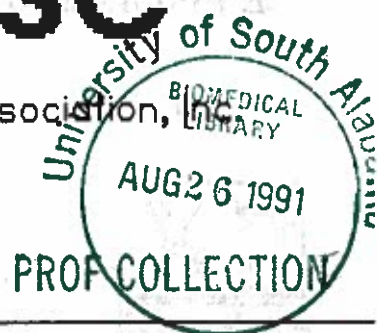




# Synapse

Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc.



Vol. 11, Nos. 1-2

Summer, 1991

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### 1991 ALHeLA Meeting Scheduled for September

ALHeLA will hold its annual meeting this year at Lake Guntersville State Park on September 26th and 27th. The park will be a beautiful setting for exchanging ideas with colleagues, renewing friendships, and learning a few new tricks of the trade.

The theme of this year's meeting will be "People Making a Difference." The convention will open Thursday, September 26, with a continuing education course entitled "Meeting the Informational Needs of Alabama Rural Health Professionals: The Role of the Medical Librarian." A silent auction and banquet follow on Thursday evening.



Friday morning, we will be privileged to have Lucretia McClure, immediate past president of the Medical Library Association, to deliver the keynote speech. Her address is entitled "On Being a Medical Librarian." Afterward, four Alabama medical librarians will describe their roles in the delivery of medical information in Alabama.

Bring plenty of casual clothes and perhaps, plan to stay for the weekend. Registration packets have been mailed; so be sure to return your registration forms for the meeting and for your hotel reservation. The reservations for Lake Guntersville State Park should be made before August 25. Although we

hope you will not need them, refunds for meeting registrations will be made until September 10. If you have questions or have not received your registration packet, call Barbara Doughty at (205)348-1364. Mark your calendar, send in your registration forms, and join us in September!

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1991 Executive Council

Barbara Doughty, President  
Health Sciences Library  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Judy Burnham, Secretary  
U.S. A. Biomedical Library  
Mobile, AL

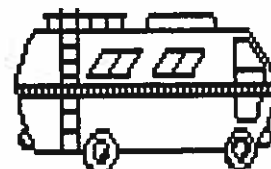
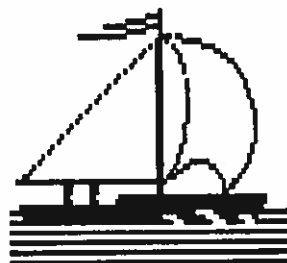
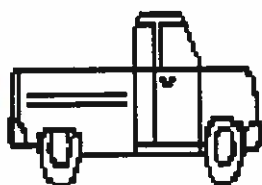
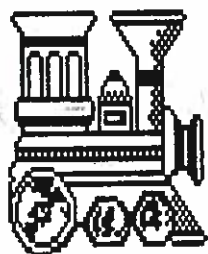
Lisa R. Russell, Treasurer  
Health Sciences Library  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Members-at-Large:  
Joy Harriman  
Mobile Infirmary Library

Jay Harris and  
Sondra Pfeiffer  
Lister Hill Library, UAB  
\*\*\*\*\*

# COME ONE, COME ALL!!

CE Program to be Held at the 1991 Annual Meeting on September 26  
(7.5 MLA CE)



This year we will address the many and varied issues surrounding rural health in the state of Alabama. The title of our continuing education program is "Meeting the Informational Needs of Alabama Rural Health Care Professionals: The Role of the Medical Librarian."

In order to discuss the information needs of Alabama rural health care professionals and how the medical librarian can assist in meeting these needs, we must understand the scope and history of the issues in rural health care.

Additionally, we need to understand the current political and economic forces continuing to shape the face of rural health care.

Cheryl Dee, Ph.D., from the Watson Clinic Medical Library, Lakeland, Florida, will discuss the

"Information Needs of Rural Physicians." Her lecture is based on a study conducted in Florida, and separates fact from assumption regarding physicians' needs.

Lisa Russell, Chief Medical Librarian, University of Alabama Health Sciences Library, Tuscaloosa, and Beth Laughlin, Medical Librarian, Baptist Medical Center - Montclair, Birmingham, Alabama, will present "Planning and Implementation Issues" as recipients of NLM Grateful Med Outreach Grants.

Faith Meakin, SE/A RMLS Executive Director, Southeast Atlantic Regional Medical Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore, will focus on the "RML Overview and Grant Resources."

Jane Ellis, Alabama Public Health Office, Director of the Office of Rural Health,

Montgomery, and Al Fox, Executive Director, Health Development Corporation, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, will discuss "Rural Health Needs in Alabama: The Big Picture and its Relevance to Health Information Needs."

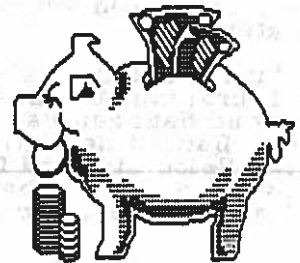
For more information, call:

Joy Harriman  
Mobile Infirmary  
Medical Library  
(205)431-2134

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BMC Montclair Library  
800 Montclair Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213  
(205)592-5640  
FAX: (205)592-5269  
Submission deadline for Fall 1991 issue is Nov. 1.  
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# SILENT AUCTION



A silent auction is planned for the ALHeLA annual meeting, which will be held in September at Lake Guntersville State Park. Members of the association are asked to contribute items for the auction. They can be handcrafted gifts, items purchased by members or donated by companies or vendors, services donated by companies, etc. The auction will be held Thursday night at the banquet. The

items will be displayed on a table, and beside each will be a card for recording bids. To bid on an item one simply writes his or her name and the amount of the bid. If someone wishes to raise a bid, the previous bid is crossed out and the new bid entered. At the end of the evening, the highest bidders will be awarded their purchases.

All money raised will be used to defray

the expenses of the meeting. This is your opportunity to contribute to the financial well-being of your organization. Call or write Barbara Doughty (205-348-1364; Health Sciences Library, Box 870378, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487) and offer a donation, or just show up at the meeting with an unusual or interesting surprise!

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## REPORT ON THE 1990 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The 1990 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc. was held on November 8 and 9, 1990, at the Gulf State Park Resort Hotel. The meeting began Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. with an all day workshop on TOXNET provided by Jacqueline van de Kamp, Specialized Information Services, National Library of Medicine. In addition to detailed information on accessing the full range of databases on the TOXNET system, Ms. van de Kamp presented information on new services and features of the MEDLARS system. There were 24 attendees, each receiving a certificate for 8 hours of MLA certified credit. Ms. van de Kamp made the instruction interesting and many of the attendees commented favorably on her presentation.

Cathy Clayton Kellum, Alabama Union List of Serials Librarian, Alabama Public Library Service, and Maureen Battistella, Medical Librarian, Baptist Medical Center Princeton conducted Union List and DOCLINE updates on the evening of November 8. This was followed by the Annual Business Meeting and a buffet.

Beth Laughlin, 1990 President of ALHeLA, received an award and word of thanks for her work throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to have worked with Beth. Robert Donnell, former Director of the Biomedical Library, University of South Alabama, received the Association's first Annual Appreciation Award for his contribution to ALHeLA and for making it possible for the librarians in the Biomedical Library to contribute over the years.

Friday's meeting was opened by the keynote speaker, Mr. Jack Smith, Reference Librarian, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences. Mr. Smith prepared the group for the remainder of the meeting by talking about the "Expanding Role of Computers in Medical Libraries." The speech was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Smith on "Computers in the Health Science Environment." Serving on the panel were Pat Rodgers, Head of Technical Services, Biomedical Library, University of South Alabama; Lee McCann, Manager, School of Primary Medical Care Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville; Lynn Fortney, Marketing Manager, Biomedical Division, EBSCO Subscription Services; and Maureen Battistella, Medical Librarian, Baptist Medical Center Princeton, Birmingham.

Five CD-ROM services were exhibited throughout the meeting, as well as at a special session devoted to a presentation by each representative on his or her own CD-ROM product. The companies represented at the

meeting were CD-Plus, EBSCO Subscription Services, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, SilverPlatter Information, Inc., and Aries Systems Corporation.

An afternoon panel discussion moderated by Lisa Rains Russell, Chief Medical Librarian, Health Sciences Library, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, was on "Planning for CD-ROM Services." On the panel were Beth Laughlin, Medical Librarian, Baptist Medical Center Montclair, Birmingham; Judy Burnham, Information Services Librarian, Medical Center Library, University of South Alabama; Nancy Clemmons, Head of Information and Instructional Services, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama in Birmingham; and Dan Blucker, Head of Reference, AUM Library, Auburn University at Montgomery. Friday's meeting was attended by 32 people.

The program was sponsored by Aries Systems Corporation, Ballen Booksellers International, EBSCO Subscription Services, Faxon Company, Majors Scientific Books, Network for Continuing Medical Education, Readmore, Rittenhouse Book Distributors, Tuscaloosa Library Bindery and Williams & Wilkins. Supporters such as these help make our association strong. If you know representatives from the companies, please let them know how much they are appreciated. The following companies and institutions donated materials for distribution with the registration packets: AnSouth, BRS, BroDart, Demco, Dialog, EBSCO, Faxon, First Alabama Bank, Gaylord, Gulf Shores Chamber of Commerce, Head's Inc., Highsmith, Majors Scientific Books, Marcive, Mobile Convention & Visitors Corp., Mobile Infirmary, National Library Bindery, Orange Beach Chamber of Commerce, Providence Hospital, Rittenhouse, Riviera Center, SEA/RMLS, South Central Bell, Tuscaloosa Library Bindery, University of South Alabama, and Williams & Wilkins.

The total amount expended for the meeting was \$2,246.11 which included fees for printing flyers and the program, postage, meeting rooms and banquet and break costs. Income from registration totalled \$2,070.00 and from sponsor donations \$1,407.50. This left a total of \$1,231.39 in income from the meeting.

As Chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, I would like to thank Judy Burnham, Pat Rodgers and Geneva Bush from the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library and Joy Harriman from the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center for their assistance before and during the meeting. The support of our institutions help make it possible for ALHeLA to provide programs

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that benefit many other librarians within the state and in adjoining states. For this we gratefully acknowledge all institutions that supported ALHeLA at the annual meeting and throughout the year. Last, but not least, the keynote speaker, panelists and exhibitors made this meeting what it was -- enjoyable and educational. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Barbara Shearer

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BARBARA SHEARER has resigned from her position at the Medical Center Library at the University of South Alabama and as President of ALHeLA. She asked that we print the following:

Due to my husband taking a new position in Pennsylvania in July, I regretfully resign as President of ALHeLA, Inc. I have enjoyed being a member of ALHeLA and feel fortunate to have met and worked with you throughout the years. Barbara Doughty, as 1991 President-Elect, will complete the last half of my term, and I know she will do a fine job. Again, it has been a genuine pleasure to have been involved in ALHeLA and I hope to see you all again at MLA meetings (and maybe even ALHeLA meetings)!

**GOODBYE, BARBARA,  
AND BEST WISHES!  
YOU DID A WONDERFUL  
JOB ON THE 1990  
MEETING!!**

The Executive Committee of the Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc. met August 2, 1991 at 10:00 at the AUM Library, Auburn University, Montgomery. Members present were Barbara Doughty, President; Lisa Russell, Treasurer; Judy Burnham, Secretary; Beth Laughlin, Past-President; and Sondra Pfeiffer, Jay Harris and Joy Harriman, Members-at-Large.

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Doughty. She announced the resignation of Barbara Shearer, who has relocated. The minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Barbara Doughty gave the membership report for Pat Rodgers. With 19 personal members and 25 institutional members, membership is down, but Ms. Doughty noted that many members renew during the Fall. A draft of a membership brochure was distributed and accepted by the Executive Committee with noted changes. The dues structure of \$15 for individual members and \$25 for institutional members was approved by the Executive Committee. As stated in the By-Laws, this change in the dues rate must be submitted for approval to the Association membership. The Secretary will include a ballot in the next issue of Synapse.

Lisa Russell reported that because of the ELHILL Update and Grateful Med Workshop held in June, the Association is in good financial shape. On August 1, we had a balance of \$1394.09. It was noted that the cost of printing and mailing the flyer for the BIOSIS workshop in Auburn will constitute ALHeLA's contribution.

Barbara Doughty reported on plans for the annual meeting. Registration packs

were mailed August 1. A silent auction will be held on the night of the banquet. Everyone is encouraged to bring items for the auction. An amount of \$750 has been received from vendors for the meeting, and EBSCO is sponsoring a break. The UA Health Sciences Library in Tuscaloosa paid for mailing the registration packets.

Joy Harriman reported on Continuing Education activities. The Elhill Update and Grateful Med Workshop in June were successful. Speakers for the annual meeting CE course have been confirmed.

Judy Burnham reported on the ALHeLA Directory. Following the recommendation from the Directory Committee, the Executive Committee agreed not to pursue printing and distribution of the 1990 directory to rural health care professionals. There was not a great deal of interest shown by vendors in purchasing ads to finance the printing of the Directory. This project will be investigated again when the next edition of the Directory is printed. One goal of the Directory Committee is to establish a definition of a health science library for purposes of planning the 1992 Directory. The committee submitted a definition from the American Hospital Association. After discussion, a decision was tabled until a future meeting.

Jay Harris reported for the Exchange Committee. The MLA Exchange List is currently a hard copy, but MLA is experimenting with using SerialsQuest and BookQuest through Faxon. Mr. Harris wants to establish a clearinghouse for libraries in the state that want to participate, but there is currently no one available to key in the

## MINUTES (Cont.)

information. A central person will receive the lists of requests and duplicates from individual libraries and run them against SerialsQuest or BookQuest. He is investigating seeking a grant through MLA, Faxon, NAAL or other sources.

After discussion, it was decided that Beth Laughlin will become editor of Synapse. Judy Burnham will prepare the labels. Information submitted for Synapse should be submitted on a 3.5 disk as an ASCII file.

### OLD BUSINESS

The Liaison Committee will remain inactive at this time.

Discussion was held on the terms of office for Treasurer, Membership Chair and Union List Coordinator. It was suggested that the terms of the Committee Chairs rotate so that there would not be all new members on the Executive Committee each year. Ms. Russell is preparing a job description for a permanent bookkeeper for presentation at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee (Nancy Glenmons, Chair; Pat Rodgers and Maureen Battistella) will make a proposal at the annual meeting concerning terms of office and it will be discussed at the Planning Session. Ms. Russell agreed to take the office of Treasurer for another term.

Discussion was held on the Alabama Library Forum to be held in 1992. Barbara Shearer had been our representative on the Convention Committee with Sondra Pfeiffer attending planning meetings in Birmingham. It was decided that ALHeLA will not participate in the 1992 ALF meeting. Ms. Russell will continue to serve on the ALF Board and will report on activities via Synapse. Ms. Pfeiffer will notify the ALF Convention Chair that ALHeLA will not participate.

### NEW BUSINESS

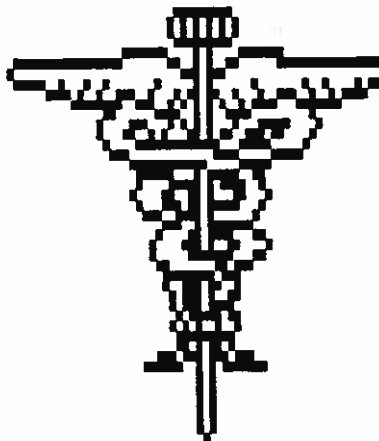
Discussion was held on refunds for registration cancellations for workshops and the annual meeting. It was decided that the refund policy will be determined individually for each workshop or annual meeting and that this policy will be stated on all registration forms sent out by the Association. For the 1991 Annual Meeting, no refunds will be given after September 10. Joy Harriman reported that individuals wishing to use Loansome Doc can call RML to receive names of participating libraries in their area. The RML will give the name of the nearest Resource Library and two other libraries. The user would then be

responsible for contacting the libraries to determine which will be the service library. The RML has noted that it would be helpful to them if the states were divided in some manner, possibly by zip code, to assist them in releasing the names of nearby libraries. Ms. Harriman contacted Spenser Marsh, USA and Virginia Algermissen, UAB to request their thoughts on this. Discussion was held on possibly dividing the state by counties rather than zip codes and sending the map from the ALHeLA Directory to RML to assist them with this. It was decided that this will be discussed further at the Planning Session at the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held September 27.

Minutes submitted by  
Judy Burnham, Secretary

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# NLM, RML and Association News

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## NLM AWARDS CONTRACTS TO TWO ALABAMA LIBRARIES

Medical libraries at the Baptist Medical Centers, Birmingham, and the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, have each been awarded outreach contracts by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The purpose of the contracts is to improve rural health care practitioners' access to biomedical information by training them to use Grateful Med. Grateful Med is a user-friendly front end software program designed to search NLM databases such as MEDLINE and PDQ (cancer information).

BMC Librarians Maureen Battistella and Beth Laughlin will travel to several rural counties to train physicians, nurses, and hospital administrators in the use of Grateful Med. VA librarians Lisa Russell and Barbara Doughty will develop Grateful Med training programs for alumni of the University of Alabama Family Practice Residency Program practicing in rural areas of Alabama.

## NON-SERHOLD LIBRARIES CAN NOW BECOME DOCLINE PARTICIPANTS

Since the introduction of DOCLINE in 1985, it has been the Regional Medical Library network policy that only libraries with their holdings in the SERHOLD database would be eligible to become DOCLINE participants. With the implementation of LOANSOME DOC, this policy is being modified so that small institutions with few resources can obtain access to DOCLINE for LOANSOME DOC service. Starting immediately, non-SERHOLD libraries that meet all of the following criteria can become DOCLINE participants: the library must be part of a health science institution or organization, the library agrees to provide health professionals with LOANSOME DOC service, the library has fewer than 25 current journal titles, the library agrees to construct its routing table in consultation with the RML, and the library has the necessary equipment to access DOCLINE. For more information, contact Jean Shipman at 1-800-638-6093.

## ALHeLA AND U.S.A. SPONSER SUCCESSFUL MEDLINE COURSES

On June 24 and 25, the University of South Alabama hosted two CE courses: "Enhanced Skills in Searching MEDLINE/MeSH/HEALTH" (ELHILL Refresher Course) and the "Grateful Med Training the Trainer" workshop for ALHeLA. Both sessions were well attended, with 25 participants at the refresher course and 23 at the Grateful Med workshop. This netted a \$572.99 profit for ALHeLA.

Roberta Bronson, Online Analyst and Technical Resource Person for the Eastern Region Online Training and Information Center at the New York Academy of Medicine presented the training sessions. She wrote, "I felt that both sessions went very well and enjoyed working with all the attendees. I really appreciated all the planning and effort that went into organizing these workshops."

One of the most notable turns of events was the attendance at both workshops by a large number of non-librarians. Several attendees were representing attorney's offices and the Alabama Public Health Department. Individual physician's offices sent their nurses and one interested information broker attended. It seems the effort to create a versatile and worthwhile mailing list in the interest of sharpening our marketing skills has paid off!

## ALHeLA TO CO-SPONSER BIOSIS WORKSHOPS SEPTEMBER 5-6

ALHeLA is co-sponsoring two BIOSIS workshops with the Alabama Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and Gulf Coast Online and Automated Libraries. BIOSIS/CAB will be taught on September 5 from 9:00 until 5:00 with MLA CE Credit pending. On September 6, MED/BIOSIS will be presented. This course carries 7.5 MLA CE hours. Both courses will be taught at Draughon Library at Auburn University. The courses are free, but register ASAP! Call Tanera Lee at the Veterinary Library at Auburn, (205)844-1749.

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# IN THE NEWS!

## NEWS FROM ALHeLA MEMBERS

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What's new with you or your library? Keep others up to date by sending in info for SYNAPSE!



From the University of South Alabama, Mobile:

JUDY BURNHAM, Information Services Librarian, Medical Center Library, has been certified by the Academy of Health Information Professionals as an Associate Member.

GENEVA BUSH is the new Coordinator of Public Services for USA's Biomedical Library. In this position, she will be responsible for planning and managing all aspects of user services at the campus site and responsible for coordinating user services at all off-campus sites.

USA's College of Health Professions sponsored the first Student Research Poster Day at the end of Spring Quarter. Students from the departments of Medical Technology, Physical Therapy and Respiratory Care/Cardiopulmonary Sciences exhibited poster sessions that communicated the results of research projects conducted during the year. Three physical therapy students presented their research on "MeSH Headings: Are they Relevant for their Search in Physical Therapy?" Supervisors for this project were BARBARA

SHEARER, Public Services Coordinator, Medical Center Library; JUDY BURNHAM, Information Services Librarian, Medical Center Library; and Dr. Jim Wall, Professor, Department of Physical Therapy.

From Baptist Medical Centers, Birmingham:

MAUREEN BATTISTELLA, Baptist Medical Center Princeton, has been nominated to the Hospital Libraries Section Leadership List. Maureen participated in an Outreach Librarian's panel discussion at the last MLA meeting. The panel discussed outreach efforts, networks, and projects in Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia.

BETH LAUGHLIN is serving as a member of the 1991-92 Publications Committee of the Hospital Libraries Section of MLA.

A brief article appeared in the July 22, 1991 Birmingham News about the National Library of Medicine Outreach Grant for Grateful Med training received by BMC librarians MAUREEN BATTISTELLA and BETH LAUGHLIN.

AND, for our special interest news, both BARBARA DOUGHTY and BETH LAUGHLIN are proud new "Moms"! Barbara has recently acquired a Dalmation puppy (the 102nd?) named "Little Darlin' Dixie"! Barbara's other pet is a 16-year-old cat!! Beth is the owner of her second Basset Hound named "Calamity Jane". Janie is welcomed (?) by Cleo, a 5-year old Basset.

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### SILENT AUCTION

Thursday, Sept, 26  
at the Banquet

DON'T FORGET TO  
BRING SOMETHING  
FABULOUS!!

WHAT CAN YOU  
BRING?

Art Works  
Handcrafted Gifts  
Local T-Shirts  
Novelty Items  
Whatever!

Call Barbara  
Doughty  
(205)348-1364 to offer  
a donation (or just  
show up with your  
unique item!)

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The Executive Committee of  
ALHeLA has approved the  
following dues structure for the  
Association:

Individual: \$15.00

Institutional: \$25.00

Please mark the ballot below to  
indicate your opinion and  
return the ballot to:

Pat Rodgers

Biomedical Library

University of South Alabama

Mobile, AL 36688

\_\_\_ Agree      \_\_\_ Disagree

