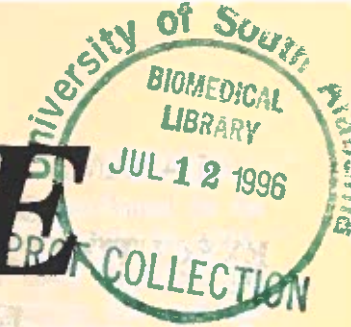


# SYNAPSE



NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.

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Summer 1996

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Tamara Lee

As we pass the summer solstice, I eagerly anticipate approach to the highlights of our year with the upcoming continuing education and annual conference programs. Kay Hogan and Joan Lukins, Program and CE Chairs respectively, have planned wonderful opportunities for ALHeLA to network, learn and grow together intellectually and practically. Judy Burnham, Past President, has planned and coordinated a major outreach activity with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA). As much as I think ALHeLA will benefit from this as an organization, I think each participant will reap individual reward from the satisfaction of increasing knowledge of and enhancing access to medical information.

A multitude of thanks to you, Robert Avant, for hosting such a delightful luncheon for the Executive Committee at your warm, artistic home. The food was delicious, the Southern hospitality was genuine, and, the company was charming! ALHeLA is grateful for your graciousness and generosity!

See everyone in September, and August! Happy 4th!

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## ALHeLA Annual Meeting

Preparations are in the final stages for the ALHeLA Annual Meeting in Birmingham, September 5-6, 1996. The University of Alabama at Birmingham is the setting for both CE workshops and the keynote address and annual business meeting. Joan Lukins has arranged for some marvelous educational opportunities for us with two well-known facilitators. Thursday, September 5th, Eugenie Prime of Hewlett-Packard will conduct a session called "Beyond Re-Engineering." (For a preview of her work, see "Visualizing the Virtual Library: An Interview with Eugenie Prime, June 1993," Medical Reference Services Quarterly 13(1): 97-109.) Later that afternoon, Guy St. Clair, of SMR International (and recently-named Fellow of the Special Libraries Association), will direct a workshop on "The One-Person Library." That evening we'll celebrate our annual banquet at the historic Woodward House, with entertainment provided by Dolores Hydock performing her one-woman show, "Changepoints." Then we'll reconvene Friday morning for the keynote address by T. Scott Plutchak, "Re-Engineering and the Future of the Medical Library." After the speech, Eugenie Prime and Guy St. Clair will join Scott in a panel discussion. Luncheon and the annual business meeting will follow, then a tour of the new UAB Lister Hill Library by Sondra Pfeiffer.

Those who arrive Wednesday afternoon should be sure to sign up for a tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute at 3:30 p.m. And for those who stay over to Saturday, there is another tour of the Sloss Furnace Historical Site scheduled for 1:00 p.m. (The Radisson Hotel is extending conference rates for ALHeLA attendees through Saturday.)

So be sure to mark your calendars, and we'll see you in September!

*Submitted by Kay Hogan, ALHeLA Program Chair*



# ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 21, 1996

The Executive Committee of the Alabama Health Libraries Association met on June 21, 1996, at the Alabama Public Library Service, Montgomery, AL. Attending were Robert Avant, Pat Higginbottom, Martha Verchot, Kay Hogan, Carolyn Holmes, Marian Morris, Joan Lukins, Martha Cook, Tammy Lee, Judy Burnham, Diane Williams, Jie Li, Kathleen Fetters and Diane Whited. Attending as a guest was Sherry Ward from MASA.

Tammy Lee, President, called the meeting to order at 10:30. Robert Avant took the Board on a tour of APLS. The minutes of the March 15, 1996 meeting were approved as written. Martha Cook presented the Treasurer's report. The beginning balance as of March 15, 1996 was \$3,780.75 with an ending balance of \$4,449.45 on June 21, 1996.

Martha discussed her thoughts on a previous board discussion concerning changing the membership year, which had been tabled. Her reasons to maintain the membership year as it is now were:

- \*it coincides with the tax year.
- \*MLA and SC have calendar year membership years, it is easier to renew all three memberships at one time
- \*from a bookkeeping standpoint it is confusing to pay membership dues and conference fees at the same time

The Board voted to maintain the current membership year.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Alabama Medicine Column

Judy Burnham reported that the cover article for the last issue of Alabama Medicine was written by an ALHeLA member. Mr. McDonald, the editor would still like to receive contributions. Judy asked that before anyone writes an article for the journal that you ask her first. Other librarians have volunteered to write articles on

specific topics. Judy has the list of the proposed topics.

## CME MEETING & MASA MANUAL

Judy Burnham reported the CME Meeting will be held August 14, 1996 at the Medical Forum in Birmingham. The title of the meeting is, "Access to Medical Information for Continuing Medical Education." Judy mentioned that all chapters for the MASA manual must be sent to her by July 3, 1996. She will format the chapters and will send them to Dr. Oetting. Dr. Oetting is paying for the cost of printing the manual. Pat Higginbottom has contacted the Medical Forum concerning telephone lines for Internet access. We will be able to use a communication server from Lister Hill Library. Lister Hill will also provide the computer projector. Power Point, Harvard Graphics, and Netscape will be available. University of South Alabama Biomedical will provide a laptop with some of the same software. A slide projector and video equipment will also be available. A suggestion was made to show the NLM video on the Internet. Sherry Ward announced that the meeting has been moved to a larger room. Dr. Oetting has sent out one flyer on the meeting and it created a lot of interest. The registration fee is \$10. Lunch will be provided. Tammy Lee mentioned that Sarah Amato, the editor for College & Research Library News would like the presenters to send any of the Internet links to her. There is an Internet column published in each issue. Tammy has the URL for Ms. Amato.

## ALHeLA Home Page

The ALHeLA home page is on the Web thanks to Pat Higginbottom. Pat attended a meeting during MLA that discussed exactly what should be on an organization home page like ALHeLA's. The discussion mentioned that benefits of membership in an organization, for example, newsletters and membership directories should not be included in a home page. In previous board meetings ALHeLA's membership directory and Synapse were mentioned as possible additions to the home page. The Board decided not to include these items, unless a membership only section could be included. Pat will investigate this possibility. Sherry Ward, from MASA mentioned that MASA now has a home page.

Tammy Lee raised the question of the ALHeLA listserv. Joe Moudry was the list owner before he changed positions at UAB. Pat Higginbottom volunteered to



positions at UAB. Pat Higginbottom volunteered to revive the list. She may change the address, but will publish the new address in Synapse.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Bylaws

Kathleen Fetters reported that she had not received any feedback concerning the draft bylaws she distributed at the last board meeting. Kathleen recommended that we table the revision of the bylaws until next year.

### Directory

Carolyn Holmes reported that the surveys were sent out in May. She will be following up the mailing with either phone calls or another letter soon. She has received some responses.

### Membership

Marian Morris distributed a new membership list. We have 32 individual members and 25 institutional members. Since March, we have had 16 new or renewal members. The new membership brochure was redesigned and printed by the Princeton Baptist Hospital Printing departments. Marian has sent out 40 brochures to other hospitals that she had identified through the AHA Directory and the ALHeLA Membership Directory. She has received one new member via this method. Martha Cook suggested that in the letter Marian includes with the membership brochure to add a line for a contact person. This assists Martha as treasurer, when she needs to contact the organization for Serhold dues. Tammy Lee suggested that we offer an honorary life membership to Atha Louise Henley.

### Liaison

No report.

### Exchange

Martha Verchot reported no response to her article in the last issue of Synapse concerning the abolishment of the Exchange Committee. Kathleen Fetters made a motion that we abolish this committee. The motion was seconded and passed. Martha will put a section on the home page about other ways to exchange journals.

## Synapse

Jie Li reported that nothing has been contributed for the next issue of Synapse. The deadline is July 10, 1996. Some suggestions for the next issue included: the conference program, listserv information, and exchange information.

### Union List

Tammy Lee presented the Union List report for Robert Avant. He stated that the delinquent health libraries have submitted updates and expressed a desire to remain active in AULS. At the present time, there are no delinquent health libraries in AULS.

Robert spoke with networking contacts in South Carolina, Baltimore, and Bethesda. He learned that when an ALHeLA member that has been routing its holdings via a union list tape is dropped from the union list, separate notification must be made so that the library can be deleted from routing lists. He was reassured once again that each tape-load wipes out material from the previous tape-load and re-adds everything afresh. He was further informed that programs exist which convert union list language (ANSI Standard Z39.44) into Serhold lingo. Robert would still like problems brought to his attention.

### Continuing Education

Joan Lukins reported that she needs Curriculum Vitae from anyone presenting at the MASA Conference. She has applied for five hours of MLA credit for the MASA meeting.

Joan announced that the speakers for the conference would be Eugenie Prime and Guy St. Clair. Ms. Prime is the Manager of Corporate Libraries for Hewlett-Packard. Her presentation scheduled for Thursday morning September 5, 1996 is entitled "Beyond Re-engineering." Mr. St Clair is a consultant on one person libraries. He is President of SMR International and series editor of the Bowker Sauer Information Services Management Series. His presentation is scheduled for Thursday afternoon and is entitled "On Your Own But Not Alone." Joan has applied for four hours of MLA credit for each presentation. Publicity for the CE program will be sent to all hospitals listed in the AHA Directory, MASA members, and the AL Chapter of SLA.



## NEW BUSINESS

### Annual Meeting

Kay Hogan listed the vendor support that we have received so far. Rittenhouse, Ovid, Readmore, Majors and Ebsco have all contributed or promised to contribute money. Baptist Health Systems contributed travel toothbrushes. Kay asked for contributions for conference goody bags. Publicity for the conference will be submitted to Southern Expressions, MLA News, Alabama Librarian, SEA Expressions, and on the ALHeLA home page.

Kay asked for suggestions on the price for the conference. Board members suggested that we have one price for each CE Class and one price for the whole conference. It was also suggested to include a price for banquet tickets only. Spouses may want to attend the banquet. An early registration incentive would also be included. The ALHeLA business meeting would be held after lunch on Friday.

### MEDLINE Crisis

Tammy Lee raised the issue of the updates to MEDLINE which are several months behind schedule. Her researchers have voiced some concern about this matter. Joan Lukins mentioned that she had spoken with a librarian at NLM, who stated that they are not as behind as they once were. The indexing is up-to-date, but the data entry is what is behind. NLM has taken a temporary measure to catch up with the data entry. The data entry contract was contested by one of the companies bidding on the contract. The contract had been awarded to another vendor. This matter is still in the courts. No action was taken at this time.

The next meeting will be September 6, 1996 at the annual conference in Birmingham. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

*Submitted by Diane D. Whited, Secretary*

### 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 topic of the workshop will be "Access to Medical Information for Continuing Medical Education." A manual has been prepared to be used during this

workshop. Joan Lukins has applied for CE credit from MLA. The following have assisted in the development of the manual: Diane Williams, Tammy Lee, Mary Fran Prottsman, Martha Verchot, Helvi McCall, Geneva Bush, Lisa Russell, Kay Hogan, Pat Higginbottom and Judy Burnham. Contact Judy Burnham, (334) 471-7855 if you are interested in attending this workshop. The cost is \$10 and lunch is included.

*Submitted by Judy Burnham*

### ALHeLA Home Page and Listserv

Now you can find ALHeLA on the World Wide Web! Use any web browser to find information about the executive committee, the annual meeting and more. If you have a forms compatible browser, you can even fill out the membership application online! The URL is: <http://www.uab.edu/lister/alhela/>. A photo archive of the organization and an electronic version of Synapse are in the works for our page. Take a look and let us know what you think. Any suggestions are welcome.

The ALHELA listserv has a new moderator. Pat Higginbottom has taken over the role of monitoring the ALHELA listserv. The forum is available to anyone interested and discussion is varied. To subscribe, send a message to "LISTSERV@uabdpo.dpo.uab.edu" with "subscribe alhela" in the body of the message. If you have problem signing on the listserv, please send a message to Pat, [phiggin@lister2.lhl.uab.edu](mailto:phiggin@lister2.lhl.uab.edu). Many thanks to Joe Moudry for his work with the list.

*Submitted by Patricia Higginbottom*

### Alabama Medicine

The first ALHeLA article was published in Alabama Medicine in the Feb/Mar/Apr 1996 issue. The journal is now published quarterly and will soon evolve into a digest. However, 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](mailto:jburnham@jaguar1.usouthal.edu). The following Internet topics have been covered -- General orientation, general web sites and consumer health web sites. Other topics that might be covered are discipline specific web sites, i.e., pediatrics.

*Submitted by Judy Burnham*



## Consumer Health Corner

Tom Ferguson, M. D., of Harvard University's Center for Clinical Computing delivered an interesting presentation entitled 'Health On-line and the Empowered Health Consumer at MLA.' Dr. Ferguson extolled the virtues of online support groups for patients, particularly the terminal and seriously ill, as these groups enable patients to remain an active part of society. He feels that online information provides individualized responses to the patient's questions as opposed to canned patient education information that does not always address the patient's specific concerns. The groups also provide the patient with a sense of empowerment as they are enabled to pose questions and respond to 'group wisdom'. Dr. Ferguson feels that it is important for clinicians to become involved in online support groups for the information they gain about the patient's true concerns with their health cares which are not always freely shared during office visits. Additional information is available in 'The Doctor is On' by Katie Hafner in Newsweek, May 27, 1996, p. 77-78. Ferguson's book, *Health Online*, (Addison-Wesley, \$17.00, 0-201-40989-5) has been dubbed 'The Bible of self-care information on the Internet.' His Web site (<http://www.healthy.net>.) has a Health Village that is worth examining. It contains extensive listings of self-help groups, both Usenet and mailing lists, and provides the capability of searching by keyword for consumer health organizations.

CaPHIS, the Consumer and Patient Health Information of MLA has recently established a Web site (<http://www.njc.org/caphis/caphis/html>) upon which it plans to include information on setting up and running consumer health libraries as well as links to data on specific health conditions.

*Submitted by Mary Fran Prottzman*

## Internet of Note

**The Hospital Locator.** It searches for the name of a hospital in the US, all hospitals in a certain city, state, zip code and gives a description, phone number, address and location on the map of the hospital.

[http://www.medaccess.com/hospitals/s\\_hospt.htm](http://www.medaccess.com/hospitals/s_hospt.htm)

**Lycos Road Map.** You enter a domain name, an email address, or a street address, and it makes it on a map for you.

<http://www.proximus.com/lycos/>

**Switchboard:** a nationwide residential and business directory.

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

*Submitted by Jie Li*

## USA Biomedical Library Faculty and Staff News

Geneva Bush served as Registrar of the Alabama Library Association meeting in Mobile in April. During that meeting, Judy Burnham received the "Outstanding Publications Award" from the College, University and Special Libraries Division of the AlaLA.

Tom Williams, Pat Rodgers, Geneva Bush, Jie Li and Judy Burnham recently attended the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association in Kansas City. During the meeting, Jie presented a poster session on "Building an Alternative Medicine Web Page" and received a Continuing Education Award from MLA. Judy presented a paper on "Comparison of CINAHL, EMBASE and MEDLINE for the Physical Therapy Researchers." This research was also presented as a poster at the USA Research Forum, along with Dr. Dennis Fell, Asst. Prof., Physical Therapy Dept.

Yvonne Hawkins, Supervisor of the Document Delivery Dept. retired on June 30. Yvonne has worked for USA for 16 years. Mercedes Tyus-Bradford is in charge of the Document Delivery Dept. Contact her at (334) 460-6891.

*Submitted by Judy Burnham*

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**Synapse**

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