Northwest Notes

Newsletter of the
Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association

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Call to Legislative Action - GPOWINDO

by Bob Pringle, PNC/MLA Government Affairs Committee Rep.

Representative Charles Rose (D-North Carolina) is sponsoring a bill, HR 2772, to have the GPO provide (free to depository libraries, cheap to everyone else) a single point of electronic access to publicly funded electronic information produced by the federal government. The bill is known by the acronym GPOWINDO (Government Printing Office Wide Information Network Data Online Act). Supporting organizations include ALA, Association of Research Libraries, American Association of Law Libraries, University Professors, Special Libraries Association, and others. MLA is not yet on the list I received from Jamie Love. You might care to write MLA & ask them to support it, and you might write to Rep. Rose, Rm 2230, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, as well as to your own representatives, asking them to support it if you agree. The text of the GPO WINDO bill is a shared file in OnTyme, ** ICFNE.GPO-BILL. It will be left on the OnTyme system until the end of August.

A comment from Neil Rambo, Associate Director, Pacific Northwest Region, NN/LM:

As a member of the MLA Governmental Relations Committee, I received a copy of a letter from MLA President Dick Lyders to ALA President Eileen Cooke explaining MLA's position on the GPO WINDO Act. The letter states:

"... At its midwinter meeting, the MLA Board of Directors discussed its position on the GPO WINDO Act. The members decided that the association would not sign onto the GPO WINDO statement . . . at this time . . . the Medical Library Association does not support the concept of free access to government produced databases. MEDLINE needs to be removed as one of the core databases included in the statement.

MLA, however, would like to be included in future GPO WINDO strategy sessions and to have the opportunity to explain its position more fully ...

The Board of Directors fully believes that the "one-stop" shopping concept is in the best interest of the library community and society in general. In the future, we hope to be able to resolve our differences on this issue with our fellow library associations so that we can unequivocally join with them in support of the concept of GPO WINDO ..."

A further comment by Tamara Turner, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Seattle:

MLA supports the bill in principle and has notified the ALA of this. MLA did not come out immediately in support of the bill because of some questions that it is now in the process of clarifying. Most important of these is the need to make certain that if GPO WINDO became law, there would be no dilution of the integrity of data in MEDLINE. That is, that nothing in the operation of GPO WINDO could take away the ability of NLM to maintain a standard for its database. MLA is discussing this now and should have a strategy very soon [if not by the time you read this — Ed.]. Meanwhile, in principle, MLA joins the other major library and information associations in support of HR 2772. In your letters to Rep. Charles Rose, you might want to stipulate that you support the bill but want assurances built into it that the accuracy and timeliness of data in the databases provided by NLM not be compromised in any way.

From the Editor

Just a reminder — the only reason I have news to report in this column is because YOU keep me up-to-date! If there is news that you are aware of, and you don't see it in this column, that is because I did not hear about it! Is anything happening out there? Go ahead, toot your own horns! I never reveal my sources (without their consent!).

Oregon

Retirement of Melvina (Stell) Marble

by Isabel McDonald and Edith Throckmorton

With a career spanning services from elementary school librarian to Director of multiple libraries at Portland's Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center (with a budget of six figures), **Melvina Stell Marble** retired on March 4, 1992.

In her 19-year tenure, Melvina steered the Medical Library through 14 complete or partial moves. These included designing two increasingly sophisticated information service centers serving the physicians, nurses, administrators and staff of Good Samaritan Hospital, with the added responsibility of providing services to Linfield College School of Nursing faculty and students.
In addition to her duties at the Hospital, Melvina was involved in a great many professional library activities. She served as president of PNC/MLA, OHSLA, and PAHSL. Supporting many projects involving Oregon and the region, Melvina has helped fledgling libraries in Oregon, taught survival skills for hospital library managers, and chaired governmental relations projects for the region. A major contribution was her service on the Regional Advisory Committee for the NLM Regional Medical Library (Region 6).

Melvina served as Treasurer of the Hospital Libraries Section of MLA as well as chair of several of its committees. In recent years, Melvina was a member of the Oregon State Library Advisory Council on Libraries (1989-91). Since 1988 she has been an LSCA grant evaluator for the Oregon State Library.

Born in the State of Washington, Melvina is a true daughter of the Northwest, with ancestors who came to Oregon in 1842. Pioneer, developer, promoter, hospital libraries' champion, Melvina has earned her retirement. She now looks forward to travel, consulting, and volunteering. She also joins the small, exclusive club of retirees!

Other news from Oregon

Submitted by Ann von Segen, St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center, Portland

Peggy Burrell, Providence Medical Center, Portland, is the chair of the 1993 PNC/MLA Program Committee. The committee has met and established the conference theme of "Vision: Looking Outward, Looking Inward." The conference will be held at the Westin Benson, Portland, September 15-17, 1993. The following people have agreed to chair various committees: **Carolyn Olson**, CE and Round Tables; **Nancy Brown**, Vendors and Exhibits; **Cathy Jourdan**, Hotel Liaison; and **Madelyn Hall**, Registration and Hospitality.

Providence Medical Center has a new part-time library technician, **Laura Grant**.

Madelyn Hall has assumed the post of Library Director following **Melvina Marble's** retirement. Madelyn was previously the Ophthalmology Librarian at Good Samaritan.

ORHION (the BICC's electronic information system) is expanding. It is adding services from US HealthLink, a national vendor of medical informa-tion services which is a joint venture of OHSU and IEI, Inc. in Wheaton, Illinois. Some of the new services that will be available include EMPIRES, which provides references to 320 key medical journals; a medical news service; a clipping service; a drug interaction service, and DXplain, a diagnostic decision support system.

Washington

Magdalene Quinlan has accepted the position of Systems Librarian at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Library in Seattle. Magdalene was previously the Microcomputer Services Librarian at the Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah.

Lisa Oberg recently started as the temporary reference librarian at the UW Health Sciences Library & Information Center.

The **Seattle VA Library** is still seeking someone to fill the Director's position vacated by **Maryanne Blake**. They are also losing their ILL person, **Judy Gilmore**, who is moving to Texas.

Idaho

The new fax number for the **Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center** is 208/529-7014.

PNC/MLA Committee Chairs for 1992

Archives: Janet Schnall
Bylaws: Jan Schueller
Education: Kathy Nelson
Governmental Relations:
                                    Susan Long
Library Automation & Technology: Peggy Burrell
Membership: Leilani St. Anna
Program: Jim Henderson
Publications: Valerie Schultheiss
Research: Marcie Horner
Nominating: Jeri van den Top

Calendar of Events

* For more information, contact Western Online Training Center at 1-800-338-7657; Press 2 to speak to trainers at UCLA.

"To Your Health" - NLM Poster Exhibit

"To Your Health: An Exhibition of Posters for Contemporary Public Health Issues" will be on display in the University of Washington's Health Sciences Library and Information Center from April 6 through May 29, 1992. This unique display features 75 public health posters drawn from the extensive collection of the National Library of Medicine. The exhibit has been shown at only ten sites in the U.S. and Canada since 1990; the Health Sciences Library is the only West Coast location scheduled through 1992.

Posters have a brief life. Designed to attract attention and communicate a message rapidly, they may be torn down, destroyed by weather, and discarded when the next poster comes along. Yet many are worth keeping, either for their artistic quality or as evidence of changing social values. This exhibit offers an unusual view of changing concerns about public health issues in the U.S. and 20 other countries.

"To Your Health" provides a broad overview of public health posters, ranging from those used during wartime to warn soldiers about venereal disase, to others concerned with contemporary issues, such as encouragement of breastfeeding in third-world countries. Others show how agencies try to influence public attitudes using posters, such as the American Lung Association's use of a well-known face (Brooke Shields) to convince us that "Smoking Spoils your Looks". Much of the exhibit is devoted to current posters campaigning for the awareness and prevention of AIDS and drug abuse. Other featured themes include immunization, biomedical research, dental hygiene, and nursing.

The exhibit will be open to the public during regular library hours. For further information, call Carolyn Weaver at 206/543-3401.

Correction

In the last issue of *Northwest Notes*, the Chapter Council Representative and Chapter Council Alternate were listed incorrectly. Sylvia MacWilliams will serve as the Chapter Council Representative (replacing Mary Campbell) through MLA in May, finishing the remainder of her and Mary's term. Cliff Cornish and Marcia Horner will take over their duties after the MLA meeting.

From the Chair

Dolores Judkins

As I read the column from the PNC Chair during the past few years , I breathed a sigh of relief that I didn't have that job. Now, somehow, in a weak moment, I accepted the nomination, and I find myself in the "chair". I have some very good role models to follow, though, and with an excellent board and enthusiastic committee chairs we will try to do a good job this year.

I would first like to thank Jeri for her work this past year. It was hard working from Alaska, especially with the tight budget we had this past year, but we were able to accomplish most of our goals. Thanks also go to Jim Henderson, for his comprehensive minutes and Mary Campbell, who is resigning as Chapter Council Rep. Leilani St. Anna, as membership secretary for the past three years, has done an excellent job and I know she is happy to pass on the duties to Leza Hamby.

The goals for 1992 are printed below. They do not differ significantly from last year's goals, with priorities being continuing education and member participation. Thanks to the dues increase, the executive board may be able to meet more frequently this year.

The 1992 meeting is Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 in Vancouver, B.C. and plans are going well. The program will include information on the Canadian health care system, outreach, and contributed papers. They also have some fun activities planned, so plan on attending.

The message the members gave us at Boise was that the newsletter was very valuable, so Valerie will continue to publish it five times a year. It is an important method of communication in our large chapter, but we need input from all of you keep the information flowing.

The Pacific Northwest Chapter is an extremely active chapter, especially considering the distances people have to go to attend meetings. With the enthusiasm and help of all its members, we will have a great 1992!

1992 Chapter Goals

Foster Professionalism within the membership. Responsibility: Executive Board, members.

Maintain a current computerized membership list for compliance status and new member recruitment and conferences. Responsibility: Membership Committee.

Provide quality continuing education programs for members. Responsibility: Education Committee.

Continue publication of a timely, relevant newsletter for the members five times per year. Responsibility: Publications Committee, Newsletter Editor, Chair-elect, committee chairs, members.

Advise members of current legislative issues. Communicate via a column in Northwest Notes at least twice per year. Responsibility: Governmental Relations Committee.

Present an informative and educational chapter meeting. Responsibility: Program Committee; 1992 - Vancouver, BC; 1993 - Portland, OR; 1994 - Calgary, AL (?).

Continue joint ventures with other professional groups, including joint CE. Responsibility: Executive Board, Education Committee.

Implement 1992 objectives of the Chapter MAP and update as needed. Responsibility: Executive Board.

Provide funds for members to attend educational meetings with the provision that they in turn will report back to others in their region. Set up scholarship guidelines. Responsibility: Executive Board.

Set up guidelines for lifelong membership status. Responsibility: Executive Board.

Increase dues and non-dues income. Responsibility: Executive Board, Education Committee.

Evaluate goals for annual meetings to optimize attendance and user satisfaction. Responsibility: Executive Board, Education Committee, Program Committee.

Colleague Connection

Submitted by Leilani St. Anna, University of Washington Health Sciences Library & Information Center, Seattle, Washington

Meet new colleagues and build networks at MLA through Colleague Connection!

Colleague Connection pairs a new member or first-time attendee with an experienced member. Last year's program in San Francisco was a great success, and all participants gained from the ecperience. Your time commitment is decided by each pair, and the initial contact made through Colleague Connection may lead to connections with many others. If you are interested in participating as either a MLA newcomer or as an "old-timer" contact Leilani St. Anna, Health Sciences Library & Information Center, University of Washington, SB-55, Seattle, WA 98195; 206/543-7492. OnTyme UWHSL/ GEN Attn. Leilani; or via Internet LSTANNA@U.WASHINGTON.EDU.

MLA to Meet in Nation's Capital

The Medical Library Association will hold its Ninety-second Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC on May 15 through 21, 1992. Keynote speaker Warren Bennis, Ph.D., distinguished professor of business administration, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, and author of the bestseller On Becoming a Leader, will address this meeting's theme, "Choose to Make a Difference."

The meeting will feature "Four Great Debates" on the librarian as leader, library technologies, escalating prices, and total quality management. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in continuing education courses covering such topics as writing for publication, government information resources, and leadership skills. Poster sessions (featuring more than fifty submitted presentations), section programming, business meetings, and "Capitol Ideas" breakfasts with invited government representatives will highlight the meeting.

Boise Meeting Final Report

by Pamela Spickelmier, Program Chair, 1991 PNC/MLA Meeting

Reflecting back on the 1991 PNC/MLA annual meeting held in Boice, Idaho, I must say "What a great learning experience for the Program Committee!" The majority of the Idaho Program Committee members (and I!) had never been involved in coordinating and planning a meeting of this size before, so it was a rather daunting assignment considering our small numbers and lack of experience. The further we got into the process, however, the more fun we had generating ideas and

making arrangements. The experience taught us a lot about our local community, its resources, and even about PNC/MLA itself. The support from the non-Idaho members was outstanding and helped to keep us headed in the right direction. A special thank you to Jeri van den Top and Kathy Murray for their encouragement.

Our keynote speaker, Herb White, while controversial, gave us food for thought. Dr. David Baines gave us interesting insights into the medical side of Indian/Native American culture, and Dr. Ronald Dorn gave us an advance look at the possibility of using a mothballed nuclear reactor for the benefit of oncology patients. Judging from the post-meeting survey results, most attendees enjoyed this meeting. Attendees' surveys indicated high satisfaction with the speakers, the educational course offerings, the meeting facilities, and the food. For future reference, we will not be "old fogies" and forget the din created by the cruisers on Friday and Saturday nights in downtown Boise. How one can forget after 25 years! The final proceeds from this meeting were $2758.99, turned over to the PNC/MLA treasury.

Thank you all for making this meeting possible. The Program Committee hopes you enjoyed visiting Boise and Idaho! We hope to see you in Vancouver, B.C. for what promises to be an outstanding meeting!

Membership Secretary's Report

Leza Hamby, Rocky Mountain Laboratory Biomedical Research Library, Hamilton, Montana; PNC Membership Secretary

This is a friendly reminder to check the mailing label that helped the Post Office deliver this issue of *Northwest Notes* to you. Look at the date in parentheses, in the upper right hand corner of the label. If the date is 1991, then this is your last issue of Northwest Notes. To remedy that, you will need to pay your 1992 dues (now $15.00 U.S., $18.00 Canadian). You will find a membership renewal form on the back of this issue of *Northwest Notes*. Dues should be sent to Maryanne Blake, PNC Treasurer, at the address on the form. If you have any changes or corrections to make to your mailing address, you may contact me at Rocky Mountain Laboratory. My address and phone number are on the front cover of this issue.

Modems Demystified

by Peggy Burrell, Chair, PNC Automation Committee, Providence Medical Center, Portland, Oregon

Did you ever wonder what some of the jargon used in setting up a modem for telecommunication means — like data bits, parity, and stop bits? I took a two-day class recently offered through University of Washington Extension called "Understanding Data Communications: Telecommunications" that made telecommunications and the function of modems much more clear to me. I hope that if it's something that has always puzzled you, you'll have a clearer idea after you read this.

Many of you probably already know that the term "modem" is a contraction of "modulator - demodulator". The modulator converts outgoing messages from the computer digital language into the analog signal relayed over a telephone wire. The demodulator converts incoming analog signals back into the digital language that computers understand.
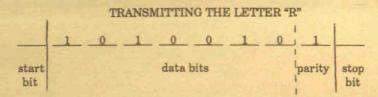
You probably also know that computer digital language is based on bits made up of 0's and 1's. The modem's job is to convert those 1's and 0's into the continuous analog wave form that is transmitted over telephone wires. The modem converts the individual pulses of bits into the analog signal by translating "1's" into a certain frequency and the "0's" into another predetermined frequency. It does this translation at the BAUD rate you have selected, such as 1200 bits per second or 1200 BAUD.

You have probably noticed, in looking at the parameters for all the systems you communicate with, that Medlars, Ontyme, Dialog, and BRS all use 7 bit data, even parity, and 1 stop bit. I also have the online catalogs from several libraries on my computer, and some them use 8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit. Now I have a clearer idea about what that means.

Eight bits of information is called byte. A byte equals a character like the letter "R" or the number "9". As a matter of fact the letter "R" is represented in digital language as "1010010". The composition of bits to make up any particular character is based on an industry wide standard called ASCII (American Standard of Code for Information Interchange). Of course, if you are really paying attention, you will notice that that code given above for "R" is only 7 bits long. It is possible to represent 128 characters with only 7 bit combinations, allowing that eighth bit of the byte to be used for error detection when the data is transmitted.

Each character comes with a start bit to signal the computer receiving the message that another character is coming. The stop bit signals the end of a character. Between the start and stop bits is 1 byte or 8 bits of information, including 7 bits of data and 1 parity bit. In even parity, the parity bit equals either 0 or 1 to make the 8 bits total up to an even number. For the letter "R" as shown in the example below, the parity bit would be "1". If the receiving computer doesn't receive a "1", it sends a signal back to the sending computer to retransmit that byte of data again, and "get it right this time!"

There are two parameter sets commonly used in telecommunications. The first set is 7 data bits and 1 stop bit with even parity error checking. The second set consists of 8 data bits and 1 stop bit using no parity checking. The first set allow for error checking. The second set allows for the transmission of an extended 8-bit ASCII coded data available on IBM PC's, permitting 256 characters rather than 128, but it does not attempt to detect errors in the data.

TRANSMITTING THE LETTER "R"

start bit	data bits							parity	stop bit
	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	

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News and articles are most welcome! Please submit items via OnTyme or send them on 5-1/4" diskette as ASCII files. Short items (under one page) may be submitted to the Editor as typed copy. Please specify clearly that items are for the newsletter. Include your name, library, address, phone, and fax number (if available) with all submissions. Call or write for further details.

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions as necessary.

Deadlines for *Northwest Notes* (subject to change) are: May 29, August 28, October 30, 1992. Articles from *Northwest Notes* may be reprinted without permission; credit would be appreciated. Advertising information is available from the Editor.

To join the Pacific Northwest Chapter, send membership dues to:

Maryanne Blake   **DUES: $15.00 U.S.**
Pacific Northwest Region, NN/LM   **$18.00 Canadian**
Health Sciences Library & Information Center
University of Washington, SB-55
Seattle, WA 98195

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PNC/MLA

Your Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

_____

(You may use home **or** work address)

Circle those that apply: **Renewal New Member**

Membership type requested:
                 Individual Institutional

Are you a member of the Medical Library Association?
             Yes   No