



Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

VOLUME III, NO. 1

APRIL 1983

ALHELA NEWS

by Mary Ann Donnell
ALHELA President

No--you haven't missed an issue. We're undergoing some changes and you should be receiving information regularly now.

Our faithful and talented editor, Kathy Dexter, has had to resign. "It seems that I have taken on too many things right now and, of course, my family comes first." Kathy's family addition was a son, Christopher Holmes, born December 29, 1982--a little earlier than Kathy had planned. We can not guarantee Kathy a less hectic time, but we will welcome her return to ALHELA activities anytime.

Right now our editorship is open and anyone interested should contact me as soon as possible. Contributions for Synapse came in well after the Fall Conference and it is hoped there will be a steady flow of information and contributors in the months ahead. Issues are planned for June, early September, and early December with deadlines approximately two to three weeks before.

The Executive Committee has chosen several project goals for the year and divided itself accordingly. A directory for health related libraries and institutions in the state is one which we would like to complete before the year is over; the second goal, a union list, is more involved but we will begin this year and complete it as quickly as we can. This will focus especially on hospitals and their unique holdings. The third project, on becoming more politically aware of decisions affecting health care and libraries, especially, is critical in these economic times.

As your president I sent a letter to the appropriate authorities in Washington regarding the proposed changes in medicaid reimbursements for hospitals which do not have libraries. Incidentally, the January 4 Federal Register had information which pertained to no requirements for credentialling of Medical Records personnel and nurses being the only ones to give injections. This last has cardiopulmonary and nuclear medicine departments concerned. We really need to share our information with the whole hospital.

SYNAPSE is the official publication of the Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHELA). Layout and graphics by Jennie Kasten.

This brings us to observation of reports of hospitals in Alabama who are not replacing librarians who leave. Secretaries and medical records staff will find additional duties added to their job descriptions. Are we marketing health care information--truly marketing? Secretaries may maintain at least temporarily, but can they really supply the service which goes beyond the technical services. Let us know of your observations and solutions to this dilemma.

It seems a little late to comment extensively on the Fall Conference except that it really was an important occasion for the group--sharing, listening, and being recharged. The tapes made of the afternoon speakers are available and will be loaned to anyone interested or copied for the cost of the tape. Address requests to Pat Rodgers at U.S.A. Biomedical Library.

In closing I'd like to include a memo which Pat sent me recently which speaks volumes:

"While looking for a medical word (like synapse) for the title of the calender of events (incidentally, I never came up with one), I decided to read the definition again of synapse. The definition used in the first issue is correct, except it does not go into further detail as does the one I read in Taber's. Thought you would like to hear it and may want to use it in your article. It goes on further to say 'Synapses are polarized, i.e., the impulses pass in one direction only. They are susceptible to the effects of oxygen deficiency, anesthetics and other drugs.' I so hope we the members don't feel that Synapse is polarized (one way communication), but just the opposite, two-way communication. We must suggest articles, write brief communications, etc., so the Synapse can pass it the other way. Hope we members are not fatigued!"

A YEAR WELL SPENT

by Rachel Jones
1982 ALHELA President

It seems that just as I'm finding it easier to write columns in this journal, I discover I am at the end of my year as President of the Alabama Health Libraries Association. I find myself thinking of the old cliché 'where has the time gone.' Fortunately, I can look back and remember that much of it has been spent in hard work, planning, and implementation of ideas. For this, I want to thank the executive committee, Mary Ann, Mary Claire, Kathy, Malta, Lisa, Pat and Lynn, without whom nothing would have been accomplished. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mara Wilhelm, VA Medical Center in Montgomery, for graciously serving as hostess to our executive committee meeting this year. And finally I would be remiss if I didn't thank each of you for your support and participation.

It has been an honor to have served as your President. My charm bracelet will be a glowing reminder of a year well spent. As a last word I would like to encourage us all to continue the work we have begun. Health science libraries are vital to health care. There is so much which can be done to facilitate and improve current practices, but it can only be done if we all work together.

INTRODUCING THE 1983 OFFICERS

by Geneva Bush
Chairperson, 1982 Nominating Committee

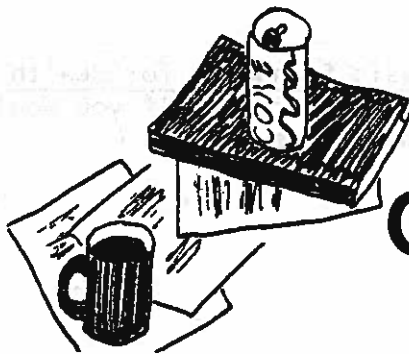
The following AIHeLA members were elected to serve the 1983 term as officers of the Association, along with the President, Mary Ann Donnell (Health Sciences Librarian at Providence Hospital and School of Nursing in Mobile). They are all qualified to lead AIHeLA, bringing together diversified backgrounds, and they need to hear your ideas for projects, suggestions for programs, comments or questions for/about the Association.

Nancy W. Clemmons, Vice-President/President-Elect, is the new Head of Reference Services at the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Before accepting this position she was UAB's Vision Sciences Librarian. Nancy is currently secretary of the Alabama Online User's Group. She is also a member of the Medical Library Association, the Alabama Library Association, and the Southeastern Library Association.

Patricia M. Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer, is the Coordinator of Technical Services at the Biomedical Library of the University of South Alabama in Mobile. During 1982, Pat served as a Member-at-Large of AIHeLA. She is a member of the Medical Library Association and the Health Sciences OCLC User's Group.

Rebecca S. Buckner, Member-at-Large, is the Medical Librarian at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Gadsden. Prior to taking this position, Rebecca was the Director of the Talladega Public Library for five and a half years. While at the Talladega Public Library a new building was planned and built. She is a member of the American Library Association and the Alabama Library Association.

Willette W. Vaughn, Member-at-Large, is the Director of the Medical Library Program of the Alabama Hospital Association in Montgomery. Willette's masters in Administration provides the background she needs to develop and use her collection, which is strong in hospital administration. She is a member of the Medical Library Association and the Hospital Librarians Association.



Committee Work

The following committees have been formed to work on projects in the future. If you have not signed up for one there is still time! Notify Mary Ann Donnell, President, of your preference.

Directory
Legislative
Membership
Nominating

Programs
Publications
Union List

MEMBERSHIP - 1983

If you have paid your dues and your name is not listed, please contact Pat Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer (P.O. Box U-1207 USA, Mobile, AL 36688).

Bolton, Jan
Britt, Mary Claire
Buckner, Rebecca S.
Bush, Geneva L.
Calkins, Nancy A.
Clemmons, Nancy
Dexter, Kathy
Donnell, Mary Ann
Donnell, Robert M.
Doughty, Barbara P.
Edwards, Fran
Fenske, Ruth E.
Fettters, Kathleen V.
Forsman, Rick B.
Fortney, Lynn M.
Fredericksen, Richard B.
Gramka, Billie Jean
Harris, Hilda G.
Henley, Atha Louise
Hurley, Susan
Johnson, Annette
Jones, Malta A.
Jones, Rachel E.
Knotts, Mary Ann
Kuther, Patricia A.
Lawrence, Philip D., Jr.

Lloyd, Priscilla
McGuire, Ruth Sparks
Moor, Lucille
Moore, Erdeal A.
Mueller, Dorothy A.
Muellings, Sara L.
Owens, Beth
Peresich, Mary Giles, R.S.M.
Pertzog, Betsy
Pfau, Julia S.
Powell, Bobby H.
Rains, Lisa
Ramage, Patricia G.
Redding, Martha Sue
Rodgers, Patricia M.
Royster, Cynthia J.
Samples, Nina
Sims, Ina R.
Sims, Joyce
Smallwood, Ann
Steffen, Ruth C.
Thomas, Hugh
Tyson, Evelyn
Vaughan, Willette W.
Willmon, Judy B.

HOSPITAL LIBRARY STANDARDS

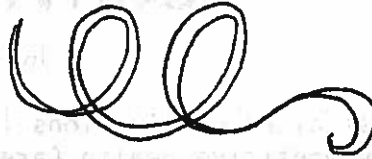
by Joyce Sims

The MLA is currently in the process of writing Basic Standards for Health Science Libraries in Hospitals. The process is in its 5th draft. If you would like a copy of the draft, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to:

Rosalind F. Dudden
Chairperson, Hospital Library Standards
and Practices Committee
Library and Medical Resources Dept.
Mercy Medical Center
1619 Milwaukee St.
Denver, CO 80206

Each draft of the standards has included an introduction and principle and sections on Administration, Staff, Space Requirements, Collection, Services, Budget, and Co-Operative Arrangements. The proposal sets up criteria (factors such as: number of hospital personnel, size of medical staff, residency programs or affiliation with nursing school). Then, depending on how many of these factors your institution meets, your library falls into category A, B, C, or D. Each category then has a range of number of books/journals, space, budget and extent of reference. Ms. Dudden would appreciate input from our members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
April 17-23, 1983

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OF HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS
April 18-20, 1983. New Orleans. Contact: Lynn S. Garrote, Northwest
AHEC Librarian, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, 300 South Hawthorne
Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103

MLA CE 45: LIBRARY MANAGEMENT/MARKETING
May 20, 1983. Instructor: Dr. Jo Ann Bell, Carraway Methodist
Medical Center. Contact: Beth Owens, VA Medical Ct., Library
Service, 700 S. 19th St., Birmingham, AL 35233. 205-933-8101 ext.
6474.

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - 83rd ANNUAL MEETING
May 27-June 2, 1983. Houston. Theme "Pursuit of Excellence."

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION - 74th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 4-9, 1983. New Orleans. Theme "Removing Information Barriers."

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL MEETING
June 24-30, 1983. Los Angeles.

SOUTHERN CHAPTER - MLA - 33RD ANNUAL MEETING

ALHELA- ANNUAL MEETING/WITH SOUTHERN CHAPTER-MLA
October 19-22, 1983. Birmingham, Alabama.

POSITION AVAILABLE

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, online search services, library instruction and maintenance of the Department Library. An MLS is preferred. This position has a competitive salary with full UAB benefits. Send resume to: Greg Smith, Department of Anesthesiology, the University of Alabama in Birmingham, University Station, Birmingham, Alabama 35294.

CAN HOSPITAL LIBRARIES SURVIVE ?

by Mary Ann Donnell

One of the most cited publications in recent months has been Can Hospitals Survive - the New Competitive Health Care Market, Dow Jones-Irwin, 1981 by Jeff C. Goldsmith, Ph.D., \$24.95.

As speaker at the Executive Forum for the American College of Hospital Administrators in Chicago a year ago and participant at this month's Association of Western Hospitals in California, Dr. Goldsmith (Director of Health Planning and Regulatory Affairs, Univ. of Chicago Medical Center) challenges hospital administrators to enter the no-growth period of the 80's with their eyes and options open.

I have ordered a copy for our administration from Dow Jones-Irwin Co., 1818 Ridge Road, Homewood, Illinois 60430.

From the number of references I am seeing, I am wondering if one will be enough.

HHS and HOSPITAL LIBRARY

by Joyce Sims

Although the MLA plans a co-ordinated response to the federal government regarding the proposal to abolish requirements for a hospital library, AIHeLA members should read up on the proposal and inform themselves of all that is published regarding the change. Below is a short bibliography of relevant articles.

"Medicare Proposal: A Hospital Library is No Longer Required." Hospital Libraries, Spring 1980, 11-12 (Note Date).

"May Relax Medicare/Medicaid, Hospital Rules." Hospital Week, 18(37): Sept. 17, 1982.

"Proposed regulations would overhaul hospital reimbursement rules." American Journal of Nursing, 82(11): Nov. 1982, 1665-1774.

SDI NOTES

by Joyce Sims
St. Vincent's Hospital
Birmingham, Alabama

This issue's bibliography features PPO's (Preferred Provider Organizations).

Stacy, James. "Foundations association opens doors to PPO's." American Medical News, 25(41): Oct. 22/29, 1982, p. 7-8.

Lefton, Doug. "Competitive market spawning PPO's." American Medical News, 25(17): May 7, 1982, p. 7-8.

Gephardt, R. A. "PPO approach welcomed by congressmen." (letter) American Medical News, 25(26): July 16, 1982, p. 5.

Ellwein, Linda Krane. "Interstudy researchers trace progress of PPO's, provide insight into future growth." FAH Review, 15(4): July/Aug. 1982, p. 20-.

"Dateline Washington: New financing arrangement." FAH Review, 15(4): July/Aug. 1982, p. 5.

"Investor-owned hospitals study PPO concept; leaders of industry adopt 'wait and see' policy." FAH Review, 15(4) July/Aug. 1982, p. 40-2.

"Three networks reflect growing interest in the development of California PPO's." FAH Review, 15(4): July/Aug. 1982, p. 36-

"Health Care Industry business show increasing interest in PPO concept." FAH Review, 15(4): July/Aug. 1982, p. 12-.

Bruskardt, Gary. "Mountain Medical PPO: a case history of marketing a new concept in the Denver area." FAH Review, 15(4): July/Aug. 1982, p. 29-32.

"PPO's will proliferate if QA and UR programs improve." Hospital Peer Review, 7(5): May 1982, p. 53-6.

Kodner, Karen. "Getting a fix on PPOs." Hospitals, 56(22): Nov. 16, 1982, p. 59-.

"California blue cross to launch preferred provider contracts." Hospital Week. 18(46): Nov. 19, 1982, p. 3.

LIBRARIES HAVE A NEW SYMBOL

You are looking at our new National Library Symbol. It was adopted at the 1982 Annual Conference of the American Library Association and is designed to increase the public's awareness of libraries and the valuable services they provide. Similar to the graphic style of international symbols, it features a white figure sloped like an "L" - for library - holding a book on a vivid blue background. Display it proudly!

