



Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

VOLUME V, NO. 4

DECEMBER 1985

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Rebecca Buckner

Welcome to AlHeLA, former AlaSHLiM members. In the business session of the Fall conference at Gulf Shores, the merger of AlaSHLiM (Alabama Society of Hospital Library Managers) with AlHeLA was approved. Marlyss Giles of St. Margaret's Hospital, Montgomery, will serve as AlaSHiM's member-at-large on the 1986 Executive Council.

The Fall conference is reported on elsewhere in this issue, but I personally want to thank Joyce Sims and her committee for a very interesting program and successful conference. An additional plus to our conference were the two workshops sponsored by the Biomedical Library of the University of South Alabama, Mobile. Those that were not present for all three days missed a lot of good conversations, both in and out of the sessions.

The members of the Executive Committee are due a very special thank you for all of the guidance and expertise they brought to their jobs this year. I feel that the progress that was accomplished by our organization this year is due to these hard-working individuals.

Sister Mary Giles Peresich has volunteered to continue with the Directory for yet another year, and for this the organization says thank you many times over.

Thanks are in order to A. J. Wright, Lisa Rains Russell and Mary Ann Donnell, our Nominating Committee, for the slate of leaders for next year.

Not meaning any slight by placing you last, thanks go to you, Robert Donnell for stepping in and becoming the editor for Synapse. We appreciate your support.

Thanks to each of you for your participation and support in the Association's activities. I look forward to Joyce's leadership of AlHeLA next year. I know she has many exciting things planned for us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18-23, 1986

American Library Association Midwinter Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

April 2-4, 1986

Southeastern Conference of Hospital Librarians Annual Meeting.
Atlanta, Georgia.

April 6-12, 1986

National Library Week.

April 7, 1986

RML-2 Resource Library Directors Meeting. SE/A RMLS, Baltimore, Md.

April 8, 1986

RML-2 Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting. SE/A RMLS, Baltimore, Md.

April 9-11, 1986

Health Sciences O.C.L.C. Users Group (HSOCLCUG) Annual Meeting.
Cincinnati, Ohio.

April 9-12, 1986

Association of College and Research Libraries Annual Meeting.
Baltimore, Md.

May 16-22, 1986

Medical Library Association. 86th Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, Minn.

June 28-July 3, 1986

American Library Association Annual Conference. New York, N. Y.

May 15-21, 1987

Medical Library Association. 87th Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon.

ALHELA NEWS

FALL CONFERENCE

THE LIBRARIAN AND THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

by Joyce Sims

Gulf Shores provided a relaxing setting for the fifth annual meeting of AlHeLA held October 23. The speaker's and the 35 attending members' "brainstorming" was so powerful that a hurricane blew in the next week! Fortunately, the weather was ideal, the fellowship amiable, as always, and the speakers informative and enthusiastic about health libraries and their management.

Mr. Williams H. Washington, Jr., manager of productivity for McDonnell-Douglas (Huntsville, Al.) gave an overview of NASA and its efforts toward measuring productivity. Mr. Washington stressed that measuring productivity and quality is much more difficult in the knowledge worker environment. He pointed out that librarians can and should be agents of change by packaging ideas and "selling" them at department or medical staff meetings. He noted that in the knowledge worker environment it is important to make your own data. One way is to survey the medical staff as to how your service has impacted on clinical decisions. Included in his presentation was marketing skills through letting people know what you can do for them and then showing them how your efforts can save time and money for the hospital, doctor and even the patients. It was an added pleasure to have Mrs. Washington with us as well and thus enjoy meeting Nancy Clemmons' "roots."

After a "make your own sundae" refreshment break provided by Ebsco, AlHeLA members were "entertained" by Dick Fredericksen, Director and Lynn Fortney, Associate Director-Public Services at Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, UAB. They presented the concepts of participative management and quality circles. Dick covered the different types and methods used in participative management including a history of who developed the method and each method's applications. He included advantages, circle make-up, and when to use and when not to use quality circles. Lynn did a show-and-tell of a step-by-step process of a recent quality circle meeting of Lister Hill staff. She employed the different ways of ranking problem-solving ideas and methods of limiting final choices or suggestions. The question and answer session substituted for a planned small group discussion and the exchange and interaction was most informative.

Marian Brennan, satellite librarian RML, brought us up to date on the development of Montgomery and Southeast Alabama consortia. After a break to enjoy the beach, we had a delicious roast beef dinner (complete with rolls--you had to have been there to understand that) and held our annual business meeting.

Special thanks to all our speakers and to all the companies who donated "goodies." Additional thanks to my program committee, Mary Ann Donnell and Bobby Powell.

REFERENCE BOOKS AVAILABLE THROUGH AlHeLA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The reference books listed below have been withdrawn from the Lister Hill Library collections and are available at no charge to the first library requesting them. Materials will be mailed out at 4th class, library rate. Postage reimbursement in stamps is requested. Call the Acquisitions Unit at 934-2460 before March 1, 1986 to request any of the books listed.

American medical directory. 28th ed., 1982
Congressional staff directory. 1983
Directory of medical specialists. 19th ed., 1979/80 (2 vol. set);
21st ed., 1983/84 (2 vol. set)
Hospital literature index. 1970-74 cumulation; 1978
Index medicus. 1982 cumulation (2 sets); 1983 cumulation; 1984 monthly volumes
Index of NLM serial titles. 1979 (2 vol. set)
Irregular serials and annuals. 1983; 1984
Literary market place. 1983
Medical books and serials in print. 1984 (2 vol. set)
Statistics sources. 7th ed., 1982

ARCHIVES

Since AlHeLA has been an official organization for five years, papers, official correspondence, and annual programs have accumulated across the state among former officers. At the last executive council meeting, the board of AlHeLA decided to appoint for this year (with an official bylaws change for next year) an archivist. AlHeLA is very fortunate that Bobby Powell, librarian at Carraway Methodist Medical Center, has agreed to chair the Archives Committee for 1986 while materials are being gathered and organized. Bobby has also agreed to serve for an indefinite period as archivist for the organization. Bobby would like help from members who can take pictures at AlHeLA programs or workshops and who can help organize the archives. Officers and former officers who have materials suitable for the archives should send them to Bobby or bring them to the next Executive Board meeting.

LIAISON COMMITTEE

When the Regional Medical Library Program held the state-wide meeting on Alabama's future health information needs, several suggestions were made by non-librarians regarding outreach programs that AlHeLA could undertake. One of these suggestions involved having a contact person(s) who would work with the various non-library agencies in the state such as MASA, Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Alabama Hospital Association, Alabama Department of Public Health, etc. The main purpose of the liaison would be to furnish information on AlHeLA programs, workshops, services and resource sharing activities by submitting articles for publication in their newsletters or journals. For the first year, the liaison committee functions will be developed and more acutely defined as needs arise or are expressed by these non-library health agencies. It is anticipated that one of the members-at-large of the Executive Council will serve as Chair of the Liaison Committee.

CURRENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

by Joyce Sims

- Camazine, Scott. A computerized filing system for medical literature. Resident and Staff Physician 31 (11) Nov., 1985, 77-9.
- Grundner, T. M. The greening of medical computing: Federal policy and the information industry. Health Matrix 3 (3) Fall, 1985, 57-8.
- Porter, Michael E. How information gives you competitive advantage. Harvard Business Review July-August, 1985, 149-60.
- Covell, David G., et al. Information needs in office practice: are they being met? Annals of Internal Medicine 103 (4) October, 1985, 596-9.
- Huth, Edward J. Needed: an economics approach to systems for medical information. Annals of Internal Medicine 103 (4) October, 1985, 617-9.
- Justice, Kathleen. Libraries offer lifelong learning. AORN Journal 41 (4) April, 1985, 776, 778, 780.
- Haynes, R. Brian, et al. Computer searching of the medical literature. An evaluation of Medline systems. Annals of Internal Medicine 103 (5) November, 1985, 812-6.
- Harris, Daniel K. MEDIS: a new strategic option for acquiring medical information--electronically. JAMA 254 (19) November 15, 1985, 2801.
- Collen, Morris F. Full-text medical literature retrieval by computer. JAMA 254 (19), November 15, 1985, 2768-2774.
- Tkach, John R. My quick route to a tough diagnosis. Medical Economics, July 8, 1985, 101-102, 106-7.
- Wakeley, Patricia J., et al. Health science library and information services in the hospital. Hospital and Health Services Administration, July/August 1985, 112-23.

Photocopies of the above items are available by contacting Joyce Sims at St. Vincent's Hospital Library, Birmingham.

ABULS PARTICIPANTS MEETING HELD

Twenty health science libraries were represented at the Alabama Biomedical Union List of Serials (ABULS) participants meeting held December 6, 1985 at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Montgomery. The primary objectives of the meeting were to examine the feasibility of standardizing ILL charge/invoice practices, consider the development of a journals exchange program, and to assess the impact of union listing on all participating libraries.

After discussion, a standardized ILL charge/invoice practice was viewed as improbable because of the individual requirements of each institution and impractical because of pre-existing arrangements between some libraries. However, the discussion served as a valuable forum for sharing ideas about practices and forms used in each library. Participants' ILL charges, practices and policies are included in the AIHeLA Directory of Health Science Libraries and will be presented in a fuller form with the next edition of the Directory.

All participants viewed a journals exchange program as a useful endeavor, and various alternatives for initiating the program were considered. Some of the alternatives discussed were give/need lists published in Synapse, consortium membership in USBE or the University of Washington's Journal Exchange, EBSCO's Missing Copy Bank, and funding a centralized exchange site in Alabama. The establishment of an ad hoc committee to study the proposal and alternative has been recommended to AIHeLA's Executive Council. Persons wishing to serve on this ad hoc committee are asked to contact Joyce Sims at St. Vincent's Hospital. Committee service is not limited to ABULS participants.

The impact of union listing on ABULS libraries was examined from two perspectives: 1985 ULS impact survey results and DOCLINE. According to the results of the union list impact survey, all reporting libraries indicated an increase in interlibrary loans provided as a direct result of union list participation. For all libraries except for Providence Hospital, Lister Hill, and USA, the increase was considered moderate--between 3-20 loans provided over what would normally be provided. Because ABULS data feeds into the SERHOLD database which serves as a vehicle for DOCLINE, interlibrary loans should be expected from libraries outside of Alabama. DOCLINE will be implemented in Alabama by March 1986, so the benefits and stresses of union list participating will become even more evident. In order to document the impact of union listing on each library, the group agreed to maintain statistics on loans placed and filled according to a simple hashmark table which will be sent out by the coordinators. The hashmark table will describe traffic volume and direction; scope of borrowing will be determined by examination of CCG lists. CCG lists will effectively provide collection needs assessment for both the individual library and state-wide collection resources. Both hashmark tables and CCG lists should be sent to coordinators quarterly along with union list update sheets.

Holdings edit lists for most of the new participants were distributed at the meeting. These lists are to be proof-read against the library's original holdings lists and any discrepancies brought to the attention of the union list coordinator. Holdings lists and annual invoices for all libraries will be produced in January, after all union list updates have been keyed into the file.

ABULS PARTICIPANTS MEETING HELD (Continued)

The last item raised was the concept of a "letter of understanding", and was only briefly discussed. A "letter of understanding" would consist of guidelines for union list participation, outlining responsibilities of both participating libraries and AIHeLA. By signing off on the letter, libraries would agree to share resources through ILL and to maintain the integrity of the union list by consciously updating their holdings. AIHeLA would agree to serve as contract negotiator with the data processing vendor, serve as data editor, and provide continuing education as required. There are various other responsibilities of both participants and AIHeLA which would need to be addressed. Synapse will carry news of the letter of understanding as the concept evolves.

Handouts distributed at the meeting will be sent to ABULS participants who were unable to attend. Others wanting sets may obtain them by calling Pat Rodgers at USA (460-7043) or Maureen Battistella at Lister Hill (934-2460).

JOIN

ABULS



BE A PART OF THE TEAM



Alabama Health Libraries Association

October 23, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: AlHeLA Membership

FROM: Maureen Battistella
Pat Rodgers
ABULS Coordinators

RE: ABULS Annual Report

The first edition of the Alabama Biomedical Union List of Serials (ABULS) was produced on April 9, 1985 by the School of Medicine Library, University of South Carolina. The format was fiche and included 17 participants. At that time, the union list consisted of approximately 7175 unique titles and 11,556 holdings. There are now 23 participants with the possibility of the number being 25 by production of the second edition in 1986.

Throughout the year the coordinators have continued to communicate with the participants through SYNAPSE and by phone and letter if time is a factor. Updates are filtered through the coordinators so the quality of the database is enhanced. In all, approximately 100 hours of coordinator time is spent on the project a year.

The coordinators would like to take this opportunity to thank the AlHeLA Executive Committee, the Region 2 office, in particular, Karen Hackleman, Janice Kelly, and Marian Brennan, and the union list participants for their support of the union list. We both enjoy working on this project and volunteer our time for as long as the Association wishes us to continue as the coordinators.

For the future we have several projects on which we would like to work: determine ILL traffic patterns, suggest areas for collection assessment/development, and develop a publicity program for the union list.



Alabama Health Libraries Association

ALABAMA BIOMEDICAL UNION LIST OF SERIALS

CALENDAR

December 6, 1985	Approval copies due from USC for new participants
January 15, 1986	Verified approval copies due to ABULS Coordinators Last day to update holdings for production of 2d edition (old participants)
February 3, 1986	Coordinators send approval copies and holdings updates to USC
April 1, 1986	ABULS, 2d ed., (fiche product) due for distribution Holdings updates and ILL statistics due to ABULS Coordinators
April 15, 1986	Coordinators send holdings updates to USC
July 1, 1986	Holdings updates and ILL statistics to ABULS Coordinators
July 15, 1986	Coordinators send holdings updates to USC
October 1, 1986	Holdings updates and ILL statistics to ABULS Coordinators
October 15, 1986	Coordinators send holdings updates to USC

Serials "Info"

Title Code	Title
1472	Hospital forum 1-27/28N1-4 continued by Healthcare forum Healthcare forum 28N5-- continuation of Hospital forum
1476	Hospital medical staff 11-14N2 continued by Medical staff news Medical staff news 14N3-- continuation of Hospital medical staff
1482	Hospital progress 1-64/65N1-7 continued as Health progress Health progress 65N8-- continuation of Hospital progress

NOTE: The above title changes have been submitted to USC. Just make changes on your holdings. You need not let us know of these changes.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OF HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS

The ninth annual meeting of the Southeastern Conference of Hospital Librarians (SCHL) will be held April 2-4, 1986 in Atlanta at the Georgia World Congress Center. As one of the allied groups of the Southeastern Hospital Conference, SCHL was organized to meet the needs of hospital librarians/library managers.

Keynote speakers at the SCHL meeting are: Ron David Williams, Professor, Division of Library and Information Management, Emory University, and Tom Basler, Director, Library, Medical College of Georgia; they will discuss Information Technology applications in the hospital setting. A tour of the Crawford Hospital library will follow.

Thursday, the second day of the conference, will be devoted to continuing education courses. The Medical Library Association's course CE-342, Nursing Information Resources, will be offered as well as the Southeastern/Atlantic Regional Medical Library Program's course, "Administrative Skills in Hospital Library Management."

Friday's activities will consist of: a SCHL business meeting, announcements and discussions of news/business from the Southeastern/Atlantic Regional Medical Library Program office, and a report of the Tennessee study of the costs of hospital library reference service.

Registration materials will be mailed late February. For more information contact Fran Golding, Medical Library, Scottish Rite Hospital, 1001 Johnson Ferry Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30363. Phone: (404) 256-5252 ext. 4141.

SC/MLA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Medical Library Association chapters are required to meet a membership compliance quota in order to retain their chapter status. Membership compliance means that at least 50% of MLA members residing within the chapter's geographic boundaries must also be members of the chapter.

The Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association has not met compliance quotas for the last three years. However, Alabama's compliance currently stands at 77% as of 1984 membership tallies.

An updated 1985 SC/MLA directory and 1986 membership renewal forms were mailed in October to all 1985 members. If you have not received these materials, a copy of the 1986 membership renewal form was also included in a recent issue of Synapse. Renewals and new memberships may be sent with \$2.00 to:

Linda Garr Markwell
SC/MLA Membership Chair
Grady Branch Library
Emory University
69 Butler St., S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Membership in MLA is not a prerequisite of chapter participation and membership. Chapter membership is not performed through MLA membership renewal.

RML Satellite Librarian

HEALTH LIBRARY NETWORKING IN ALABAMA MEETING

by Marian Brennan

On October 17 the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences hosted the program "Health Library Networking in Alabama". Health care administrators, practitioners and librarians representing a wide array of in-state agencies were present along with representatives from the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, and the Southeastern/Atlantic Regional Medical Library Services (SE/A RMLS), Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Steve Smith, UAB's Assistant Vice-President for Health, welcomed the participants and spoke briefly about the University's network participation.

Throughout the day, participants gave brief synopses of the involvements of their institutions in various information-related networks. The practitioners and administrators were questioned concerning their individual information needs, how these were met and how the SE/A RMLS could work to improve information access.

Many enlightening facts and observations surfaced during the presentations and the closing discussion session. Lois Ann Colaianni, NLM, reported that funds to support the continued development of information networks were increasingly limited at the national level. She emphasized NLM's desire for institutions statewide to join together and begin to support networking programs. Ms. Colaianni stressed the importance of face-to-face meetings to accomplish this and stated "Technology is a tool, but people decide what is needed and how to use tools." Carol Jenkins, SE/A RMLS, explained the RML program's history and expressed a strong commitment to networking in Alabama. The SE/A RMLS has for two years supported local consortium development within the state and now wants to explore possible linkages between established consortia.

Existing structures and services in Alabama were discussed by representatives of the Lister Hill Library, UAB's MIST program, the Alabama Health Libraries Association and the Jefferson County Hospital Librarians Association. All of these have as a primary purpose the promotion of health information and access to health information services and resources.

Progress reports on four newly developing consortia were given by attending members. These consortia are the Southeast Science and Health Libraries, West Alabama Health Libraries Information Exchange, the Metropolitan Montgomery Medical Information Services Consortium and a currently unnamed consortium in the Huntsville/Decatur area. These groups are working in their local areas to improve information access for health care practitioners and to provide education and training for member librarians. Plans are underway to establish a fifth consortium of health care libraries and agencies in the Northeast Alabama area.

Following these presentations, several attendees discussed possible linkages and cooperation for services with existing health care associations and networks in the state. Represented were a Huntsville-based Family Practice Plan, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, the Alabama Hospital Association (Headquarters and the Birmingham Regional Office), the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Public Library Service, and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education/Network of Alabama Academic Libraries.

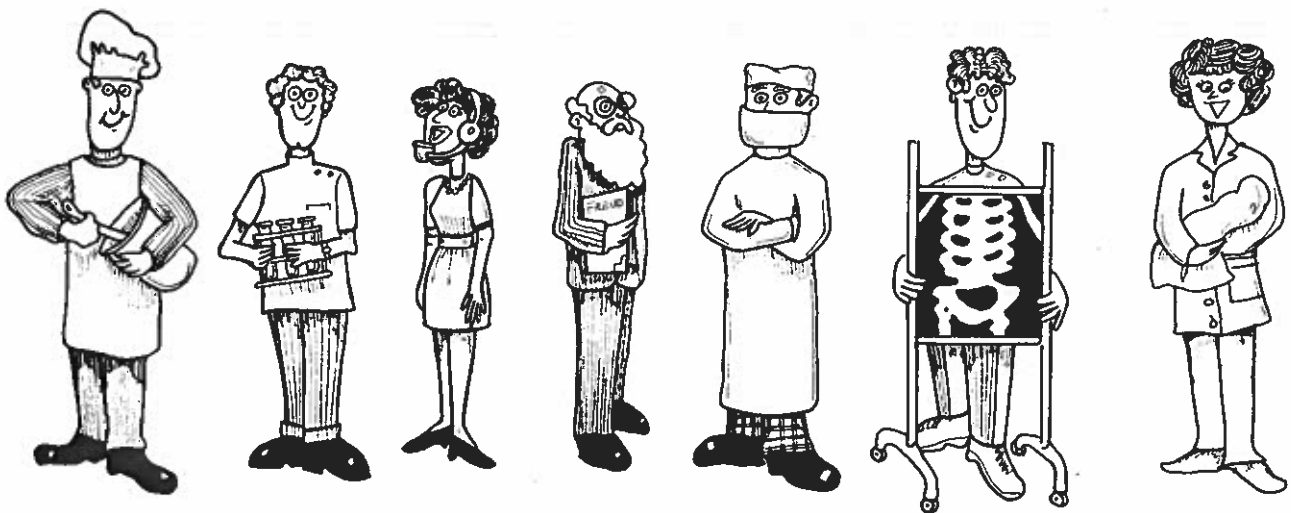
HEALTH LIBRARY NETWORKING IN ALABAMA MEETING (Continued)

These speakers gave much insight into how health care practitioners and administrators obtain needed information and how the library community can work to improve its service as well as its image. Several persons pointed out that library sponsored services were often ineffective due to misdirected or non-existent marketing techniques. The negative image many health care professionals hold of the term "librarian" was noted as a frequent barrier to securing administrative support for library and information services.

During the afternoon discussion session, possible information service packages, marketing techniques and image improvements were discussed. Some suggestions included: (1) developing a general guide, divided by discipline, of existing information resources (this would be marketed directly to health professionals); (2) developing methods for hospital libraries to become revenue producing, then marketing their services in slick, professional packages; and (3) changing the title "librarian" to the more descriptive "information specialist."

The purpose of this meeting was to facilitate just the type of discussion and generation of ideas that took place. No final solutions were expected, and none found, but all parties expressed interest in pursuing the information access dilemma further. Future meetings to delve deeper into possible solutions are anticipated. Any interested health professionals wishing to participate in local or statewide network development are encouraged to contact Marian Brennan, SE/A RMLS Outreach Services Coordinator, at the Lister Hill Library or at 934-2230.

(The above article was reprinted, with permission, from Alabama Medicus, No. 15, Nov.-Dec. 1985, 3-4.)



TEAMWORK DOES IT!

1985 Union List of Serials

For just \$20 you can own the new 48X microfiche version of the *Region 2 Union List of Serials*, the region's official locator tool, and have access to the holdings information of 401 network libraries. The 1985 edition includes 160,894 holdings statements for 14,308 serial titles. These statistics represent a nine percent and a 12 percent increase respectively over 1984!

When you purchase the Union List you will automatically receive an updated version of the SE/A RMLS *Interlibrary Loan Policy Handbook*. This reference provides you with the addresses, telephone numbers and interlibrary loan policies of participating libraries.

So order your copy of the 1985 Region 2 Union List of Serials today. It will save you time and money and speed up the interlibrary borrowing process. For just \$20 you can't afford to be without it!

Use the order form below to send for your copy.

1985 Region 2 Union List of Serials

Mail to: SE/A RMLS University of Maryland
Health Sciences Library
111 South Greene Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Please send _____ copy(ies) of the 1985 Region 2 Union List of Serials. I have enclosed \$20 per copy.

Name _____

Institution _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____

Telephone (____) _____

_____ Copies @ \$20 ea. = _____

Amount Enclosed

**Make check payable to the University of Maryland
Health Sciences Library, RMLS**

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
1986

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Business Phone _____

Institutional Affiliation _____

Job Title _____

Dues \$10.00 annually. Make check payable to ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Joyce Sims
St. Vincent's Hospital Library
P. O. Box 915
Birmingham, AL 35201

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Institution _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Business Phone _____

Contact Person _____ Title _____

Dues \$10.00 annually. Make check payable to ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Joyce Sims
St. Vincent's Hospital Library
P. O. Box 915
Birmingham, AL 35201

COMMITTEE SIGN-UP

I am interested in serving on the following committee(s):

BY-LAWS _____ MEMBERSHIP _____ PROGRAM _____ *LIAISON _____ *ARCHIVES _____

*See articles in this issue of Synapse.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS/PROGRAMS I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OFFERED:

WORKSHOPS

DOCLINE _____

ELECTRONIC MAIL _____

INTERLIBRARY LOANS _____

BASIC SKILLS _____
(selection, cataloging, acquisition, etc.)

ADVANCED COMPUTER-PERSONAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SYSTEMS _____

OTHER _____

PROGRAMS

MARKETING LIBRARY SERVICE _____

COMPETITION'S EFFECT ON DELIVERY OF LIBRARY SERVICE _____
ETHICS IN LIBRARIANSHIP _____

THE LIBRARY AS A SECONDARY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY _____

OTHER _____