WHAT’S IN A NAME...

Quite a lot, apparently. I read with interest about the recent SLA (Special Libraries Association) Annual Conference, held this year in Philadelphia. Some of you may have been there.

According to Library Journal (v. 125, no. 13, p. 57), most people working in special libraries are now referring to themselves as “information professionals”. Members are pressing the SLA to drop the “s” and the “l” from its name. New SLA President Donna Scheeder of the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress is urging members to become leaders by going “beyond the provision of information...to manage the knowledge”. A great idea! I think most of us are already doing that.

She also encouraged the group at SLA to lead the way to “reinvent librarianship”. Another great idea! Among our own HSLI membership, we have librarians or “information professionals” teaching computer skills, demonstrating complex technology, addressing groups of librarians, businessmen and women and the general public on various topics, planning continuing education for hospital staff, chairing committees, designing and developing web sites and intranets, producing brochures, fact sheets, videos, and other promotional materials, and the list goes on. I guess my point is this: we are already doing these things, whether we are called librarians or information professionals.

Ms. Scheeder also emphasized that SLA is about the information professional, not libraries. With that, I would agree. SLA, like HSLI, should exist for the individuals, not the institutions, although, as in HSLI, the institutions certainly benefit. We did away with our institutional membership years ago.

This whole name change thing brought to mind a meeting held about five years ago at the SIU School of Medicine. It was possibly the first Marketing Task Force Meeting, and Rhona Kelley was presiding. We were discussing ways to increase membership. How could we involve more people? Maybe a name change. Someone suggested Health Information Professionals of Illinois. And Rhona said, “then we’d be HIPPIES”! We laughed and moved on. I guess we were ahead of our time.

Hope to see you all in November in Rockford. Looks like a great conference!
Farewell, Syed

HSLI lost one of its most respected members this summer. Syed Maghrabi from Louis Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago passed away on July 29, 2000 from pancreatic cancer. Most of us will remember Syed as the courtly, generous professional always willing to lend a hand.

~Nina Pals

“The time I had with Syed as my mentor [for the Metropolitan Consortium] was very precious. Although he was in great pain, he still had time to mentor me and guide me as to my duties and responsibilities for the Consortium. He was a great man. At his memorial service at Weiss Memorial, the auditorium was filled with physicians, residents and other healthcare professionals. There were many memorials made and attestation to his warmth and giving personality. He will be sorely missed.”

~Helene Gottesmann, St. Francis Hospital Medical Library, Evanston, IL

Syed Maghrabi was born February 17, 1945 in Aurungabad, India. He immigrated to the USA in November 1968. On December 29, 1974, he married Asgharunnisa Hussain in Hyderabad, India. (Syed told me that he and his wife did not meet each other until shortly before the wedding ceremony; the marriage was arranged. Nevertheless the marriage was a happy one.) They had three children: Khaja Syed Mohammmed Maghrabi (1975); Syeda Habiba Maghrabi (1980); Sumaira Syeda Maghrabi (1982).

Syed received the Pride Handelman Award from Weiss Hospital in 1995, which was a source of great pride and satisfaction to him. He died July 29, 2000. He will be missed.

~Laura Mueller
Shriner

Syed Maghrabi
Feb 17, 1945 - Jul 29, 2000

2001 HSLI Conference

When: November 15 & 16, 2001
Where: Carle Hospital Education Forum - Urbana, IL
In cooperation with Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Tentative topic & speaker: 
Benchmarking
By Joanne Marshall, Dean (of Rochester Study fame)
GSLIS, U of NC-Chapel Hill
GMR Fellow Award

This Spring I had the opportunity to apply for and receive a GMR fellowship. Since the program began in 1997, there have been eight recipients (two per year) from the nine-state GMR area. The application process is easy. Probably the most difficult aspect is choosing where to do your fellowship. Also, some librarians may be hesitant to apply because of the time away from their workplace. It is essential to have the cooperation of your administration. Luckily, it was not difficult for me to explain the benefits to my institution.

I served my fellowship in August at Loyola University Health Science Library under Dr. Logan Ludwig and his wonderful staff. My objectives were met. I wanted to rethink my information delivery models, cope with the complexities of electronic resources, and try to continue to meet customer expectations within our very real cost constraints. I discovered that Loyola deals with the same issues, only on a larger scale. They have been moving from patron reliance on mediated searches to a heavy schedule of teaching information retrieval and management. They have similar issues with vendors and use a variety of electronic resources.

My staff and I were in daily contact by email. When problems occurred my library assistants emailed the question and I sent back an answer (often after consultations with the Loyola librarians). The ability to do distance reference was an added but unexpected benefit to my institution.

My overall assessment couldn’t be more positive. I think the fellowship concept is wonderful and could prove valuable to any type of librarian. Conferences and workshop take you out of the work environment. This program immerses you in the work environment so that questions are frequent and the staff/fellow develop a give and take relationship which I feel benefits all. The benefits ranged from the simple task: “I didn’t know you could do that” ……to the theoretical models of management and information gathering behaviors. Intellectually the fellowship is stimulating on many levels. I hope many of you will consider applying for this opportunity next year. Information on the fellowship program is available at: http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/gmr/funding/fellow/

Arlis Dittmer
Blessing Health Professions Library
Quincy, Illinois

Strange Headlines

Headlines serve to announce the content of an article, though sometimes they don’t sound quite the way the editor intended. Consider the following taken from the 1998 ALMANAC FOR FARMERS & CITY FOLK:

*Wisconsin Bill Would Permit Blind to Hunt Deer
*Lawyers Give Poor Free Legal Advice
*Crime: Sheriff Asks for 13.7% Increase
*Boys Cause As Many Pregnancies As Girls
*Living Together Linked To Divorce
*No Cause of Death Determined For Beheading Victim
*Mayor Says D.C. Is Safe Except For Murders
*Storm Delayed By Bad Weather
*Man Is Fatally Slain
*Low Pay Reason For Poverty, Study Says
*Slow Driver Arrested After 4-County Chase
Future HSLI Conferences

During September, 2000, the HSLI board and members of the HSLI listserv held a lively electronic discussion on the topic of joint meetings in general and a joint meeting with WHSLA, MC/MLA and HSLI for the Fall of 2001. Although the decision was made to continue with our plans to hold 2001 in Champaign, everyone's input was appreciated.

According to Edward Poletti of the VA Danville, Champaign is the birthplace of "HAL". So what choice did we have! The interest in a joint meeting and the thoughtful responses from the members will give the Board something to think about for the future. Tentative conference plans have been made for the next several years and the hosting consortiums are encouraged to consider a joint meeting.

Arlis Dittmer  
Blessing Health Professions Library  
Quincy, IL

Librarian's Retirement Investing Web Sites

Since most of us in the Medical Library field will never see the salaries, benefits, and perks allotted to librarians who work in the for-profit sector or in educational fields, it is crucial that we take responsibility for our financial futures.

Many of us work in hospitals which have what is called a 403 (b) Retirement Plan. This refers to the section of the Internal Revenue code which gives certain non-profit organizations like hospitals and schools to set up savings plans for their employees. It is very similar to, but NOT the same thing as the 401 (k) plans we hear so much about in the media, which are for for-profit companies.

I thought I would pass along a couple of EXCELLENT web sites for learning more about investing for retirement. Institutions generally do not do a good job of educating their employees of what is available and how to take advantage of their retirement plans. Also, it is very difficult to find information specifically for 403 (b) plans.

The first is called 403(b) Wise, and the link is

403 (b) Wise  
http://www.403bwise.com/

It is an educational resource for learning about 403 (b) plans and how to use them to the max.

The next is called Fund Alarm. It helps you review specific funds and when to get rid of them.... never seen anything like it before…

Fund Alarm  
http://www.fundalarm.com/

Of course, there are TONS of good web sites out there to help you with retirement planning... but these two are not very prominent and are excellent, in my humble opinion!

Paul Blobaum  
Lloyd W. Jessen Health Science Library  
Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet IL
SATELLITE TELECONFERENCE

THE EFFECTS OF E-JOURNALS ON YOUR LIBRARY

Wednesday, November 15, 2000
12:30 -2:00 p.m.
Rolling Prairie Library System, Decatur, IL
Presented by: The Medical Library Association

This teleconference will provide a fundamental knowledge of electronics journals; awareness of electronic publishing issues; details on currently available electronic publications; education concerning the benefits, pitfalls and potential solutions surrounding purchasing electronic journals; and awareness of specific availability and collection issues for hospital and academic library settings.

You must respond by Tuesday, October 17, 2000. A minimum of 15 people must register in order for RPLS to hold the event.

A $20 fee for this event must be paid by or on November 15, 2000
RPLS Voice: 217.429.2586 Fax: 217.428.1852
The Virtual Illinois Catalog (VIC) project is moving right along, with the addition of several hundred library holdings into WorldCat, the OCLC online union catalog. All ILLINET member libraries will become OCLC members, if they are not already OCLC members. New members have the choice of becoming either a Full Member or Selective Member (interlibrary loan only).

VIC will automatically search throughout the whole state for an item a patron has requested. If an Illinois library does not own the item, the user may then choose to look for the item using OCLC, or any other means of interlibrary loan available to the library.

Becoming an OCLC member does not mean an automatic use of OCLC for interlibrary loan purposes. OCLC is an option, and should be considered only after reciprocal/free options have been exhausted.

As each library loads their records into their respective library system’s LLSAP, the library systems will turn around and load those records into WorldCat on a quarterly basis. The first step in the process is to get all of the libraries profiled. The following library systems have had all their members profiled as of August 2000:

* Alliance Library System
* DuPage Library System
* Lewis & Clark Library System
* Lincoln Trail Libraries System
* Northern Illinois Library System
* Rolling Prairie Library System
* River Bend Library System
* Shawnee Library System

Heritage Trail Library System, Chicago Library System, Suburban Library System, and North Suburban Library System will be profiled later this year and the early part of 2001.

Expenses for profiling and the initial batchloading of records into WorldCat are being paid by grants to the library systems by the Illinois State Library.

The Illinois State Library is broadcasting a statewide teleconference on September 15, 2000. The agenda will cover a review of VIC, basic ILL procedures, and a demonstration on using OCLC for interlibrary loan purposes. The teleconference will be followed by a series of hands-on training by ILLINET/OCLC Services staff and library system trainers. Contact your library system for a schedule of hands-on workshops.

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**Grants**

Make sure you check the following URL to stay in touch with grants offered by the Illinois State Library:

http://www.library.sos.state.il.us/isl/grants/grants.html

Included on the Web page is a listing of grant writing web sites. Make sure you also stay in touch with library system staff. The Illinois State Library posts grant announcements on the Web, but also sends grant announcements to the library systems so they may pass the information along to their members.

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**ELECTRONIC RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY**

FirstSearch - the Illinois State Library is once again providing 16 databases free of charge to all ILLINET members. Several of the databases are full text. H.W. Wilson Select has been expanded to WilsonSelect Plus, with even more full text journals. Information and applications for the following databases may be found at

http://www.library.sos.state.il.us/e_res.htm.

Grove's "Embryonic" Encyclopedia of Life Sciences - available this year for the first time in electronic, web-based formats. This is a preview version that contains more than 1,000 articles, with a target of 3,500 total articles by April 2001.

PDR Electronic Library Online - includes the PDR Library (Physicians' Desk Reference, PDR for Nonprescription Drugs & Dietary Supplements and PDR for Ophthalmology); Stedman's Medical Dictionary and the PDR for Herbal Medicines.

Please contact me at 217-524-5866, 800-665-5576 (option 2), or via e-mail at lbierna@ilsos.net if you have any questions about items in this article, or State Library or OCLC issues.
HSLI Business Meeting Agenda: November 10, 2000

Health Science Librarians of Illinois Business Meeting
Friday, November 10, 2000
Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, Illinois

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer’s Report
Karen Wark

Committee Reports
Nominating
Michael Wold
Bylaws
Angela Wolf
Membership
Rhona Kelley
Legislative
Jerry DeWitt
Archives
Karen Douglas
Newsletter
Nina Pals, Molly Horio

Conference Reports: HSLI 2000, HSLI 2001

Illinois State Library: Lynn Bierma

Old Business:
Bylaws changes,
proposed bylaws changes
newsletter online,
benefits for HSLI Board,
HSLI Periodicals List

New Business:
Liaison to networks (new position)
Tribute to Syed Maghrabi
Stipends

President’s Award

Adjournment
We encourage any HSLI member who comes across interesting information (article, Website, or other) to send us a summary for the newsletter. If it is new or of interest to you, most likely it will also be of interest to many others. This type of information sharing makes our newsletter more valuable.

If you have any items for the newsletter, please e-mail them to Molly at mhorio@bromenn.org or Nina at npals@sblhs.org. Likewise, any suggestion or recommendations, please e-mail to Molly or Nina.

Future deadlines: December 1, 2000
March 1, 2001