Notes from the Chair

As my year as Chair of the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section draws to an end, I find myself more excited than ever about the potential for the Section. As Chair, I have been asked if the Section can provide guidelines on a wide variety of things to help consumer health libraries develop. There seems to be a continuing need for a recommended booklist, guidelines for developing, organizing, and weeding consumer health collections. Some of these projects, such as developing a recommended list, are huge. Others, such as guidelines for organizing and weeding collections, should be something we could develop if we utilize the expertise of our members.

As a step towards helping librarians develop consumer and patient health information collections, our Section's program at the Annual Meeting this year will be a series of contributed papers from librarians actually involved in maintaining consumer health collections. This year MLA has decided to include, in the final program, the exact schedules for speakers at the various Section programs. To ensure as many people as possible will be able to attend our program, the following is the schedule of speakers and their topics.

Profile:
Public And Academic Library Collaboration

During the past year, the University of Illinois at Chicago Library of the Health Sciences at Rockford and the Northern Illinois Library System (NILS) joined forces to provide current medical and health information to residents of Northern Illinois.

In March, 1993, the NILS/FILTERS (Forging Links for Information Exchange and Reference Services) group sought proposals for pilot projects designed to form networks with other types of libraries to serve as reference back-up for NILS member libraries. The Library of the Health Sciences at Rockford (LHS-Rockford) submitted a proposal offering to serve as a resource library for improving medical and health information services for NILS members.

Project goals, as stated in the proposal, were to: 1) adopt and publicize the guideline of providing consumer health information at the earliest point of contact; 2) develop a directory, guide, or pathfinder for health information resources in the NILS area; 3) develop a core list of reference titles with which the small public library could, hopefully, answer at least fifty percent of its...
CAPHIS Officers 1994/95

Chair/Program Chair
Carolyn Ruby
1035 North 11th St., Payette, Idaho 83661
(208) 642-2705
cruby@vax.micron.com

Chae-elect
Sandi Parker
Denison Memorial Library
University of Colorado HSC
4200 E. 9th Avenue
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 270-5158
(303) 270-6255/FAX
parker@frango.hsc.colorado.edu

Immediate Past-chair
Andrea Kenyon
Library
College of Physicians of Philadelphia
19 South 22nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3097
(215) 561-6050
(215) 561-6477/FAX
kenyon@hsle.org

Secretary
Janet Coggan
Health Science Center Library
University of Florida
Box 100206 JHMHC
Gaineville, FL 32610-0206
(904) 392-3854
(904) 392-6803/FAX
janet@library.health.ufl.edu

Treasurer
David Keddie
John W. Chi Memorial Medical Library
Ingham Medical Center
401 W. Greenlawn Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910-2819
(517) 334-2270
(517) 334-2551/FAX
keddled@mlc.lib.mi.us

Section Council Representative
Barbara Bernoff Cavanaugh
Biomedical Library
University of Pennsylvania
36th and Hamilton Walk
Johnson Pavilion G/2
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6060
(215) 573-3184
(215) 573-2075/FAX
bdc@pobox.upenn.edu

Section Council Alternate
Linda DeMuro
Medical Library
Children's Hospital
700 Children's Hospital
Columbus, OH 43205
(614) 461-2707
(614) 460-8140/FAX
ldemuro@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu

Addresses are available in the current MLA Directory

Bylaws Committee
Roxanne Cox Byrd
(402) 559-7228
(402) 559-5498/FAX
rcox@unmcvm.unmc.edu

Membership
Margaret U. Trevanian
(412) 367-6320
NHPMEDLIB@HSLC.ORG

Newsletter
Kay Deeney, see sidebar

Nominating
Andrea Kenyon, see above

Government Relations Liaison
Patricia A. Auflick
(602) 626-7946 or (602) 626-6429
pauflick@ccit.arizona.edu

Consumer Connections is published three (3) times a year in the Spring, Summer and Winter, and is the official publication of the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section (CAPHIS) of the Medical Library Association.

Deadlines for submitting articles:
Summer issue July 15, 1995
Winter issue November 15, 1995
Spring issue February 15, 1996

How to submit articles to the Newsletter:
Send your articles about CHI programs and successes, interesting experiences, news items, book reviews, exciting tidbits of information, etc., to:
Kay Deeney
Consumer Connections, Editor
UCLA Louise Darling Biomedical Library
10833 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798
ez5kay@MVS.OAC.UCLA.EDU
(310) 206-8016
Fax 310-825-0465

I prefer receiving materials emailed to me. Or send on IBM compatible floppy diskettes. With floppies, ASCII, WordPerfect or Word for Windows is acceptable. Otherwise, please contact me. I am looking for assistant editors for the following columns: Missives from the Internet, Articles from the Literature, Dates of Interest. Help make this an interesting, relevant and useful newsletter! Participate!

- Kay Deeney
Editor
News From Around

Mayo Clinic Opens Site On World Wide Web

Mayo Clinic is pleased to announce a Web server on the Internet where people can go for information about Mayo's patient care, education and research programs.

"Patients, physicians and students come to Mayo from all over the world," says Dr. Eric Tangalos, medical editor of Mayo's Web site. "This will make it easier and more convenient for many of them to communicate with us, and us with them."

Mayo's Web site offers information in the following general categories:
* General information
* Mayo locations and Community Information
* Information for Patients
* Information for Physicians
* Education
* Research
* News
* Publications
* Career Opportunities

The server is available via the following URL:
http://www.mayo.edu/

by Robert R. Bleimeyer

Connecting the Consumer via DIRLINE

When your library serves the public, you get all sorts of questions. A lady calls..."Hello. My sister is visiting from Holland. Her granddaughter has Batten's-Spielmeyer-Vogt disease. We would like to know about any work that is being done on it in the United States." What do you do?

I called the lady back and gave her this phone number. She was so pleased, thinks we are wonderful, and, most importantly, we had provided the consumer health information that met her need. Don't forget to use this important, handy, free, source for consumer information!

by Addajane L. Wallace

Radon Hotline

The Michigan Health Promotion Clearinghouse has recently added a Radon Hotline for all Michigan Residents. The Clearinghouse also provides information on how to quit smoking and breast and cervical cancer information.

by Dave Kedle
Articles from the Literature


The Harvard Community Health Plan has initiated a pilot program offering a computerized health information database to 150 households. The database provides in-depth information on more than 250 health topics, including AIDS, headaches, insomnia and menopause. If the patient's responses indicate a serious medical problem, the computer sends a message to the health service to call the patient. The computer can be used to eliminate unnecessary trips to the clinic and to provide early intervention for health problems.


How to be a smart medical consumer. Consumer Reports v60, n2 (Feb, 1995):86.

Advice to help patients collaborate effectively with their physicians includes preparing for the appointment and taking notes about what is said during the session. Patients should also ask to review their medical charts and express any doubts they have about the prescribed treatments or tests.


Patient education programs that focus on patients by helping them alter unhealthy behaviors and utilization patterns, thus fostering better health, are the most successful, according to Georgetown University researcher, Edward E. Bartlett. Stanford University School of Medicine researcher, Kate Lorig says that teaching patients to manage health problems on their own increases confidence. Lorig and her colleagues developed an arthritis management program that has resulted in reduced pain for many arthritis patients.

CONSUMER HEALTH DATABASE

“MDX HEALTH DIGEST is an excellent source... the combination of popular and clinical journals will be of much greater use to nonmedical types than MEDLINE ever will.”

LIBRARY JOURNAL (April 15, 1994)

MDX HEALTH DIGEST™

An easy-to-use database containing SUMMARIES of more than 20,000 health articles written for the general public. Full Boolean search capabilities by text word or INDEX TERMS. Updated monthly. Sources include:

Medical Journals – Newsletters – Magazines – Medical School Reports – Newspapers.

Produced by healthcare professionals, used by public and hospital libraries, universities, U.S. military and VA facilities, regional and national networks. Available on CD-ROM by SilverPlatter & CD PLUS – ONLINE with OCLC & CD PLUS.

MEDICAL DATA EXCHANGE
4730 Galice Road, Merlin, Oregon 97532
Telephone (503) 471-1627
Facsimile (503) 471-1661
Cheryl Warren, Medical Librarian, Valley Care Health Library & Cancer Resource Center, Valley Care Health Systems, Pleasanton, CA

"Broadening the Focus of Consumer Health Information: One Hospital Library's Approach" (4:05 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.) Nancy Calabretta, Randy Brenner, Susan Cavanaugh Reuben, L. Sharp Health Science Library, Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center, Camden, NJ

"Multidisciplinary Collaboration for Hospital-Based Patient and Family Education" (4:20 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.) Debra Rand, AHIP, Health Sciences Library Director, and Nancy Kelly, RN, Nurse Educator, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY

"Public Empowerment Through Accessible Health Information" (4:35 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.) Margaret Calvano, Director, Health Information Programs, Reference Point Foundation, Public Information Exchange, Columbia, MD; and George Needham, Executive Director, Public Library Association, Chicago, IL

Other consumer health information activities at MLA this year include the Consumer Health Information Services course (CE 910) taught by Sharon Quist. The course is being taught on Saturday, May 6. If your budget allows, I highly recommend taking this course. I have taken it and Sharon did a fantastic job of gathering information and presenting it. She encourages class participation and discussion which makes the course even more useful. There will be a breakfast session on the morning of May 12 at the 7th ICML meeting that is entitled Health Information for Laypersons. I don't have any more information that what appears in the Preliminary Program but it looks quite interesting.

For those who will be unable to attend either the Section program or MLA altogether, I strongly recommend you purchase the tape of the program as it looks to be a very informative 90 minutes.

Start watching Consumer Connections for information on next year's section program! Sandra Parker, incoming CAPHIS Chair, has begun work on that with the Health Informatics Section. The topic of next year's program will be consumer health informatics and they are talking with Dr. Tom Ferguson about presenting the program. Dr. Ferguson is an expert in this field and it should be a very interesting program.

We are running slightly behind schedule on putting the Section directory together, due in part to the growth of our Section (we now have 500 members), but it should be completed and mailed to all members this summer. There are actually two directories in process. One will be strictly a membership directory listing all members, with their names and addresses, while the other will be a directory of consumer health libraries and the services they provide. Both, it is hoped, will be helpful in networking with others involved in developing consumer health collections. Watch your mail for these directories!

I regret I will be unable to attend MLA this year. I recently started a new job at Micron Technologies in Boise, Idaho and will not be able to get away for MLA. While I am no longer working in a medical library (I'm having to learn a whole new language--anybody know what a SRAM or DRAM is?) I will continue to monitor Medlib and due some consulting work in the consumer health information area. I can be e-mailed at cruby@vax.micron.com or you can call me at 208-368-2705.

I would like to conclude by thanking the CAPHIS executive committee for all the help they have given me over the last year and to offer them my continued support in the coming year. It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair and I only wish I could have done more.

by Carolyn Ruby
CAPHIS needs your help to attain our goals. If you are willing to serve on a section committee, please complete this form. Ad Hoc committees are sometimes formed during the year to deal with fresh issues, thus we have included the "any committee" category.

I am interested in being appointed to a committee:

_____ Any committee that needs me

_____ Bylaws committee  _____ Survey committee

_____ Program committee  _____ Newsletter committee

_____ Nominating committee  _____ Membership committee

Name: __________________________________ Title: __________________________________

Institution: ________________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Telephone #: ______________________ Telefacsimile #: _______________________

Internet/Bitnet address: ____________________________________________________

******************************************************************************

COMMITTEE INFORMATION:

Bylaws committee: responsible for submitting proposed bylaws changes to the MLA Bylaws Committee for comment and to the section membership for its vote.

Membership committee: responsible for expanding membership by recruiting new members to the section and orienting them to the section issues.

Newsletter committee: responsible for working with the Consumer Connections editor to gather information and articles from the section members.

Nominating committee: responsible for working with the Past Chair to prepare a slot of two candidates for each office for the following year.

Program committee: responsible for working with the Chairperson elect to plan and carry out the plan for the annual meeting.

Survey committee: this is a new committee which will be responsible for compiling the results of the Consumer Health Services survey and for distributing them in an appropriate format.

Please return your completed forms to Sandi Parker, CAPHIS Chair- Elect, Denison Memorial Library, UCHSC, 4200 E. Ninth Ave., Denver, Colorado, 80262-0003.
Profile . . .

(Continued from page 1)
consumer health questions; 4) develop referral guidelines and/or form for members and resource library; and 5) acquire Info-Trac's Health Reference Center CDROM database and equipment with which the Library of the Health Sciences at Rockford would serve as a NILS resource center during the pilot project.

Health Reference Center, updated monthly, provides current information on medical and health related topics found in more than 150 core medical journals, over 500 pamphlets published by government agencies and national associations, and five medical reference books. Much of this material is presented in full text.

The proposal, "Enhancing Access to Consumer Health Information," was approved for funding, and NILS purchased a microcomputer and a one year subscription to InfoTrac's Health Reference Center to set up a workstation at LHS-Rockford. Health Reference Center (HRC) was widely promoted among NILS members.

It was agreed all NILS member libraries would use the standard NILS Information Request Form to refer consumer health questions to LHS-Rockford. Persons who wished to visit LHS-Rockford to do their own searches on HRC required no formal referral. LHS-Rockford agreed to evaluate the use of Health Reference Center and track referrals and outcomes.

Public response to HRC has been overwhelmingly favorable. People are impressed with the user friendliness of the system, and nonaffiliated patron demands on library reference staff have decreased significantly. Health Reference Center is a database that has satisfied demands of local area college students and healthcare professionals as well as the public consumer. It is a welcome addition to the health sciences library.

by Sue Hollander

Editor Comments

Well, I have made it through my first year as Newsletter Editor. I have gotten mostly positive feedback on the look and content of the newsletter. I am very grateful to all who have contributed articles and information and I look forward to receiving even more from you over the next few months.

Kay Deeney
Editor
Missives from the Internet

Compiled from MEDLIB-L messages during Winter, 1995

From: Deanna Black  
<black.deanna@consult.hsc.wvu.edu>  
Subject: Summary of Consumer Health Information

Thanks to the 3 people who sent us leads to start our search for consumer health information. It's been fun searching, but it's time to quit. This is only a partial list of what's out there. Perhaps others will share sources as they find them. There is definitely an interest as we received many requests for a summary. Well, here it is:

Atlanta Reproductive Health Centre  
http://www.mindspring.com/~mperloe/index.html  
>information in areas of womens health including: infertility, endometriosis, contraception, menopause, and PMS.

Biological, Agricultural And Medical Internet Resources  
http://lib-www.ucr.edu/dbase/query_b.html  
>RESOURCE QUERY

Book Of Basics For Patients  
>Re: Bone marrow transplants

Citations To Articles Mentioned In Local Newspapers  
gopher://lenti.med.umn.edu:70/11/biomed/news/citations

Consumer Health  
http://www.gsa.gov/staff/pa/cic/health.htm  
>Guides to information about:

- Cancer for patients; Emotional support: physical loss, chronic illness, and bereavement;  
- Women's health resources on the Internet; Arthritis Foundation Information; Information on Caffeine Jitters; Travel Health;  
- Silicone Breast Implants; Secondhand Smoke; Choosing a Contraceptive; Estrogens; Eye Wear; Kids' Vaccinations; Dizziness; Alzheimer's Disease;  
- Glaucoma; Lyme Disease; Varicose Vein Treatments--And More

Consumer Health-Patient_Ed/  
Currently #3 on the list when doing a search via Veronica on "consumer health"  
>A lengthy menu of links to other menus on consumer health topics

Disease Oriented Menus  
http://cancer.med.upenn.edu:80/1s/disease  
>Cancer

Healthline has moved  
Gopher access: gopher healthline.umt.edu 700  
Telnet access (Use only if you don't have a gopher client at your site): telnet health.umt.edu, login as health

Helping Children Cope With The Intensive Care Unit  
http://vh.radiology.uiowa.edu/Nursing/ICU/ICU.html

Iowa Health Book  
http://vh.radiology.uiowa.edu/IowaHealthBook/PatientInfo.html  
> Patient instruction materials:  
Healthy Living; Information about your Heart; Healthy Lifestyle: Why Seat Belts?; What You Need to Know About Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV Disease, and AIDS; Influenza Vaccine (1994-1995); Emotional Support Guide; Poison Control Center

Brochures and Patient Guide Information: Advance Directives for Health Care; Ambulatory Surgery; Rheumatoid Arthritis; Understanding You Atherosclerosis and Living With It; Autologous Blood Donation; Treating Cancer: Your Halo Vest; Total Hip Replacement; Knee Arthroscopy; Total Knee Replacement; Patient Controlled Analgesia; SOMI Brace; Stereotactic Procedure; Treating the Untreatable: Stereotactic Radiosurgery

National Asthma Education Program  
http://www.meddean.luc.edu/lumen/Medicine/Allergy/Asthma/asthmatics.html

(Continued on page 13)
Information On The Candidates

Chair Elect

Roxanne Cox Byrd received an MLS in 1976 from the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii. Her present position is Head of Reference for the McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska since November 1991. As Head of Reference, her duties included the coordination of the Consumer Health Information Resource Services program (CHIRS). The CHIRS program, which began in 1985, provides consumer health information to all residents of the state of Nebraska regardless of location. She currently serves on the Patient Education Committee of University Hospital. Roxanne is a member of MLA, including the CAPHIS and Public Services Sections. She currently serves as the CAPHIS Bylaws Committee Chair. Ms. Byrd is also a member of MCMLA, NLA, and ICON, a local health sciences library consortium.

Bonnie R. Chadbourne is currently employed at WLN, a computer technology company. Previously she worked at Saint Vincent Hospital Library, Billings, Montana, where she actively pursued and implemented a consumer health section within the hospital library. Bonnie has also held library positions at the University of Wyoming Health Sciences Information Network and Rapid City Regional Hospital. Bonnie is currently serving on the 1995 MLA NPC and has undertaken the responsibility of coordinating the poster session. She is also a member of the MLA Task Force on the Role of the Librarian in Information Management. In addition, Bonnie was elected Chapter Council Alternate for the Pacific Northwest Chapter/MLA. Bonnie believes that being involved in national, regional, state, and local professional organizations is vital for our profession when involved in the decision-making process to direct desired change. "If elected I will promote the CAPHIS section as a vital part of MLA activities. I will also energetically solicit input from the CAPHIS membership for enhancement of the section for the purpose that consumer health and patient information services has in health care."

Treasurer

Gail Gill is Director of Library Services at the Delaware Academy of Medicine, Lewis B. Flinn Library, in Wilmington, Delaware. She is responsible for managing the clinical and research library which is also the resource library for six Delaware hospitals the Academy's Circuit Riding Medical Library Program. For three years she actively solicited grants from the medical community for public libraries to purchase consumer health books for their collections. In 1992, a Consumer Health Library was established at Flinn library, and funded by the Academy. TEL-MED, an automated telephone system of recorded consumer health messages, has been sponsored by the Academy since 1981 and now logs over 10,000 calls a month. Both TEL-MED and the Consumer Health Library are accessible statewide through 800 numbers. Through Women & Wellness, a local women's support group, Gail received two grants which provided the funds to establish two women's health libraries-one located in Wilmington and another at the Delaware Women's Prison. Gail is active in the Delaware Library Association and the Philadelphia Regional Chapter, MLA, the Medical Library Association, Inc., and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine as an Area representative. She feels that "Consumers are taking a more active role in their health care decisions and it is exciting to see the positive effects the Consumer Health Library has on people's lives."

Potential Candidate For The Mla Nominating Committee

Patricia A. Gibson is Vice President for Program Administration at the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFP/F) in Kansas City, Missouri. She is responsible for all the philanthropic programs of the AAFP/F, including the Huffington Library and the Health Education Program (HEP). HEP reviews patient education materials and maintains a database of favorably reviewed consumer health materials, targeted at the family practice setting. She is presently Chapter Council Representative for the Midcontinental Chapter and is Secretary-Treasurer of the Medical Library Education Section. Pat is also currently Chair of the Regional Advisory committee, NNLM/Midcontinental Region. She has presented numerous workshops on selecting and organizing patient education materials at the annual Conference on Patient Education in the Primary Care Setting, sponsored by the AAFP. She earned both her MLA and PhD from the University of Oklahoma.
Kathy Moeller is the Director of Library and Research Services at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, and has an MLS from Rutgers University. She has been active in the Section since its beginning. Serving as the first CAPHIS Secretary-Treasurer (1985-1986), she was responsible for producing the first issues of our newsletter, Consumer Connections. Kathy served as CAPHIS Chair in 1987-1988. In 1987, she was named as the first "Hospital Librarian of the Year" by the Hospital Libraries Section (HLS). Kathy was the HLS Section Council Representative from 1990-1993. In 1994, she received a Certificate for Achievement in Leadership from HLS. She was Chair of the New York/New Jersey MLA Chapter from 1993-1994. Kathy is an MLA CE instructor for CE 910, Consumer Health Information Services. She has written a book chapter about the Consumer Health Library at Overlook Hospital in Managing Consumer Health Services edited by Alan Rees in 1991. Kathy is a distinguished member of the AHIP.

MLA Consumer and Patient Health Information Section
1995 Ballot

Chair-Elect (Vote For One)

——— Roxanne Cox Byrd
——— Bonnie R. Chadbourne

Treasurer

——— Gail Gill

Potential Candidate For The MLA Nominating Committee (Vote for One)

——— Patricia Gibson
——— Kathy Moeller

PLEASE MARK BALLOT CLEARLY AND RETURN BY APRIL 24, 1995, TO:

Eric P. Delozier
Hershey Medical Center
George T. Harrell Library
P.O. Box 850
Hershey, PA 17033

Ballots Telexacsimiled And/Or Received After April 24, 1995 Will Not Be Counted.
Book Reviews


This consumer health and patient education book, written in an approachable and encouraging manner, offers practical advice, suggestions, and strategies in coping and dealing with prostate questions. Written by a practicing psychologist and author of many articles and books *Coping with Prostate Cancer* provides up-to-date and comprehensive material. The book is divided into five parts, with parts one and two addressing the medical aspects of prostate cancer; what it is, how it develops, and various traditional and alternative treatments. Parts three, four and five cover important aspects of living with prostate cancer, coping with emotions, lifestyle changes to conserve energy and improve well-being, and effectively reducing symptoms and side effects. Additional topics include dealing with financial problems and living with others, in addition to helpful information for caregivers.

Some important questions people have regarding prostate cancer center on its precise definition, how it is diagnosed, the specifics of surgery, radiation and hormone therapies, alternative treatments, coping with emotions such as depression, fears and anxieties, anger and stress and pain, diet, exercise, levels of physical activities, and coping with others. There is a section on sex and prostate cancer, as well as living with someone who suffers from the disease. A reading list and page on resource groups help to make this a useful and timely book for those with this cancer and those caring for them. Readers seeking additional information are referred to *Intoxicated By My Illness and Other Writings on Life and Death* (C. Potter, 1992) and *Cancer of the Prostate* (Marcel Dekker, 1993). Recommended for consumer health and patient education collections in public library and health science center library collections.

by Janet M. Coggan


The Complete Canadian Health Guide (CCHG) is a practical and easy-to-use guide for consumers that draws on and expands the accumulated material from ten years of *Health News*, the University of Toronto's award-winning newsletter. "The book aims to give people a concise readable source of health information, and to arm them with the practical knowledge needed to sort through the mass of conflicting health pronouncements, and to make sensible, informed health care decisions."

Unlike an encyclopedic listing of conditions and procedures, CCHG focuses on health promotion and disease prevention, encouraging a collaboration between consumers and health care providers. In addition to information on a range of medical conditions, there are chapters dealing with specific health care concerns of women, men, children and the aged; environmental health hazards; preventive strategies to cultivate a healthier lifestyle; and communication with health care providers. There is also an appendix on sensible use of medications with a guide to commonly used nonprescription medications.

CCHG rates highly in terms of providing reliable and up-to-date health information—each section was checked by relevant medical specialists from the University of Toronto and

(Continued on page 16)
Book Reviews

(Continued from page 9)

elsewhere. For controversial topics where there is disagreement among health care providers, such as estrogen replacement therapy (ERT), CCHG ably presents both sides of the ERT debate to assist women in making this difficult decision.

CCHG is attractively designed with helpful illustrations and sidebars to highlight important factual information, such as risk factors for osteoporosis. Particularly welcome are Canadian sources for additional information such as travel health clinics, and specialized organizations such as Freedom from Fear Foundation and Divers Alert Network. One drawback is that none of these organizations are listed in the index, nor is there a separate listing of health organizations.

This book is highly recommended to librarians providing health information to consumers or those involved in health promotion. CCHG can also be suggested to consumers or patients as a handy volume for home use.

SilverPlatter's Health And Drug Information Library: A Review

We've been trying out SilverPlatter's new CDROM product, Health and Drug Information Library. The information in this new consumer health database is included in five different sections: Adult Health Advisor; Medication Advisor; Ob/Gyn Advisor; Pediatric Advisor; and a Spanish language Pediatric Advisor. The entire compendium of medical information for the consumer offers advice on over 6,000 health topics.

The Adult Health Advisor includes information on 450 medical and surgical topics. You can either click on a subject term or select a first letter (useful if you're not certain of the spelling). Each description includes a definition of the disease or condition, how and why it occurs, symptoms, treatment, prognosis, self-care recommendations, and prevention tips.

The Pediatric Advisor is similar to the Adult Advisor. It describes over 700 subjects, accompanied when appropriate, by a version written specifically for teenagers. A Spanish language version of the Pediatric Advisor is available as a separate section or you can click for the Spanish version of the topic currently being viewed. The Ob/Gyn Advisor covers 350 topics in obstetrics and gynecology and new baby care.

The Medication Advisor gives basic information on over 5,000 brand and generic drug products. Unfortunately, the information provided is much too brief to be useful. The same general description is used for many different drugs in the same family. As an example, 19 drugs classed as benzodiazepines have the same general description even though the USPDI: Drug Information for the Health Care Professional (1995) shows that many of these drugs have different uses and side effects.

All of the sections contain illustrations, except for the Medication Advisor and the Spanish language version of the Pediatric Advisor. Some of the illustrations are simple line drawings and some are photographs. A complete list of the illustrations for each section is available by clicking on the "Illustrations" button at the beginning screen for each Advisory.

This new CDROM database contains some helpful information and, with its hypertext format, is easy to use. Its value is diminished, however, because of the superficial treatment given to often complex topics. You may still want to take a look at it to evaluate it for your library. The annual subscription price is $1,295 for a single user. Updates will be three times a year. System requirements include an IBM 386 or compatible (486 is recommended) with 4 MB RAM (8 MB is recommended), 200 KB hard disk space, Windows 3.1 or higher.

(Continued on page 13)
CONSUMER AND PATIENT HEALTH INFORMATION SECTION

Consumer and Patient Health Information Services Survey

Do you provide consumer and/or patient health information services? The Consumer and Patient Health Information Section of MLA is collecting data in order to prepare a directory of librarians who provide consumer and patient health information services. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Name: ___________________________________ Title: ____________________________

Institution: ________________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

Telephone #: ___________________________ Telefacsimile #: ______________________

Internet/Bitnet address: _____________________________________________________

CAPHIS Section Member: ___________Yes ___________ No

Brief description of your consumer health service or program:

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

Funding Sources:

____ Institutional Support ______ Grants ______ State Funding

____ Other (Please list) ________________________________________________

Consumer health services provided: (check all that apply)

____ in-person reference ______ telephone reference service

____ photocopics ______ free ______ charge

____ online services ______ free ______ charge
Length of time you have been providing consumer and patient health information services at your institution:


Consumer Collection size (# of volumes):

Primary Subject Coverage:

- General (covering broad spectrum of topics)
- Women's Health
- Pediatrics
- Cancer
- Older Adults
- Aids
- Other (please list)

Does your consumer and patient health collection include:

- Books
- Audiovisual
- Journals
- Pamphlets
- CDROM - Name of program(s)

Is your collection accessible to the general public?  Yes  No

Is your collection in a separate area from your professional library?  Yes  No

Is there something that is unique about your consumer and patient health collection?  Explain.


Please send completed form to Sandra Parker, CAPHIS Chair-Elect, Denison Memorial Library, University of Colorado HSC, 4200 E. 9th Avenue, Denver, CO 80262 Fax: 303/270-6255, Telephone 303/270-4875

Please return by May 15, 1995.
Missives...

(Continued from page 8)

> PART III: PATIENT WORKSHEETS

National Cancer Institute Publications
http://nysernet.org/bcic/nci/ncipub.html

> For Patients and the Public PATIENT EDUCATION:
ADULT
http://nysernet.org/bcic/nci/nci.adult.html

> NUTRITION DURING CANCER; PAIN CONTROL; RADIATION THERAPY; WHEN CANCER RECURS; Etc.

PATIENT EDUCATION: PEDIATRIC
http://nysernet.org/bcic/nci/nci.pediatric.html

> MANAGING YOUR CHILD’S EATING PROBLEMS DURING CANCER TREATMENT; YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CANCER: A HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS; WHEN SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY HAS CANCER

New York State Education and Research Network
http://nysernet.org/bcic/

> provides information for breast cancer patients and their families.

NY State's Dept. of Health gopher://gopher.health.state.ny.us/11/consumer

> extensive information on communicable diseases.

Oncolink
http://cancer.med.upenn.edu/

> medical oncology, radiation oncology, pediatric oncology, surgical oncology, medical physics, psychosocial support for oncology patients & families

Resources for Asthma Patients and Their Families
http://www.meddean.luc.edu/lumen/Medicine/Allergy/Asthma/asthma5.html

> three resource lists that describe where to find helpful information on many topics related to asthma

PDQ (National Cancer Institute) Treatment Statements for Patients

> About the Back and Back Problems example: CAUSES OF LOW BACK PROBLEMS
http://vh.radiology.uiowa.edu/BackPatient/Text/ Causes.html

Talaria: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cancer Pain
http://www.stat.washington.edu/TALARIA/TALARIA.html

by Deanna Black

SP Health & Drug...

(Continued from page 10)
color monitor, and mouse. For more information, contact:
SilverPlatter Information, Inc.
100 River Ridge Drive,
Norwood, MA 02062-5043;
617-769-2599.

by Alberta L. Richetelle

Ed. note: This review was included in the last issue of HealthNet News, the newsletter for Healthnet, the Connecticut Consumer Health Information Network. On the web, you can read the entire issue of the newsletter on the UCHC Library's homepage: URL http://cortex.ucrc.edu/~libweb/libhp1.html. You may get a hard copy by sending a check for $8.00 made out to University of Connecticut Health Center to Alberta Richetelle at the address below.

Program Director,
Healthnet Lyman Maynard
Stowe Library
University of Connecticut Health Center
P.O. Box 4003
Farmington, CT 06034-4003

Consumer Connections

Editor.................Kay Deeney
Assistant Editor.............Clare Hamasu
Special thanks to Julie Van Dyke, Beryl Glitz and Sandi Parker.
Copyright © 1994. All rights reserved.
Consumer Connections is produced using Microsoft Publisher 2.0, Word for Windows, and WordPerfect on an HP LaserJet 4M.
Dates of Interest

May 6, 1995 Saturday
CE 910 Consumer Health Information Services
Washington, DC, Medical Library Association Annual Meeting
Sharon Quist, developer and instructor
May 8, 1995 3:30 – 5:00 pm
CAPHIS Section Program
Washington, DC
See Notes from the Chair, front page.

May 9, 1995 2:00 – 3:30
CAPHIS Business Meeting
Washington, DC
July 15 – 21, 1995
20th Annual National Wellness Conference, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point,
Stevenspoint, Wisconsin 800-243-8694

Remember to Vote!
See inside info.

CONSUMER CONNECTIONS

Kay Deeney
UCLA Louise Darling Biomedical Library
10833 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798

First Class Postage

Kathleen A. Moeller
12 Sayre Street
Summit, NJ 07901

MOEL012* 079012055 1295 04/15/95
NOTIFY SENDER OF NEW ADDRESS
MOELLER
202 W 8TH ST
PLAINFIELD NJ 07060-2405