

A PUBLICATION OF THE MANITOBA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

mhla news

VOLUME 21. NUMBER 1 FALL 1998

SBGH LIBRARY JOINS THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

After many months of preparation and negotiation, the Carolyn Sifton-Helene Fuld Library at St. Boniface General Hospital was consolidated with the University of Manitoba Libraries. The official transfer took place on August 1, 1998, at which time the SBGH Library became a satellite operation of the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library. According to the formal agreement signed in June, the hospital library's complete baseline budget, the collection, furnishings, and office equipment were transferred to the University in exchange for full academic library services at the St. Boniface site. SBGH Library staff became employees of the University Libraries as part of the agreement. The consolidation resembles in many ways the 1995 agreement between the Health Sciences Centre and the University.

The restructured SBGH Library is staffed by two professional librarians, two library assistants, and a casual shelver. The collection of 400 current periodicals and 7,000 books will be maintained on site, and the library will continue to offer a full range of reference, orientation and bibliographic instruction, literature searching, and document delivery services. As a special library at Winnipeg's second largest hospital, our priority is to respond quickly and effectively to the information needs of clinical staff and researchers, say library assistants Sonja Paas and Michele Coutts. And now University faculty and students working on the Taché Campus have equal access to academic library services on site. Within the structure of the University of Manitoba Libraries, the SBGH Library is well positioned to improve service to all its varied clientele.

The past few years have seen many changes at St. Boniface General Hospital, and the SBGH Library was no exception. Until 1994 there were two libraries located in the hospital. The Helene Fuld Library, located in the Nursing Education Building, was an important collection supporting the nursing education program at St. Boniface General Hospital. The Carolyn Sifton Library, located in the Research Centre since 1987, held the hospital's medical collection. In the summer of 1994 the two hospital libraries were amalgamated under the direction of Hospital Librarian Mark Rabnett. The nursing collection was moved into the larger Research Centre site, the two staffs were combined, and all library services were centralized in the newly named Carolyn Sifton-Helene Fuld Library.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

MHLA President's Letter

Little did I know when I offered to take on the position of President-elect, that I would have to take on the President's position so quickly! For those of you who have not heard, Hal Loewen left us this summer for a position with a hospital in Minneapolis.

We have also lost David Colborne (Professional Development / Programs Committee). David has headed home for Halifax where he will head the Department of Natural Resources Library. As well, Margaret Amyot (Publications / Promotions Committee) took a position with the University of Manitoba and will no longer be involved with MHLA.

Despite these membership losses, several MHLA committees have managed to stay active throughout the summer and fall. A special thank you to Laurie Blanchard and Jan Johnson (who replaced David Colborne on Professional Development / Programme Committee) for their hard work. Laurie and Jan put together a great workshop for us on the World Wide Web. I hope to see many of you at the workshops on October 26th and 27th at the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library and am really looking forward to meeting Tom Flemming from McMaster University. If you are unable to attend these workshops, we will likely offer a similar workshop after Christmas. Laurie would be interested in hearing about any other ideas that MHLA members might have for future workshops.

Since we are expecting a number of MHLA members to attend the workshop on October 26th, the MHLA Executive Committee decided at a September 10th meeting to hold the fall MHLA meeting on October 26th from 12:00 to 1:00. The meeting will be held in Room S211 of the Medical Services Building on the Bannatyne Campus. A copy of the meeting agenda is included in this newsletter. Please note that because Hal left and I have moved to the position of President, we have a vacancy for the position of President-Elect. This Newsletter includes a call for nominations for the position. We will be voting on the nominations we receive at the Fall general meeting. For those of you

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1998-99 membership dues in MHLA ARE AS FOLLOWS :

PERSONAL	\$15.00
INSTITUTIONAL	50.00
ASSOCIATE	20.00

This issue of the News was produced using Microsoft Office97. It was printed in Galliard BT using a HP Laserjet 5. Submissions for the winter issue should be received by January 12, 1999, at the following address:

MHLA news
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Diana_Stojanovic-Lewis@umanitoba.ca

Editorial Staff:

Diana Stojanovic-Lewis
Editor

MHLA EXECUTIVE 1998 - 1999

President	Tania Gottschalk
President-Elect	
Secretary	Analyn Baker
Treasurer	Doug Carlson

who have lost track, the Executive Committee includes Tania Gottschalk (President), President-Elect (vacant), Analyn Baker (Secretary), and Doug Carleson (Treasurer).

The Networking Committee met on September 11th to plan for the upcoming year. Carol Cooke will be chairing the committee that includes Tania Gottschalk, Justine Larocque, Vera Keown, and Mark Rabnett. One particular challenge for the committee is the MHLA Union List of Serials. The Committee was hoping to make use of the Docline Serhold listings to update the list. However, access to these holdings is not readily available at this time and so the Committee will be working to try and get a new edition of the Union List produced this year. We also hope to make the new edition available on the World Wide Web. Mark Rabnett and I will be working on this project. As well, Vera Keown and Justine Larocque have agreed to work on the MHLA World Wide Web page. This collaboration will occur electronically (how appropriate!) as Justine is located in Thompson. Vera will take responsibility for moderating the MHLA Listserv. If you haven't already joined the listserv, I urge you to do so because it is an easy way for all of us to communicate.

I called a meeting of the Task Force on Access to Knowledge-Based Health Information in Manitoba on September 10th to discuss further distribution of the position paper. Members of the Task Force include Judy Inglis, Mark Rabnett, Bill Poluha, and Sharon Allentuck. Members of the Task Force felt that we should get copies of this paper out to other health professionals and administrators in the province. As of our September meeting, the position paper had only gone to a few key individuals in the Winnipeg Health Authority. The Task Force will be reviewing a list of individuals who also should receive a copy and writing a letter to accompany the position paper. We hope to have the position paper and letter distributed by the end of October.

Kachan Sthankiya has agreed to join Diana Stojanovic-Lewis (formerly Pollock) on the Publications and Promotions Committee. After discussions with Diana and the Executive Committee, the newsletter is going to try a new direction. We are

hoping to have each issue focus on a particular topic. The Winter newsletter will focus on consumer health collections in Manitoba. Diana and Kachan need our help in producing the newsletter and so this is your chance to contribute. Please let us know if you can write an article for the newsletter.

I would like to let you know that the Manitoba Library Association has declared November "Manitoba Libraries Month". In celebration of libraries in Manitoba a new book is being released called "Directions : A Guide to Libraries in Manitoba" and edited by Donna Strike. The book will include information about MHLA libraries and other libraries throughout Manitoba. The book will be available at the end of October.

Tania Gottschalk

CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of CHLA and its members I would like to extend great appreciation and thanks to **Laurie Blanchard**, the outgoing Editor of BMC, for an outstanding job. Thanks too to Laurie, on a more personal level, for her mentoring over the past year and, likely, over the next few months as I take on the role of Editor. Congratulations Laurie!

Anna Gagliardi
Health Information Research Unit
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

I second the sentiment!! I have really enjoyed reading BMC over the past year, and looked forward to each new issue. Of course, now you will have time to WRITE for BMC, Laurie ;-)

Liz Bayley

PEOPLE

MHLA bids farewell to **Hal Lowen** from the Victoria General Hospital. Hal has moved to Minnesota to pursue new opportunities and to **David Colburn** from CISTI who has gone to the Department of Natural Resources in Halifax. We wish you both lots of luck in your new careers.

MARGARET AMYOT has left the Grace General Hospital Library to pursue a new position with the University of Manitoba's Private Funding Department. Good Luck and thank-you for your contribution as Co-editor of the "*mhla news*"

NAME CHANGE : Diana Pollock (Editor of the "*mhla news*") became Diana Stojanovic-Lewis on August 1, 1998.

FROM CISTI

NATIONAL LIBRARY AND CISTI DISCONTINUE ROMULUS

OTTAWA, JUNE 8, 1998

The National Library of Canada and the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) announced today that they are discontinuing Romulus, a joint CD-ROM product used for locating serials and ordering and ordering documents from Canadian Libraries.

The announcement comes after a year of product analysis and consultation with Romulus clients. Research revealed that, despite Romulus past success and usefulness, the product was no longer the best means of delivering serials information and was not meeting the needs of clients.

"..... current and future National Library products will offer Romulus clients even more comprehensive bibliographic information at a more attractive price."

Among these products is **Access AMICUS**, the National Library's online database. Available for a nominal fee, the database provides users with access to twice as many serial records as Romulus. These include records for CISTI's holdings, which are reported to the National Library's union list. Access AMICUS also includes monograph records and allows users to send interlibrary loan requests to the Library and CISTI. A Web-based version of Access AMICUS is in the initial stages of development. In addition, the Library's Web site (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca>) provides free access to the catalogue of the Library's holdings (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/amicus/ecatalog.htm>) and interlibrary loan services (<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ill/e-ill.htm>).

Clients can search CISTI's Web-based catalogue (<http://cat.cisti.nrc.ca>) for holdings information and order documents from both CISTI and the Canadian Agriculture Library (CAL). The Catalogue also allows users to use a blank order form to order documents not held by CISTI or CAL, to list all orders placed, and to view individual circulation records.

For more information contact:

Carol Smale
Resource Sharing Services
National Library of Canada
Tel: (613) 992-1752

Fax: (613) 996-4424
E-mail: carol.smale@nlc-bnc.ca

Beverly Brown
Electronic Information Services
CISTI
Tel: 1-800-668-1222 or
(613) 993-9215
Fax: (613) 952-8244
E-mail: beverly.brown@nrc.ca

CISTI ENTERS INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FAR EAST

Ottawa, May 14, 1998

The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) of the National Research Council Canada and the Science and Technology Information Centre (STIC) in Taipei, China, have entered into an agreement that will enhance access to scientific, technical and medical information within our respective economies by sharing our responses, technologies and expertise. CISTI and STIC also plan to exchange staff for training purposes.

Within this agreement, CISTI will tap into a large Chinese-language collection of scientific and technical information published in Chinese Taipei, Mainland China and throughout the South East region. Canada will therefore have access to approximately 1200 Chinese-language scientific and technical journals. In the past decade Taiwan has increased the quantity and quality of its high technology research with new facilities and the allocation of considerable funds. This makes the information a valuable resource for Canadians.

NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CISTI APPROVED

Ottawa, May 14, 1998

Jacques Lyrette, Vice-President, Technology and Industry Support, National Research Council of Canada (NRC) announces the appointment of **Bernard Dumouchel** as **Director General**, Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) effective Monday, 11 May 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 1998

PROVINCE AND PARTNERS TO CREATE A VIRTUAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

Toronto - Library users in communities across the province will soon be able to surf the vast resources of the Toronto Reference Library, thanks to a \$3.5 million cross-sector partnership announced today by Isabel Bassett, Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

The Virtual Reference Library will provide an on-line experience much the same as walking through the doors of the Toronto Reference Library, via a one-stop approach on the Information Highway. Once inside, users will have the opportunity to browse through a wide range of information resources.

Minister Isabel Bassett announced \$2 million in government support this year at a demonstration of content for the Virtual Reference Library held at the Toronto Reference Library. The first phase of the project is slated for completion in February 1999, with new services and gateways coming online through the year 2000.

On behalf of Minister of Energy, Science and Technology Jim Wilson, she said that \$521,313 from the Telecommunications Access Partnership (TAP) fund will provide Ontarians with a new way to access the library's collection and reference services. She also said that the Toronto Reference Library would receive a provincial operating grant of \$1, 522, 700 in 1998 to sustain the Virtual Reference Library. The grant will support the Toronto Reference library as an important service to library users throughout the province.

The Minister was joined by representatives of the private partners involved in the project's development: Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Cisco Systems, Digital Renaissance, helios/oceana and Silicon Graphics Canada Inc. These companies have contributed \$1.5 million to the Virtual Reference Library.

"The Virtual Reference Library will allow for sharing of the reference library's considerable resources among all Ontarians, as all libraries will have the opportunity to subscribe to the new service," said Minister Bassett. "Rural, remote, Northern and urban communities will soon have greater access to the library's rich resources."

Investing in this kind of innovative partnership demonstrates our commitment to encouraging the development and use of the information highway and our commitment to the prosperity of the province," said

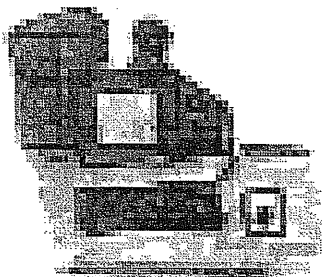
Minister Wilson. "Such projects will create new high-value jobs and economic competitiveness in the rapidly growing knowledge-based global economy."

Richard Boxer, Chair of the Toronto Public Library Foundation, which leads the private-sector consortium said, "We are extremely pleased with this cross-sectoral partnership. The level of support for this project has been truly outstanding."

To date, the \$20 million TAP initiative has generated widespread interest and broad support. Fourteen projects have involved 132 partners who have committed \$54 million towards projects to provide Ontarians with improved access to advanced telecommunications infrastructure and innovative applications.

In the May Budget, the province announced that it will extend the TAP initiative by investing an additional \$30 million over the next three years.

**For more information, contact:
or visit the website at <http://networks-Ontario.com>**



SBGH LIBRARY

(Con't from pg.1)

The merger of the hospitals two collections came at a time of growing demand for library services at SBGH, says Mark Rabnett. To help meet the need a new professional position was created, and a Reference Librarian was hired in December 1994. The difficult job of physically merging the nursing and medical collections in addition to integrating all library functions occupied much of the following year. The ever-increasing demand for advanced information services and the accelerated rate of technological change during 1994 and 1995 led to a serious reassessment of the SBGH Library and the part it played within the hospital and beyond.

Talks with the University of Manitoba Libraries began in September 1996, shortly after the successful amalgamation of the Health Sciences Centre Library Services with the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library. It had become obvious, says Mark Rabnett, that after the library amalgamation at the Bannatyne Campus the strong presence of University faculty and students at St. Boniface, and our friendly but informal affiliation with the University, were leading inevitably to some more substantial arrangement. Planning for change was temporarily interrupted by the Flood of 1997, during which the library's entire collection (2,000 boxes in all) had to be removed to safe storage on the top floor of the Research Centre. The staff made good use of this unexpected turn of events to do a thorough spring cleaning and a redesign of the main stack area. It was the second major move for the library in three years.

Negotiations between the Hospital and the University began in earnest in early 1997, and a formal agreement was finally signed in June 1998. Mark Rabnett says, We succeeded in making the change as transparent as possible for library users. We're happy with the results. Ada Ducas at NJM Library was a great help in making this important transition. Thanks should also go out to all those who worked so hard over the past year. The Carolyn Sifton-Helene Fuld Library remains an active member of the Manitoba Health Libraries Association. As part of the larger University community, the library continues to work towards improving access to information in the health sciences.

Manitoba Health Libraries Association Member Listserv

MHLA-News Mailing is up and running!

This is a moderated mailing list offered to Manitoba Health Libraries Association members and interested parties.

The purpose of this list is to provide the subscriber with important news and events within the MHLA. Also it is to be a forum for discussing local issues concerning the members of the MHLA. Announcements of LOCAL (i.e. Manitoba) Internet resources relating to Health and Librarianship are encouraged. Other examples of possible uses for this include listserv:

MHLA meeting notices

Membership surveys by MHLA committees

There are many other mailing lists such as CANMEDLIB, MEDLIB-L and Medical Matrix that offer a more comprehensive listing of new Internet resources. The MHLA-News mailing list will not duplicate these resources.

To subscribe to this list:

Send an e-mail message to listproc@cc.umanitoba.ca
<<mailto:listproc@cc.umanitoba.ca>>

Leave the Subject line blank.

Put sub mhla-news Firstname Lastname in the body of the message

National Network of Health

We have just completed a web site for the National Network of Health Libraries project that has been funded by Health Canada. You can find out more about the project at:

<http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/people/faculty/marshall/nnhl/index.htm>

We welcome your ideas on what should be on the site as resource documents and links. We also welcome your input and ideas on the components of the network itself. You can use the discussion part of the web site to post your ideas or send them directly as an email to nnhl@fis.utoronto.ca. We will be adding to the site over the next 2 months as the report is developed.

Joanne Marshall and Penney Kirby

WEB MED LINKS

As many of you know, CMA Information Services takes care of the WebMed Links area of CMA Online. WebMed Links is a compilation of health and medicine-related Internet sites for the use of Canadian physicians in their practice and research.

WebMed links

<http://www.cma.ca/webmed/> (english)

<http://www.cma.ca/webmed-f/> (french)

I have been working on a list "Medical Libraries" in Canada (as well as some major international sites).

<http://www.cma.ca/webmed/mlib.htm> (english)

<http://www.cma.ca/webmed-f/mlib.htm> (french)

Please let me know if your library is not on the list and if you would like to be included, or if you do not wish to have your library included.

Thanks.

Jessie McGowan, MLIS
Librarian, Information Services

UNION LISTS ON THE WEB

The University of CA system has incorporated the regional Union list into their online catalog, MELVYL. You can see it here:
<http://www.melvyl.ucop.edu/> Choose the Periodical Titles database, and you can see where a title is available.

The Pacific Northwest Region of the NN/LM have put up their Regions SERHOLD holdings on the Internet. You can FTP a libraries list of holdings. The URL for their SERHOLD services page is
<http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/pnr/serhold/>

Our Union list in HTML is:

<http://home.iSTAR.ca/~qelib/holdings.htm>

From the San Antonio area Union List called CORAL:
> <http://coral.library.net>.

The Manitoba Library Association has put the province's serial holdings online. It can be access through the MLA page at
<http://www.mla.mb.ca>

We have two collections listed on our web page. It isn't pretty and it is out of date, but it seems to be functional.

<http://thehosp.org/library/books.htm#Toronto>
<http://thehosp.org/library/academy.htm#Academy>

The holdings of the hospital libraries in Rhode Island, Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries (ARIHSL), have just been added to the union list of the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries (CRIARL). This week the union list became available in Web form. It uses Innopac.

Here is the URL - <http://library.brown.edu:81>

Cameron Metcalf
Librarian, Ottawa Hospital - General Site
(613)-737-8530
<cmetcalf@ogh.on.ca>
www.ogh.on.ca

CONFERENCES

NOVEMBER 1998

INTERNET LIBRARIAN '98

Monterey Conference Center, Doubletree & Marriott Hotels
November 1-5, 1998

Jane I. Dysart, Program Chair, Internet Librarian '97

To receive information registration and the preliminary program brochure later this year, please contact Information Today Inc.,
custserv@infotoday.com, 800/300-9868, www.infotoday.com

FEBRUARY 1999

A HEALTHY HERITAGE

Wellcome Trust
25-26 February 1999.

COLLECTING FOR THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL HISTORY

To receive further details, please contact:

Sue Chapman, The Wellcome Institute, 183 Euston Road,
London NW1 2BE
Phone 0171 611 8494 : Fax 0171 611 8703
e-mail s.chapman@wellcome.ac.uk

MARCH 1999

IX Transborder Library Forum

March 4-6, 1999
Mexicali, Baja California
Mexico

The theme is Facing a New Millennium of Information and the hosts are trying to ensure that there are Mexican, Canadian and American individuals as keynote speakers and panellists. The main/keynote speech is on the Future of Canadian Libraries; there are also sessions on education, technology and library cooperation.

The preliminary site is <http://www.mxl.cetys.mx/foro>
I shall have French and English pamphlets and would be delighted to hear from potential speakers or those with suggestions for speakers. I have discussed with Mr. Gigault of Foreign Affairs the possibility of his covering travel expenses (air travel both ways) and I believe we could have assistance for 2-3 persons.

Gwynneth Evans
(gwynneth.evans@nlc-bnc.ca)
1998-10-11

OR

Leacy O'Brien
Director of Member Services, Canadian Library Association
200 Elgin Street, Ste 602, Ottawa ONK2P 1L5
:613-232-9625,x307 URL:<http://www.cla.amlibs.ca>

MAY 1999

CANADIAN HEALTH LIBRARIES SSOCIATION/ASSOCIATION
DES BIBLIOTHEQUES DE LA SANTE DU CANADA
CONFERENCE (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

25-29 MAY 1999

THEME: Bridge to the New Millennium

JUNE 1999

CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
JUNE 16 - 20
TORONTO

WORKSHOPS

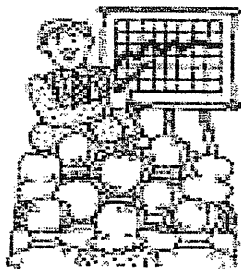
JUST GET ME THE GOOD STUFF:SEARCHING THE WEB FOR
QUALITY HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

Monday, October 26, 1998
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

THE WORLD WIDE WEB: AN INTRODUCTION TO HEALTHCARE
INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

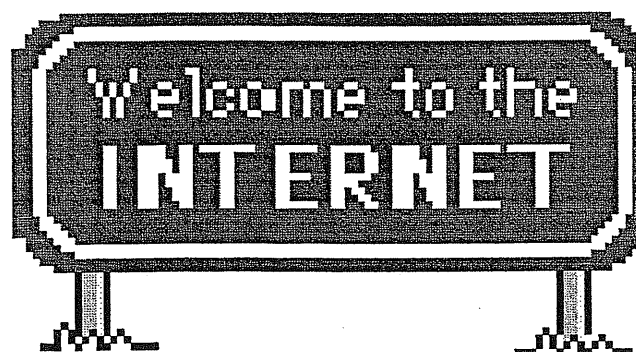
Tuesday, October 27, 1998
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE WORKSHOPS,
PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THE NEWSLETTER*



INTERNET RESOURCES

PHARMACOLOGICAL REVIEWS	http://pharmrev.org/
THE MEDICAL LITERATURE AS A RESOURCE FOR EVIDENCE BASED CARE, MACMASTER UNIVERSITY	http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/hiru/medline/mdl-ebc.htm
NETTING THE EVIDENCE: A SCHARR INTRODUCTION TO EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE ON THE INTERNET	http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/R-Z/scharr/ir/netting.html
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES (NIDDK)	http://www.niddk.nih.gov
NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE (NEI)	http://nei.nih.gov/
JOURNAL OF NURSING JOCULARITY	http://www.jocularity.com
ERIC TEST COLLECTION	http://ericae.net
MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENTS	http://apa.org/science/test.html
PRIVACY ACT	http://canada.justice.gc.ca/cgi-bin/folioisa.dll/estats.NFO/query=*/doc/{@67868} (type on a single line)
ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT	http://canada.justice.gc.ca/cgi-bin/folioisa.dll/estats.NFO/query=*/doc/{@7}
ACCESS TO MOST OF THE ACTS OF THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT	http://canada.justice.gc.ca/FTP/EN/Laws/index.html
ACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA	http://canada.justice.gc.ca/stable/EN/Laws/Chap/index.html
DeGeorges, K.M. (1998). Taming the World Wide Web:if everything is on the Web, why can't I find anything? AWHONN Lifelines, 2(4),50-52.	

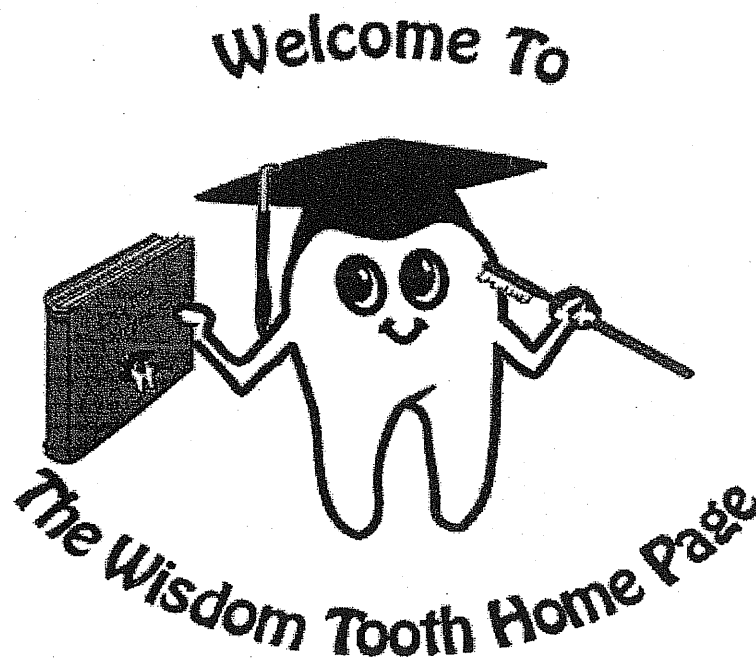


OCTOBER IS

DENTAL HYGIENE

MONTH

Visit the University of Manitoba's "The Wisdom Tooth Home Page. This Web page was put together by a group of dental hygiene students as a community dental project in 1997. The site won the Yahoo pick of the week award after only two weeks on the web and has since won numerous awards. The site continues to be maintained by the students who created the Web page. The site covers information on brushing, oral concerns, tips for parents, as well as frequently asked questions and links to other sites and associations.



<http://www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/wisdomtooth/>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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INTERNET RESOURCES

National Centre for Dental Hygiene Research : <http://jeffline..tju.edu/DHNet/>

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry : <http://aapd.org>

American Dental Association : <http://www.ada.org/>

American Dental Hygienists Association : <http://www.adha.org>

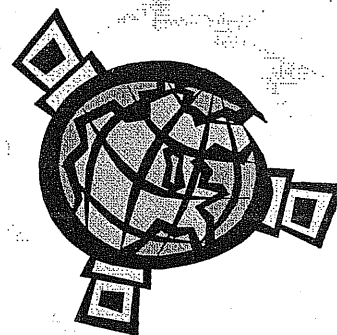
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association – Publications : www.magi.com/~cdha/public.html

Canadian Dental Hygienists Association : www.magi.com/~cdha/

The Tooth Fairy : <http://www.toothfairy.org>

Toothtalk : <http://www.toothtalk.com>

Sybertooth: <http://www.sybertooth.com>



**THE WINTER ISSUE OF THE
"NEWS" WILL BE ON :**

CONSUMER HEALTH

**Please forward articles,
anecdotes, web sites,
resources, etc. If you're library
has a consumer health section,
please let me know.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
IS : JANUARY 12, 1999.**

ADVANCED SEARCHING A CHEAT SHEET

PubMed URL: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed>

I. BOOLEAN OPERATORS

Boole was a mathematician. The logical operators named after him (*AND*, *OR*, and *NOT*) help you to construct a search for the computer to perform.

A. Separate your question into discrete concepts. For example: "Does taking aspirin cause Reyes Syndrome in children?" could be broken down into:

1. Aspirin
2. Reyes Syndrome
3. Children

To combine these concepts, use the Boolean operator *AND*.

Aspirin AND Reyes Syndrome AND children

will retrieve citations that discuss all three concepts in one article.

B. The Boolean operator *OR* allows you to broaden a concept and include synonyms. For example, *Kidney disease OR renal disease* will retrieve citations using either (or both) terms.

C. The final Boolean operator, *NOT*, allows you to exclude concepts not relevant to your search. For example, you could search multi-infarct dementia by using *dementia NOT Alzheimer's*.

But be careful using this, because you would eliminate citations discussing both types of dementia (all articles discussing Alzheimer's are eliminated.).

Be sure to put the Boolean operators in capital letters, to flag them for the computer. For example, if you were doing a search on what physician fees and charges should be, your concepts are physicians, fees and charges.

So your search statement would be:

physicians AND fees and charges

II. The above search statement can be further refined by putting the phrase with more than one word in quotations:

physicians AND "fees and charges"

Another example would be:

"kidney failure"

It's always a good idea to put phrases or concepts with more than one word in quotations.

III. The following qualifiers can be used to narrow and refine your search. Place qualifiers in brackets.

A. Smith J [au] to search for an author.

B. Headache [majr] to search this topic as the main subject of an article. Using [majr] or [mh] automatically explodes the term. That is, the computer searches that topic and all narrower topics under it. For example, epilepsy [mh] will retrieve all specific types as well as general articles on epilepsy.

C. AZT [all] to search all fields.

D. Subheadings may be used, but must be spelled out in full: angioplasty/adverse effects

E. To limit to a specific year, use all four numbers 1995 [dp], where dp=date of publication.

F. To limit to English, use English [la].

G. To find review articles only, use review [pt], which stands for publication type.

H. A word may be truncated using the asterisk: pneumoni* will find pneumonia, pneumonic, pneumonitis, etc.

IV. If the computer's response is "no documents found," you may have made an error, so check your work.