NORTHWEST NOTES

Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association

July - September 1997   Volume 18   Number 3

Letter from the Chair
Marcy Horner   hornerm@kmc.org

One of the joys of being a librarian is the opportunity to learn something new everyday. The request for the really unusual and rare, the newest research, or an alternative approach to therapy, gives us the chance to hone our creative problem solving tools on a daily basis. There are those days when one more new thing is one too many, but you can reassure yourself that the clinical evidence shows that streching your mind everyday helps keep it young !

During the course of searching for materials for an upcoming hospital-wide management retreat, I came across a web-page "Thriving in the Information Age" (www.imaginiz.com). The author, Gareth Morgan, has some thought-provoking ideas about how to implement change, and the importance of ROI (Return on Intellect _not_ Return on Investment) in today's business world. He talks about the need to make changes in the 15% of our world that we have control over, rather than being overwhelmed by attempting to make changes throughout the system. He also speaks of the effectiveness of incremental, evolutionary changes. These are the kinds of changes that we, as individuals, can make in our worklives and organizations.

I'm looking forward to dicussing some of these ideas with our membership as we formulate our long-range strategic plans at next week's conference. See you in Portland!

Notes from the Editor
Kathy Murray   afktm@uaa.alaska.edu

Drum Roll Please!

The PNC/MLA website is officially live and ready for your viewing at http://weber.u.washington.edu/~pncmla/. On the site you'll find a link to 1997 conference info, recent issues of Northwest Notes, and other information about the workings of the organization. Coming soon will be the bylaws, the program planning manual, and any other information that members might find useful. Send your suggestions to Emily Hull, PNC Web Editor, at eehull@u.washington.edu.

[NB: If other regional health/medical associations have web sites up and running, please send their URL's to Emily.]

Committee Members Needed

Emily Hull, Web editor and Kathy Murray, NW Notes editor are looking for new members for

the Publication Committee. Please consider joining our efforts to improve communication within PNC. Committee meetings are being held from 4-5:30 on Thursday (room location to be determined once we've reached Portland!). If you have questions or would like to participate but won't be at the meeting, please contact either of us.

Emily is at the UW, eehull@u.washington.edu, and Kathy can be reached at afktm@uaa.alaska.edu.

CE Committee Report

submitted by Carolyn Olson, CE Chair

This year the CE committee assisted the board in the compass project by brainstorming survey content and methodology.

A few years ago the committee decided to take a more long range view of planning CE offerings and a more active role in course selection. The changes we have found to be of greatest benefit are:

* Longer term participation of CE members, especially the local CE chair who will have participated in the committee for 1-2 years prior to the conference year.

* A formula for selecting balanced CE offerings that cover fundamental medical library skills, new developments, and expanded roles for the profession. The annual survey is valuable for assessing immediate needs and interests but the committee looks beyond that data for courses that meet a broader range of needs.

There will be some changes in membership this year. Lisa Oberg from the University of Washington will be the new CE chair and some new committee members will be announced soon.

Many thanks to the CE committee members (below) and special thanks to Nancy Press whose annual survey and expertise have greatly enhanced CE in our region.

Janice Bacino (CE chair for PNC '96)
Cliff Cornish
Leah Starr
Mary Ellen Lemon (CE & Meeting Chair for PNC '98)
Doreen Smith
Nancy Press, RML Liaison

PNC/MLA ALERTS

Announced online, as an ALERT was the purchase of two new Dockits by Nancy Press. These are now available for check out.

Dockit #8: Electronic Searching of the Health Sciences Literature
Dockit #9: Policies for Visitors to Health Sciences Libraries

PNC/MLA members may contact the NN/LM at 1-800-338-7657 or nnlm@u.washington.edu to borrow these or other items from the Lending Library. Watch for a complete listing of the Lending Library collection in an upcoming Supplement article.

CE Opportunities

"FREE EMBASE Training
November 18, 1997 - University of Edmonton, Alberta
Unlock the searching secrets to successful EMBASE search strategies via DIALOG,
LEXIS/NEXIS, Ovid Online, STN and DataStar. For registration and details please call
212.633.3969 or email: usembase-f@elsevier.com."

ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LIBRARIANSHIP
Summer 1997 issue is now available at http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/

Readers may be particularly interested in the article "Creating Electronic Journal Web Pages
from OPAC Records" as well as the section on science and technology sources on the
Internet.

Digital Libraries '98 - The Third ACM Conference on Digital Libraries

Pittsburgh, PA, USA, June 23-26, 1998

(Sponsored by ACM through SIGIR and SIGLINK)

Digital libraries will likely figure amongst the most important and influential institutions of the
21st Century. Long a dream, the early prognostications of visionaries such as Bush, Nelson,
and Licklider of large-scale, sustainable digital libraries are progressively becoming a reality
with the initiation of major DL projects at national levels. Future digital libraries will not only
improve access to the world's knowledge dramatically, but also act as 'collaboratories' out of
which new knowledge is crafted and refined by widely-distributed teams and organizations --
knowledge that right from conception is fully interconnected with previous work.

But daunting challenges stand in the way. No amount of rhetoric can finesse the plethora of
thorny issues that need addressing. While visions are cheap -- useable, scaleable,
sustainable, and interoperable solutions demand intensive collaboration from researchers in
many disciplines, and substantial commitments from imaginative and resourceful practitioners.
Olympian though they may be, digital library initiatives will not escape the agonizing
ground-level tradeoffs that characterize any large-scale practical endeavor. So what are the
key outstanding problems? How can we best begin to address them? What are the major
competing paradigms that claim value and vie for our support? How can the digital library
community work together in synergetic ways, and avoid the endless fragmentation and
oneupmanship that so often afflicts rapidly evolving fields?

At Digital Libraries '98, we will build on the foundation laid by earlier conferences in this series,
as well as the hard work of the many individuals who helped bring our field to fruition. We will
strive to unite all players that have a stake in the future of digital libraries: librarians, computer
scientists, social scientists, administrators, ... academic, government and commercial
organizations, ... tool builders, evaluators and users. We will continue to foster their
participation as on-going members of the digital library community. Thus we invite you to

participate and contribute to this very important field. Please send us your ideas for planning, your papers and other proposals for participation -- and most of all for DL98 -- be there!

Held immediately following Hypertext '98, Digital Libraries '98 will provide a common setting for researchers, practicing professionals and students to share experiences and to present results about system construction, human-computer interaction, hypertext, information retrieval, digital librarianship, digital identifiers and many other topics related to the field of digital libraries. The conference attracts distinguished attendees from a diverse range of fields. Digital Libraries '98 will provide a forum for presentation and discussion of exciting and original developments in digital libraries through a variety of formats. The Proceedings of Digital Libraries '98 will be published by ACM Press.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Digital Libraries '98 will provide a common setting for researchers and practicing professionals to share experiences and compare notes about authoring, publishing, system construction, human-computer interaction, copyright issues, digital library services, electronic journals, evaluation, and many other topics. Attendees come with backgrounds in computing, library science, psychology, literature, sociology, engineering, law, medicine -- many different fields -- and we warmly invite your participation. Digital Libraries '98 will provide a forum for presentation and discussion of exciting and original developments in digital libraries through several formats: papers, panels, short papers, demonstrations, posters, tutorials, and workshops.

Topics for the conference encompass anything of relevance to the field of Digital Libraries. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: DL projects, user experience, DL technologies, search engines, name spaces, indexing, collection development and management, user support, digital librarianship, requirements for DLs, economics of DLs, lessons learned, collaborative libraries, information summarization and visualization, metadata issues, multimedia collections and many others.

CRITICAL DATES

15 Jan 98: Papers due, Proposals for Panels, Workshops, and Tutorials due.

31 Mar 98: Notification of acceptance for Papers, Panels, Workshops, and Tutorials.

13 Apr 98: Short Papers due. Proposals for Posters and Demos due.

20 Apr 98: Final versions of accepted papers due. Notification of acceptance for Short Papers, Posters, and Demos.

PAPERS

Technical papers present integrative reviews or original reports of substantive new work in areas that are theoretical (e.g., models), empirical (experiments, case studies, ...), or implementation-oriented (new systems). Papers should provide a clear, concise message to the audience, situate the work within the field, cite related work and clearly indicate the innovative aspects of the work and its contribution to the field.

Papers must be written in English and formatted single-spaced, double-columned, using the

specifications at the DL98 web site (www.ks.com/DL98). In no case should they exceed 10 pages. Please submit 3 copies of the paper and one copy of a cover page. On the cover page include the title, author name(s) and affiliation(s), an abstract of about 200 words, several topical keywords, and complete address (including telephone, fax, email) for the author to whom correspondence should be addressed. The title, author name(s) and affiliation(s), abstract, and keywords should also appear on the first page of the paper itself.

Submission: Submit to Robert M. Akscyn, Knowledge Systems, RD2 213A Evans Road, Export, PA 15632 USA. Submissions must be received by 15 January 1998. All enquiries about submission should be directed to rma@ks.com.

PANELS

Panels represent an opportunity for in-depth exploration of current issues and emerging opportunities. Panels provide an interactive forum that will engage the panelists and audience in lively discussion of important and often controversial issues.

Proposals (approx. 1500 words) should outline the issues and points that will be addressed in the panel. The proposal must also contain the title of the panel, names, affiliations, and complete mailing address (including phone, fax, and email) of the participants.

Submission: Submit by email as plain text to rma@ks.com by 15 January 1998.

SHORT PAPERS

Short papers report late-breaking research or interesting results that do not justify a full paper. Short papers can be on a similar range of topics to full papers, but will appear as extended abstracts in the proceedings (max 2 pages). Short papers will be given modest presentation time (10 minutes) at the conference. Because of their limited length, extra care must be given to presenting a single clear idea, and why it is important.

Short papers must be written in English and formatted single-spaced, double-columned, using the specifications at the DL98 web site (www.ks.com/DL98). In no case should they exceed 2 pages. The paper must include a title, author name(s) and affiliation(s), and the complete address of one contact person (phone, fax, email). Please submit 3 copies of the paper.

Submission: Submit to Robert M. Akscyn, Knowledge Systems, RD2 213A Evans Road, Export, PA 15632 USA. Submissions must be received by 13 April 1998.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations allow attendees to get first-hand views of innovative technology and applications, and talk informally with system developers and authors. Presenters should be individuals who have been directly involved with the development of the system and are aware of the novel ideas that it embodies. Information about the demonstrations will not appear in the Proceedings, but authors are encouraged to distribute copies of a handout at the conference.

Proposals should describe the planned demonstration and include a description of noteworthy and distinguishing ideas or approaches your demo will illustrate; an explanation of how your demo will illustrate these ideas or approaches; information about the person(s) who will present the demo; and a 100-word summary for inclusion in a program description. Please

provide the following cover information: title, author name(s) and affiliation(s), and complete address (including telephone, fax, email) for the author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Tables, electricity, and possibly network connectivity will be provided -- but you must bring your own equipment. Submission: Submit by email as plain text to rma@ks.com by 13 April 1998.

POSTERS

Poster presentations enable researchers to present late-breaking results, significant work in progress, or work that is best communicated through conversation. Poster sessions let conference attendees exchange ideas one-on-one with authors, and enable authors to discuss their work in detail with those attendees most deeply interested in the same topic. Extended abstracts of posters (max 1000 words) will appear in the Proceedings.

Submit an extended abstract of at most 1000 words emphasizing the problem, what was done, and why the work is important. Please also provide the following cover information: title, author name(s) and affiliation(s), and complete address (including telephone, fax, email) for the author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Submission: Submit by email as plain text to rma@ks.com by 13 April 1998.

TUTORIALS

Tutorials precede the conference and allow attendees to become familiar with basic principles of the field, to receive technical training in a DL-related area, or to explore advanced topics in depth. They are taught by experts in the area and cover topics at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.

Proposals should include a 200-word abstract for publicity purposes and a topical outline of the course content. They should describe the course objectives, intended audience, length (half- or full-day), facilities required (note that it will not be possible to provide hands-on laboratory facilities), and instructor's qualifications. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the instructor's qualifications for teaching the proposed course and the contribution of the course to the overall conference program.

Descriptions of the courses will be published in conference programs, but will not appear in the Conference Proceedings. Proposers are encouraged to contact the tutorial chairman to discuss their planned proposals.

Submission: Submit by email as plain text to rma@ks.com by 15 January 1998.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops provide an opportunity for a group of up to 20 participants to discuss issues in both research and applied areas -- from one half day to two days in duration. Workshop attendance is normally by invitation, based on each attendee's response to a call for workshop participation. In general, the organizer drafts a call describing the workshop, and invites participants based on submitted position papers. The organizer should also develop an agenda in advance of the event. Keep in mind that workshops are different from paper

sessions in that ideas are not just to be presented; they are to be discussed in depth.

Submit a proposal containing: an outline of the theme and goals of the workshop, its relevance to the field and the intended audience; a description of the activities planned for the workshop, including duration, number of participants, selection process, workshop agenda and other pre- or post-workshop activities; and a brief description of each organizer's background, including past experience with workshops.

Submission: Submit by email as plain text to rma@ks.com by 15 January 1998.

PROPRIETARY OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The purpose of scientific meetings like DL98 is to share and disseminate information; papers which make claims that are not fully disclosed or that assert that their results may not be used in other work should not be considered acceptable. Therefore, your submission should contain no proprietary or confidential material and should cite no proprietary or confidential publications.

CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

Receipt of all submitted proposals will be confirmed by communique with the submitting author. If you do not receive such confirmation (probably most will be email) then assume the worst and check in. We will continue to send you confirmations -- until we hear back from you.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Chair
Robert M. Akscyn Knowledge Systems
rma@ks.com

Program Chair Ian Witten
Professor of Computer Science
University of Waikato, NZ
ihw@rimu.cs.waikato.ac.nz

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shipman@csdl.cs.tamu.edu

JOINING THE TEAM

If you would like to be a member of the DL98 conference team, we would heartily welcome your help. There are many opportunities to contribute to the success of the conference. Your

help would be much appreciated.

Version of 15August97 [from listerv email]

Our History

To continue the history "lesson", this issue covers the leaders during the 1980's. There are gaps in our archives - so if you can fill in any of the blanks, please contact the editor.

Leaders in the 1980's -- Officers

	Chair	Chair Elect	Past Chair	Recording Secretary	Memberhip Secretary	Treasurer	Chapte Council
1989	Edean Berglund	Wallace McLendon	Debra Ketchell	Pat Brown	Leilani St. Anna	Patrice O'Donovan	Mary Campbell Sylvia MacWillia
1988	Debbie Ketchell	Edean Berglund	Susan Long	Patricia Lysyk	Cathy Jordan	Patrice O'Donovan	Jim Mor & Kathy Murray
1987	Susan Long	Debbie Ketchell	Melvina Stell	Terry Ann Jankowski	Lisa Veium	Sylvia E. MacWilliams	James E. Morgan & Kathy Murray
1986	Melvina W. Stell	Susan Long	Connie Schardt	Cathy Jordan	Lisa Veium	Sylvia MacWilliams	Jim Morg & Kathy Murray
1985	Connie Schardt	Melvina Stell	Jane Belt	Mary Campbell	Susie Long	Sylvia MacWilliams	Kate Bar & Janet Schnall
1984	Jane Belt	Shirley Lewis	Bill Fraser	Connie Schardt		Pat Manlove	Kate Bar & Janet Schnall
1983	William Frazier	Jane Belt	Margaret McNamara				Kate Barber & Janet Schnall
1982	Margaret McNamara	William Frasier	Jim Morgan				
1981	James E. Morgan	Margaret McNamara	Janet Schnall	Karen Little		Isabel McDonald	Connie Schardt
1980	Janet G. Schnall	James E. Morgan	Anna R. Leith	Nymah Trued		Isabel McDonald	

Leaders in the 1980's -- Committee Chairs

	Bylaws	Education	Governmental Relations	Nominating	Program	Publicati
1989	Jan Schueller	Jackie Gagne	Susie Holt	Debra Ketchell		
1988	Janet Schnall	Mary Campbell	Wallace McLendon	Heather Rosenwinkel	Kathy Kaya	Kathy
1987	Heather Rosenwinkel	Connie Schardt	Sandy Biermann	Melvina Stell	Bob Pringle	
1986	Heather Rosenwinkel	Connie Schardt	Cheryl Goodwin	Connie Schardt		
1985	Edean Berglund	Heather Rosenwinkel	Betty Jo Jensen	Jane Belt	Debbie Graham	Lisa Ve
1984	Dale Middleton	Martha Leredu	Melvina Stell	Bill Fraser		Dick Pri
1983	Dale Middleton		Connie Schardt	Margaret McNamara		
1982	Dale Middleton			Jim Morgan		
1981	Dale Middleton		Leonoor Ingraham	Janet Schnall	Steven Teich	Terry J
1980	Dale Middleton		Leonoor Ingraham	Anna R. Leith	Marie Gillio & Cora Wilson	

Muriel Woods was the Archivist during the 80's. The Research committee began in 1989 and was chaired by Millard Johnson. The RML Liaison Committee was disolved during this time period, but was chaired by during its existence by Marion von Bruck (1980), Karen Little (1981), Steven Teich (1984), Mary Campbell (1985 & 1986). A separate Membership Committee appears to have been formed in 1989, first chaired by Leilani St. Anna and the Governmental Relations Committee was known as the Legislation Committee.

Today, September 23, the Apple Computer Library closed for good.

I don't know many details, but I do know that some of the best librarians I know are leaving a company to whom they've given their best for well over a decade. Among them are librarians like Steve Cisler and Janet Vratny, who were early champions of the Internet within the library community. Among Steve's many accomplishments were the organization of conferences for community-based networking (e.g., Free-Nets) and the Apple Library of Tommorow (ALOT) Program. Janet Vratny traveled widely to participate in the development of technical specifications at meetings few librarians attended, and yet the results of which touch our work every day.

No message as brief as this can do justice to the contributions of our Apple Library colleagues, and in any case I am not the one to write it. I know of their work only as it has touched my work, although it has frequently and with significant impact. Monica Ertel, the incredible leader who created it and kept it together for so long, is probably the only one really qualified to write it. But for now this will have to do.

Forgive me if I cannot call to mind any group of colleagues I respect more than those who are now closing their doors in Cupertino, California. Please join me in wishing them the very best of luck in whatever they choose to do.
Roy Tennant

Edupage, August 21, 1997

VIRTUAL HOSPITAL
Sabratek Corp. has developed a MediVIEW system that can monitor patients and adjust dosages in medication drip devices, all from a remote location. "I will give you a scenario," says Sabratek's president. "At two in the morning, a patient on a pain-management drug makes a call, tells a nurse that he's feeling pain and says the medicine doesn't seem to be working. The nurse calls the doctor, who increases the dosage. In the old system, the nurse would need to get up at 2 a.m. and drive to the patient's home to reset the device. This may cost $75 to $100 per trip. Using MediVIEW, you can connect that device to a computer through a regular phone line and change the dosage from your own bedside. And a doctor can download data to see what's going on with the patient." To enhance its capabilities, Sabratek recently invested in a computer system called Medically Oriented Operating Network (MOON) that enables continuous online, real-time monitoring, charting, recording and reporting of clinical patient information from any location. "Combining smart monitoring and infusion devices with the MOON system, we can create a virtual hospital at someone's home."
(Investor's Business Daily 21 Aug 97)

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American Library Association Washington Office Newsline

In this issue: (130 lines)

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRAISES SENATOR ASHCROFT FOR INTRODUCING BALANCED COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION; ACTION NEEDED

The American Library Association praised Sen. John Ashcroft (R-MO) for introducing the Digital Copyright Clarification and Technology Act of 1997 (S. 1146) yesterday.

Specifically, the "Digital Copyright Clarification and Technology Act of 1997" would amend the Copyright Act to make clear that:

-- libraries and non-profit educational institutions should not be liable for copyright infringement based solely on the basis of their users' activities and that any changes to the law of liability in this area must recognize the unique nature and mission of libraries and schools;

-- the Fair Use Doctrine (Section 107 of the Copyright Act) applies in the digital environment;

-- libraries and archives may use digital technology to preserve endangered materials and may make three preservation copies (provided that only one is available for use at a given time);

-- educators engaged in distance or asynchronous learning may use computer networks to remotely distribute a broader range of materials directly related to a defined curriculum to students enrolled in their classes;

-- electronic copies of material incidentally or temporarily made in the process of using a computer network may not serve as the sole basis for copyright infringement liability; and

-- individuals who deliberately use a computer network to violate copyright should be subject to substantial civil (but not criminal) liability, and that punishing infringing conduct is a better way to deter illegal activity than banning the manufacture of valuable devices with multiple purposes, such as personal computers or the next generation of video recorders. (Librarians and educators must have access to such devices to actually take advantage of fair use or other privileges afforded them under the Copyright Act.)

Robert Oakley, director of the Law Library at Georgetown University Law Center, said he was pleased with the introduction of Sen. Ashcroft's bill, which deals with many copyright issues currently facing the library community. Oakley--who testified today at a congressional hearing on online service provider liability on behalf of 18 of the nation's principal education and library organizations, including ALA--said that the hearing was a good dialogue between content providers and Internet service providers.

ALA is a member of the Digital Future Coalition, a collaboration of 38 of the nation's leading nonprofit educational, scholarly, library and consumer groups, together with major commercial trade associations representing leaders in the consumer electronics, telecommunications, computer and network access industries.

BACKGROUND: As previously reported, the Clinton Administration forwarded the December 1996 WIPO Copyright (and a related Phonograms) Treaty to the Senate in late July (see ALAWON v6, n67, August 1, 1997). Shortly thereafter, the Administration's legislation to implement the treaties was introduced in both chambers of Congress (S. 1121 and H.R. 2281). A separate House bill pertaining to the copyright liability of online service providers (H.R. 2180) also was introduced.

While Chairman Coble's H.R. 2180 constitutes a constructive starting point for the online service providers debate in the House, Sen. Ashcroft yesterday proposed broad new legislation which better reflects the interests and needs of libraries. Sen. Ashcroft is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee (to which his bill will be referred) and also sits on the Senate Commerce and Foreign Relations Committees, both of which will play significant roles in the coming domestic debate over WIPO Treaty ratification and implementation.

ACTION NEEDED: Sen. Ashcroft's action and Congressional Record statement yesterday (which quotes Sara Parker, Missouri's State Librarian) will help assure that the copyright issues of the greatest importance to libraries and educational institutions receive the proper attention during the ratification and implementation process. He is, however, just one of hundreds of Senators and Representatives whose support will be needed if the "Digital Copyright Clarification and Technology Act of 1997" is to become law. By Friday, September 12 library supporters in all 50 states are asked to:

1. E-mail or fax your thanks to Sen. John Ashcroft at 202/228-6154, especially if you're a Missourian;

2. E-mail or fax a message to your Senators and Representatives. Urge them to support the "Digital Copyright Clarification and Technology Act" (S. 1146) and encourage them to contact Adam Eisgrau, legislative counsel for ALA's Washington Office, at 202/628-8410 for more information on the copyright bill.

Portland Approaches

submitted by *Pam Bjork*

At this October's conference, plan on a 2-hour dinner river cruise on the Portland Spirit. Dress is casual--now when else in your lifetime will you get the opportunity to dine on pecan-crusted beef tenderloin, baked salmon topped with papaya salsa, or garden-fresh vegetarian lasagna in your favorite jeans? The dock is only five locks from the hotel and a bus will be available for those who don't choose to walk.

The conference speakers will be stimulating--Michael Gorman, Dean of Library Services at Cal-State, is our keynote speaker. Sonja Connor, Clinical Nutritionist, was recently highlighted in the Oregonian. Jann Mitchell, an author and Oregonian columnist, will be speaking on dealing with transitional change. Richard Zimmerman, MD will talk on the economics of health care.

You need to contact the Benson Hotel directly to make your room reservation. Be sure to say that you are coming as a part of the PNC conference. We need to make a certain number of rooms per night to keep our contract with them; otherwise we will have some major meeting room charges added to our bill.

If you need the details on program, speakers, CE, etc., visit the conference web site. Also included is information about Portland--things to see, where to eat, how to get around, events, etc.

For registration information contact Patsy Bacon, SW Washington Medical Center, Vancouver, WA 360-256-3228 or baconp@ohsu.edu.

Future PNC/MLA Meetings

Boise in 1998: October 27 - October 30.

Western Washington in 1999

Alaska in 2000: September 16-20

Online Northwest '98, an annual computerized information retrieval conference, will be held on Friday, February 6, 1998 at the Sheraton Hotel at the Portland airport. The conference is sponsored by the Oregon State System of Higher Education's Interstitutional Library Council, and includes sessions of interest for all librarians. Registration information will be sent out in late November.

For information about the conference you can go to the web page at:
http://www.sou.edu/library/onlinenw/online98.htm This page will be updated frequently with the
most current information. You can also contact Dolores Judkins, Oregon Health Sciences
University, 503/494-3478, e-mail judkinsd@ohsu.edu.

If you have not received a registration brochure by December 1st, you may contact Korey
Egge at 503/725-4815 or e-mail her at eggek@ses.pdx.edu

National Medical Librarians Month!!!

From: mlams@mlahq.org (Tomi Gunn)

This October is the first National Medical Librarians Month. Sponsored by MLA, the event will
heighten the awareness of related professionals and the general public about the value that
medical librarians bring to the health care team.

As part of the effort to highlight the role of health information professionals, MLA has procured
the services of a public relations firm, Public Communications, Inc. (PCI), to develop a
communications program aimed at the news media, health care professionals, and the general
public. The program's goal is to raise the awareness of medical librarians's specialized ability
to access andfilter medical information. As a prelude to its official; start in the spring, the public
relations campaign will survey librarians on the most frequently asked health care questions.
The survey results will be announced in October, when public relations efforts will turn to the
association's Centennial Celebration, which begins in May 1998. National Medical Librarians
Month focuses on personalized services, a hallmark of success in todays technologically
driven marketplace. Use this event to promote your expertise and library services in new and
exciting ways:

Be Highly Visible All Month

*Place flyers or business cards in every department and at every function.
*Make up tent cards for the cafeteria that describe new services or list library hours.
*Deliver consumer health pamphlets to patient rooms and waiting areas of the hospital.
*Distribute a list of new Web sites for specific diseases to faculty offices of lounge areas.
*Update your library's Web site with an announcement about National Medical Librarians
Month.

Do You Provide an Increasing Number of Consumer Health Services?

*Write an article for your local newspaper.
*Enlist your local public library as a partner in an effort to broaden the audience for your
message.
*Offer to host activities of local computer- or health-related special interest groups in your
community.
*If you have a library newsletter, focus a special issue on the librarian's important role in
thehospital, school, or company, and print up additional copies for wider distribution.

Publicize Your SuccessStories at Every opportunity!

*Have your clients ever provided specific feedback in response to your efforts? Use it! And use
this special month to solicit more testimonials and input from your clients for review and
planning purposes.
*Hold Friday receptions or Monday brunches in your library and invite VIPs or special groups
to stop by for coffee and talk about their information needs.

*Host a "What's New&" session one day a week (for example, every Wednesday during National Medical Librarians Month) to showcase new electronic capabilities and highlight the stellar support of the library staff.
*Host your own "Lunch and Learns"; to bring clients up to speed on information services.

The primary focus of this campaign is the quality of the services you provide as a professional medical librarian. Be proactive and toot your own horn! You and your colleagues are a critical link in the chain of health care delivery. Use National Medical Librarians Month as a catalyst to increase your fellow professionals'; awareness of your important skills and achievements.

[Editor's note: Chapters were contacted to "recruit" team members for NLM's team. Visit their page]

To: All Libraries Purchasing The AHA Guide (TM)

From: Rachael K. Anderson, President, MLA

Below is an explanation from Healthcare InfoSource, Inc. concerning the use of the Guide in your library. I want to thank all of our colleagues who contacted the organization and who suggested changes to the licensing agreement. Please contact me (rachaela@ahsl.arizona.edu)or Carla Funk with comments about the following explanation. Please also distribute the message to any other listservs. Thank you.

To: All Libraries Purchasing The AHA Guide (TM)

From: Healthcare InfoSource, Inc., a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association

RE: License for Customary Use of the AHA GUIDE Book

Those of you who have acquired the 1997/98 edition of The AHA Guide to the Health Care Field may have noticed the copyright sleeve surrounding the book. Please take a moment to read the following explanation in order to allay any concerns you may have regarding this notice.

Please be assured that Healthcare InfoSource, a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association understands that the book can and should be used, in a normal fashion, as a reference source by members of the public that rightfully use your library. Further, Healthcare Infosource understands that the book can and should be subjected to "fair use" copying (e.g., copying a relatively small portion for a non-commercial purpose). Healthcare Infosource certainly agrees to such review and copying of the book, since this is part of the noraml and ordinary use of reference materials at a library.

The license that accompanied the AHA GUIDE was not intended to interfere with such cutomary use of the book at a library. Rather, the license is intended to help stop those who would copy substantial portions of the book and then try to place Healthcare InfoSource at a commercial disadvantage by, for example, re-selling the data or placing the data on the Internet.

Healthcare InfoSource does not wish to interfere with normal and ordinary handling of reference materials by your library. Please call me at the telephone number below (or e-mail me at cpeders1@AHA.org) if you have any questions or would like further assurances.

Sincerely,

Caryn E. Pedersen
Director, Product Management
Healthcare InfoSource, Inc.
312-422-2131

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August 1997
RACHAEL K. ANDERSON IS NEW MLA PRESIDENT

Rachael K. Anderson, AHIP, Director, Arizona Health Sciences Library, University of Arizona, Tucson, has assumed the role of president of the Medical Library Association (MLA) for the 1997-98 year. President Anderson took office in May at the end of MLA '97, in Seattle, WA.

In her role as president during the association's centennial year, Anderson will lead the organization in spotlighting the services health sciences librarians have provided for almost 100 years. "I plan to direct MLA resources and public attention during the centennial year to programs that focus on expanding librarians' roles and that advocate commensurate support and recognition," she said.

Anderson has an active and extensive history with MLA. She has been appointed to various committees of MLA including the Task Force on Knowledge and Skills and the Platform for Change Implementation Task Force. Anderson has also served as Chair of the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Board of Regents and as a member of the NLM Planning Panel on the Education and Training of Health Sciences Librarians.

Regarded as a "change agent," she has long been committed to achieving higher status for women in health sciences library administration, and to restructuring the profession to meet current and future needs.

MLA looks forward to working under Anderson's leadership and guidance as it embarks on its second century.

October 1997
CONFERENCE ON FAIR USE OF COPYRIGHTED WORKS CONCLUDES WITHOUT CONSENSUS; EDUCATORS, SCHOLARS, LIBRARIANS TO EXPLORE NEXT STEPS

MLA participated in the Conference on Fair Use (CONFU) which was initiated in September of 1994 to facilitate informal discussion of the parameters of fair use in the digital environment in educational, scholarly and library settings among copyright proprietors, producers and users.

Hosted by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, CONFU effectively ended on May 19, 1997. Informal discussion of more than twenty relevant topics was undertaken over that 32 month period by scores of corporate and organizational representatives. In CONFU's last year, the agenda was distilled in intense debate to the possible production of fair use "guidelines" covering just three issue areas.

Ultimately, proposals concerning some aspects of distance learning and digital image collections were circulated for comment. Neither, however, garnered broad and deep support in both the proprietary and user communities participating in CONFU. In addition, multimedia-focused proposals (developed in parallel to CONFU and presented to the participants last November) provoked widely disparate responses and confusion given their aggressive promotion to Congress and the user community despite having been rejected by many of the nation's principal educational, scholarly and library organizations.

A summary of conclusions and agreements reached at May's final CONFU meeting follows this report. Virtually all present, however, concurred that the process provided an excellent forum for constructive dialogue between information proprietors and users. Many also expressed the hope that CONFU serve as the foundation for future discussions.

Looking ahead, CONFU participants' inability to craft consensus guidelines (ones which provide effective copyright protection to information proprietors and afford users appropriate access to information without fear of litigation) presents educators, scholars and librarians - - and their national representatives--with the opportunity and responsibility to explore the appropriate parameters of fair use to the extent that experience and good faith permit. Members of the educational, scholarly and copyright user communities listed below, therefore, individually and collectively commit themselves to the following:

· We will share experiences concerning: the application of new technology in library and educational environments, "fair uses" made of copyrighted works, proprietors' responses to requests for permission to use copyrighted materials, and sources of helpful information regarding fair use and other privileges under copyright law;

· We will participate in organized efforts to capture and disseminate such information;

· We will assist in the development of "User Community Principles" and educator- and librarian-generated "Best Practices" concerning fair use, distance learning, and other activities supported by current copyright law;

· We will work to extend the application of fair use into digital networked environments in libraries and educational institutions by relying on it responsibly to lawfully make creative use of information; – more –

· We will resist relying on any proposed code of conduct which may substantially or artificially constrain the full and appropriate application of fair use; and

· We will encourage our members to reject any licensing agreement clause that implicitly or explicitly limits or abrogates fair use or any other legally conveyed user privilege.

Endorsing Organizations

American Association of Law Libraries
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Council of Learned Societies
American Library Association
Association of American Universities
Association of Research Libraries

Medical Library Association
National Association of State Universities & Land-Grant Colleges
National Education Association
National Humanities Alliance
National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage
National School Boards Association
Special Libraries Association

October 1997
MLA SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSES $2.5 MILLION NLM CUT

On the morning of July 30, MLA Headquarters staff learned that an amendment slashing $2.5 million from the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) 1998 appropriations would be offered in the U.S. House of Representatives later that day. With only hours to act, a successful action plan was developed to contact the key Congressional leaders about the importance of NLM's programs and services that support health care in the United States.

Through a series of phone calls with MLA's Washington Representative Dale P. Dirks, staff learned that the elected official proposing the amendment was interested in learning more about NLM's programs and services prior to taking action. The official promptly received a letter highlighting NLM's contributions to health care, and MLA members living in the official's district made phone calls to explain the importance of NLM in their geographical area.

Within a few hours, Mr. Dirks and MLA members who had responded to the call for action received phone calls from Capitol Hill telling them that the amendment would not be proposed. MLA Executive Director Carla J. Funk recognized the value of this crucial exchange: "On behalf of the members of the Medical Library Association, we are pleased that our elected officials take the time to listen to our message before making a decision that could severely impact our nation's access to health information."

Gone But Not Forgotten

Connie Schardt wouldn't be at PNC/MLA this year. Rather, she will be receiving the Mid-Atlantic Chapter Librarian of the Year award at the same time! Congratulations,Connie!

JOB POSTING

Western States Chiropractic College is taking applications for Assistant Librarian (32 hrs/wk; .91FTE). This is a faculty tenure-track position with rank. Responsibilities include audiovisual collection development and cataloguing, bibliographic instruction, reference, web page maintenance, and public access computer planning & organization. Applicants must have an ALA accredited MLS degree, several years of health sciences library experience, and OCLC cataloguing skills as well as knowedge of MeSH and NLM classification. Also required are bibliographic instruction, Internet, and online searching experience. The position will start January 4, 1998.

Please send cover letter, resume, and three references to:

Alan Toothaker, Director of Human Resources
Western States Chiropractic College

2900 NE 132nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97230-3099
(503)251-2819 Fax: (503)251-5723

What Do You Think/Worry About Most???

[Originally posted June 3, 1997 on Hlib-NW]

In May ago I posed to this list the question "what are the 3 most pressing issues facing you as a medical librarian in this region?" Here's a summary of the responses:

I got 29 responses in 2 days. All were thoughtful; some downright eloquent. I got the feeling I had pushed a hot button for some.

16 respondents are in hospital/clinical settings; 12 in academic settings; 1 in a corporate setting.

Boiling many variations in theme down to nuggets, the 29 respondents indicated 2 very clear concerns that dominated all others. Each of these 2 had as many different shades and spins expressed as there were respondents. But, with some license, I think it's fair to lump them under these broad headings:

1. Managing and providing access to electronic information resources.

This (and it's many variations) was favored as #1 or #2 by 16 respondents -- 10 hospital and 6 academic. Variations ranged from licensing issues, to technical aspects of desktop delivery, to delivering resources to distant users, and all shades in between.

2. Managed care and downsizing/merging.

Again, many variations on this theme; some having to do with the bottom line focus of short-sighted administrators and others having to do with the implications of serving increasingly diverse groups of users, in long-term care facilities and home health care settings, for example. This one was favored by 11 respondents: not surprisingly, mostly (but not all) on the hospital side (8 to 3).

There was no clear choice for the 3rd spot. Technically, with 4 votes, "serials inflation/collection cuts" was a distant third.

We quickly drop to those that were mentioned twice: upgrading obsolete hardware/software, increasing funding from outside sources, meeting demands for consumer health information, and web site development/management/training.

There were many more unique responses. You can argue that any of these could be grouped in various ways but I ran out of time and energy to do so. Here's a sampling of them:

- the chokehold that commercial publishers have on libraries
- intranet development
- the continuing disintegration & fragmentation of knowledge resources
- changing and updating technical skills of library staff
- practice guidelines development
- too much focus on technology instead of users
- having to do more with less
- lack of professional contact with librarians

- security of library materials
- information systems are institution-based rather than patient- or even provider-based

For what it's worth, this biased sample provides a snapshot of what we as a professional group are thinking about these days. There is some diversity within a broad consensus of opinion, as you might expect; some small surprises perhaps but no big ones.

Neil Rambo

Converting Library Systems

We are currently operating 4 separate library systems while trying to pretend we are one library on 4 sites. It isn't working. (slight understatement!!). We are planning to convert the 4 systems to one integrated system and I am interested in talking to anyone who has done a project like this. One system is MARC; the others are not. We are running: InMagic, Sydney Plus (2 sites), Columbia Library System. We want all data to be MARC format. If you've had experience with this pleases contact me directly. TIA, Kim

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Calgary Regional Health Authority
Foothills Medical Centre
Phone: (403) 670-2496 Fax: (403) 670-1174
Kim.Polvi@CRHA-Health.Ab.Ca

And The Count Goes UP!

Greetings all:
Grandchild number 8 arrived this morning (August 29th) at 4:29 a.m. today.
Brock Evan Werder. 8 lbs, 1 oz. That makes 4 grandaughters, and 4 grandsons - nice evem numbers.

William H. & Doreen Smith, Fairbanks, Alaska