

Northwest Notes

Newsletter of the
Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association

Volume 14, Number 5

October - December 1993

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Betty Jo Jensen

This message is the final time you will hear from me as PNC Chair. I write with mixed feelings. The first is relief that my term of office is completed, the annual meeting behind me, and all my reports to MLA written and sent. The rest are a mixture of pleasure and perhaps a little regret. The regret is that I will no longer be the first to know what is going on. The phone doesn't ring as often as it did in September and October, with calls from all over the Region, and even the rest of the United States. The pleasure is in having worked with a wonderful executive board and in getting to know so many more PNC members. Thank you to everyone who helped me through this year as PNC Chair.

I know Patrice has some exciting ideas for the coming year and a very capable executive board to aid her in their implementation. By the time we are together again in Couer d'Alene, we will have had many months experience with our changed ILL structure, our Northwest listserv and the Internet. More of us will have seen JCAHO and experienced the effect of the new hospital standards. We will be further along in health care reform and all the changes that is bringing to our work. This is a time when our professional organizations and networking with colleagues can be especially helpful. It is a good time to become an active participant. ☞

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND BEST WISHES FOR
THE COMING YEAR.

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PNC/MLA OFFICERS 1994

Patrice O'Donovan, Chair

Suzy Holt, Chair-Elect

Dolores Judkins, Past-Chair

Kay Irvine, Secretary

Vickie Croft, Treasurer

Bob Pringle, Newsletter Editor (ex-officio)

State and Province Reports

ALASKA REPORT

October 1993

Judith Bendersky's position at the Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage has been re-classified to permanent part-time. Doreen Smith's hospital (Fairbanks Memorial) is expanding its ambulatory care services. It is anticipated this will impact the library but it is too soon to know. The Health Sciences Information Service, Consortium Library University of Alaska Anchorage reports that the Rural Alaska Health Information Access Grant (NLM Information Systems Grant) has entered its third year. To-date eight rural hospitals have selected to participate in the grant. Neil Rambo and Barbara Sokolov made presentations concerning medical library services at the Alaska Hospital and Nursing Home Association meeting in Petersburg in August. In September HSIS invited Mary Anne Blake to Anchorage to give the GRATEFUL MED train the trainer course. HSIS has exhibited this year at the Rural Alaska Health Conference and a conference for nursing educators. The Health of the Inuit of North America: a bibliography from the earliest times through 1990 was compiled with the assistance of HSIS staff. ❧

Submitted by Jeri van den Top
(ANJIV@ALASKA)

ALBERTA Report

October 1993

There have been lots of changes in Alberta over the past year. Most of the positive changes are occurring in the area of automation and cooperative projects. Some of the more negative changes are occurring in the loss of personnel and the approach of the Alberta Govt to Health Care reform.

DOCLINE has moved somewhat further along. The Universities of Alberta and Calgary both have their holdings listed as well as a few of the smaller libraries. There is a pilot project amongst the western universities to explore the use of the DOCLINE for increased resource sharing. This is not fully active yet. The Calgary health libraries are applying for a grant to get their holdings into DOCLINE. Edmonton uses the same company to produce their list as the Medical Library Service worked with to create a format for loading the holdings into DOCLINE, and they will update their list first before applying to have their holdings entered.

Last spring Edmonton libraries began the process of forming a consortium based on sharing catalogue information; NEOS - Networking Edmonton Online Systems. This initiative was from the University of Alberta which was in the process of looking for a new automated system. Lots of libraries were involved in the selection. The Integrated Library System chosen was DRA. Implementation started last April with a variety of working teams: the database record, the public access team etc. All of the teams included non-University of Alberta Librarians and most of them included health libraries people. The Edmonton Health Libraries group is very active and the librarians have provided really good input. In particular, they encouraged the retention and display of the MESH. In the U of A's previous catalogue had been on the records but suppressed. The catalogue dept had recommended stripping these heading at the time of the

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BC REPORT

November 1993

The western Canadian pilot of DOCLINE in Canada began in earnest in 1993 with the first request going from the Medical Library Service to the University of Washington in May and the first Loansome Doc request coming from a Vancouver physician to the Medical Library Service in June. Twenty-five smaller health science libraries in BC, CISTI (Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information), one Edmonton hospital library, and libraries at the Universities of BC, Manitoba, Alberta, and Calgary are currently participating. Tests with PNC libraries in the US are being arranged. Nancy Press of the NN/LM PNW centre in Seattle has given the pilot invaluable support; without her expertise to call on, running the pilot would have been very difficult.

As a result of the requirement that Canadians access DOCLINE via the Internet, arrangements have been made for all BC health science libraries who do not already have Internet access to be provided with this service via BC Systems, the crown corporation which provides computing services to the provincial government. BC Systems also maintains numerous databases for the BC Ministry of Health, so we expect other useful spin-offs of this arrangement.

(cont' page 7, column A)

IDAHO REPORT

October 1993

There has been a renewed interest in libraries in some of the small, rural hospitals this year. St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center hosted a Rural Network Conference and the library managers from four of the hospitals had a chance to meet and discuss common concerns with Judy Balcerzak, medical librarian from St. Alphonsus and Nancy Van Dinter, Idaho State Library. This was the first time they had been invited to participate. Two of the participants had begun updating long neglected collections and all upgraded their skills in Grateful Med. One began using Grateful Med and training others on the staff after the software had remained unused at the hospital for several years.

Maryanne Blake from the NN/LM visited the state and gave Grateful Med training and demonstrations in several rural locations. One library in eastern Idaho, Bingham Memorial in Blackfoot, expanded its library services. The librarian, Margaret Davis, wrote a grant for startup equipment,

(cont'd page 3, column C)

MONTANA REPORT

October 1993

The McLaughlin Research Institute in Great Falls opened a library and hired Barbara Crain as their librarian. They are participating in DOCLINE. Their LIBID is 59405A and their SERHOLD code is MLR. St. Vincent Hospital in Billings lost its part-time tech position. Currently the library is sharing a secretary with Personnel and using volunteers to assist the librarian, Bonnie Chadbourne. Billings Clinic and Deaconess Medical Center in Billings are integrating. Library services will be provided by 1.5 professionals and 1.5 support staff. Gail Wilkerson at the Miles City VA received a Grateful Med Outreach Grant. St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula officially opened its new library quarters on October 1st. The library included a special collection of 500 titles in the fields of medical humanities and bioethics. St. Pat's also has extended and expanded its Information Access Grant to purchase computer equipment and to provide Grateful Med training for the faculty and students at the Salish-Kootenai Tribal College in Pablo, MT. ❧
Submitted by Kim Granath
GA_KG@LEWIS.UMT.EDU

OREGON REPORT

October 1993

Ann von Segen, St. Vincent Hospital, lost a full-time technician due to re-location, and the position is now frozen. Ann reports that services such as photocopying, have ceased. *Madelyn Hall*, Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center, may face a similar situation in December when her half-time technician leaves. Many more libraries in Oregon are gaining access to the Internet, including Planetree Health Resource Center, Linfield College, and Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center. The *Legacy librarians* (Meridian Park Hospital, Emanuel Hospital and Health Center, Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center, Mt. Hood Medical Center, and the Visiting Nurses Association) have written a proposal to bring Medline accessibility to physicians' offices via CD-PLUS. The proposal is written to include 15 simultaneous users. This may be a reality by June 1994.

OHSLA has several program ideas for 1994, including: MEDLINE and DOCLINE updates with Nancy Press and Linda Milgrom of the RML; a trip to the State Library to learn more about ORPAC, the Oregon Public Access Catalogue and databases, with Bob Thornhill.

Peggy Baldwin, Providence Medical Center, and *Ann von Segen*, St. Vincent's, announce that their libraries have a CD network which should be mounted in November, with "beta testing" continuing through December.

Planetree Health Resource Center is part of an LSCA grant to link together the libraries in the Columbia Gorge. The project is the first in line for state funding of LSCA grant money. *Michele Johns* of Planetree, hopes to begin initial implementation steps in 1994. Michele also reports seeing about 250 people a month now at the Planetree Health Resource Center and is awaiting delivery of their public access computer so their patrons can search databases themselves and also Planetree's holdings. Michele says her staff gives about 6-10 tours a month to interested health care institutions.

Oregon librarians will participate in a family practice conference in Portland, February 14-15, 1994, with a joint display by OHSU (CD-PLUS) and OHSLA (Grateful Med). The three Kaiser Permanente libraries (Kaiser Sunnyside, Bess Kaiser, and Kaiser Center for Health Research) have a networked Silver Platter's cd-rom system. Networked databases include full

MEDLINE, Cinahl, Health Planning and Administration.

Nancy Brown, former librarian at Kaiser Center for Health Research, will be working temporarily at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center (December-January) and at Bess Kaiser (January-March), filling in for two maternity leaves. ❧

Submitted by Madelyn Hall

WASHINGTON REPORT

October 1993

A new way of producing the 1994 WMLA Union List was proposed and approved. The records will now be maintained by the Pacific Northwest Regional staff of the National Network of Libraries (aka the RML) as a part of Docline. A grant requesting funding to put the holdings into WLN will be submitted to the Washington State Library.

The WMLA board made recommendations re: cell placement in the Docline routing tables in response to the disruption of traditional patterns of lending/borrowing caused by document delivery agreements drawn up between the University of Washington Health Sciences Library and Information Center and several Seattle Area Hospital Library Consortium members. The recommendations were based on the number of current serial subscriptions. Hopefully, those libraries that want to continue reciprocal lending/borrowing will use the smallest collections first so that the largest libraries do not get swamped.

The bylaws were rewritten, incorporating the WMLA mission statement developed in 1992.

WMLA chose a new Regional Advisory Committee member, Robin Braun. Marcia Batchelor, the 1994 WMLA President, will represent WMLA on the newly created Washington State Resource Sharing Advisory Team. ❧

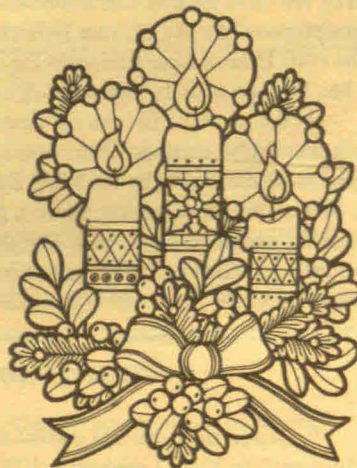
Submitted by Ellen Howard
1993 WMLA President

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attended MEDLARS training and became a full Docline participant. She has also become a regular participant in the activities of the Idaho Health Information Association.

The Idaho Health Information Association sponsored two MEDLARS training sessions this year. *Linda Milgrom* taught Cancerlit/PDQ at Twin Falls in the spring and Medline/MESH/Health this fall at Coeur d'Alene. To ensure that more members can attend continuing education opportunities the Association set up a new Professional Development Fund to provide financial assistance to those who need it.

Kathy Nelson from Madison Memorial Hospital in Rexburg has been appointed to the Idaho State Library Advisory Council. She will represent special libraries. There is a continuing interest in the Internet. *Marcy Horner* at Kootenai Medical Center is participating in the Bench to Bedside project. *Judy Balcerzak* has just received an Internet address, and other librarians are considering dial-up service providers. The State Library is holding an Internet focus group meeting on October 25 which will include members from the school, public library, economic development and hospital communities. The objective is to foster cooperation and collaboration. ❧
Submitted by Nancy Van Dinter,
Health Information Consultant, Idaho State Library



COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 1993

The PNC/MLA governmental relations committee meet in Portland on October 20, 1993. The committee roster includes Bob Pringle, Jim Henderson, Jeri van den Topp, Marcy Horner, Leslie Wykoff, and Neil Rambo - ex-officio. Each committee member shared with the committee activities that were happening in each state and province. All issues discussed dealt with health care reform and how these are affecting our libraries and our changing roles as professional medical librarians. The following items were discussed and will be acted on by the committee:

1. Encourage PNC/MLA members to know who their representatives health care aides are and become knowledgeable about federal and state legislation that impacts on our professional and access to information.

2. The PNC/MLA government relations committee members will use the INTERNET for their communication tool. A distribution list will be implemented by the committee chair for communication from ALA and MLA.

3. All PNC/MLA members are encouraged to respond to the joint MLA/AAHSLD Legislative task force draft position paper on the health care reform movement. This document will be posted on the MEDLIB-L and AAHSLD Listservs and should be available in November.

4. All PNC/MLA members are encouraged to read the Capital News column in the MLA NEWS. This provides the best overview of governmental issues that need membership involvement. Please read and heed. As chair of the committee, I have handouts, minutes from the MLA government relations committee in Chicago, IL, minutes from the Governmental Relations Chapter Roundtable session, and MLA Governmental Relations memorandums. Copies are available to all. Please contact me. I also emphasize the need for all members to become politically active. This committee is the ACTION committee of the 90's and we need to voice our concern with the Health Care Reform Movement. A special thanks to Mary Langman, MLA governmental relations liaison for her excellent handouts and information that is available to all chapter members. ❧

Bonnie R. Chadbourne, Chair
Governmental Relations Committee

sv_bonnie@vino.emcmt.edu
FAX 406-657-7580

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 1993

The PNC/MLA Bylaws were last revised in November 1990 to incorporate changes approved by the Board and to conform with the Model Bylaws for Chapters and Sections issued by the MLA Bylaws Committee in March 1990. Since that time there have been no changes proposed for the Chapter Bylaws. Shortly after the Chapter's 1992 Annual Meeting, the PNC Bylaws were submitted for the files at MLA headquarters. Aside from that, there has been no activity this year.

At the point the Bylaws are next revised, we will want to submit the Bylaws to MLA for review, a fairly recent process never undertaken previously. New Model Bylaws are expected to be developed by the MLA Bylaws Committee before the MLA meeting in May 1994. Reviewing those models would be a good opportunity for the Board and Committee to consider any proposed changes to PNC's Bylaws. ❧

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Schueller, Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Report 1993

Presently, there are 203 current members of PNC/MLA. This includes: 5 life members, 3 renewals to 1994, 1 renewal to 1995. In 1993, we recruited 19 new members. In addition, we have 23 special memberships (which includes other MLA regional chapters and MLA Newsletter editors). This brings our total membership to 227. ❧

Submitted by Leza Hamby,
Membership Secretary and Chair, Membership Committee

PNC NOMINATING COMMITTEE COMMITTEE

Nominees for PNC offices were:

Chair-Elect: Robert Pringle, Suzy Holt

Secretary: Kay Irvine, Brynne Beals

Treasurer: Vicki Croft, Pia Fish

MLA Nominating: Susan Long, Debbie Ketchell

The membership elected Suzy Holt, Kay Irvine, Vicki Croft, and Susan Long.

Submitted by Dolores Judkins, Chair,
Nominating Committee

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT PNC/MLA CONFERENCE OCT 20-22, 1994

The theme was "The Vision: Looking Outward, Looking Inward". Rachael Anderson, the director of the University of Arizona and our keynote speaker, helped us to focus outward in a very well received talk entitled, "Health Information Challenges for the Library: Threat of Opportunity." Other topics covered in the conference included the Oregon plan as a response to the need for healthcare reform, demonstrating a commitment to change (looking inward), the information seeking behavior of primary care physicians, and the new JCAHO standards and the importance for needs assessment in our institutions. A panel of our peer shared their experience on the Internet with us, giving us ideas about how the Internet can be useful in our everyday library activities. The most popular continuing education classes were "Quickdoc" and "Down the rabbit hole: an adventure into the Internet." The evaluations received from conference participants indicated that we have just begun to scratch the surface of training the people would like to see concerning the Internet. This conference's program and continuing education were attended by 139 people. Besides a schedule of stimulating speakers, participants also enjoyed the elegant setting of the Benson in downtown Portland and the well prepared and presented meals. ❧

Submitted by Peggy Baldwin
PNC/MLA Conference Chair

PUBLICATIONS

A new publication designed to assist librarians in collecting and cataloging health sciences books will debut in October. The bimonthly journal is called **Doody's Health Sciences Book Review Journal**. The publication will include bibliographic citations and quantitative analyses of the books: author, title, publisher, price, ISBN, NLM#, LCC/CIP data, the number of illustrations, references, tables, and contributors, as well as information about author and contributor affiliations and the kind of artwork in the book. None of the participating publishers has paid a fee to get their books noticed or reviewed. As the first issue of the journal is being prepared for publication, more than 1,000 books with 1993 copyrights have been received. Publishers who account for more than 65% of the 3,000 titles published annually are already participating, range from Saunders, Mosby, and Lippincott to Quality Medical, Munksgaard, and Guilford Press. The journal can be ordered through your subscription agent or directly from Doody Publishing (1-800-219-9500). ❧

From the Editor

It has been my pleasure to collect, edit and publish Northwest Notes during the past year. While the hours this has taken always exceeded what I expected, the value I believe these few pages have to the members of PNC makes the effort worthwhile.

I thought I'd give you a brief update on my situation - mostly to ease your minds! I am currently working at the University of Washington Health Sciences Library and Information Center as a half-time temporary systems librarian. The position is funded until the middle of June. I'm having a ball learning new software packages with the final goal of teaching their use to other library staff members. I have also signed on to work as a substitute librarian at the Bellevue Public Library (the largest branch of the King County Public Library System - 80,000 square feet with an emphasis on business reference). This may work into a permanent position.

So, life continues, both for me and for the library staff at Providence. In fact, Susan Way and Leilani St. Anna will be working part-time at Providence for the next three months while Peggy Burt takes her maternity leave-of-absence.

I've kept my internet code (kmurray@halcyon.com), so keep in touch! Kathy Murray

Professional Calendar

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Apr. 27-29, 1994 | Computers in Healthcare Education Symposium '94 , "Development & Management of Multimedia, Networks, & Information Resources". Contact: Jerilyn Garofalo, 215/222-1532, fax: 215/222-0416. |
| May 13-20, 1994 | MLA Annual Meeting , San Antonio, TX. |
| Fall 1994 | PNC/MLA Annual Meeting , Coeur D'Alene, ID |
| May 6-12, 1995 | MLA Annual Meeting , Washington, D.C. |
| Fall 1995 | PNC/MLA Annual Meeting , Western Washington |
| May 21-28, 1997 | MLA Annual Meeting , Seattle, WA. |

AUTOMATION COLUMN

This issue's column describes some ideas for preserving access to data stored on either cd-roms or floppy disks. CD-ROMs are not indestructible, they can be scratched. Plan a maintenance program to clean the disks with a dry, soft cloth, wiping from the center. Avoid using solvents or cleaners. Even if caddies are used, keep in mind that dust can accumulate.

Floppy disks (both 5.25 and 3.5 inch) should be thought of as temporary storage. Data integrity can deteriorate, especially from disks that are more than a year old. The editors of Library Systems Newsletter offer the following disk handling suggestions:

1. Always store disks immediately after use in a storage box designed for them.
2. Write on the label, and THEN affix it to the floppy. Do not use a pencil because the graphite can damage the disk.
3. Oils from your hand or finger should be kept away from the oval opening on floppies. This exposed part on the larger floppy disks can also be scratched, so keep fingers and objects away from this opening.
4. Smoking is harmful to both computers, their peripherals and humans!
5. Residues from liquids form on floppies - so don't use sprays or liquids near disks.
6. Avoid fumes from cleaners, nail polish, glue, etc.
7. Magnetic fields will erase the disks. Magnets are in many products: radios, telephones, dimmer switches, and of course magnetized screw drivers.
8. Copy data from heavily used disks, since they lose their magnetism after time.
9. Back-up all important data on a regular basis. ❧

Pacific Northwest Chapter of MLA (PNC/MLA) Willingness to Serve Form

PNC/MLA needs your help to attain our goals. If you are willing to serve on a committee, please complete this form.

I am interested in being appointed to a committee whose term of tenure is 1/94 - 12/94. Please choose from the following committees: Automation, Bylaws, Education, Governmental Relations, 1995 Program Committee, Publications, and Research.

Preference - 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

If none of these committees has an opening, I am willing to serve on any committee!
_____ Yes _____ No

Please send your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address to:

**Suzy Holt, Shodair Childrens Hospital, Shodair Medical Library, 840 Helena Ave.
PO Box 5539, Helena, MT 59604**

- PAUL REVERE VIRUS:** This revolutionary virus does not horse around. It warns you of impending hard disk attack—once if by LAN, twice if by C:.
- POLITICALLY CORRECT VIRUS:** Never calls itself a "virus," but instead refers to itself as an "electronic microorganism."
- RIGHT TO LIFE VIRUS:** Won't allow you to delete a file, regardless of how old it is. If you attempt to erase a file, it requires you to first see a counselor about possible alternatives.
- ROSS PEROT VIRUS:** Activates every component in your system, just before the whole thing quits.
- MARIO CUOMO VIRUS:** It would be a great virus, but it refuses to run.
- OPRAH WINFREY VIRUS:** Your 200MB hard drive suddenly shrinks to 80MB, and then slowly expands back to 200MB.
- AT&T VIRUS:** Every three minutes it tells you what great service you are getting.
- THE MCI VIRUS:** Every three minutes it reminds you that you're paying too much for the AT&T virus.
- TED TURNER VIRUS:** Colorizes your monochrome monitor.
- ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER VIRUS:** Terminates and stays resident. It'll be back.
- DAN QUAYLE VIRUS:** Prevents your system from spawning any child processes without joining into a binary network.
- DAN QUAYLE VIRUS 2:** Their is sumthing rong with your computer, ewe just can't figyour out watt.
- GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST VIRUS:** Nothing works, but all your diagnostic software says everything is fine.
- NEW WORLD ORDER VIRUS:** Probably harmless, but it makes a lot of people really mad just thinking about it.
- GALLUP VIRUS:** Sixty percent of the PCs infected will lose 38 percent of their data 14 percent of the time (plus or minus a 3.5 percent margin of error).
- TEXAS VIRUS:** Makes sure that it's bigger than any other file.
- ADAM AND EVE VIRUS:** Takes a couple of bytes out of your Apple.
- MICHAEL JACKSON VIRUS:** Hard to identify because it is constantly altering its appearance. This virus won't harm your PC, but it will trash your car.
- AIRLINE VIRUS:** You're in Dallas, but your data is in Singapore.
- FREUDIAN VIRUS:** Your computer becomes obsessed with marrying its own motherboard.
- PBS VIRUS:** Your PC stops every few minutes to ask for money.
- OLLIE NORTH VIRUS:** Turns your printer into a document shredder.
- SEARS VIRUS:** Your data won't appear unless you buy new cables, power supply, and a set of shocks.
- JIMMY HOFFA VIRUS:** Nobody can find it.
- CONGRESSIONAL VIRUS:** Runs every program on the hard drive simultaneously, but doesn't allow the user to accomplish anything.
- KEVORKIAN VIRUS:** Helps your computer shut down whenever it wants to.
- STAR TREK VIRUS:** Invades your system in places where no virus has gone before.
- CLEVELAND INDIANS VIRUS:** Makes your 486/50 machine perform like a 286/AT.
- LAPD VIRUS:** It claims it feels threatened by the other files on your PC and erases them in "self-defense."

(con't from page 2, column B)

database walk. The problem of updating the old MESH headings and maintaining the authority has not yet been resolved. Implementation of the new system has moved quickly. Cataloguing began on DRA in July, the database walk occurred in August. The public catalogue and circulation were available at the beginning of September. This required the creation of LANS in every library, wired to a central backbone and the placement of over 400 486's between June and August. The next stage will be to add the non-U of A libraries to the catalogue. There will be one shared database with multiple holdings. The govt libraries will begin inputting data in December and the first health library should go in early in 1994.

As part of the NEOS project the Edmonton health libraries have formalized their ILL arrangements with the U of A. The health libraries have employed a half-time ILL person to retrieve and photocopy materials on a daily basis. The cost of the person is shared equitably. During the NEOS forming

process and the review of ILS system the need for a distributed MEDLINE as well as other health files was recognized. A team was formed which included university people and hospital librarians. They RFP process, on-site visits and selection process took about two months. As the University of Calgary was going through the same process but a few months behind, the Universities have been working on a very collaborative project to have a provincial implementation of MEDLINE beginning in the two cities. They are currently in the stage of preparing a major grant application. The University Faculties and the hospital libraries in both cities have been very supportive of the project and this should strengthen the grant application.

The MEDICAL INFORMATION SERVICE project run out of both Universities as a service to rural docs continues. There is some small increase in numbers of subscriber. The University of Alberta office has begun to collaborate with a

project being developed by one of the local neurologist. The project SYNAPSE, has developed a NEXT version of Grateful Med, is working on a bulletin board for consultation purposes and particularly is hopeful of providing access to Consensus Guidelines in SGML hypertext format.

Financially the health care sector in Alberta is facing difficult times. The government of Alberta is working to eliminate a substantial deficit in the next three years. This has resulted in hospital closings, mergers and consortiums, with massive layoffs. So far there have been no librarians laid off but this may be a matter of time. The library position in Fort McMurray was eliminated and the one for three Edmonton teaching hospitals has not been filled since a May vacancy. The position has been advertised. Both of the provincial Cancer Centre librarians will be resigning and it is not known whether they will be replaced. Within the government, the Health Dept lost one librarian due to downsizing.

The University of Calgary Medical

MLA News

CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM MLA

The Medical Library Association provides support for the continuing education activities of its members by providing grants which are awarded annually. The purpose of these grants is to provide members with the opportunity to increase their competence in the theoretical, administrative, and/or technical aspects of health sciences librarianship. Grants range from \$100 to \$500. The Continuing Education Grant Jury (composed of 3 MLA members) evaluates all applications. Applications must be submitted to the Continuing Education Grant Jury chair by February 1, 1994. Contact MLA HEADQUARTERS (312-419-9094) for the CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM. The Jury Chair for 1993-1994 is:

Judy Consales
Pacific Southwest Region NN/LM
Louise Darling Biomedical Library
University of California, Los Angeles
10833 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1798

310-825-1200
ecz5con@mvs.oac.ucla.edu

Library has a new director: *John Cole*. The nursing librarian's position has not been filled and the work has been picked up by one of the three librarians in the medical library. The University of Alberta also lost their nursing librarian and the position is still frozen. ❧ Submitted by Lea Starr
Reference Services Coordinator
John Scott Library, University of Alberta
LSTARR@UALTA.VM.BITNET

(con't from page 2, column B)

CISTI issued a new strategic plan late in 1992 calling for a shift to a more business-like organization, with industry identified as the primary clientele. As a result of this plan, the Health Science Resource Centre, the unit of CISTI which has been our equivalent of NLM, was closed in July, with its functions as an International MEDLARS Center and as a provider of reference transferred to other units. Also arising out of this plan is a commitment, some \$200,000 over 2 years, to research support through a "Virtual Library" initiative.

In February 1993, the BC Ministry of Health issued *New Directions*, to implement the recommendations of *Closer to Home*, the report of the BC Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs. The effects on hospital libraries of regionalization and the shift from hospital-centred to community-based care are not yet clear. *New Directions* calls for "informed choices" and "informed decisions" in planning and delivery of care and by those using the health care system. Libraries could be expected to be important in providing the information for such choices and decisions. Consumer health information could be given more emphasis. Use of

computer networking is planned, with pharmacies identified as the first group to be linked across the province.

The recent agreement between the provincial government (the single payer in the Canadian system) and BC physicians calls for \$130,000,000 to be saved over the 5 year life of the agreement through the use of practice guidelines. It will be interesting to see how libraries are involved in the development and implementation of these guidelines.

One result of *New Directions* was the closure of Shaughnessy Hospital, a tertiary care hospital in Vancouver, in response to the rapid population growth in the east of the Lower Mainland. Some programmes will be shifted to nearby Vancouver General Hospital. The UBC Hamber Library which serves the three hospitals on the site, Shaughnessy, Grace, and Children's, remains in Children's.

The Kinsmen Rehabilitation Foundation Library also closed in the past year. In September 1992, both the hospital librarians in Richmond and Surrey became full-time. Librarians were hired in the past year at Maple Ridge Hospital, AIDS Vancouver, and the Greater Vancouver Mental Health Society.

The situation at UBC has not improved. Five positions have been lost in the Life Sciences Libraries. \$73,000 worth of journals, some 5,500 titles, were cut from the 1994 subscription list. As of Sept. 1, 1993, all journals in the Life Sciences Libraries are anchored (Canadian for non-circulating).

The newly formed Hospital Library Committee of the Health Libraries Association of BC (HLABC) has been well received. Terms of reference have been established but operational details

are still being worked out. Regular meetings via the Internet would seem to be the most likely form of communication.

Johann van Reenen offered his TQM workshop to HLABC members in May.

Dr. Richard Henderson, a family physician in Parksville, has received funding to establish an information service for rural physicians on northwestern Vancouver Island. Links via BC Systems to Mindlink! (a bulletin board service in the Lower Mainland), circulation of journal tables of contents, end user literature searching via a CD Plusnet system at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH), and links to the Vancouver Island Regional Library system for consumer health information are proposed. *Jane Price*, the NRGH librarian, is heavily involved. Also proposed are arrangements for consultant physicians to give commentary on literature search results provided by the information service.

Anne George, through funding provided by the BC Medical Association, investigated the need for information services for BC professionals in the substance abuse field. It is hoped a new library will be created to replace and expand the services offered by the Drug and Alcohol Programs library closed in 1991. ❧

Submitted by Jim Henderson
Medical Library Service
College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC



Northwest Notes
Kathy Murray, Editor
Providence Medical Center
Horton Health Sciences Library
PO Box 34008
Seattle, WA 98124

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Kathy Murray, Editor, Providence Medical Center, Horton Health Sciences Library, PO Box 34008, Seattle, WA 98124. Phone 206.320.3788; fax 206.324.5871; OnTyme PMC; Internet kmurray@halcyon.com.

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