



## UPDATE ON NETWORKING MEDLINE ON CD-ROM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Keir Reavie, Reference Librarian  
Medical Library, University of Manitoba

A year ago the Medical Library at the University of Manitoba began a trial to test the use of and the need for network and dial-in access to the MEDLINE database on CD-ROM. SilverPlatter MEDLINE Express, covering 1987 to the present, was selected for the trial. This is an update on the results of that trial and current activity.

The MEDLINE Express database required the use of 4 CD-ROM players, all of which could be searched simultaneously. The CD-ROM players were connected to a network file-server located at the Bannatyne Campus. Networking software used was Novell Netware and SCSI Express. Because of the wide area networking of LANs at both University campuses, all LAN users at either campus were potentially able to connect.

An important aspect of the trial was to provide dial-in access to those not connected to the university's networks, either from their offices or from home. This required the operation of a special computer called an access server and the distribution of communications software called ONLAN.

The initial trial, which lasted to the end of September 1992 was comprised of

approximately 200 people. User's response was overwhelmingly positive. From the library point of view, performance of the system was very good, although there were specific dial-in problems identified. As a result, the Medical Library, in conjunction with the rest of the University of Manitoba Libraries, agreed to continue with the trial while attempting to expand the number of databases and improve various components of the system. At the same time we are seriously exploring options to improve response time and dial-in connections. These options involve mounting MEDLINE on a magnetic hard disk, rather than using CD-ROMs, and switching to a UNIX based retrieval system. Both SilverPlatter and CD-Plus are currently testing such systems.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greg Wilton

I'll use this final opportunity to use this space as President to summarize briefly and philosophize minimally on the past year.

The CHLA Conference in Winnipeg was a dominant feature for the spring and early summer of 1992 for many of us. I doubt that there has been too much said in the way of thanks and congratulations to all those who worked to make it the all round success it was. So thanks and congrats to all CHLA 1992 Conference workers.

The fall meeting was held in Fargo, ND in conjunction with the NDLA Conference. At this meeting the Task Force on the Future Direction of MHLA was initiated and the membership can still forward input or submissions to the Task Force. It could be a way to create some of our environment in contrast to only experiencing it.

The fall also featured the MHO session with Joanne Marshall speaking on the Rochester Study. Her important work has supported in objective form what we in libraries, and some not in libraries, have felt or believed could be the reality out there. I doubt the importance of this work, to hospital libraries in particular, can be overestimated.

The winter meeting was hosted by Cheryl Manness at ARCOR which featured a large turnout and several motions which I'll interpret as demonstrating the membership's interest in the Association but also its' need for members to work for the objectives of the Association. At this point I solicit the membership to seek each other out for Association activity.

Some projects the executive has worked on in the past year are : an index to the Association's General meetings and Executive Minutes; an MHLA Commendation for Outstanding Library Service; and a new edition of the Union List due in 1993.

I wish to thank Gail, Laurie, and Dallas for their stimulation, work and support in the past year. They have made it an interesting and rewarding year and at the conclusion of my term I will feel experienced and qualified for the position I leave.

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PERSONAL	\$15.00
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President-Elect ..... Dallas Bagby  
Secretary ..... Laurie Blanchard  
Treasurer ..... Gail Kohut

## CALENDAR

## COURSES

University of Toronto, Continuing Education, Faculty of Library and Information Science, is offering the following courses. Fees are \$130, \$155 each, except on March 26, the fees are \$70, \$80. Registrations received 2 weeks before the workshop/seminar date pay the lower fee. For more information, contact Marcia Chen, (416) 978-7111 or FAX (416) 971-1399.

## MAY 3,10 &amp; 17

Online information retrieval: an introduction (Level I)

## MAY 7

Dealing with chaos: leadership skills for librarians

## MAY 7

Restructuring: the buzz word of the nineties

## MAY 14

Indexing special collections and databases

## MAY 14

Preservation planning

## MAY 18

Total quality management for technical services

## MAY 26

Communication with management and clients in uncertain times: are they hearing what you say?

## MAY 28

Questionnaire design for information professionals

## JUNE 2-3

Online information retrieval (Level II)

## JUNE 4

Architectural planning for libraries

## JUNE 9

How to make a CD-ROM

## OCTOBER 1

Thesaurus construction

## OCTOBER 29

Government publishing: policy and process

## DECEMBER 10

Indexing: a hands-on workshop

\*\*\*\*\*

University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies is offering two special sessions. For more information contact Dr. Sheila Bertram, Director, at (403) 492-3932, or

sbertram@vm.usc.ualberta.ca.

## MAY 3-21

LIS 594 Records Management.

## MAY 3-JUNE 11

ED ES 445 Canadian Literature for Young People in Schools and Libraries.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MAY 1

Deadline for submissions for the CHLA Tenth Anniversary Commemorative Award.

## MAY 11-14

The International Association for Social Science Information Service & Technology (IASSIST) will hold its 19th international conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. For more info. contact Alison Bayley, Local Arrangements Committee, or Peter Burnhill, Program Committee, Data Library, University of Edinburgh, Main Library, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LJ, Scotland, or tel +44(0) 31 650 3303, FAX +44 (0) 31 662 4809, email: iassist93@edinburgh.ac.uk.

## MAY 13-16

Saskatchewan Library Association annual conference, Waskesiu, Sask. *Dancing in the Dragon's Jaws* is the theme. For more information contact Kate Fisher, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Library Association, Box 3388, Regina, Sask S4P 3H1 (306) 780-9413.

## MAY 14

CHLA seminar in Oshawa. *One library, several libraries: developing a shared library service*, with Susan Hendricks and Silvia Spice as presenters. Contact CHLA for more info.

## MAY 16-19

Medical Library Association annual conference in Chicago. Contact MLA for more info, Suite 300, Six North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60602 (312) 419-9094, FAX (312) 419-8950.

## MAY 17-19

Canadian Association of Law Libraries annual conference in Halifax, NS. For more info contact

Margaret Murphy, CALL 1993, CPC Chair, c/o Legislative Library of Nova Scotia, PO Box 396, Halifax, NS, B3J 2P8, or (902) 424-5932 or FAX (902) 424-0574.

#### JUNE 1-2

DIALOG will offer two courses in Winnipeg: Introductory on June 1, and Dialog Update on June 2 (AM). The courses will be held at the University of Manitoba. To register, contact Beth Day at 1-800-387-2689, ext. 2091 or 1-416-362-5211 ext 2091.

#### JUNE 17-20, 1993

Hamilton. CLA 48th Annual Conference with the theme "*In the Human Cause*"

#### OTHER INFORMATION

CUSO requires librarians for Peru and St Lucia. Salaries are modest but cover overseas living costs. The positions are for two years, living in another culture and working with others striving to improve their lives. The work is challenging but personally rewarding. To apply, send your resume to: CUSO FE-10, 135 Rideau Street, OTTAWA, Ontario K1N 9K7.

#### AGM IS FREE !!

The MHLA annual general meeting is being held May 27, 1993 7:30 pm at the Best Western International Inn, as part of the MLA spring conference. However you do not need to register for MLA if you are just going to the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you there.

#### In Memoriam - Kathy Eagleton

The health library community has lost a valued and respected member with the death of Kathy Eagleton on March 30th, 1993, following a lengthy illness.

Kathy was a charter member of the Manitoba Health Libraries Association, as well as a long-time member of CHLA. She served as President of the Manitoba Health Libraries Association for two terms, was instrumental in the development of the Association's constitution and continued to serve as the MHLA's ad-hoc parliamentarian. Kathy was a strong and effective voice for the concerns of rural hospital libraries, both provincially and nationally, through her involvement in the CHLA's task force on Hospital Library Standards, and her membership on the HSRC Advisory Board. Most recently Kathy was responsible for chairing the highly successful Exhibits and Sponsors committee for the CHLA 1992 Winnipeg conference.

Kathy was the Director of Library Services at the Brandon General Hospital for 20 years and during this time worked tirelessly to ensure that hospital staff had access to high quality information resources. Kathy was the driving force behind the development of a number of innovative programs including the Westman Regional Library Service and a joint hospital university library service to nursing students. She worked actively with librarians in the Brandon area to promote effective networking, and with her colleagues in the city of Winnipeg to ensure that the issues and concerns of the many small health libraries outside the perimeter were carefully considered and addressed. Kathy maintained her membership in the Library Association (U.K.) and was the recipient of a WHO fellowship in 1982, providing us all with a unique and extremely useful perspective gained by working in a relatively isolated setting, but with a decidedly global view. Her voice will be sadly missed.

## MHLA UNION LIST OF SERIALS

Bev Brown  
Chair, MHLA Union List of Serials Committee

Work on preparing the 1993 edition of the MHLA Union List is in progress. Greg has compiled a list of titles and holdings for each contributor and workshops have been held to clarify the editing procedures. Contributors are asked to return the updated lists as soon as possible so that Greg will have sufficient time to produce a final copy for publication by mid-June.

With the amalgamation of the libraries of Manitoba Health and the Manitoba Health Services Commission, the 1993 list will have seventeen contributors.

The selling price is unchanged from the previous edition:

\$40.00 for contributors

\$45.00 for non-contributors

\$10.00 for second and subsequent copies

We are also one step further to mounting the MHLA Union List onto Bridge. The institution code (MHA) for the union list has been created. Once the printed list is completed, work will begin on entering records onto the automated system. The Committee will keep you informed as the project moves forward.

## Incites

This month's *incites* come from the Manitoba Health Information Resource Centre and from the J.W. Crane Memorial Library. Thank you for your submissions. If you see an interesting reference, citation or even an article or cartoon send it in to the News. We could all use a laugh.

Anonymous. Disease name's on tip of his tongue. Med Post 1990; 26(6): 5(col 4,5).

A doctor has become the first reported case of a new health hazard--photocopier's tongue. A 35 year old Israeli doctor made 40 copies of a five page article and, to assist collation, licked the tip of his index finger some 150 times. Four days later he suffered a superficial ulcer and papillitis of the tongue. According to The Lancet, the third doctor he consulted suggested a hypersensitivity reaction, which the Israeli doctor concluded was from the photocopier's toner.

Here's a new book you'll want to add to your collection.

Phillips, Adam. On kissing, tickling, and being bored: psychoanalytic essays on the unexamined life. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1993.

## BOOK REVIEW

Rees, Alan M., Willey, Charlene (eds.) Personal Health Reporter. Detroit: Gale Research, 1993. \$130.00 CDN

With the increasing focus on patient education and consumer health information this book is an invaluable (although not inexpensive) addition to a hospital library collection, and a terrific solution to the love-hate relationship that many of us have with pamphlet files. The book consists of excerpts from current articles on 148 medical conditions, treatments and health issues which have been carefully selected from professional and popular medical journals, newsletters, magazines, reports,

pamphlets, medical textbooks, national newspapers, and other sources. Listings are arranged alphabetically from "Acne" to "Yeast Infections" and an index at the back provides detailed access as well as cross referencing to related information. The listings are clear, well written, authoritative, and understandable without being overly simplified or condescending. Current and recommended therapeutic modalities for each health problem are described--where there may be a variety of therapeutic approaches, these are also delineated along with the pros and cons. Each entry concludes with a listing of resources for further information - addresses of

clearinghouses, self help organizations and additional readings. These too are current, carefully selected and from authoritative and reliable sources. We have made use of this book innumerable times since its receipt in February, and have found it an extremely useful addition to our reference collection. If your facility or library is involved in patient education/consumer health information programs, this should definitely be high on your purchase priority list.

reviewed by Judy Inglis

## PEOPLE . . . .

Congratulations go to **Bev Brown** from the University of Manitoba Medical Library, who will be CHLA's next president. Congratulations Bev and best of luck.

**Love Negrych**, a long time MHLA member, retired on April 30th, 1993. Love had worked for much of her career as the cataloguer for the University of Manitoba Medical Library, but more recently had the opportunity to pursue her life long passion for fine arts as the Reference Librarian at the Fine Arts and Architecture Library.

**Arthur Short** has resigned his position as Library Technician at Seven Oaks General Hospital. We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

The new MHLA executive for 1993-94 has been decided and it is as follows:

<b>Dallas Bagby</b>	President
<b>Laurie Blanchard</b>	President-Elect
<b>Cheryl Manness</b>	Secretary
<b>Gail Kohut</b>	Treasurer

Congratulations to all members of the executive and good luck for the coming year.

**Jill Brown** is retiring after 12 years of service with the Health Sciences Centre Library. She will be missed very much by patrons and fellow staff members alike. Jill began life in Flin Flon and, still as a girl, moved to Souris where her pharmacist father owned the local drugstore. Before finishing high school, Jill asked her mother for permission to apply to Nursing School in Winnipeg, where her best freinds were headed.

Her mother agreed, thinking there was little chance of the school accepting such a wee young lass. Jill's pangs of loneliness evaporated when she learned that she would be popping off to the big city with her friends; her mother's thus began.

Jill recieved her RN Diploma from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing in 1958, and worked as an office nurse at the Manitoba Clinic, and as general duty nurse in the Women's Pavilion, Health Sciences Centre until 1967. The next five years were devoted to family and home and in 1972, she began part-time work in the Student Nurses' Library and the amalgamated Grace General Hospital Library. Knowing a good thing, Health Sciences Centre Library Services hired her in June 1981, before she completed her Red River Community College Library Technician Program in 1982.

Jill has a knack for diving headlong into her work, and is known for her committment to service. Her responsibilities at the HSC included cataloguing, reference, and literature searching, but HSC staff and students will remember her most for her orientation and bibliographic teaching skills. A member of MALT, CHLA and MHLA, Jill was an enthusiastic charter member of MHLA, serving as its Vice-President from 1978 to 1980.

More currently, Jill is a regular at the Reh-Fit Centre, and can be seen jogging at Lake-of-the-Two-Mountains (Ontario) any weekend between May and October. Jill and her husband Graham will be leaving Winnipeg to assume a full-time life at the lake during summer months, spending winters in Florida. They will be seeing their daughters, Colleen a librarian, and Cathy a graphic artist, in their road travels through Ontario. Best Wishes, Jill and Graham, for a long and active retirement

## Editors note . . .

I will be taking a short leave of absence from July 1993 to January 1994, so that I may embark on a new and challenging career of motherhood. During my absence **Judy Inglis** will continue to do the *news* so please address concerns to her (and please be kind.) **Christine**

Continued from page 1

The continuing trial period now has approximately 400 people accessing SilverPlatter MEDLINE Express on the Bannatyne Campus LAN. A further trial is also under way to test the efficacy of direct MEDLINE access from wards in the teaching hospitals, the Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface Hospital. Several new CD-ROM towers have been purchased by the University for use on various file servers distributed throughout both campuses. Other databases that will soon be available, either at the Bannatyne Campus or on other University file-servers, include ClinPsych (a clinical subset of Psychlit), CINAHL, CCINFO, HealthPLAN, ERIC and Agricola. There are plans to mount a range of other databases including full text medical reference works, such as Scientific American CONSULT and drug handbooks.

A specific issue relevant to MHLA members is the availability of these systems to the greater health sciences community in Manitoba. Current licensing agreements probably preclude access by people outside the university community. Our MEDLINE license, for instance, requires that at least 80% of use be from within the institution. The Medical Library hopes to explore this issue in the near future as this very exciting development in remotely accessible CD-ROMs can greatly benefit a much larger community of users.

#### REMINDER OF TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGE

Effective June 1, 1993 all Bannatyne  
Campus telephone numbers will be from:

788-6XXX

to

789-3XXX

The last three digits of the number will  
remain the same.

## CASLIS MANITOBA

Jan Johnson

Outgoing Secretary CASLIS Manitoba

The Manitoba chapter of CASLIS has recently been scrutinizing its future viability. Past practice has enabled institutional as well as personal members to serve on the chapter executive, thus providing a larger pool from which to draw volunteers. However, the letter of the CASLIS constitution dictates that executive members must be personal members or voting delegates of institutional members in order to serve.

Compared with other CASLIS chapters (Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton) who have from 90 to 285 personal members, and 30 to 202 institutional members (Edmonton and Toronto, respectively), CASLIS Manitoba has a small enrollment with 34 personal and 29 institutional. A constitutional amendment has been proposed by CASLIS Manitoba to ameliorate our situation. It will be discussed at the annual general meeting at CLA in Hamilton in June, and voted on by mail ballot in early fall.

Soul-searching will undoubtedly continue once the fate of the proposed amendment is known. The intrepid 1992-93 executive members, elected by acclamation are: Keir Reavie (Chair), Betty Bayrak (Vice-Chair), Judith Kendle (Secretary), Karen Hunt (Treasurer), Judy Inglis (Membership / Newsletter), and Pat Routledge (Programme). Congratulations and best of luck, especially to fellow MHLA members Keir and Judy.

There will be a chance to meet the incoming executive at the next annual general meeting, Tuesday May 25th at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The event opens with a cash bar at 6:00 pm. The meeting convenes at 6:30 and at 7:15, hot hors d'oeuvres will be brought on. Local folk musician Dave Clement plays until 8:15.

Here's your chance to take part in a presentation to Eric Marshall on the occasion of his retirement after 25 years on the Manitoba special library scene, and bid a farewell to Barb Kerfoot who is moving to B.C. All this for \$5 (CLA/CASLIS members); \$10.00 non-members.

## THE RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE

Submitted by  
Lois Molison , Carolyn Sifton Library

The following is an overview of a two week trip to Russia with the "People to People International Citizen Ambassador Program". Ten Canadian Cardiology Technologists assembled in New York. An overnight flight took us to Moscow where we were met by a doctor who remained with us during our stay. We began our visit to this city of 10 million by sight-seeing. We visited Red Square, the Kremlin, the beautiful cathedrals of the Church of Assumption, the Church of Annunciation and St. Basil's Cathedral. We saw the changing of the guard before entering the Lenin Mausoleum (no cameras allowed). Throughout our stay our bus was met by teenagers hawking fur hats, dolls, Red Army souvenirs, books, posters and post cards. The G U M Store spoken of as being quite empty was now overflowing with western shops. Other cultural highlights were the Moscow circus, and Pushkin Art Museum. Professional meetings were at the Russian Cardio-Centre and Russian Scientific Research Institute of Pediatrics and Surgery on Heart and Vessels, and the Ministry of Health.

Our next visit was Mensk - the capital of Belarus near Poland. Cultural activities included Lenin and Victory Square, the ballet, and various churches, shops and flea markets. Our second day in Mensk was Thanksgiving, so many phoned home. Several children's institutions were visited as well as the Scientific Research Institute of Cardiology and the Belarus Centre for Rehabilitation for patients with M. I.

Our last visit was to St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) with a population of 5 million. This "Venice of the North" was built on 101 islands of the Neva River. A word of caution : Do not drink the water. Water and sewer systems were collapsed because the city was built on reclaimed swamp land and the city could not afford the systems upkeep. Our professional meetings included the Children's Hospital No. 1 and St. Petersburg Medical-Physical Culture Dispensary.

One cultural visit was to a monument of a Nazi concentration camp. Villages had been destroyed and over 2,230,000 people killed. The area had to be rebuilt so St. Petersburg seems more modern compared to Moscow. Soon we're homeward bound with many memories behind us.

In the health field the closest model to our family physician was the Soviet 'therapist' who form the background of the polyclinics. They earn an average of 200 - 300 rubles/month ( less than the U.S. Dollar) and similar or lower than the average salary of others. Most complaints are about the low qualifications of doctors, poor meals, lack of medicines, dirty and crowded hospital wards (6-15 people in some areas), and toilets. Especially in the rural areas many lack the basic necessities of adequate running water, sewer systems and central heating. Many lack electrocardiograph equipment. Since the Chernobyl disaster, there has been a phenomenal increase in hypertensive and thyroid disease. There is no medical insurance in Russia. Some equipment is better imported than they can produce themselves.

However, there are some advanced places like the USSR Cardiology Research Centre at the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. Computer software has been developed and some instruments fitted with computer units for data processing and required parameter calculations, and some put into serial production. NMR nuclear magnetic resonance tomographs have been developed. A non-invasive technique-transesophageal electric heart stimulation with simultaneously registered esophageal and external ECG has advantages compared with bicycle exercise and drug therapy. Other instruments include polycardioanalyzer, echocardiograph and rheographic exams.

The Russian experience cannot be portrayed in these few short words. Canada and all we have really are appreciated after visiting such a country.



## SIGNS OF THE TIMES OR HOW TO TELL YOUR PATRONS WHERE TO GO

By Umberto Eco Robertson

There is an art to composing effective library signs. Also, few of us are artists, and consequently our attempts to welcome, direct and inform our patrons by means of signs can be less than successful. For example, consider the terrible plight of a library in San Jose, California. To greet a group of visiting dignitaries from the Philippines, the librarians draped a banner across the main entrance. They assumed that this banner with its carefully painted Tagalog greeting would delight the Tagalog-speaking dignitaries. Indeed it did. And generations of Filipino grandchildren will be told the story of how grandpapa arrived at the library in San Jose, and there above the main entrance was a banner that proclaimed in bold red letters not *Welcome!* or *Long Live the Philippines!*, but *You Are Circumcised!* Evidently the Tagalog dictionary in the reference section was either out of date or out of order.

B.C. librarians should not feel smug about sign bloopers. Witness sundry examples from certain Lower Mainland public libraries. In a popular children's section we discover a sign that is open to different interpretations: *All library puppets must be confined in storage drawer after 5:00 P.M.*

We may infer that if library puppets are not confined in that storage drawer after 5:00, they will get up to all sorts of mischief. They will steal pencils and hide stale donuts in the reference desk; they will fill the staff room fridge with books on arctic exploration; they will inform the manager of technical services via E-mail that his mother is a puppet.

Not to be trusted, those puppets. Or we may infer that the children's librarian has finally and irrevocably entered that wonderful world of make-believe and whimsy from which there is no retrieval. He has read too many books about

enchanted toys, poor thing and he has Pinocchio paranoia on the brain. The puppets are alive for him, and they pose a security threat to the collection. Some day he will send a revealing memo to the head librarian, or announce at a staff meeting that Punch and Judy are just no damn good. And now you know why there is such a thing as early retirement.

Above a heavily used automated catalogue in another library dangles the astonishing command: *Be gentle! Do not molest this terminal.* What does this sign tell us about the librarian who composed it? About that library's patrons? Do automated catalogues lead to a decline in morality? Was Madonna undone by too much Boolean logic? Must we return to the card catalogue in order to restore public decency? Reader, terminal abuse is not to be taken lightly. It could be the next big professional scandal. Perhaps we should stand up as a group and demand an end to such obscene practices as screen stroking, control key massage and unnecessary contact with that naughty, naughty space bar. Surveillance is probably a wise policy. Keep your eye on that patron who looks as if he's having a little too much fun searching for works on arctic exploration. (A likely story!) And for God's sake, lock up those puppets.

Possibly in light of the rise in terminal abuse, a sign has appeared above another automated catalogue that seems to have some embarrassing problems in hygiene: *If this terminal begins to blink or smell please inform the librarian.* The implications of a smelly, blinking terminal are almost beyond our scope of expression, but at least we can say that hardware in such poor condition certainly requires psychiatric evaluation. It was bound to happen: as computers grew more intelligent, they also ran the risk of going bonkers. The hardware in question may also require some

sort of software diaper. A little talcum, a gently programmed pacifier, perhaps a lullaby from the mother board...shh, our tiny terminal is drifting off to sleep.

But in the same library, another sign tells patrons *No sleeping while reading*. Now, the only human being capable of sleeping while reading is the library school student. Are library school students leaving their cosy reading rooms to use this particular library and its looney little terminal? Shouldn't these students forego the pleasures of the fiction section and return to their memorization of AACR2? Perhaps proper confinement is in order. And perhaps the People columnist will receive some nasty E-Mail.

Incidentally, library school students may also become highly proficient at sleeping while writing, which explains the soporific nature of much library literature. If you find this hard to believe, peruse the latest issue of LQ or RQ, or any journal devoted to information science. Can anyone doubt that the authors of those long and heavily footnoted articles began their careers deep in slumber?... The People columnist refuses to accept any E-Mail for the next three months.

One common blooper in many libraries is the absurd combination. Consider the sign that perched on top of a splendid wooden catalogue for several months last year: *Card catalogue. Please leave pets outside*. While such combinations arise from the librarian's wish to accomplish too much with one sign, we cannot fail to ponder what this sign may imply to diverse observers. Has there been a problem with some Fido? Did some Rover attempt an obnoxious added entry? or did a litter of kittens appear in an empty drawer?

The possibilities are endless, but not as threatening as a sign in another library that directs us to *Librarian's Office and Recycling*. Times are tough and money is hard to find, but is this library actually recycling its librarians instead of retiring them? Must elderly adult services coordinators and children's librarians be placed in separate blue bins? Must old administrators be carefully washed before deposit? And do recycled

librarians look brownish and slightly speckled, or dark green and full of bubbles?

Meanwhile, precisely what is going on in this library's *Staff Workroom/Washroom*? This is taking the concept of economic space usage a bit too far. After all, one deserves a little privacy when one needs to... glue on bar code labels, mend bindings and update shelf lists.

To be fair, not all sign bloopers are caused by linguistic insensitivity. Vandalism, wear and tear, and cover-up have given us signs such as the big acrylic item in large reading area: *Library Theft is Increasing. Do your part*. When the librarian first taped this sign to the wall, its latter half instructed patrons *to prevent loss of handbags, coats and briefcases*. Unfortunately someone covered up this half with a poster announcing a poetry reading, thus encouraging patrons to do their duty and steal whatever they could get their hands on.

Slightly more ridiculous is the sign outside the door of a library in a community centre: *Rotarians: This is a library*. Originally the lower half of this sign told all passing Rotarians that *Your social suite is down the hall*, but this was ripped off by a gang of wanton youths, or perhaps a herd of socially maladjusted Elks and now what remains of the sign seems to have a distinctly moral and didactic tone. There must be no doubt that this is a library and the librarians are going to make sure that every wretched Rotarian within fifty miles knows it. Woe betide any Rotarian who wanders in to order a drink, or drop off some dry-cleaning, or ask for a haircut.

And while the librarians are at it, perhaps they can post some other useful signs for similar groups. How about *Shriners: Circus materials are classified under 791.3* or *Masons: No secret handshakes in the Children's section*, or even *Elks: Beware Rotarians*?

We could fill fat tomes with descriptions of library sign bloopers and still miss numerous tiny classics. What a shame to leave out *Absolutely no pizza* and *No loud toys on Premises*, and beside the entrance of a mall-based branch, *Proper dress*

required. (The latter is slightly vague. How about *No shoes, no shirt, no shelf access?*)

For reasons of safety as well as public sensitivity, however, it would be wise to leave out *Wheelchair patrons use front staircase*. But these bloopers are tame compared with what we find in administrator's memos. We must pity the staff of a certain college library whose director's budget problems were exceeded in severity only by her lack of Latin. "With declining funding current cut backs, and a growing number of unhappy users," she writes, "it is obvious that our collection has experienced an anus horribilis"

Despite her allusion to the Queen's miserable year-end speech, no one can say that our college colleague has dignified her message with that final unspeakable flourish. We can only hope that no budget-cutting board member took it personally.

It would be best to continue our investigation of memos in a future issue. Suffice it to say for the nonce Reader, that we have read the writing on the wall, and it is us. Now go look that up in *Bartlett's*

Reprinted from the *BCLA Reporter* 1993 Feb; 37(1): 72-73.

## INSTITUTE FOR BIODIAGNOSTICS LIBRARY

David Colborne

The Institute for Biodiagnostics (IBD) Library is located on the first floor of IBD on 435 Ellice Avenue. IBD, like many of the National Research Council institutes located across Canada, has a CISTI branch located onsite, whose primary function is to serve the researchers and their collaborators working at the institute. The research areas of the institute are divided into four major areas: biosystems -- which includes the study of cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and cerebrovascular disorders; nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); medical informatics; and finally medical applications of infrared spectroscopy. By the spring of 1994 a staff of over 100 will be conducting research in these specialized areas at IBD. The size and diversity of the assembly of NMR and MRI machines which will be housed at the institute will be unique in North America, and perhaps in the world.

The library, like all scientific and medical libraries these days, operates to a certain extent as a "virtual library" and also as a traditional library. Our electronic services include the ordering of all document requests via the local area network, the delivery of all documents over the Internet by

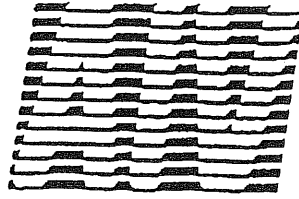
ARIEL document transmission system, and access to our catalogue (DOBIS) from staff offices. By the end of the summer we hope to have all relevant sections of Current Contents on Diskette with Abstracts up on the IBD fileserver and available to all of our users at their workstations. We anticipate that our literature searching will be primarily in the areas of medicine, chemistry and informatics. We intend to provide end-user searching for Medline and possibly one computer science database. We have small core collections of journals, monographs, and reference tools, which concentrate in our four subject areas. A copy of our journal holdings should be available soon. The area which houses the collection and the library offices will be completed by the end of July, and the library will probably be close to fully operational at that time.

For more information please contact David Colborne

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## AUDIO VISUAL INTEREST GROUP

### Video Production at St. Boniface General Hospital The cooking show approach

by Sonja Paas  
Helene Fuld Library

The cooking show approach to video production, which producer Wendy Wilson used about 25 times last year, is the result of doing more with less. The time required to fully script every production and hire professional actors is just not possible with today's resources. It isn't even necessary—at least that is what the cooking show approach has revealed. This process is used mainly in the production of videos for teaching nursing procedures to professional and student nurses. And, according to Wendy, video is an excellent medium for capturing the action in nursing.

#### Ready to Teach Ready to Video

"If you are ready to teach, you are ready to make a video." are the words with which Wendy recruits and coaches the undiscovered talent among hospital staff. A pamphlet, along with the suggestion to watch a cooking show on television, prepares people for the production.

While the product is no less professional, the approach is a less formal, taped, live production. This reduces anxiety for the participants and eliminates the need for professional actors.

#### Production Process

Once it has been decided that the educational need is best suited to a video production, a two camera shoot with the appropriate lighting is arranged. Both cameras record the action with one camera being focused more exclusively on "close up" shots.

Working with broadcast quality (3/4") equipment, Wendy finds that the shoot doesn't take much longer than the actual presentation or demonstration. Then it's off to the editing suite where the final product is prepared—about

another two hours.

Last year two thirds of the productions at St. Boniface were the result of the cooking show approach. Everyone is pleased with the results. "It is this professional product which gives others the confidence to get involved." Ensuring that lighting and other production details complement the participants are also important factors in encouraging any type of production.

For the remaining video productions - targeted often to patient education and the promotion of the Hospital and its Foundation, the conventional scripting and production approach is used.

If you would like more information about the successful cooking show approach to video production please contact Wendy Wilson, Supervisor, Audiovisual Services, 235-3344

Some recent productions which are available in the SBGH Helene Fuld Library:

VC534 Dressing change VHS 47 min

VC537 Health care reform as it affects the nursing division VHS 58 min

VC545 Maintaining homeostasis : shock VHS 137 min

VC535 Penrose drains VHS 56 min

VC536 Pre-term and IUGR infant care. VHS 76 min

VC538 Staff mix changes VHS 52 min

VC517 Suctioning : oropharyngeal/nasopharyngeal VHS 18 min

VC508 Tracheostomy care VHS 16 min

VC509 Tracheostomy tube suctioning VHS 21 min