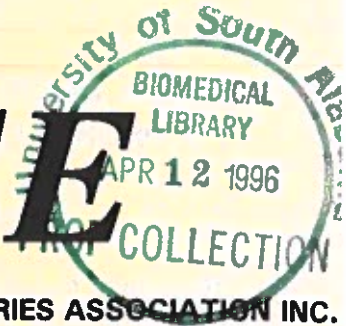




SYNAPSE



NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.

Vol. 15, No. 3

Spring 1996

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Tamara Lee

Spring greetings! I think? It can't be too far off, anyway. ALHeLA is off to a busy year and the March meeting of the Executive Committee proved it!

Judy Burnham, Past President, and, current Liaison Committee member, has planned a timely workshop for Alabama's Continuing Medical Education (CME) directors, to be held in Birmingham on August 14, 1996. Sherry Ward, a representative of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA), attended our meeting to serve as a liaison in the development of the workshop. Numerous Executive Committee members will present information, as well as prepare supporting material to be included in a manual for workshop participants. The workshop will cover a wide range of information resources and management, including medical informatics, national and regional library resources, self-directed learning, consumer health and alternative medicine, and, perhaps even veterinary medicine and agriculture, especially as they relate to public health. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of the future of CME learning technology.

Another ALHeLA outreach activity well underway, thanks to Pat Higginbottom, is the ALHeLA home page. Web surfers everywhere will be able to find out more about us, including our purpose and objectives, officers and committee chairs, and annual meeting. The home page will also access hot links to Alabama medical libraries and professional associations regionally and nationally. For questions or comments about this home page, contact phiggin@lister2.lhl.uab.edu.

Not leaving out our major printed resources, Carolyn Holmes and Helvi McCall are working hard to make the ALHeLA Directory more timely and useful. The updated Directory will be published and distributed later

this year. Marian Morris has our new membership brochure ready for recruitment! And, Genny Bush is developing a photographic journey of ALHeLA through an organizational scrapbook.

Kay Hogan and Joan Lukins are busy planning an exciting annual meeting for all of us. Both the CE course and the program will center around the theme of re-engineering the library. Dr. Scott Plutchak, the new Director of UAB's Lister Hill Library, will serve as our keynote speaker. Kay has some fun Birmingham entertainment scheduled for us, too.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held June 21. Everyone remember to dress casually. Robert Avant is going to arrange a tour of APLS for us, as well as lunch on the patio! See you the first of summer, now...if spring would only come!

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Alabama Health Libraries Association Executive Committee Minutes

March 15, 1996

The Executive Committee of the Alabama Health Libraries Association met on March 15, 1996, at the Alabama Public Library Service, Montgomery, AL. Attending were Robert Avant, Jie Li, Diane Williams, Kathleen Fetters, Mary Fran Prottzman, Genny Bush, Judy Burnham, Tammy Lee, Carolyn Homes, Kay Hogan, Martha Verchot, Pat Higginbottom, Marian Morris, Helvi McCall and Diane Whited. Attending as a guest was Sherry Ward from MASA.

Tammy Lee, President, called the meeting to order at 10:30.

The minutes of the January 12, 1996 meeting were approved as written.

Tammy Lee presented the Treasurer's report for Martha Tillotson. The beginning balance as of January 12, 1996 was \$3,856.52 with an ending balance of \$3780.75 on March 15, 1996.

OLD BUSINESS

CME Meeting & MASA Manual

Judy Burnham distributed draft proposals for the new MASA Manual and the workshop for CME Directors. She asked for volunteers to write chapters of the manual. The authors of the chapters in the manual will present the information at the workshop in August, at the Medical Forum, in Birmingham. Ms Ward contributed comments and suggestions to the meeting proposal. She stated that we could expect approximately 50 people at the workshop. Discussion followed on additional topics for the manual and the time allotted for each section of the workshop. A suggestion was made that the presenters of electronic topics be given additional time. The possibility of a live Internet connection was discussed. Ms. Ward will check into that possibility. She stated that MASA is starting a web page and that ALHeLA would be a good resource. A July 1, 1996 deadline was set for the chapters of the manual. MASA is paying for the cost of the printing. The new manual will be distributed at the August workshop.

Alabama Medicine Column

Several articles have been submitted by ALHeLA members: Tammy Lee, "General Web Sites"; Mary Prottzman, "Consumer Health"; Jie Li, "HTML Editing"; and AJ Wright, "Anesthesiology Web Sites".

ALHeLA Homepage

Pat Higginbottom presented the first draft of the ALHeLA homepage. It will probably be up by the next Board Meeting in June. Several suggestions for additions to the homepage were discussed. They are: Synapse, ALHeLA Constitution & Bylaws, Conference Information & Program, and the ALHeLA Membership Application. Pat asked for addresses to ALHeLA libraries so that she could make a link. Any vendor who contributes to the conference will also have a link.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bylaws

Kathleen Fetters distributed copies of the first draft of proposed changes to the Bylaws. She used the Southern Chapter Bylaws as a model. At this point she is just asking for comments and recommendations. Changes should be sent to Kathy by June 1, 1996 so that those changes can be discussed at the June 21, 1996 Executive Committee meeting. After the Bylaws have been revised Kathy mentioned that the articles of incorporation may need to be changed. This requires some money and a lawyer.

Directory

Carolyn Holmes and Helvi McCall, co-chairs presented drafts of the questionnaire and cover letter to be sent out for the 1996 edition of the Directory. Discussion followed with suggestions of additions and deletions on the questionnaire.

Exchange

Martha Verchot raised the question of the need for an exchange committee. Does the exchange committee still serve a useful purpose? She had surveyed health care librarians in the state asking for opinions. The ALHeLA exchange pre-dates the MLA exchange. In academic libraries exchange is handled by NAAL. Most hospital librarians stated that they use the MLA exchange.

Hogan made a motion that we disband the Exchange Committee. Judy Burnham seconded. A note will be put in Synapse stating that the Executive Committee of ALHeLA has recommended that the Exchange Committee is now defunct unless the membership at large disagrees.

Liaison

Genny Bush reported that the Alabama Pharmaceutical Association and Alabama Physical Therapy Association would be holding meetings in June and May. She needs volunteers to work the exhibit booth. Judy Burnham and Mary Fran Prottzman volunteered to help during the pharmaceutical meeting.

Genny asked for suggestions on the format of the scrapbook. Do we want all photographs or just representative photos? Tammy Lee recommended that we make it as informal as possible so that we could use it at exhibits.

Membership

Marian Morris reported that we have 23 individual members and 18 institutional members. A lot of last year's members have not renewed their memberships. Marian is going to call all the delinquent members from last year to follow up. She distributed a new membership list and a draft of the new membership brochure. The new membership form is designed with three folds. Marian is suggesting this format so that the membership application can be separate from the information portion of the brochure. She doesn't have any costs on the printing yet. To recruit new members Marian will send letters to hospitals listed in the AHA Guide. A suggestion was made to change the membership year from a calendar year to another date. Discussion followed concerning the repercussions of such a change. Martha Tillotson will be contacted about possible financial problems associated with a change. The Board decided we would keep the membership year the same for this year and consider a change when the Bylaws are amended next year.

Synapse

Jie Li mentioned she would be adding a year on the mailing label of Synapse. This may act as reminder to members to renew their memberships. Kay Hogan will send conference information and plans to Jie to publish in the next issue.

Union List

Robert Avant reported there are still two delinquent libraries. The Union List Storage and Activity Report for November 6, 1995 was sent to Diane Williams. This report determines how much each library will pay for their share of the cost of the Fall Serhold tape.

Robert is now up-to-date on entering NLM title changes.

Continuing Education

Tammy Lee presented the report for Joan Lukins. Joan has contacted MLA about speakers on Internet topics. She is collecting course syllabi and speaker costs. Sylvia Pickett wrote an article in the Winter 1995 issue of Special Libraries concerning re-engineering a library. Joan suggested she might be someone to contact to present a program on that topic. Joan is also contacting drug companies about sponsorship for the CE program. The Board decided it would like Joan to pursue the re-engineering idea and a program about one person libraries.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

Kay Hogan presented plans for the annual meeting at UAB in September. The CE program will be held at the Hill University Center. The West Pavilion will host the program. T. Scott Plutchak, Director of UAB Lister Hill Library will present the keynote address on the "Future of Libraries". The Radisson will be the hotel. Rooms will cost \$68.00 a night. Entertainment will include the Civil Rights Museum on Wednesday afternoon and Dolores Hydock after the banquet. The banquet will be held at the Woodward House, Thursday evening. Kay noted that we have received some support from vendors.

Alabama Hospital Association

Tammy Lee received a letter from Lisa Russell concerning the Alabama Hospital Association's 75th Anniversary celebration. The Association is starting a new publication entitled Health Care Alabama. The celebration and the publication might be something in which ALHeLA members would like to participate.

Announcements

The Board will take a tour of APLS after the next meeting in June.

Mary Fran Protsman asked for suggestions for the MLA Books Panel.

Judy Burnham announced that Sr. Mary Peresich will be retiring June 1, 1996. A retirement party will be held May 29, 1996. Jie Li won the MLA CE award.

The next meeting will be June 21, 1996 at the Alabama Public Library Service.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Submitted by Diane Whited, ALHeLA Secretary

ALHeLA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for an exciting glimpse into the future of medical libraries at the 16th annual ALHeLA Conference in Birmingham September 5th through 6th! Our theme this year is "Re-Engineering the Medical Library," with keynote speaker T. Scott Plutchak, newly installed director of the UAB Lister Hill Library and former director of the St. Louis University Health Sciences Center Library. Scott is the author of several articles in library journals, and some of you may have caught his presentation, "Are We Being Too Mickey Mouse About Change?" at the Southern Chapter meeting in Orlando in 1994. Joan Lukins and Mary Little, Education Committee co-chairs are cooking up some wonderful CE courses on re-engineering the library, with a possible emphasis on hospital libraries.

Accommodations will be at the Radisson Hotel Birmingham close to the UAB campus and within easy walking distance of the meeting areas. Those of you who arrive early Wednesday may join us for a tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Thursday night, following a day of CE classes, we will hold our annual banquet at the UAB President's house, the historic Woodward House atop Red Mountain. Entertainment will be provided by Dolores Hydock, who will perform a one-woman show, "Changepoints." Hopefully we'll have time in our busy schedule to allow for a tour of the new Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences as well! See you in September!

Submitted by Kay Hogan, ALHeLA Program Chair

Does ALHeLA Still Need an Exchange Committee?

"The purpose of the Exchange Committee is to encourage and facilitate the exchange of duplicate and surplus materials within the membership of the Association." -- (Procedural Handbook, section G4).

At the ALHeLA Board meeting Friday, March 15, 1996, there was discussion about the status of the Exchange Committee. The majority opinion of the Board was that most members of ALHeLA appear to be satisfying their needs with participation in either the MLA Exchange, ALA's Duplicate Exchange Union, listservs such as BACKMED-L or BACKSERV-L, or vendor-sponsored programs such as EBSCO's Missing Copy Bank. Regionally, Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) has also served as a facilitator for such exchanges among its member libraries and has recently also created a listserv group NAAL-L.

The Committee is seeking input, however, from the membership. Please contact Martha Verchot, ALHeLA Exchange Committee chair with your opinions concerning this issue before the next board meeting on Friday, June 21, 1996. A final vote on the existence of the ALHeLA Exchange Committee will be taken at the meeting. Contact: Martha Verchot, Lister Hill Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL 35294-0013, phone (205) 934-2230, fax (205) 975-8313. Internet: mverchot@lister2.lhl.uab.edu.

Submitted by Martha Verchot, ALHeLA Exchange Committee Chair

Alabama Medicine

Articles are still being solicited for publication in Alabama Medicine. Judy Burnham is serving as a coordinator of this project. The goal is to have a regular column on Internet sites/sources and other articles on topics of information access and management. If you are interested in contributing an article, please contact Judy Burnham, (334) 471-7855, or jburnham@jaguar1.usouthal.edu. The following Internet topics have been covered -- general orientation, general web sites, consumer health web sites. Other topics that might be covered are discipline specific web sites, i.e., pediatrics.

Submitted by Judy Burnham, Liaison Committee

MASA Workshop

ALHeLA will conduct a workshop on August 14, 1996 for the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) at the Medical Forum in Birmingham. The workshop will focus on "Access to Medical Information" and will target CME directors in the state. A similar workshop was held for MASA in 1988, but changes in technology since that time warrant an update. Those who have agreed to assist to date include Diane Williams, Tammy Lee, Mary Fran Prottzman, Martha Verchot, Helvi McCall, Genny Bush, Kay Hogan, Pat Higginbottom and Judy Burnham. There are a few topics for which we still need writers and/or speakers:

Methods and Avenues of Self-Directed Learning
- print sources

Methods and Avenues of Self-Directed Learning
- technology based learning - teleconference

If you are interested in assisting, please contact Judy Burnham, (334) 471-7855, or jburnham@jaguar1.usouthal.edu.

Submitted by Judy Burnham, Liaison Committee

Going to MLA?

Then stop by University Press of America's booth in the exhibit hall to meet MLA's current and future authors during the "Meet the Authors" sessions sponsored by the MLA Books Panel. You'll get to speak with authors of some of the books scheduled for publication within the next year: new edition of Hospital Library Management, the latest volumes of the Current Practice in Health Sciences Librarianship series and DocKits scheduled for publication soon on end-user searching education, development of gophers & WWW servers, and JCAHO information management plans. You can also learn more about the writing process from people who have 'been there, done that'. We need more Alabama authors! Schedules for author attendance will be posted at the UPA booth, on the message board, and in the conference newsletter.

*Submitted by Kelly Kaneshiro & Mary Fran Prottzman
Coordinators, Meet the Authors Sessions MLA Books
Panel*

MLA Needs Your Ideas

The MLA Books Panel meets in June. In addition to reviewing existing book proposals, we will brainstorm to generate new ideas for future books. We need YOUR ideas.

Now is your chance to have direct input into the MLA process. The next time you think "I wish I had more information on..." or "I wish I knew how other libraries were doing...", jot down your idea and send it to me.

The more people involved, the better the process will work.

Submitted by Mary Fran Prottzman, MLA Books Panel

USA Biomedical Library and Learning Resources Join Forces

Following the trend at such medical schools as Cornell, George Washington University, LSU, Loyola, University of Miami, University of Tennessee - Memphis and others, the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library and Learning Resources (media production services) have joined forces to create the Department of the Biomedical Library and Learning Resources. The combined departments will be under the direction of Tom Williams.

One of the first steps taken was to create and distribute an evaluation and needs assessment form for Learning Resources. After careful evaluation of the survey results, the goal will be to update equipment, improve existing or provide new services, and coordinate all services for increased quality and efficiency. The Homepage will be expanded in the near future to include information about Learning Resources.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

Internet of Note

Looking for Clinical Practice Guidelines? These sites may give you the information you need.

AHCPR Clinical Practice Guidelines
<http://text.nlm.nih.gov/ftsr/>

Clinical Practice Guideline Catalogue
<http://www.amda.ab.ca/cpgs/category.htm/>

Pediatric Clinical Guidelines:
<http://www.meddean.luc.edu/lumen/DeptWebs/peds/clinguid.htm/>

Three scientific journals are now on the Web:

Science
<http://www.aaas.org/science/science.html/>

Nature
<http://www.nature.com/>

New Scientist
<http://www.newscientist.com/>

Physician E-mail address directory:

<http://www.njnet.com/~embbd/maildir/maildir.html/>

Internet guide for the health professionals, second edition:

<http://www.midtown.net/~medguide/>

New York Times on the web:

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

World Wide Web library directory:

<http://www.albany.net/~ms0669/cra/libs.html/>

Submitted by Jie Li

Consumer Health Corner

Some of the most frustrating questions I am called upon to answer begin with the phrase, 'I heard on CNN' or 'read in USA TODAY'. Invariably these questions deal with the latest breakthroughs in medicine, which the consumer has every right to be interested in, but which can be difficult to answer either because the discovery has not yet been reported in the professional literature or because of the garbled information request. Remember the beta blocker scare last spring? The following daily news sites on the Internet can help identify what consumers are reading. At a minimum, the sites will provide you with accurate spelling and citations. Enter 'health news' in web searchers to locate additional sites.

CNN FOOD & HEALTH NEWS

<http://www.cnn.com/HEALTH/index.html>

Searchable by keywords. Contains headlines & full story for the past week. Contains links to related CNN stories & related sites on the subject.

USA TODAY HEALTH

<http://web.usatoday.com/life/health/lh99.htm>

Searchable by keywords. Index categories: AIDS, Arthritis, Cancer, Children's Health, Diet & Nutrition, Drugs, Family Issues, General, Health Care, Heart Disease, Lifestyle, Liver Disease, Men's Health, Mental Health, Seniors' Health, Sexuality, Smoking, Surgery, & Women's Health with links to related websites.

YAHOO HEADLINES

<http://www.yahoo.com/headlines/news/>

Searchable by keywords. Contains links to full stories of the day & one previous day.

YOUR HEALTH DAILY (Medical Tribune)

<http://nytsyn.com/medic/>

Searchable by keywords. Contains links to full stories of the day & common topics: AIDS, Asthma, Blood Pressure, Cancer, Child care, Cholesterol, Depression, Diabetes, Elderly, Heart, Men's Health, Nutrition, Pregnancy, Smoking, & Women's Health.

MEDICAL SCIENCES BULLETIN

http://pharminfo.com/pubs/msb/msbmnu.html#msb_contents. A good source for new developments on drugs. Produced by the Pharmaceutical Information Association.

Submitted by Mary Prottsman

Outreach: An International Connection

The University of South Alabama Biomedical Library has entered into an agreement with the Biblioteca Ezequiel Martinez Estrada at the Fundacion Favaloro in Buenos Aires, Argentina to provide photocopies of needed articles from the Biomedical Library's collection. The Fundacion Favaloro serves its primary clientele of clinicians and researchers as well as other physicians, scientists and health care professionals in the area. Via the Internet, requests will be e-mailed from Argentina and processed within 24 hours of receipt. As more titles become available electronically, it will become possible to transmit the entire article via e-mail to the requestor. In the meantime, after receiving the electronic request, articles will be mailed via traditional air mail. With this service, a requestor in Buenos Aires can have the full article in hand within a few hours of the request -- in some cases just minutes.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

USA Biomedical Library Faculty and Staff News

Sister Mary Giles Peresich, Head of Technical Services, for the USA Biomedical Library will be retiring effective May 31. She has worked in the Biomedical Library for 14 years, serving on various University Committees, including the University Library Committee, various search committees and the Legislative Contact Team. Her professional service includes the Medical Library Association and the NOTIS Users Group..

Pat Rodgers has been appointed Chair Designate of the Credentialing Committee of the Medical Library Association and Tom Williams has been appointed Chair Designate of the Awards Committee of the Medical Library Association.

In March, Pat Rodgers spoke on "The Impact of Electronic Journal and Document Delivery on the Future of Technical Services and Collection Development" at the EBSCO Subscription Services' Executive Seminar. This was a meeting of Assistant Directors and Heads of Technical Services and/or Collection Development from academic health sciences libraries.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

Collection Assessment Workshop

A Collection Assessment workshop conducted by Sue Medina, director of Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL), will be held at the University of South Alabama on May 9. There is no cost for the workshop. 6 MLA CE credit has been approved for the workshop. For more information and registration, please contact Jie Li, (334) 471-7855, or jli@jaguar1.usouthal.edu.

Please Renew Your Membership

You will notice a number on your mailing label when you receive this issue of *Synapse*. That is the year which you renewed your membership. If you have a *95* on your mailing label, please renew your 1996 membership to continue to receive *Synapse, Directory of Alabama Health Science Libraries and Handbook of the Alabama Health Libraries Association Inc.*, and other benefits. A membership form is enclosed in this issue for your convenience.

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