

# Hypothesis

## The Newsletter of the Library Research Section of MLA

Spring 1992

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### THE STATE OF THE SECTION

This report covers the time period of June 1991 through February 1992.

The current treasury balance as October 20, 1991 was \$2367.28. There were 181 members as of October 20, 1991.

The section's newsletter "Hypothesis" was published and distributed in August 1991 by the newsletter editor Elizabeth H. Wood. Another issue is scheduled for spring 1992.

Committees are: CE Liaison, Research Resources, and Nominating Committee.

Goals and objectives for the section were distributed to the Executive Committee and to MLA Headquarters in July 1991.

Two articles reporting the results of the survey on Continuing Education for Library Research which was sponsored in part by the Library Research Section has been accepted for publication in the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.

The Library Research Section will hold its next business meeting in May at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association. The Section is co-sponsoring with the Medical Informatics Section a contributed papers session at Research Projects in Health Sciences Librarianship."

The sections's Secretary/Treasurer has secured an employee identification number and has established an interest-bearing checking account.

Together with the Knowledge and Skills Task Force the Section will organize a Think Tank on MLA's Research Initiative on Thursday May 21, 1992 at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. The Think Tank will issue a report and recommendations for advancing research in health sciences librarianship to the Board and to the membership at large. A proceedings may also be published.

### **ANNUAL MEETING '91 IN SAN FRANCISCO**

We held a business meeting at the 1991 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. At that meeting, we approved revised bylaws that are now in compliance with MLA requirements. The section also approved a dues increased from \$5.00 to \$7.00 effective with 1992 renewals.

The section sponsored a Symposium on "The Research Process: From Proposal Writing to Publication" on June 6, 1991 at the Annual Meeting. There were 38 registrants who received 6 hours of CE credit. Topics and speakers included: "Research and Practice: a Productive Alliance" by Miranda Lee Pao; "Grants: Promises and Pitfalls" by Virginia M. Bowden; "Grant Writing: Guidelines for Success" by Nancy Fazzone; "Finding Funding: Where to Go" by Elizabeth H. Wood; "Getting into Print: Give Your Article a Good Start in Life" by Pat L. Walter; "Why Authors Fail" by Trudy K. Landwirth; and "Playing With a Full Deck: Combining Library Research and Practice" by Jocelyn C. Rankin. Ann Weller moderated.

The section also co-sponsored a contributed papers session with the Technical Services Section on June 5, 1991. Papers and speakers included: "Evaluation of a Journal Collection by Cost-Benefit Analysis" by Naomi Fackler and Esther Carrigan; "ILS Decision Aids for Collection Development" by Loretta H. Stucki and Elizabeth A. Kelly; "Biomedical Journal Title Changes: Reasons, Trends and Impact" by Paul E. Wrynn and Van B. Afes; and "Validation of Selectivity: the Approval Plan in the Smaller Health Sciences Library" by Kathryn Hammell Carpenter. B.J. Gramka moderated.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Informatics Grant Awarded  
to the University of Maryland  
Health Sciences Library**

The University of Maryland Health Sciences Library has been awarded a three-year, \$442,677 grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to create an innovative Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) Searching Workstation. The workstation will make use of the UMLS, developed at the NLM, to make online searching easier for those in health care.

Gary Freiburger, Director, Systems Research, Development, and Services is the Principal Investigator. Project Team members include Dan Keefer, Systems Librarian, Peter LePoer, Systems Librarian, Sandra Levy, Information Specialist and Jane Murray, Catalog Librarian.

The UMLS, has been developed by the NLM as a solution to the problem of multiple standard vocabularies including MeSH, ICD-9, CPT, DSM-III-R and LCSH.

All medical libraries provide access to a variety of databases, many of them indexed using different medical vocabularies. The UMLS Searching Workstation Project will allow a researcher to use any familiar vocabulary. The workstation, using the UMLS, will find the subject heading appropriate to the database being searched. For example, Sturge-Weber Syndrome, Dimitri's Disease, and Encephalotrigeminal Angiomatosis all refer to the same disease. Any of these terms could be entered into the workstation to locate the needed information.

Over the three years of the grant, the project team, guided by an advisory panel, will test a variety of interfaces. The most successful interface will then be linked to each of the databases in the library so that those searching for information will not have to learn multiple interfaces and commands.

The UMLS as well as a variety of projects now underway in universities across the country to make use of it, constitutes a milestone in health informatics and information retrieval.

### **ANNUAL MEETING '92 IN WASHINGTON, DC**

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

The Library Research Section Business Meeting is scheduled for Monday morning, May 18th. Watch the final program for exact time and place.

## **CONTRIBUTED PAPERS SESSION SHARED WITH MEDICAL INFORMATICS**

The Section is joining forces with the Medical Informatics Section to present a particularly interesting Contributed Papers Session at the Annual Meeting this year. The session is scheduled for Wednesday morning, May 20, from 9:00 to 11:30.

### **EXPERT SYSTEM FOR SUBJECT CATALOGING**

Richard J. Harris, Systems Coordinator, Eastern Virginia Medical School; Stewart Shen, Professor, Old Dominion University; Renee Mansheim, Technical Services Coordinator, Eastern Virginia Medical School; Ashraf Morsi, Teaching Assistant, Old Dominion University.

### **WILLOW (Washington INformation Looker-Upper Layered Over Windows)**

Sherrilynne Fuller, Director; Debbie Ketchell, Associate Director, Health Sciences Library and Information Center, SB-55, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 981951.

### **A RELATIONAL "BROWSER" FOR THE UMLS KNOWLEDGE SOURCES**

Anthony R. Aguirre, M.S., M.L.S., Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library, Columbia University, New York, NY, 10032.

### **KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATION IN MEDICAL LITERATURE**

Valerie Florance, Laboratory for Applied Research in Academic Information, William H. Welch Medical Library, The Johns Hopkins University and Gary Marchionini, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland, College Park.

### **REPRESENTATION THROUGH SOFT SYSTEMS METHODOLOGY OF THE KNOWLEDGE ENVIRONMENTS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS: IMPLICATIONS FOR AUTOMATED DECISION-SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

Mary M. Huston, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Susan Sebastian Miericke, M.L.S., Doctoral Student, School of Library and Information Studies, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas; and Barbara Hettinger, Ph.D., Clinical Nurse Specialist, College of Nursing, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas.

## **FRESH FINDINGS**

Poster Session for Research in Progress  
Medical Library Association  
Library Research Section  
Annual Conference 1992

Wednesday, May 20

2:00-2:20

"The Relation Between Clinical Activity and Demand for Research in a Hospital Library as Measured by Journal Usage: The DRG-UMLS-MeSH Connection"

Merle L. Colgalzier  
Richmond Memorial Hospital  
Richmond, Virginia

2:20-2:40

"The Use of MeSH in an Online Catalog"

Carole Francq  
Peggy Richwine  
Indiana University School of Medicine Library  
Indianapolis, Indiana

2:40-3:00

"Faculty Publication Databases in Academic Medical Libraries"

Renee Mansheim  
JoLinda Thompson  
Eastern Virginia Medical School Library  
Norfolk, Virginia

3:00-3:20

"Networking Genetic Databases Through a Library Information System" Susan Crawford,  
Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine Library and Biomedical Communications Center  
St. Louis, Missouri

3:20-3:40

"A Comparison of CINAHL and MEDLINE CD-ROM in Four Allied Health Areas"

Maureen E. Watson  
College of Optometry  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, Michigan

## THINK TANK TO FOCUS ON RESEARCH ISSUES

The Section is sponsoring a "Think Tank" which will meet in Washington to discuss issues related to research. Subjects to be covered include technology, new roles for the profession, economics and management, access to information in the academic and clinical setting, education, and the role and status of the literature. It is hoped that the Think Tank will promote research. Participants at the session will be:

Jacqueline D. Bastille  
Treadwell Library  
Massachusetts General Hospital

Naomi C. Broering  
Dahlgren Memorial Library  
Georgetown University Medical Center

Jacqueline D. Doyle  
Schaffer Library of Health Sciences  
Good Samaritan Medical Center, Phoenix

Carol H. Fenichel  
Library  
Hahnemann University

Sherrilyne S. Fuller  
Health Sciences Library and Information Center  
University of Washington

Ruth Holst  
Medical Library  
Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee

David N. King  
College of Library and Information Science  
University of Kentucky

Joanne G. Marshall  
Faculty of Library and Information Science  
University of Toronto

Erika Love  
Medical Center Library  
University of New Mexico

Nina W. Matheson  
Welch Library  
Johns Hopkins University

Nancy K. Roderer  
Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical  
Library  
Yale University

Ann C. Weller  
Library of the Health Sciences  
University of Illinois at Chicago