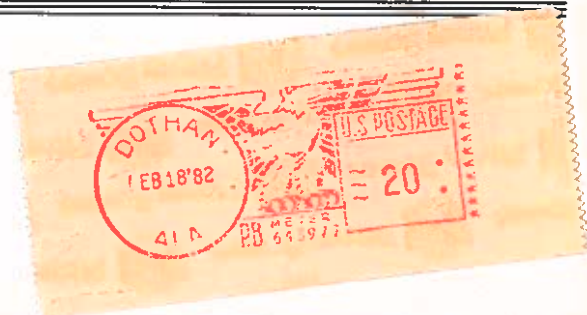
ALHELA Conference participants learn more about the Lister Hill Library. (See Page 1.)

talked and planned, we are ready to start putting our plans into motion!

*Everyone* has a part to play, so, if you have not already done so, please renew your ALHELA membership. ■



SOUTHEAST ALABAMA  
MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. Drawer 6987  
Dothan, Alabama 36302  
Tel. 205-793-8111



Robert M. Donnell  
4455 Kingswood Drive  
Mobile, AL 36608