

Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

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SPRING 1998

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Beth Laughlin

This is a time of changes! As you read in our previous issue, our state health sciences librarian's association has become ALHeLA, Inc.! I would like to use my first "President's Column" to briefly review the history of our organization and to recognize those that have made it successful. Reviewing our past helps us plan for the future.

ALHeLA's Steering Committee first met on July 25, 1980. The committee consisted of Lynn Fortney, Kathy Dexter, Dick Fredericksen, Anne Tolle, Rachel Jones and Bobby Powell. Before this meeting, a questionnaire was mailed to 151 health science libraries in Alabama to assess the interest in forming a state organization. The committee received 110 responses of which 96 were positive, so the committee agreed that the formation of a state association was feasible. During 1980, an interim executive committee was formed, goals and objectives were established, a newsletter was planned, and program ideas for the first annual meeting were discussed.

The first meeting for the ALHeLA membership was held April 10, 1981 at the headquarters of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama in Montgomery. The program, which focused on JCAH, drew 33 librarians and library managers. A second meeting was held that fall, on November 13-14, with the theme "Alabama Health Libraries: Where we are....where we can be", which concentrated on the role of the health librarian. ALHeLA's annual meeting has been held in the fall since then. In 1983, ALHeLA and the Jefferson County Librarians' Association had the opportunity to co-sponsor the Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association meeting.

Through the years, a health libraries directory was developed by the association. This directory serves not only as a tool for the ALHeLA membership to contact each other, but gives information on each library's services. A union list of the serial holdings of Alabama's health libraries was also started. This project is now known as ABULS (Alabama Biomedical Union List of Serials).

There are many people who deserve a big "thank you" for their work in our association. In order to show our appreciation, the Executive Council has decided to give an annual award to a member who has made outstanding contributions to our ALHeLA. The first annual award will be presented at our meeting in November. I personally would like to say thank you to A.J. Wright, 1989 ALHeLA president. A.J. constantly looked for ways to improve and expand the association. I only hope I can do half as well!

Finally, I'd like to say that I look forward to working with this year's Executive Committee: Barbara Shearer, President-Elect; Lee McCann, Secretary; Lisa Rains Russell, Treasurer; Jay Harris, Joy Harriman and Pat McGee, Members-at Large.

Alabama Chapter of the Special Libraries Association Meets

by Atha Louise Henley (ALHeLA's liaison with SLA)

April 6, 1990 the Alabama Chapter of the Special Libraries Association met in Tuscaloosa. Invited guest lecturer, Dr. Herbert S. White, Dean, School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University, addressed members and interested librarians. Site of the meeting was Indian Hills Country Club. The meeting was attended by over 35 persons including Alabama Health Science librarians Barbara Doughty, Lynn Fortney and Atha Louise Henley.

Dr. White in his address, "The Special Librarian in the Political Process of the Parent organization", encouraged librarians to be proud of their profession and to support their organization and guard their "turf". He stressed that communication with management and immediate supervisors is imperative. We must work with library administrators and faculty. He believes that what librarians do is good and useful. Librarians are good at what they do. The library is the most valuable part of the business and is the least expensive to the administration. Librarians need to communicate and inform supportive patrons, our greatest assets.

Synapse is the official publication of the Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA). Edited by Paula G. Davis, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Gadsden, Alabama. Material from this publication may be freely reproduced provided credit is given to SYNAPSE and ALHeLA

ALHeLA Presidents Past and Present

1981 Lynn Fortney
1982 Rachel Jones
1983 Mary Ann Donnell
1984 Nancy Clemmons
1985 Rebecca Buckner
1986 Joyce Sims
1987 Maureen Battistella
1988 Lisa Rains Russell
1989 A.J. Wright
1990 Beth Laughlin

Alabama Updates SERHOLD via OCLC Tape Load

by Maureen Battistella, Baptist Medical Center Princeton and Pat Rodgers, University of South Alabama

Alabama health science libraries have recently completed their first SERHOLD update using the OCLC union list subsystem. Serial holdings were keyed into OCLC between January and August 1989 and the Tape pulled in November. According to NLM, holdings have successfully loaded and are now available for DOCLINE routing. This concludes a three year planning period during which libraries participating in the Alabama Biomedical Union List of Serials (ABULS) evaluated the holdings format, products, and management of the OCLC-based Alabama Union List of Serials (AULS).

The Alabama Union List of Serials has been in existence since 1983 and has evolved from a local resource sharing tool into a mechanism for statewide lending. AULS uses the ANSI Z39.42 level 3 holdings format and the OCLC bibliographic database. An annual microfiche union list and holdings list are produced for each participant and a variety of other products are available at additional cost. A full-time project manager provides local training in system use, holdings update strategies, data entry, and product requests. AULS costs are covered by LSCA Title III and state legislated funding.

Several factors were negotiated and agreed upon before ABULS libraries could consider participation in AULS. These were: holdings format, discrepancies between accepted OCLC/LC bibliographic and holdings practices and those observed by NLM, cost of

file maintenance and products with and without grant funding, and public availability of private or controlled collections.

Until 1989, Alabama's holdings has been maintained in the University of South Carolina School of medicine database as the Alabama Biomedical Union List of Serials, and transferred to SERHOLD along with other holdings in the USC file.

Time to Renew Your MLA Membership (OR JOIN!)

by Maureen Battistella, SC/MLA
Representative to the MLA Membership
Committee

The new year brings with it good resolutions and one good resolution for you to consider is to send in your membership renewal to the Medical Library Association. Membership in MLA has numerous benefits including a subscription to the MLA Bulletin, discounts on MLA publications, professional strength in a coordinated legislative lobbyist effort, and professional affiliation through contact with your peers.

MLA meets annually in convenient (sometimes) and interesting (always) cities. MLA will meet in Detroit, May 18-24 for the 1990 annual meeting and in San Francisco, May 31-June 6 for the 1991 annual meeting. Excellent opportunities if you have never attended a MLA annual meeting.

If you have not received your 1990 MLA renewal, if you have misplaced it, or if you would like to join MLA for the first time, call me at (205) 783-3078, or contact MLA headquarters at (312) 419-9094.

Applause!

Mary Rhineland McCarl, Director of the Jefferson County Medical Society/University of Alabama at Birmingham Health Sciences Archives since 1988, has been elected a Certified Archivist by the Academy of Certified Archivists, which sets the standards for professional archivists in the United States. She is one of approximately three hundred archivists who have been certified.

Ms. McCarl has been active in the field of archival management for over ten years, and earned an M.A. in History and Archival Methods from the University of Massachusetts/Boston in 1982. She is currently arranging and describing the papers of Dr. Joseph F. Volker as part of the Volker Archives Project. She is also collecting and arranging health related material from many UAB departments, and from the broader medical community of Jefferson County.

Any questions about setting up an archives? Contact Mary R. McCarl, Director/Jefferson County Medical Society/ University of Alabama at Birmingham/Health Sciences Archives/901 18th Street, South/ Birmingham, AL 35256 / (205) 933-8601.

Head of Biomedical Library Retires(from Biofeedback, newsletter of the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, Winter 1990 (6))

On March 1, 1990, Robert M. Donnell retired from the University of South Alabama. Mr. Donnell first joined the Biomedical library in 1980 as the Associate Director with his major responsibilities being Public Services. he then became the Acting Director and was later appointed the Associate Director of Libraries and Head of the Biomedical Library.

During his tenure, the Biomedical Library has joined the ranks of automated libraries by joining OCLC through SOLINET, and by mounting all modules of the NOTIS system. Mr. Donnell's university service has included the University Library Committee and the College of Medicine Curriculum Committee. He is a member of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors and the Academy of Health Information Professionals of the Medical Library Association. The Library Faculty and Staff wish him all the best for his retirement.

**Ina Sims, Medical Librarian at Baptist
Montclair, Retiring**
by Maureen Battistella

Ina Sims, medical librarian at the Baptist Medical Center Montclair since 1975, has announced her retirement effective February 1, 1990. Sims has made significant contributions to the health science library profession throughout her career.

Sims was instrumental in organizing the Jefferson County Hospital Librarians Association (JCHLA) consortium, which was one of the first hospital library consortiums in the region. She served as its president in 1978 and had the pleasure of guiding the association's implementation of the new copyright law. An outgrowth of Sims' activity in the JCHLA, was her development of the first health science union list of serials in the state. This union list is still maintained today, and is an important tool in resource sharing in Jefferson County, Alabama. In 1987, Sims served as secretary to the Southeastern Conference of Hospital Librarians and has regularly attended meetings of this body and contributed to its planning efforts.

Baptist Montclair was the first community hospital in Birmingham to have an NLM-trained online search analyst in Sims. In 1984 she planned and managed the renovation of hospital space to create a new and modern library.

Ina Sims is highly regarded at Baptist Montclair. She is well respected by her peers and has served as a balance to many who know her. We all wish her well in retirement.

Moving On

Beth Laughlin (President of ALHeLA) formerly Information Services Librarian at UAB's Lister Hill is now Medical Librarian at Baptist Medical Center Montclair. Her new address is Baptist Medical Center Montclair

800 Montclair Road
Birmingham, AL 35213
phone (205) 592-1538

Upcoming Events

May 18-24, 1990 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in Detroit, Michigan.

November 2-6, 1990 Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association (SC/MLA) will be holding its annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Details such as speakers, events, and CE courses will be in the next issue of Synapse.

November 8-9, 1990 ALHeLA will hold their annual meeting at the Gulf Shores State Park Resort in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The theme for our meeting is "Expanding the Role of Microcomputers in Medical Libraries". On Friday the 9th, the keynote speaker will be Jack Smith, Reference Librarian at UAB. A panel discussion will follow. CD Rom vendors will be discussing their various products in the afternoon. On Thursday the 8th Jacqueline van de Kamp from the National Library of Medicine will conduct a CE course, "TOXNET Made Simple, +". A banquet will be held Thursday evening. A big thank you to Barbara Shearer for her work and good luck in finalizing these plans.

SYNAPSE Is Depending On You

Have you started a successful program in your library recently? Been published? Received recognition for your work? Share it with us! The next deadline for the Summer issue of SYNAPSE will be July 15th. Send items of interest to Medical Library/Baptist Memorial Hospital/1007 Goodyear Avenue/Gadsden, AL 35999.

ALHeLA Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your ALHeLA membership for 1990, please take a moment and return the attached membership form. Renewed for 1990? Pass the form along to someone else that would benefit from membership in our association.

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

1990 MEMBERSHIP

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION: _____

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

INSTITUTION: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

DUES: \$15.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ABULS PARTICIPANTS

COMMITTEE SIGN UP:

I am interested in working on the following Committee (s):

BYLAWS _____ LIAISON _____ MEMBERSHIP _____ PROGRAM _____ EXCHANGE _____

PROGRAMING PROPOSALS

Programs: (please rank)

_____ Marketing the Library

_____ Issues in Management

_____ Putting teeth in Accreditation Standards

_____ Other _____

Workshops: (Please Rank)

_____ Marketing

_____ Telefacsimile

_____ Online Search Optimization

_____ CD-Rom Technology

_____ Consortia Dynamics

_____ Other _____

MAIL THIS FORM WITH DUES TO: Mrs. Bobby Powell, ALHeLA Archivist
Medical Library
Carraway Methodist Medical Center
1600 North 26th Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35234

