


 BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. II, No. 4

OCTOBER 1982

ALHELA
Fall
Conference
November 12th
at the
Montgomery Sheraton
PLAN TO ATTEND !

Second Annual Meeting To Be Held In Montgomery

AIHeLA members will converge on the Montgomery Sheraton on November 12th for what promises to be an informative conference. This year's conference theme is 'Improving Patient Care through Library Services.' The one-day meeting will focus on the impact that library and information services have on the quality of patient care.

Mary Ann Donnell, Program Committee Chairman, has been hard at work preparing for this year's conference, along with committee members Patricia Rodgers, Assistant Chairman, Mara Wilhelm, Local Arrangements, and Kathy Dexter, who is designing the program brochure. AIHeLA members will be treated to an exciting day.

Tentatively, the day will begin with registration from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., followed by an opening address by John C. Hamiter, Jr., Vice President of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Gadsden. Mr. Hamiter will present 'Administration's Views of Library Services.' Reports on various outreach efforts during the past year will be outlined by Joyce Sims, reporting on Jefferson County, Willette Vaughn of the Alabama Hospital Association, and members of the AIHeLA Executive Committee. A business meeting will follow.

Luncheon will be served at the Sheraton. Rumors abound that the food is delicious, and chocolate mousse has been mentioned. . . !

After lunch, a unique 'Show and Tell' session will be presented. Conference participants will be able to view a variety of displays and demonstrations on various systems and programs around the state.

The highlight of the afternoon will be a panel discussion entitled, 'Significant Others Look At What We Do.' Panel members will include a hospital administrator, a nurse, a hospital educator, a physician, and a researcher. This discussion will give AIHeLA members a new insight into how those we serve view our services and facilities. This could be a real eye-opener, and something you won't want to miss!

This year's meeting is going to be bigger and better than even! Registration packets will be sent out soon, so make plans to join your fellow AIHeLA members in Montgomery on November 12th!

SEE YOU IN MONTGOMERY!!!!



Thoughts From Your President

*Rachel E. Jones,
ALHELA President*

July 1982 marked the second anniversary of the founding of the Alabama Health Libraries Association.

At the first ALHELA steering committee meeting, the following goals and objectives were established:

GOAL: To improve health care for the people of Alabama by the development of an organization which will increase the total information resources available, strengthen existing health libraries, encourage the formation of new libraries, and through joint effort, utilize more effectively the resources of individual libraries.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the sharing of information resources.
2. To upgrade information resources and services provided by health libraries.
3. To encourage the development of health libraries by making information about the availability of library consulting services more widely known.
4. To provide workshops and educational programs for health library personnel.
5. To facilitate communication among health library personnel, especially those in smaller health libraries, by providing a newsletter, publications, and program meetings.

In only two years I feel we have taken many steps toward meeting the objectives set by the steering committee. The Synapse was first published in November 1980 and continues to function as an excellent communication tool for the organization. In April 1981, the first annual meeting was held in Montgomery. Bylaws were passed and a timely program dealing with the library's role in JCAH Site Visits was presented. In November 1981 a two-day conference was held in Birmingham with the theme 'Alabama Health Libraries: Where We Are. . . Where We Can Be.' This meeting provided both a state-of-the-arts review of various types of health libraries within Alabama and an overview of statewide cooperative programs around the country. Then this spring five mini-conferences have been held at various locations around the state in hopes of bringing together hospital librarians in groups small enough to encourage discussion of topics dealing with the day-to-day functions of libraries. Those participating in the conferences selected the topics to be covered and indications are that the organizational efforts were successful.

Now plans are underway for a November 12th conference in Montgomery, again on a topic important to us all: 'Improving Patient Care Through Library Services.'

Much has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time. We can be rightly proud of what has been done, especially, I feel, in the area of opening lines of communication between people working in health science libraries around the state. Now we move the further challenges as our organization grows and matures. As we continue in the future to strive toward meeting the goal of our association, we can build on the strong foundation begun in these first two years.

Mini-Conference Report

'Where Do You Go When You Don't Have It' was the topic chosen for the ALHELA-sponsored meeting held on May 21st at Jacksonville State University. Attending were Rebecca Buckner, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Gadsden; Barbara J. Cate and Pamela Pruitt, Citizens Hospital, Talladega; Pricilla Lloyd, Noetheast Alabama Regional Medical Center, Anniston; Janie Robertson, Wedowee Hospital, Wedowee; Nina Samples and Evelyn Tyson, Jacksonville Hospital, Jacksonville; Ann Smallwood and Willette Vaughan, Alabama Hospital Association, Montgomery. Rachel Jones, ALHELA President and Health Sciences Librarian at Jacksonville State University coordinated the program which included a dutch treat luncheon at a local restaurant, followed by a tour of the Audio-visual Center of the Lurleen B. Wallace School of Nursing and a roundtable discussion.

The following outline was used to direct the discussion:

1. What clientele are you serving?
What services are you offering?
These determine what you need.
2. What do you have?
What do you use?
3. What do you need?
What are you asked for that you don't have?
 - a) Books
 - b) Periodicals
 - c) Specific subject areas
4. What have you been doing about meeting information needs? (What you can do. Help is available.)
5. What could you use to help you:
 - a) The National Library of Medicine program
 - b) Union lists
 - c) Consultant services
 - d) Exchange list
 - e) Directory of other librarians, phone numbers of reference persons.
 - f) Other

Evaluations of the mini-conference indicated that the program was informative and interesting but even more important, it was an opportunity to meet fellow workers and share ideas.

Nominating Committee Selected

by Rachel Jones

The section of the Alabama Health Libraries Association Bylaws concerning election of officers reads as follows:

SECTION 1: Time of Elections: Elections shall be held in November. Officers shall take office January 1st and serve for the calendar year. The steering committee shall serve as the first Executive Committee through December 31, 1981.

SECTION 2: Nominating Committee: The outgoing President, prior to the last meeting of the calendar year, will appoint and announce to the membership a nominating committee of not fewer than three members. No nominating committee member shall be an elected member of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: Eligibility: All nominees shall be members of the Association in good standing at the time of nomination. No officer shall be eligible to serve in the same capacity for more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION 4: Submission to Membership: Following a nominating committee meeting, the committee chairman will submit a slate of officers consisting of President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and three members at large to the Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall report the slate of candidates for each position to be filled at the last meeting of the calendar year. The membership may submit to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the last meeting of the calendar year additional names of individuals who have indicated a willingness to serve.

SECTION 5: Elections: Elections for officers of the Association shall be conducted by mail ballot of all members of the Association. Each member of the Association shall have one vote.

In adherence to these regulations, I have named our 1982 Nominating Committee as follows:

Geneva Bush - Medical Center Librarian, University of South Alabama, Mobile.

Bobby Powell - Medical Librarian, Caraway Methodist Medical Center, Birmingham.

Mara Wilhelm - Chief, Library Service, VA Medical Center, Montgomery.

This committee, with input from the membership, will report a single slate of candidates for Vice-president/President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and three Members-at-Large at our November 12th meeting in Montgomery. Please scan the enclosed membership list and contact one of the nominating committee members if you have recommendations. You may also submit names of individuals who have indicated a willingness to serve to Mary Claire Britt, Secretary/Treasurer, prior to our business meeting which will be held the morning of November 12th.

We need your participation in this process. Please give it due consideration.

1982 MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following individuals have paid their 1982 membership dues:

Mary Claire Britt
Melba H. Burgess
Geneva J. Bush
Nancy F. Calkins
Nancy W. Clemmons
Kathy H. Dexter
Mary Ann Donnell
Robert M. Donnell
Barbara Doughty
Ruth E. Fenske
Rick Forsman
Lynn M. Fortney
Richard B. Fredericksen
Hilda G. Harris
Atha Louise Henley
Kathy Jones
Malta Jones
Rachel E. Jones
Judy F. Johnston
Philip D. Lawrence, Jr.
Linda S. Little
Ruth Sparks McGuire
Barbara J. Moore
Beth Carolyn Owens
Pamela R. Pate
Bobby H. Powell
Lisa Rains
Patricia M. Rodgers
Ina R. Sims
Joyce W. Sims
Ruth C. Steffen
E. Hugh Thomas, Jr.
Mara R. Wilhelm
Judy B. Willmon

Editor's

By Kathy Dexter

Notes

INFORMATION WARS?

It was inevitable. The National Library of Medicine is under attack by private for-profit providers of health information, namely Elsevier Science Publications, the Dutch parent company of Excerpta Medica. In a recent article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Vol. 107, no. 3, July 15, 1982, pp. 201-204), the pertinent issues surrounding this controversy are outlined. I urge each of you to read the entire article, but I will outline the basic facts for you.

As I see it, the entire matters boils down to the question of whether or not the United States government is interfering with free enterprise in providing inexpensive medical information services through the MEDLARS interactive computer system as well as the printed Index Medicus. Because the fees charged to users of the system do not cover the actual costs of its production, the U.S. government subsidizes the entire operation. Unfair! says Excerpta Medica, further stating that they cannot possibly price their services and products competitively and still make a profit. Their attack has come through extensive lobbying for an amendment to Senate Bill 800, the re-authorized Medical Library Assistance Act. Thankfully, from our point of view, the amendment was defeated in committee before reaching the Senate floor, but the margin was a narrow one, and Senate Bill 800 should be debated and come to a vote on the Senate floor later this year, so the issues are by no means dead.

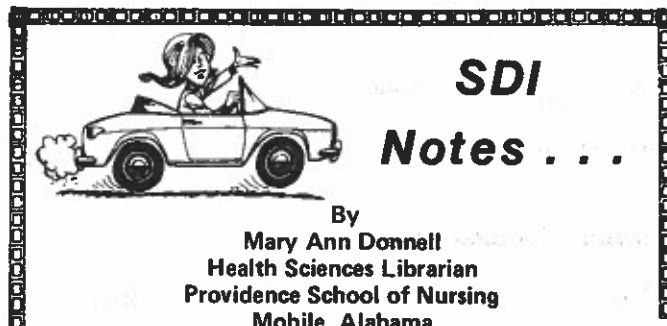
The issue involved is part of a larger trend in our country towards decreasing budgets for library services and increasing pressure for charging library users for traditionally free services. Do we as citizens have a 'right' to free information? Demand for health information from many segments of society has been burdgeoning, and the entire medical library system has been struggling to keep up. Indeed, NLM continues to limit new MEDLARS subscribers in order not to overburden their present equipment.

A section of the amendment reads, '...the Secretary (of the Department of Health and Human Services) shall not . . . make available or provide information products (including catalogs, indexes, abstracts, citations, bibliographies, or associated document delivery). . . which are maintained or provided through the Library . . . , unless the users of such products are charged fees which recover the full costs, as described in paragraph (2).' Passage of this type of legislation would have dire consequences not only for the National Library of Medicine, but for many other governmental agencies as well.

Should the taxpayers be obligated to continue support for the National Library of Medicine and its programs at the expense of private industry? The author of the *New England Journal of Medicine* article points out three compelling reasons for the continuing government subsidy. First of all, a large part of the biomedical research being carried out in this country is paid for by public funds. It is a natural extension of this situation for access to the information derived from this

research to be similarly supported by tax monies. Secondly, NLM serves as an impartial provider of health information without regard to the profitability of providing that information. Would private industry be this impartial? And lastly, the right of equal access to information would be seriously hurt by the enormous increase in user costs that would result if Excerpta Medica has its way. How many smaller institutions can afford to pay \$70 per hour (compared to \$15 per hour at present) that the MEDLINE data base would cost if no government subsidy were available? We are not asking for handouts from our government. The right of access to quality health care for all citizens of our country includes the right to quality health care information to providers. These onslaughts by private industry threaten to limit access to information to the 'haves', leaving the 'have nots' to make do with less. Such a situation violates the very tenets of our society.

Although the amendment to Senate Bill 800 was defeated this time, rest assured that the issue is still very much alive. We as Medical library personnel must keep careful watch over these efforts by private industry to limit the freedom of information. Keep informed!



This month's column features special items for administration and management:

"Logistics in the Hospital" speaks to organization and planning, borrowing defense and industrial terminology and applying them to planning and organizing in a hospital setting. The article even suggests to the reader that the librarian would be able to help him further!

able to help him further. *Hospital Supervisor's Bulletin*, October 15, 1981, issue 423.

Kaluzny: *Management of Health Services*, Prentice-Hall, 1982. \$22.95. The executive with business administration background or training will find this an interesting and useful tool. The case studies would be handy if this were used in a classroom situation, either by Hospital Education departments or college instructors.

Veninga: *The Human Side of Health Administration*, Prentice Hall, 1982. \$14.95. Less academic than Kaluzny and probably easier to use for individuals, this publication has a subtitle: 'A Guide for Hospital, Nursing and Public Health Administrators.' It will appeal too to middle level management because it offers a variety of approaches to the needs at this level of the health care organization.

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1983

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: _____

SAMC HOSTS MINI-CONFERENCE

The Southeast Alabama Medical Center was the site of a Regional Workshop on Thursday, May 13, 1982. Attending this information-packed workshop were: Martha Redding and Susan Hurley of the Brookwood Medical Center in Eufaula, Barbara Hoskins of Wiregrass Hospital in Geneva, Cee Cee Vineyard of Charter Woods Hospital in Dothan, and Ruth Baxter, Southeast Alabama Medical Center, Dothan.

The morning session, presented by Kathy Dexter, former Medical Library Director at SAMC, was entitled 'Choosing Books for Your Hospital Library.' Discussed were the various selection aids and guides as well as methods of assessing the needs of the individual institution. Ms. Dexter then presented information on 'Where and How to Buy Books' which included a discussion of jobbers.

Luncheon in the SAMC Private Dining Room allowed conference participants to get to know one another and gave them the opportunity to discuss common problems. Those attending found that they were not alone in the difficulties they faced in their own institutions.

After a brief tour of the Medical Center and a visit to the Medical Library, Lisa Rains, SAMC Medical Library Director, presented an informative discussion of 'How Can You Get a Book or Magazine that Your Library Does Not Own.' Also discussed was the topic 'Cooperative Sharing of Your Library Resources.' Cooperative efforts were outlined, and participants were informed about the organizational structure of the Regional Medical Library Program. Interlibrary loan techniques were discussed, and participants were encour-

aged to take full advantage of local resources. The lively discussion which followed helped conference participants realize that assistance and resources are just a phone call away. Those attending were given a packet of materials which included the current Brandon list, articles on hospital libraries, weeding, and other useful information. The workshop was deemed a success, and future get-togethers will be planned in the future.

1983 Membership Drive Launched

Who are AIHeLA members? They include medical records directors, secretaries, library technicians, education coordinators, and librarians. They share a common interest: providing health information to medical personnel in order to improve the quality of health care for Alabama citizens.

In this issue, AIHeLA president Rachel Jones provides us with a brief look at the goals and accomplishments of AIHeLA over the past two years since the organization was formed. Great strides have been made in our state, but much remains to be done. By renewing your membership, you will be lending your support to the efforts of AIHeLA. Ten dollars is a real bargain in today's climate of soaring prices!

But what about all those potential members around our state? It is up to each member to assure that AIHeLA's message is spread throughout their own area. If each one of us will contact one or more potential members, we can increase our membership greatly in the coming year. The more the merrier!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!!

Don't wait a single minute to send in your check and membership form included in this issue. This will assure that you don't miss a single issue of Synapse!



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