Notes from the Chair

Greetings to all of the CAPHIS members! I was delighted to meet so many of you in Washington DC at the MLA conference. I also appreciate receiving your Willingness to Serve forms. In addition, I have received many others by mail and fax here in Denver. It looks like we will have a good team to move us forward this year. We have identified chairs for all committees but are still recruiting committee members. If you filled out a form and have not heard from me yet, please don’t despair. We aren’t done yet!

Wasn’t there a time when consumer health librarians were considered almost cultish?

I just returned from a two-week summer vacation visiting relatives in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri and came home with a long list from family members of medications and various conditions that need a “little research”. I suppose people in all professions are called upon to do favors for the family from time to time, but I was struck by the fact that so many of my relatives want more information about their health than care providers are offering them.

Profile: Libraries as Gateways to Health Information

The explosion of interest in self-care has also pervaded our professional lives. At the 1995 Medical Library Association Meeting, two keynote speakers discussed the increasing importance of consumer access to health information in this era of health care reform. Wasn’t there a time when consumer health librarians were considered almost cultish? Now we find our pursuits are central to the advancement of health care in the 21st century! (Of course, the nearly 500 CAPHIS members already suspected this was true.)

There was also a time when one of the most important needs of CAPHIS members was to share ideas and support each other. This remains a valuable benefit of our work together and

(Continued on page 3)
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Carolyn Ruby, see above

Program
Roxanne Cox Byrd, see above

Contributed papers, Bonnie Chadbourne
Speaker, Pat Gibson

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(513) 569-2014

Consumer Connections

Editor. .......... Kay Deeney
Special thanks to Claire Hamasu
and Mary Prattsman.

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Consumer Connections is produced three times a year in the
Summer, Winter and Spring.
Notes from the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

will continue to be a primary focus. At next year's MLA meeting in Kansas City, we will participate in two major program events—1) sponsoring and co-sponsoring speakers in consumer health informatics with the Medical Informatics and the Relevant Issues section; and 2) planning a contributed papers section with the Hospital Libraries and Nursing and Allied Health Resources Sections. Our
recognize members who have made outstanding contributions to the consumer health field.

A list of executive committee members and committee chairs is included on page 2. Please feel encouraged to contact any executive committee member with your ideas, suggestions and/or concerns. If a particular committee interests you, contact the chair and volunteer your services. I know this will be a busy and productive year for all of us and I welcome enthusiastic contributors!!

by Sandi Parker
Chair

Profile. . .

(Continued from page 1)
on a shelf in the public collection as well as a Librarian's Kit enhanced with bibliographies, pathfinders, and Internet resources.

Currently, these kits are housed in 328 libraries including two dozen medical or hospital libraries and a rural AHEC office. While most are in the Maryland and New Jersey area, libraries from New England, the South and West are also represented.

Evaluation will measure the usability and effectiveness of the materials. Preliminary feedback indicates enthusiasm for the project and an interest in more Spanish language kits.

If you are interested in the Libraries as Gateways project, please call Linda Malcolm at (803) 768-7366 or email Karyn Pomerantz at kpomeran@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu or call (202) 994-2976.

by Karyn L. Pomerantz

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:
Winter issue Nov. 15, 1995
Spring issue Feb. 15, 1996
Summer issue Jul. 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 me:

Kay Deeney
Consumer Connections, Editor
See page 2 for address details.

I prefer receiving materials emailed to me. Or send on IBM compatible floppy diskettes.
With floppy—ASCII, WordPerfect or Word for Windows is acceptable.
Otherwise, please contact me. Help make this an interesting, relevant and useful newsletter! Participate!

Kay Deeney
Editor
Articles from the Literature

New directions in information for patients More attention should be given to finding out what works. BMJ 1995 Jul 1, 311:4-5.

Midleton, John F. Asking patients to write lists: feasibility study. BMJ 1995 Jul 1, 311:34.

Abstract: Doctors will always be needed despite the increasing availability of public information about health and science. Doctors and healers have always had great powers including the ability to prescribe drugs and to determine the type and cost of their services. In Britain, the 1858 Medical Act and the National Health Service established in 1948 only served to increase the power of doctors. After a medical disaster involving the use of thalidomide in the 1960s, consumers began to question doctors' scientific and medical knowledge. The public became aware that many therapies are not well researched or tested and that doctors often do not keep current with changes in medical information. With the help of consumer groups, the media and advances in user-friendly information technology, more reliable information about the medical practice is available to the average health care user. Despite the increase in public information, the fear of death and disease still cause patients to seek the trustworthy help of doctors.

The following are three letters to the editor that appeared in Lancet:


Faughnan JG; Doukas DJ; Ebell MH; Fox GN. Cruising the information highway: online services and electronic mail for physicians and families. Journal of Family Practice (Continued on page 5)
From the Popular Literature

The UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library had its fifteen minutes of fame in the April 17, 1995 issue of People Magazine. An article entitled, Recipe for Hope, detailed the struggles of director, Jim Abrahams in finding a controversial diet for his epileptic son. The article said that Jim Abrahams “took the matter into his own hands, doing research in the UCLA Medical Center library.” He found the ketogenic diet by reading a 1990 book by John M. Freeman—Seizures and Epilepsy in Childhood: A Guide for Parents.

Several months ago one of the Nightline-type producers wanted to film in the library as a result of this story. At the time we checked and we don’t have this book. We do have a videotape by Freeman on the subject. So, either Mr. Abrahams used the book in a departmental collection, or he found the diet in a journal article. The TV folks were sorely disappointed.

by Kay Deeney
CAPHIS Business Meeting

The following are the Minutes from the CAPHIS Business Meeting held on May 9, 1995, at the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association in Washington, DC.

Sandi Parker, Incoming Chair of the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section, presided over the meeting in the absence of Carolyn Ruby who was unable to attend. Ms. Parker introduced Peggy Trevanian, Chair of the Membership Committee; Kay Deeney, Editor, Consumer Connections; Andrea Kenyon, Immediate Past-Chair and Chair, Nominating Committee; Barbara Cavanaugh, Section Council Representative; and Janet Coggan, Secretary.

The minutes from the 1994 CAPHIS Business Meeting, as published in the Summer 1994 issue of Consumer Connections, were approved as published. Andrea Kenyon gave the nominating committee report and announced that the Chair-Elect is Roxanne Cox Byrd; Treasurer is Gail Gill; MLA Nominating Committee Representative is Kathy Moeller. Ms. Parker gave the treasurer's report, as David Keddie was unable to attend. The total income for the section dues for 1994-1995 was $7,815.25. Total expenses were $1,579.22. That leaves a balance of $6,236.03. This figure will be recalculated when the bills for all newsletter expenses are received. A financial statement will be published in the next issue of Consumer Connections.

Barbara Cavanaugh gave the Section Council Report. Two potential special interest groups are requesting formal SIG status: pediatric librarians and rehabilitation librarians. Ms. Cavanaugh asked for response from the meeting attendees on voting approval of SIG status for these two groups and the vote was positive. The group was encouraged to look at MLANet. Ms. Cavanaugh remarked that our section sets a good example by sharing with other sections and is a good role model for other sections to follow.

Membership Report . . . 460 members in the CAPHIS section . . .

Those section members who are interested in writing book reviews on consumer health/patient education materials should contact either Connie Poole, Book Review Editor for the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, and/or Janet Coggan, Book Review Column Editor for Medical Reference Services Quarterly. Ms. Cavanaugh reported that MLA is trying to streamline efforts to communicate with the membership.

Andrea Kenyon reported that there were not large enough rooms at the annual meeting for some section programs. She is of the opinion that section programming should get equal attention as plenary sessions do and will bring this up. One option discussed was having an indication of what session each registrant might want to attend on the registration form. This might help with overcrowding and lack of seats. Ms. Kenyon noted that the 1996 meeting in Kansas City will be held at the Convention Center, which should have enough large spaces for meetings.

Kay Deeney reported that three issues of Consumer Connections had been published this year. The numbers of issues printed has grown: In September 1994, 450 copies were printed; In December 1994, 500 copies were printed. Many of these are sent to non-section members and other sections. Kay thanked Claire Hamasu, Assistant Editor, for her help with the newsletter. Ms. Deeney has received good comments on the newsletter. There was some discussion on the book reviews contained in the issues; a suggestion to have them printed on a pull-out section was made. The cost for each issue is approximately $800.

Peggy Trevanian gave the membership report, and as of May 1, 1995, there were 460 members in the CAPHIS section. A directory should go out with the next newsletter and will be broken up by city and state and those out-of-country members. This list will be keyed to the MLA Directory. There was a discussion of the value of a separate institutional list in which members could be linked to affiliated institutions.

Sandi Parker discussed the
CAPHIS Business Meeting... 

(Continued from page 6) 
1996 CAPHIS Program. There were comments on the 1995 Program: the room was hot, there was no light on the podium, and no water for the speakers. There were good papers and presenters. The room was packed and there was great interest in the topics. Ms. Parker noted that Carolyn Ruby did all the planning. The 1996 Program will have Tom Ferguson as a speaker. Dr. Ferguson is a medical doctor who is a strong advocate of consumer health and is now involved in consumer health informatics. He will speak on consumer health information delivery. In the spirit of saving the section money, Dr. Ferguson gave details to Ms. Parker on how to fund his expenses through an educational grant. Ms. Parker solicited input on the 1996 Program. Should it be invited papers? Should the papers be contributed? She noted that implementation of ideas is very valuable and the trend is for sections to have multiple programs, featuring speakers, papers, and posters. She has received comments on how valuable the CAPHIS papers are. The Medical Informatics Section has agreed to cosponsor a speaker with us. There was discussion on other sections cooperating as cosponsors, and encouragement to have a paper session. Comments on the 1995 program should be sent to Carolyn Ruby, whose new email address is cruby@vax.micron.com.

Andrea Kenyon distributed the CAPHIS Section Statement on "The Librarian's Role in the Provision of Consumer Health Information and Patient Education." This was given to Barbara Cavanaugh to present at Section Council. From there it goes to the MLA Board. Ms. Kenyon expressed the hope that it will eventually be included in the packets. Ms. Kenyon also commented that Joanne Marshall and her task force deserve credit for their work and that this section statement is a collaborative effort.

Sandi Parker wants to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to assess the needs of the section with respect to electronic communications. Issues for discussion include a CAPHIS listserv and a home page. Ms. Parker discussed receipt of 43 completed surveys and she will have the results available in electronic form this year.

1996 Program will have Tom Ferguson as a speaker. Dr. Ferguson is a medical doctor who is a strong advocate of consumer health and is now involved in consumer health informatics.

She said that the goals and objectives for the coming year had been topics at the executive committee meetings. The National Program Committee for the 1997 meetings wants a good idea of our program by May, 1996. It was suggested that the section move our elections up to February, 1996 to accommodate this request. Ms. Parker announced that people are needed to participate in section committees and recommended that section membership look at the Draft of the Goals and Objectives for 1995/96. The idea of section awards was discussed. The section needs a platform for review of software. A suggestion was made to visit the American Academy of Family Physicians while in Kansas City for the 1996 MLA meeting. Attendees were encouraged to send comments on the goals and objectives to Sandi at parker_s@frango.hsc.colorado.edu.

Several announcements were made: there is interest in different formats for consumer health information, including newsletters, audiovisuals, and books. CAPHIS could be the Doody's of consumer health, according to one member. The idea of having Consumer Connections indexed in Library Literature and CINAHL was mentioned. It was suggested to check with EBSCO for help in this venture. It was also remarked that Erica Love had created a database of mentors for the library research section. Upcoming meetings include: Partnership for Networked Health Information for the Public will be at Rancho Mirage, California, May 14-16. The American Academy of Family Practice meets in December in San Antonio.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet M. Cogger
Secretary
Treasurer's Report
Consumer & Patient Health
Information Section

Medical Library Association, Washington, D.C.
The checking account is currently maintained at the Summit Trust
Company in Summit, New Jersey.

Income:
Beginning balance $1745.36
Dues (6/13/94) 2632.39
Medical Data Exchange 500.00
(Newsletter Advertisement)
Dues (4/5/95) 2407.50
Medical Data Exchange 500.00
(Newsletter Advertisement)
Dues (5/1/95) 30.00
Total $7815.25

Debit
Postage (6/7/94) 228.00
Program (6/7/94) 132.38
Printing/Federal Express (6/7/94) 79.70
Lu Ann Aday (speaker) 369.03
Photocopy 48.15
Postage (11/16/94) 271.37
Postage (1/20/95) 350.00
Service Charge 100.59
Total $1579.22

Balance $6236.03

Respectfully submitted,
David G. Keddle, Treasurer
May 5, 1995

Highlights of Section Council

Section Council, which is comprised of representatives
from all of MLA's sections,
hashed out various issues during
two lengthy meetings at the
MLA Annual Meeting in
Washington, DC in May.
Following are a few selected
tidbits of what was discussed.

Section programming
problems were reviewed. There is such a proliferation of section
programming, that there are
more and more scheduling
conflicts. Our section sets an
excellent example by
endeavoring to combine
programs with other sections,
which cuts down on conflicts.

Our section sets an
excellent example by
endeavoring to combine
programs with other sections. . .

Other programming issues
include the higher expense
involved in producing
technology-based programs, and
the problem of hotels and
convention centers not being able
to handle technological demands,
such as ethernet connections.

MLA-NET, MLA's worldwide web home page, is up and
running. Members are asked to
review the homepage; the URL is:

http://www.kumc.edu/MLA/

Fortunately, one hot topic
was how to streamline MLA
governance. As CAPHIS' Section
Council Representative, I have
seen how tedious much of MLA's
procedures are. A committee is
actively working on how this can
be rectified and has already
Consumer and Patient Health Information Section

Purpose:
To provide a forum for health sciences librarians in the area of consumer and patient health information, to encourage the formation of guidelines for the provision of consumer and patient health information, to promote the education of health sciences librarians in the provision of such information, and to provide a program on consumer and patient health information at the annual meeting of the association.

Benefits:
Newsletter, Membership directory.

Section Council...

(Continued from page 8)

taken steps to reduce some paperwork.

Two groups, Pediatric Librarians and Rehabilitation Hospital Librarians, appealed to Section Council to become Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIG requests always raise such issues as whether SIGs should actually be part of sections, whether there are too many SIGs, and the differences between SIGs and sections (basically, SIGs have no MLA paperwork to worry about, and only ask to be recognized by MLA and allotted meeting space at annual meetings). At the CAPHIS business meeting, members voted in favor of the two groups becoming SIGs. Section Council as a whole voted on the question, and it is anticipated that the vote will be affirmative.

Submitted by
Barbara Bernoff Cavanaugh
Section Council Representative

Newsletter Report

The Consumer Connections newsletter of 16 pages was published three times last year. Costs divided among the three issues are as follows:

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<th>11(2) 1994/5</th>
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</table>

Costs included postage, printing, a software program and miscellaneous supplies. The increase in copies reflected the increase in mailing labels MLA sent us. Sometimes this meant increased membership. Other times members weren't dropped by MLA until after a certain date.

by Kay Deeney
Missives from the Internet

Compiled from MEDLIB-L messages during Summer, 1995

Subject: Spanish language patient education materials

Thanks to all who responded to my request for sources of Spanish language patient education materials. Below is the result:

AHCPR - Spanish versions of the patient guides
(800) 358-9295 or
http://text.nlm.nih.gov/AHCPR-supported guidelines, Spanish

American Academy of Ophthalmology
P.O. Box 7424
San Francisco, CA 94120-7424

American Optometric Association
243 North Lindbergh Blvd
St Louis, MO 63141

ACOG Resource Center
409 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 863-2521

Blind Childrens Center
4120 Marathon Street
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(213) 664-2153
(800) 222-3566

Cancernet - information for patients in Spanish as well as English

Channing Bete
(800) 628-7733
(8am-8pm Eastern time)

Krames Communications
312 90th Street
Daly City, CA 94015-1898
(415) 994-8800

The Lighthouse
National Center for Vision and Child Development
111 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022
(212) 355-2200

Major Scientific Books
call (800) 633-1851 and ask for list of Spanish language medical books, some suitable for patients

National Association for Visually Handicapped
3201 Balboa Street
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 221-3201

National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health
Georgetown University
2000 15th Street North,
Suite 701
Arlington, VA 22201-2617
Olivia K. Pickett, Director of Information Services, offers "a rather long bibliography" of Spanish language patient education materials to any requestor. Contact her at (703) 524-7802 / fax (703) 524-9335 / opicke01@gumedlib.dml.georgetown.edu

National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation
NOAH News
Editor, Dennis Moore
1338 New Rodgers Road
B-1
Levittown, PA 19056

NOAH
1500 Locust Street, Suite 1816
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 545-2322

National Society to Prevent Blindness
500 E Remington Road
Schaumberg, IL 60173
(708) 843-2020
(800) 331-2020

Pritchett & Hull Associates
Suite 110
3440 Oakliff Rd NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30340-9860
800-241-4925

From: Phylis McCulloch,PC-D <mcculloc@OHSU.EDU>

✦ ✦ ✦

AHCPR Spanish Consumer Guides

Spanish language versions of some of the AHCPR (Agency for Health Care Policy and Research) Consumer Guidelines are now available from National Library of Medicine (NLM) servers. Since these guides are not copyrighted, you might consider accessing, printing, and distributing them to your clients/patients and their families. Or you could do something really radical and show it to them on HyperDOC or telnet or give them the URL addresses so that they can access themselves!

Here are the ones currently available. Please excuse the
Missives...

(Continued from page 10)
syntax errors caused by the absence of special characters. Guideline numbers refer to the professional level guideline, Quick Reference Guide, and English consumer guide numbering.

2. La incontinencia urinaria en los adultos
4. Las cataratas en los adultos
5. Existen tratamientos para la depresión
6. Anemia de célula falciforme en los recien nacidos y los bebes
7a. El VIH en los adultos
7b. El VIH y su nino
9. El control del dolor causado por el cancer
10. La angina de pecho inestable
11. La insuficiencia cardiaca
13. Lo que la mujer debe saber sobre los mamogramas

These are available on NLM's HyperDOC at:


login as hstat or HSTAT

These are available to you at no charge. If you have need for Spanish language consumer guide versions of other AHCPR clinical practice guidelines or wish to comment and about them, please let the folks know at the National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology:

NICHSR@nlm.nih.gov

From Susan Sparks by way of the Culture-and-Nursing listserv.

Subject: NOHIC Slide Program: Periodontal Complications of Diabetes Mellitus: a Special Care Slide Program

Periodontal Complications of Diabetes Mellitus is a 50-slide program that defines and illustrates for professionals the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of periodontal disease in patients with diabetes mellitus. The color slides are accompanied by a 6-page script, a bibliographic search on diabetes and periodontal disease, 25 copies of the professional education brochure Prevention and Detection of Periodontal Disease in Diabetes, 25 copies of Diabetes and Periodontal Disease: A Guide for Patients, and 25 copies of Dental Tips for Diabetics. The program is available for $22.00 U.S. prepaid. Make checks payable to NOHIC and request order number OP-33 from the National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse.

1 NOHIC Way, Bethesda, MD 20892-3500, (301)402-7364, FAX (301)907-8830, Internet: nidr@aeir.com.

This message was sent or forwarded to DENTALIB by Frank Mason, Moderator of the MLA Dental Section Discussion Listserv.

Subject: Diabetes Patient Ed

Does anyone have or know of any interactive software for diabetes management? We are hoping to start a project in the near future.

The best I've seen to date is: "About Your Diabetes" developed by the U.S. Pharmacopoeial (USP) Convention and the American Diabetes Association. It's produced in a CD-I format. It's highly interactive and allows you to customize the presentation to the condition of the patient, including: diabetes type, the form and dosage of insulin, and the self-monitoring methods used. The information is presented in segments, so it can be used over several counseling sessions. For more info, call USP at: 1-800-227-8772.

From: Stephanie Schneider, chi@shrscs.hscl.org

Subject: Re: Consumer Magazines—Elderly

What magazines/journals would you recommend for patient education which deals with aging and the elderly? I need magazines/ journals which are geared towards the non-medical person.

A good newsletter (not journal) is "Perspectives in Health Promotion and Aging," put out by AARP's National Resource Center on Health Promotion and Aging, 601 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20049, (202) 434-2200.

From: Vinta Shumway <vinta@UNR.EDU>
Book Reviews


The General Practitioner's Sourcebook (GPS) is described by its producers as "the direct link to the vital social and medical support services available across Canada." Indeed, with the demise of CISTI's Health Sciences Information in Canada: Associations in 1984, it is the only publication to my knowledge that lists such a range of social and medical support services in Canada. Health and Welfare publishes a directory of national organizations and associations in Health Promotion (most recent edition can be found in the Spring 1993 issue), but this is limited to those engaged in health promotion and is not published annually.

In its fourth edition, there is a lot to like in the GPS. It attempts to be a comprehensive listing of national and provincial associations, government agencies, self-help groups and other organizations providing assistance in areas relating to the health and well-being of Canadians. It brings together in one handy volume information sometimes difficult to obtain: local chapters of health organizations, hospital-based clinics, self-help groups, including many regional and national toll-free numbers. The professional resources section includes a broad range of professional bodies: social workers, dentists, dietitians, therapists, speech pathologists, and naturopathic practitioners, as well as physicians and nurses. The topic index is relatively easy to use: "see references" and "please refer to" pointers guide the user to relevant sections. The in-depth section of over 125 associations and self-help groups includes their mandate, year established, major areas of activity, publications, and availability of a library.

On the minus side, placement of organizations under some topics creates difficulties. Organizations listed under "miscellaneous," such as Reyes Syndrome Foundation of Canada, do not include "see under" references, forcing the user to check each time. The Council of Mind Abuse is listed under "cults" instead of the more neutral heading "mental health." The Consumer Health Information Service is listed under "self-help" instead of the more descriptive "information services." Another drawback is the lack of an alphabetical listing of organizations to facilitate quick look-ups. It would also be helpful to list the topic at the top of each page.

Despite these minor quibbles, the General Practitioner's Sourcebook can be highly recommended to librarians and others providing health information.

by Susan Murray

Susan Murray is at the Consumer Health Information Service, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W2G8.

Book Reviewers Needed

Anyone interested in doing consumer health/patient education related book reviews, should contact either Janet Coggan, book review editor for Medical Reference Services Quarterly, or Connie Poole, book review editor for the MLA Bulletin or Ruth Gustafson, for CAPHIS at the Elizabeth Public Library, 11 South Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202, 908-354-6060.
Healthnet

Healthnet, the Connecticut Consumer Health Information Network, has a database on the University of Connecticut Health Center gopher called Biomedicine and Health in the News. This is a database that allows quick access to the biomedical, scientific, and health journal literature referenced in newspaper articles appearing in the New York Times. Articles included are those that mention new research findings in current medical and scientific journals and research reported at professional scientific and medical meetings.

Each news article is summarized and accompanied by the complete journal citation. In some instances, a press release may precede the Health Center Library’s receipt of the specific journal, so the complete citation may not be included. We try to add the complete citation as soon as we receive the referenced journal issue. The database is indexed and can be searched by keyword. To access this feature on the Internet you must have access to a gopher client or the World Wide Web. Point your gopher to gopher.uchc.edu and select "Lyman Maynard Stowe Library." The World Wide Web version is available via the Lyman Maynard Stowe Library homepage. The URL is http://cortex.uchc.edu/~libweb/libpg1.html (same as for the Healthnet News, our newsletter).

by Alberta Richetelle

Book Reviews from the Literature


Protttsman, Mary. Consumer’s Medical Desk Reference: Information Your Doctor Can’t or Won’t Tell You; Everything You Need to Know for the Best in Health Care. Library Journal 1995 Jan, 120(1):86.

NWHN Book Reviews


Network News, the National Women's Health Network bimonthly newsletter includes articles, book reviews and resources pertaining to women's health. The newsletter comes as a benefit of membership which starts at $25 yearly. NWHN's clearinghouse offers information packets on a wide range of topics that affect women's health: breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, older women's health and others. NWHN is at times controversial in challenging the medical establishment. Their address is NWHN, 514 10th Street, Suite 400, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004, telephone (202) 347-1140.

by Kay Deeney
CAPHIS Program

On May 8, 1995, Consumer and Patient Health Information, Hospital Libraries, and International Cooperation Sections together presented a program, "Hospital Libraries as Consumer Health Information Providers".

The contributed papers were moderated by Sandra Parker, CAPHIS chair-elect. Here are some brief notes about the speakers:

Suzy Holt, Director, Library Services, Shodair Hospital, Helena, MT spoke about "Resources for Families with Rare Genetic Conditions and Their Care Givers". Based on her experience, a child with a rare genetic condition in a community creates information needs for many people: parents, teachers, counselors, as well as health professionals. Resources that she recommends include national associations formed around a specific disability, the National Organization of Rare Disorders database, and the directory published in the January issue of Exceptional Parent.

In "Hospital Sponsored Cancer Resource Center for the Community," Cheryl Warren, Medical Librarian, Valley Care Health Library & Cancer Resource Center, Pleasanton, CA spoke about needs assessment and client profiles. Before establishing the library a needs assessment was conducted among the community health professionals, librarians, bookstore managers, and the local American Cancer Society. She now has a program staffed with an oncology nurse and a librarian. The nurse handles patient intervention and support groups such as a survivor group. The librarian handles collection development, reference and library operations. Cheryl talked about training volunteers to introduce first time users to library materials, types of materials, and outreach.

"Broadening the Focus of Consumer Health Information: One Hospital Library's Approach" was delivered by Nancy Calabretta, L. Sharp Health Science Library, Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center, Camden, NJ. She spoke about the shared responsibilities between the hospital's Consumer Health Education Center and the medical library for providing consumer health information. Her library is also one of three medical libraries belonging to the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative Services who are contracted to provide health information to patrons referred by consortium members. These patrons include lay people as well as unaffiliated health professionals.

Speaking on "Multidisciplinary Collaboration for Hospital-Based Patient and Family Education" Debra Rand, Health Sciences Library Director, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY talked about a pilot project where one ambulatory care and three nursing units were given dial-up access to the library's MicroMedex files which included the Aftercare Instruction Guides in English and Spanish. The purpose of providing access was to improve the instruction given to patients at time of discharge. The library also benefited by gaining a better understanding of its role within the hospital structure by actively participating in the study.

In "Public Empowerment Through Accessible Health Information" George Needham, Executive Director, Public Library Association, Chicago spoke about the study of the dissemination of health information by public libraries conducted by ALA with a Robert Wood Johnson grant. One of the interesting facts is that public librarians are asked about 11 million questions in a year. The IE was described by Margaret Calvano, Director, Health Information Programs, Reference Point Foundation, Public Information Exchange, Columbia, MD. This electronic resource provides consumer health information to the public and is being supported by public and private sponsors. The prototype includes information from the Arthritis Foundation and CDC and is available through OCLC's First Search and the World Wide Web. Both speakers brought up the issue of interpreting medical information—patrons need help in comprehending what they read. Will librarians be the "learned intermediaries" to help users understand the data they are receiving, especially since physicians are often too busy to do so?

MLA tapes are often available from your NNLM Regional Medical Library. Call 1-800-338-7657.

by Claire Hamasu
7th International Congress on Medical Librarianship

Some titles of papers presented at the 7th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, Washington, DC, May 10-12, 1995 are as follows:


Health Information, Cancer Awareness and Prevention Programmes through Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology. M. Nagaraj, N. Anatha, MA Gopinath, DC Doval, Bangalore, India.

Integrated Consumers Health Information System (ICHIS): The Role of Government. H.S. Siddamallaiah, Bangalore, India.

Passing Health Information at Grassroots Level Women to Women Services in Nepal. Gita Thapa, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Impact of Culture and Language on Health Information. B.R. Bhunumathi Yadav, Bangalore, India.

HSTAT
(Health Services/Technology Assessment Text)

The HSTAT (Health Services/Technology Assessment Text) electronic resource includes the full-text of clinical practice guidelines, quick-reference guides for clinicians, and consumer brochures developed under the auspices of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), National Institutes of Health (NIH) consensus development conference and technology assessment reports, and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Guide to Clinical Preventive Services. AHCPR's technology assessment reports also will be available later in 1995.

Developed by the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Information Technology Branch of the Lister Hill Center, HSTAT is the latest component of the expanded Health Services Research Information Program coordinated by NLM's National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR). NICHSR works closely with AHCPR to improve the organization and dissemination of the results of health services research, including practice guidelines and technology assessments.

Accessing HSTAT

NLM provides free, electronic access to HSTAT through a number of different methods. To accommodate users with a range of computing and communications environments, users can access HSTAT using direct dial or the Internet. Internet users can reach HSTAT through telnet and ftp (file transfer protocol), or through software clients such as Gopher (for Gopher servers) and Mosaic or Netscape (for World Wide Web servers).

from Marjorie A. Cahn of NICHSR

Call for Professional Position Descriptions

Position descriptions are now being solicited for inclusion in a revision of MLA DocKit #1, "Professional Position Descriptions in Health Sciences Libraries," first published in 1989. For information, please contact Carolyn Weaver at 206/543-3401 or cweaver@u.washington.edu. Fax: 206/543-8066.
Dates of Interest

December 10-13, 1995
17th Annual Conference on Patient Education.
San Antonio, TX.
Sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. For information, contact Priscilla Noland at 1-800-274-2237, x4510.

June 1-5, 1996
96th Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, Kansas City, MO.

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