



Northwest Notes

Newsletter of the
Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association

Volume 13, Number 5

October-December 1992

PNC/MLA 1993 Conference in Portland

by Peggy Baldwin, Conference Chair

It is our pleasure to invite all of you to the next PNC/MLA conference to be held in Portland from October 20th to the 22nd, 1993. The conference will be held at the Benson Hotel, an elegant older hotel, with dark woods and crystal chandeliers. The theme is **"The Vision — Looking Outward, Looking Inward."** We will explore the vision for the medical library of the future as well as the inner resources that we all need to find in ourselves to take part in activating that vision.

Topics to be featured at the conference are accessing medical information in the future, expressing the leader in ourselves, the practicalities of Internet, the new JCAHO hospital standards, and Oregon's attempt to cope with the changing healthcare scene by means of the Oregon Plan. We will all learn a lot. But we won't only learn a lot, we will also revitalize ourselves with some fun.

The meeting will open with a reception at Powell's Bookstore, the second largest bookstore in the world. We will offer a slice of the active Portland jazz scene at the banquet. Current plans are to end the meeting with a trip to the Oregon wine country. We're looking forward to seeing you all in Portland in '93!

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State and Provincial Reports

Alaska

Alaska Native Medical Center, Indian Health Service

Judith Bendersky, hired initially as a consultant for a Rural Outreach Grant, accepted a part-time position January 1, 1992 at the Alaska Native Medical Center. The Grant placed computers in the Public Health Service Hospitals in Barrow, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue and Dillingham. Judith presented a paper on her experience at the MLA Meeting in June in Washington, DC. Ms Bendersky hopes to receive funding to continue the outreach work with other isolated medical outposts in Alaska.

Elmendorf Air Force Base Hospital

The address for the library has again changed. It is now the 3rd Medical Center (reflecting the additional responsibilities resulting from the closure of Clark Air Force Base and the transfer of the historic 3rd Fighter Wing from the Philippines). **Donna Hudson** has written several computer programs for the hospital. She will continue this support and be able to use it in work towards her for a Doctor of Science in Information Science thesis.

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

Doreen Smith has launched a Clinical Medical Librarian program directed at nurses. We are hoping she will share her experiences with us in a future issue of *Northwest Notes*.

Alaska Health Sciences Information Services (formerly Alaska Health Sciences Library)

This name change reflects the transfer on July 1 of the administration of the library service from the State of Alaska, Department of Education, Division of State Libraries, Archives & Museums to the University of Alaska Anchorage, Consortium Library. The mission will remain the same but the service is presently undergoing organizational changes. The service is in the second year of its MLA access grant known as the **RURAL ALASKA HEALTH INFORMATION ACCESS PROJECT**. Progress has been slow due to unforeseen circumstances affecting staffing. As a result **Judith Bendersky** was hired to assist in laying the groundwork required for the project.

Alberta

by Lea Starr, JWS Health Sciences Library, University of Alberta, Edmonton

The Alberta constituency in PNC/MLA at the present time is growing. Last year the attendance from our province at the meeting was one and this year we have eight. We would like to encourage this "beyond the boundaries" collegiality by extending to you a warm invitation to attend the **Canadian Health Libraries Association meeting** in Banff, June 12th to 16th, 1992.

There are many exciting things happening in Alberta. From an "information without boundaries" perspective, Alberta has begun participating in DOCLINE. The **University of Calgary's** holdings are about to be loaded into Serhold via CISTI and the **University of Alberta** hopes to have their holdings loaded at the same time. This load is part of the DOCLINE test project. Both Calgary and Edmonton have produced union serials lists for their health libraries, excluding the university collections, for 1992. Decisions to load these lists into DOCLINE have not been taken as we are awaiting the outcome of the **B.C. Medical Library Service** load. The lists were produced by the same company as the **HLABC** list, so once the Medical Library Service list is loaded, other lists should be relatively easy.

Calgary area has experienced a few changes of personnel. **Andras Kirchner** took early retirement from the University Medical Library this past summer. He has been replaced by **John Cole** in an acting capacity. The library community experienced the loss of two librarian positions.

The University of Calgary continues to provide service to physicians in the southern half of the province while the University of Alberta serves the north. The **Medical Information Service, MIS**, which will be more fully described in the panel session on outreach experiences, is now offered out of the Continuing Medical Education Departments and Medical Libraries of both Universities. The MIS is growing steadily and evaluation projects are now under way.

The librarians in Edmonton were saddened by the sudden passing of **Jake Van De Brink**. He was librarian at the Grey

Idaho

by Nancy Van Dinter, Health Information Consultant, Idaho State Library

Libraries

In Pocatello a new **Idaho Health Sciences Library** has been established at Idaho State University. The director is **Terry Wiggins**.

Pocatello and Bannock Regional Medical Centers in Pocatello have closed their own libraries and moved their materials to the **Idaho Health Sciences Library**. They are contracting for services with the library.

Blaine County Medical Center in Hailey and **Moritz Community Hospital** in Sun Valley have merged to become the **Wood River Medical Center**. There is still a library at the Hailey location, however, Sun Valley has boxed its collection and contracted with another hospital.

St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise has had to move its pre-1987 journals to an offsite storage facility. This has not slowed interlibrary loans significantly, but they are not able to respond to clinical emergency requests as quickly.

Three hospital libraries are participating in cooperative collection development grants under LSCA, Title III. Proposals to improve health and fitness collections in their communities were written by **Magic Valley Regional Medical Center** and **Twin Falls Public Library** in Twin Falls; **American Falls District Library**, **American Falls School District** and **Harms Memorial Hospital** in **American Falls**. A third grant was written by the **VALNet library network** in north central Idaho which includes **St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center** in Lewiston as well as schools, public libraries and **Lewis-Clark State College**. This project is being duplicated by the Washington libraries participating in the VALNet system as well.

Judy Balcerzak at **St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center** in Boise has completed her rural outreach project using **Grateful Med** and **Loansome Doc**. She continues to provide services to the five project participants.

Please See Alberta, Page 4

Please see Idaho, Page 4

Please See Alaska, Page 4

Montana

by Bonnie Chadbourne, St. Vincent Hospital and Health Center, Billings, Montana

[Note from the Editor: When I converted this article from Bonnie's diskette, it turned into a garbled mess. I'm sure what's here is correct; I just hope nothing got lost. If it did, Bonnie, please let me know!]

Big Happenings in the Big Sky State. A big welcome to **Lora Seaboldt** who is the new librarian at **Columbus Hospital** in Great Falls, MT.

Saint Patrick Hospital in Missoula is adding holdings to the WLN database via **LaserCat**. This project is funded by an **LSCA** grant from the Montana State Library. Also awarded was a **NLM Information Access Grant** for \$112,000. **Kim Granath**, Director, Saint Patrick Hospital Medical Library, is the principle investigator of this grant. This grant will be used for **Grateful Med** training and computer equipment for ten rural hospitals in western Montana. These include **Madison Valley Hospital, Ennis, Barrett Memorial Hospital, Dillon, Clark Fork Valley Hospital, Plains, Community Hospital of Anaconda, Granite County Memorial Hospital, Philipsburg, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Hamilton, Mineral County Hospital, Superior, North Valley Hospital, Whitefish, Ruby Valley Hospital, Sheridan, St. Joseph Hospital, Polson**. Also included in this grant is **Steele Memorial Hospital** in Salmon, Id.

The Information Access Grant awarded to the **BAHSIC** (Billings Area Health Sciences Consortium) has kept **Liz Barnea**, principle investigator along with **Koy Sheets** and **Jan Jelinek**, co-investigators, busy coordinating the purchase and placing of computer terminals, fax machines, printers, and various other peripherals in the fourteen member libraries of the consortium. Part of the grant included training on **Grateful Med** and **DOCLINE** which was taught by **Maryanne Blake, NN/LM** and **Mary Rainwater** from the University of Washington Health Sciences Library.

Nancy Press, NN/LM, was instrumental in assisting many libraries with **DOCLINE** access and constructing routing tables. **Michael Boer** also from the **NN/LM** offices assisted in the selec-

Oregon

Merle West Medical Center, Klamath Falls: **Steve Rauch**, Library Director has been actively involved in getting the **Cascades East AHEC** in place. He and **Sue Van Atta** of **St. Charles Medical Center** in Bend will be meeting in October to plan the delivery of health information services to that southeastern portion of the state. **Merle West** has also been awarded funding by the **RML** to establish an **INTERNET** connection. Details are yet to be worked out. **Planetree Health Resource Center, Mid-Columbia Medical Center**, The Dalles: **Michele John**, Resource Director, opened the center on June 2, 1992. Their collection and service is modeled after the **Planetree Program** in San Francisco. The collection consists of books, clipping files and **AV** materials and covers areas of health and medicine. The center's goals are to provide individuals with open access to a broad spectrum of current health and medical information, to enable patrons to make informed health care choices, and to encourage individuals to take greater responsibility for their own health. The center has received a lot of media attention including articles in *Modern Healthcare* and *Healthcare Forum Journal*, and a **Bill Moyers** television special on **PBS** to be aired in February of 1993. **Michele** has also recently been appointed by the State Librarian to the **Statewide Collection Development Steering Committee**. **Tuality Community Hospital, Hillsboro**: **Natalie Norcross**, Librarian has just leased **INFOTRAC Health Reference Center** for one year and it is in place in their **Consumer Health Library**. **Kaiser Libraries**, Portland: The three **Kaiser Permanente** libraries will soon have a networked **CD-ROM** system, offering full **MEDLINE**, **CINAHL** and **HEALTH** databases. The system will use **Kaiser's** existing **VAX** network and will allow three simultaneous users. **Good Samaritan Medical Center Library**, Portland: A new librarian has been hired for the **Linfield School of Nursing** and she will begin October 12, 1992. The Library now has an on-line public access catalog. Through their association with **Linfield Good Sam** is now able to offer its patrons on-line access to the **Good Sam** collection, the **Ophthalmology Library** collection and **Linfield's** main collection at the **McMinnville** campus. **Emanuel Hospital Library**, Portland: In July the library's **MAC** based **Knowledge Finder CD-ROM MEDLINE** was expanded to a 4-user mini-LAN. The system was funded by a grant from the **Medical Staff**. Library

Washington

by Robin Braun, WMLA President

1992 has been a growth year for the **Washington Medical Librarians Association**...with one significant loss. On September 4, 1992, **Jane Belt** retired with over 25 years of service. Jane was among the original group of librarians who responded to the need for an organization, which would become **WMLA**, that would function as a forum to meet the different needs of **Washington hospital and health sciences librarians** and would promote the cooperative efforts that we all take for granted now. She was the second President of **WMLA** and the first librarian to receive the **WMLA hospital librarian-ship award**. She was also chair of **PNC/MLA** and I know I can speak for all of us here, when I say that Jane will be missed.

The **WMLA Annual Meeting** was held on April 24 at the **Washington Park Arboretum Visitors' Center**. There were 91 registered for the meeting, a new record. This record means that **WMLA** has outgrown the **Arboretum** and we are actively scouting out a newsite for 1993. The **Ste. Michelle Winery** looks very promising, although **Washington librarians** have never needed outside assistance to produce a "spirited" meeting!

Sessions at the **Annual Meeting** were devoted to: seasonal affective disorders, managing health statistics, an **RML** update, **WMLA** business, **Internet**, and our annual **OWL Network**, an open forum that invites every member to brag, demonstrate, mourn, congratulate, share, or criticize as the spirit moves them.

Continuing education received a great deal of attention this year. **Janet Schnall** and **Lou Pray** developed and presented a pre-conference **CE** course entitled "Finding the Figures: an Introduction to Selected Health Related Statistical Sources". They developed a 77-page booklet, **Finding the Figures: An Annotated Guide to Selected Health Statistics Sources**, which is available from **HSLIC** for \$10.

With strong member demand for quality continuing education, **WMLA** re-established its **Continuing Education Committee** under the able leadership of **Terry Jankowski**. Terry coordinated efforts with **OHSLA** to offer **Washington librarians**, "Total Quality Management: an Introductory Course for Librarians" taught by **Holly Shipp Buchanan**. I personally

Alaska - Cont. from Page 2

Administrative changes are slowing this year's progress but it is hoped all will soon be in place and work on the grant will begin in earnest! We will share our experiences and successes with you at a later date.

In February, **Linda Milgrom** brought the Dental Exhibit, developed by PNC member **Dolores Judkins**, to the Alaska State Dental Conference in Anchorage. In August **Maryanne Blake** gave a GRATEFUL MED course to the American Academy of Family Physicians in Juneau. In May the Library exhibited at the Alaska Public Health Association's meeting and in October exhibits are scheduled at the nursing and rural health conferences.

Alberta - Cont. from Page 2

Nuns/General Hospitals. This position currently remains vacant due to the restructuring and analysis occurring as a result of the merger of three Edmonton Hospital: **Grey Nuns, Edmonton General, and Misericordia.** The librarian from Misericordia, **John Back**, has been appointed Coordinator of Learning Resources and he has responsibility for the audiovisual departments, printing services, and libraries at all three institutions. The libraries at all three institutions are staffed and the need for additional professional librarians is currently being determined. A second merger, between **Royal Alexander Hospital and Charles Cammell Hospital**, is in the initial stages and final outcomes are unknown. It is envisioned that the libraries will be one administrative unit reporting to a director. The complement of librarians is as yet unknown. There are currently three libraries and three librarians. In both these mergers, the legislative paperwork is still in process.

For most libraries in Edmonton, the most interesting news is the development of the NEOS project. **NEOS, Networking Edmonton Online Systems**, is an initiative of the University of Alberta precipitated by their need for a new online integrated library system (ILS). The consortium was developed to share the system at various levels and has grown to examine shared services and resource sharing. The health libraries group in Edmonton regard it as an exciting opportunity. Through a shared ILS, libraries hope to have a union catalogue for much of the Edmonton area. Specifically this would mean a union list of health collections as a minimum.

However, the inclusion of many catalogues from many disciplines presents wonderful opportunities for both tracking and discovering information as well as collaborative collection projects. It is also hoped that implementation of MEDLINE as a networked file would be part of the implementation. At the present time, the consortium is in the planning stages and the health libraries are meeting regularly as a group and with other Edmonton libraries to knit together a viable consortium community. We hope to report next year on implementations of this project.

I would like to add a personal note here. I have found coming to PNC/MLA meetings to be very stimulating and professionally rewarding. Members of this chapter are both friendly and collegial. We seem to all have to deal with problems of distance, dwindling collections budgets, isolated rural populations and a great distance from the major economic and government centers of our countries. I have a greater understanding of NLM and I appreciate the support we have received from the RML. As this meeting has focused on "information without boundaries", I have found that this chapter has helped me to move beyond the boundaries in finding a virtual community for my professional practice.

Idaho - Cont. from Page 2

Marcy Horner at Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene continues outreach services to hospitals in the five northern Idaho counties. She teaches Grateful Med to the staff but will do searches for them if they prefer. There are FAX machines located in each facility for interlibrary loans. Kootenai also provides dial-in access to Micromedex for these hospitals.

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls opened a new library this year. **Nola Rheams-Higley**, librarian, is adding the collection to WLN as well as participating in the cooperative project with the public library.

At the **Idaho Health Information Association** meeting this fall most of the attendees reported budget reductions for their libraries. Interlibrary loan expenses were mentioned frequently as a target area for cuts. Some were eliminating services such as book purchasing for other departments or individuals.

Salary Survey

A 1992 Idaho Hospital Libraries Salary

Survey was published in May. Twenty-five people responded from both technical and managerial positions.
Survival Manual

The State Library published a revised edition of the *Medical Librarian Survival Guide: A Collection of Vital Information for Today's Medical Library Professionals in the Small Hospital Setting*. It is currently for sale from the library.

Montana - Cont. from Page 3

tion of computer workstations. Only four of the libraries had access to DOCLINE and online searching before the grant. The ILL statistics indicate increased resource sharing between the BAHASIC libraries, Montana libraries, Pacific Northwest region libraries, and nationwide. The use of fax machines shows a high usage with over 5,000 transmissions since May 1992 for the fourteen participating libraries. This grant started March 1, 1992 and will end Feb. 28, 1993.

Oregon - Cont. from Page 3

staffing has been reduced from 2 FTE's to 1.5 FTE's. **Carolyn Olson** is now the Library Director. **St. Vincent Health Sciences Library**, Portland: The library was remodeled which translates to new carpeting, paint and 600 additional square feet. This additional space will be used for journals and two computers which will be added for employee use and future MEDLINE workstations. **BICC**, Portland: Rural Health Information Project - **Steve Teich** reports that the state government appropriated funds to be used for the installation of Healthlink to 30 A and B (50 beds or less) rural hospitals. Healthlink will provide these hospitals with access to MEDLINE, E-Mail, document delivery and clinical information. The funding was used for onsite training and purchasing the necessary hardware. Steve has trained a variety of hospital personnel ranging from ART's to administrators. **Robert Beck M.D.** resigned as director of the BICC to become Vice President for Information Technology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. **Dr. Lesley Halliok**, Vice President for Academic Affairs is the interim BICC director. The BICC is now managed by four associate directors: **Jim Morgan** is responsible for Information Services, which includes the Library; **Kent Spackman M.D.** is in charge of Medical Informatics; **Jim Williams** is responsible for education and communications; and **James Walker's** responsibilities include telecommunications and com-

puters. There have been some changes in staff responsibilities. **Patrice O'Donovan** is Serials Librarian and in charge of collection development. **Heather Rosenwinkle** is now manager of the old library and continues as History of Medicine librarian. Coos Bay: **Bay Area Hospital** has recently hired a part-time professional librarian. It is a half-time position.

Washington - Cont. from Page 3

attended that class and found it to be excellent!

WMLA earmarked a maximum \$900 for the WMLA Reimbursement Fund to assist members attend meetings or CE that were sponsored or co-sponsored by WMLA. \$589.50 of this money was approved. Our fund caught the attention of the Colorado medical librarians. After a lengthy telephone conversation, I faxed a copy of our application and criteria to W. Robin Waters at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver. They are quite interested in developing a similar project.

The State Resource Sharing Project ended this year and there was much discussion around the state about how WMLA should respond. It was decided that the annual statistics are not worth the effort of collecting and maintaining them. DOCLINE's quarterly and annual reports represent between 80-95% of most member's ILL statistics. Those reports are free and most members receive them. ILL statistics were those judged most useful by the membership. *ResourceLine* will be replaced by an expanded *WMLA Newsletter*. The *Resource Guide for Washington Health Libraries* made a surprisingly strong showing during the debate and WMLA's OWL Committee will be working on it. Once the *Resource Guide* is updated, two unique sections, the CD-ROM and library application software list and the OWL network skills inventory, will exist as Ontyme files for anyone who needs access to them.

Washington librarians feel that it is time to re-evaluate where we are; where we're going; and how best to get there. Our state meeting at PNC and our future meetings in 1993 will focus on strategic planning for the rest of the 90s.

Calendar of Events

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|------------------|---|
| November 8-11 | Supporting Collaboration , 1992 Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care (SCAMC), Baltimore, MD. |
| May 16-19, 1993 | MLA Annual Meeting , Chicago, IL. |
| June 12-16, 1993 | Canadian Health Libraries Association Annual Meeting , Banff, Alberta, Canada |
| May 19-26, 1994 | MLA Annual Meeting , San Antonio, TX. |

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Maryanne Blake, PNC Treasurer

In 1991 the membership of PNC/MLA voted to increase dues from \$5.00 a year to \$15.00 a year. The new dues structure went into effect with 1992 memberships. This has made a considerable difference in the amount of income generated this year as compared to last year. We had an income of \$3,493.38 in 1991 as opposed to \$5,851.72 in the first three quarters of 1992. Since spending in 1991 was \$5,750.79, we were forced to spend \$2,358.34 of our reserve funds. This reduced our reserves to \$3,913.23. Income in 1992 should equal expenses and we should not have to use any additional reserve funds.

Balance Forward PNC/MLA Checking Account January 1, 1992	\$3,918.23
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Income

Dues Income	3,003.37
Annual Meeting Income	2,758.99
Checking Account Interest	89.36
Miscellaneous Income	00.00
Total Income	\$5,851.72

Expenses

Annual Meeting	1,000.00
Board Meeting	1,580.76
Board Travel	1,003.28
Scholarships	200.00
Newsletter - Printing and postage	1,388.62
Other Postage	148.69
Other Printing and Copying	31.23
Supplies	175.20
Expenses - Other	00.00
Total Expenses	\$5,527.78

Balance in checking account as of September 30, 1992	\$4,242.17
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Automation Committee

by Peggy Baldwin, Committee Chair

An Automation Committee questionnaire was included in the last Northwest Notes. Its purpose was to find out from all PNC/MLA members what their automation and information needs are, so that we can offer helpful continuing education and Northwest Notes articles. We have received some of them back and encourage the rest of you to send yours in. If you need another copy call me at (503) 230-6075. If we don't hear from you, an automation committee member from your state will be calling you to get a response. We want as close to a 100% response as we can get. Susan Way will still coordinate automation related questions, helping to find people to answer those questions. Contact Susan Way by fax (206)667-4734 or Ontyme (FHS) or mail (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Arnold Library, 1124 Columbia Street, M133, Seattle, WA 98104). Selected questions and answers will be published in Northwest Notes, and the person asking the question can be anonymous if desired. At this point, we have decided not to put together a file of PNC/MLA automation expertise, because of the difficulty of keeping a file of this nature updated. We have decided instead to encourage the use of Internet bulletin boards to help people with questions hook up with the people who have the answers. A major goal for this year is to encourage Internet use. Our committee will sponsor an Internet panel at the PNC/MLA conference next year in Portland, to talk about the practical uses of the Internet. We will also sponsor a half-day, hands-on Internet class at the conference. All of our Northwest Notes columns this coming year will be about Internet. Lea Starr at the University of Alberta in Edmonton will coordinate the Northwest Notes columns, so all PNC/MLA members are encouraged to send her any column ideas, tips for Internet use, etc.

Archives Committee

by Jan Schueller, Committee Chair

Activities for 1992

Inactive records of PNC/MLA are kept at the Manuscripts and University Archives Division of the University of Washington Libraries. The Archivist is familiar with what is kept in the files. The Archivist collected records from PNC/MLA officers dealing with 1991 activities and maintained a "core" collection of records for use by PNC/MLA. The Archivist answered several questions from PNC/MLA members that involved searching the "core" collection. Announcement about the Archives was made at the 1992 PNC/MLA meeting in Boise, Idaho.

Objectives for 1993

We plan to solicit records from appropriate sources; monitor the availability of records when requested, with possible recommendations for changes in the "core" collection, and transfer older, inactive records to the University of Washington archives.

Publications Committee

Submitted by Valerie Schultheiss, Chair

The Publications Committee held no meetings in 1992. Five issues of Northwest Notes will be published this year (four have already been mailed and the fifth will go out in early November). The format changes implemented last year was successfully continued in 1992, though several issues had pages inserted, and this increased the costs of postage. The newsletter has cost approximately \$1300 thus far, with two issues yet to go out. I want to officially thank the many members of PNC who contributed news items and wrote stories for each issue. Without all of you, there would have been no newsletter!

Though the board has authorized the purchase of a desktop publishing pro-

gram, the purchase was not made in 1992. I felt that a purchase of PageMaker, which I previously recommended, was not wise, as it is now available only in Windows version; subsequent editors might not be able to use a Windows program. I have continued to have access to PageMaker and a laser printer on another computer in my hospital, and I felt that the new editor should have the freedom to choose a program that would be compatible with the widest variety of equipment. I strongly encourage the incoming editor to purchase a program, however, and take the time to learn it; it drastically cuts down the amount of time you have to spend on each issue.

I am stepping down as editor of Northwest Notes; two years is plenty long enough for one person to have this much fun! And it really has been fun; I very much have enjoyed the challenges of keeping this large and diverse region in touch! Kathy Murray will serve as editor once again; I'm sure the newsletter will be even better for her experience! Please support her as you have me.

MLA Scholarship for Minority Students

The Medical Library Association sponsors a \$2000 scholarship for minority students who are pursuing a graduate degree in library and information science with an emphasis on health sciences librarianship. The purpose of the MLA Scholarship for Minority Students is to encourage candidates showing excellence in scholarship and potential for accomplishment in health sciences librarianship.

The scholarship will be granted to a Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, or Pacific Island American student entering or continuing at the master's level. The application deadline is February 1, 1993.

For application and further information, please contact the Professional Development Department at the Medical Library Association, Suite, 300, Six North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60602-4005; 312/419-9094.

MLA to Meet in Hometown in '93

The Medical Library Association will hold its 93rd Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, home of the national headquarters, in the Palmer House Hotel, May 16-19, 1993. Continuing Education Courses will be scheduled for May 14-16, 1993.

MLA has invited internationally recognized speaker and best-selling author **Patricia Aburdene** to present this year's keynote address. Aburdene coauthored *Megatrends 2000* and *Re-inventing the Corporation* with author **John Naisbitt**; they have sold over 14 million copies of their books worldwide. Their latest publication, released in September, is entitled *Megatrends for Women*..

In addition to the keynote address and a variety of concurrent sessions and workshops, MLA's Hall of Exhibits will feature over 150 companies which serve health information professionals and their institutions. Some of these companies will also present "Lunch and Learn" sessions for attendees to gain experience with new products and ask questions.

Inclusive conference registration for members is \$245.00 if received by April 1, 1993. Conference-only registration for members is \$190.00.

Among the Continuing Education courses that will be offered on May 14-16 will be: Benchmarking: TQM, Part II; Navigating the Internet; Information Malpractice; Information Management: Concepts in Database Design; Advanced Features of Grateful Med; Searching the Genome Database; Success Seminar: Principles and Factors in High Achievement; The Library's Contribution to Quality; Introduction to Health Services Research; Planning Library Facilities; Health Professionals and Information; and Planning and Administering a Bibliographic Instruction Program.

Conference registration packets will be mailed shortly. Be watching your mail!

Consumer Health Sources on CD-ROM

By Natalie Norcross, Tuality Community Hospital, Hillsboro, Oregon

Consumer health reference is finally benefiting from CD-ROM technology. Infotrac's "Health Reference Center" and Silver Platter's "MDX Health Digest" are two products focused on this market. For the sake of brevity here, I will refer to them as Infotrac and MDX. They actually have only a little in common. Both include consumer and professional sources and both provide free trial time, Infotrac loaning all necessary hardware and MDX only the CD-ROM drive. Beyond this the two products are quite different. The technical aspect of searching is the most obvious difference. MDX uses Silver Platter's standard SPIRS search software. This is convenient if other Silver Platter products are also available in your library and you are set up to teach its use. I find it much more difficult for the layman to use however, because many commands are not readily apparent. It requires much more instruction time with every patron and is tailored for a more sophisticated searcher. That also is a strength, though, as more sophisticated searching is possible than with Infotrac. Infotrac has all commands on the screen at all times and is very simple to use and fast to demonstrate.

Content and cost are other major areas of difference. Infotrac covers many more journals, both consumer and clinical, many are fulltext, and it also includes fulltext textbooks and pamphlets, which MDX does not. This additional coverage is reflected in Infotrac's higher cost of \$5,000 per year, whereas MDX is \$1,850 a year.

Both try to provide the consumer with basic understandable information that they can walk away with, but they go about it in different ways. A strong MDX selling point is that every reference has a consumer summary and includes index terms which are also searchable. Infotrac, on the other hand, has quite a mixture of types of information: dictionary definitions, article references, some with abstracts and some without, and as mentioned above, texts and pamphlets. All are much easier to identify and print on Infotrac. With so much more information available, Infotrac patrons have much more to browse and thus do spend longer periods at the terminal, but requests for additional searching assistance are rare. The potential for increased interlibrary loan requests exists, but there is so much information that often alternate Infotrac sources suffice. The percentage of Infotrac articles that are very clinical is surprisingly high. This can be good or bad depending on your particular clientele.

I chose to subscribe to Infotrac for two reasons: easier searching, and a broader base of references. I have a consumer health library physically distant from my clinical collection, and Infotrac gives my lay patrons direct access to clinical information if they want it without requiring as much online searching by me. The full text content is wonderful and I also like the greater coverage of consumer health publications, rather than the general interest magazines and newspapers that MDX indexes.

People On The Move

Leilani St. Anna has left the University of Washington HSLIC and is now the half-time librarian at **Group Health Hospital**, Seattle, filling a new position. **Mary Ellen Lemon** has also left HSLIC; she is now the librarian at the **Group Health Eastside Medical Library** in Redmond. She replaces **Sheryl Lundberg Noble**, who gave birth to a baby girl, **Anna Ruth Noble**, on September 30 (while most of us were in Vancouver!)

Marilyn Ross is now the solo librarian at **Physio-Control Corporation** in Redmond, as **Susan Way** has moved on to become the Information Systems Librarian at **Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center** in Seattle.

The Seattle VA has a new library tech, **Cheryl Marland**.

Michael Hurley is the new reference librarian at Washington State University's **Veterinary Medicine/Pharmacy Library**. His immediate previous experience was at the University of North Dakota, but he has been around this region before, serving at Seattle Public Library, UW, and in Corvallis, Oregon.



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The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions as necessary.

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