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Synapse Newsletter

Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library

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9-1988

## **Synapse**

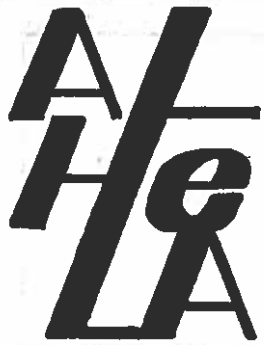
Alabama Health Libraries Association

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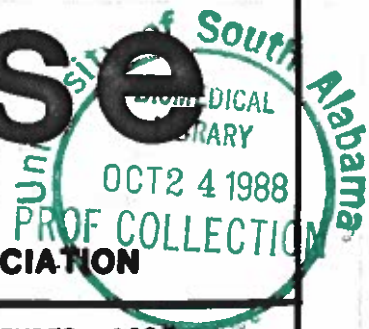
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 The logo for the Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA) features the letters 'A', 'H', 'e', and 'L' stacked vertically, with 'A' at the top, 'H' in the middle, 'e' in the middle, and 'L' at the bottom. The 'e' is smaller and positioned between the 'H' and 'L'. The letters are bold and black.

# Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION



VOLUME VIII, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1988

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by

Lisa Raines Russell  
President, ALHeLA 1988

I can not believe that more than a year has passed since last year's annual meeting! But, by the time you get this issue we will probably be in Birmingham at the 1988 Annual Meeting. A. J. Wright has put together a wonderful program and I hope to see everyone there.

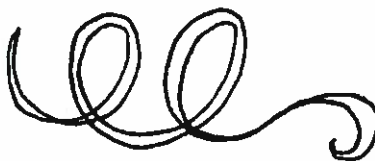
We did not send out a 1989 membership renewal form in this year's registration packet, but do not forget that it is time to renew. Bobby Powell and Bob Donnell have done an excellent job of keeping track of membership, but it has been frustrating pulling everyone in. If possible, renew at the annual meeting and then you can forget about it.

I am happy to announce that Paula Davis, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Gadsden has volunteered to assume the editorship of Synapse. Bob Donnell and I are especially relieved and grateful to Paula for taking on this task.

The Planning Task Force is also now in place. Members are Lynn Fortney, chair, Maureen Battistella, Dan Blucker, Paula Davis and Bob Donnell. I am very excited about this task force and its impact on the future of ALHeLA. Perhaps Lynn will write an article for the December Synapse with her "plans" for the task force.

Last but certainly not least, the Executive Committee would like to make sure that the entire ALHeLA membership is aware of a new credentialing process being proposed by MLA. If you are not currently a member of MLA but would like more information, you can give me a call.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



October 6-7, 1988

ALHeLA Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn/Medical Center, Birmingham.  
Theme: "The Past Is Prologue." Speaker: Samuel Eichold, M.D.,  
Professor Emeritus, University of South Alabama College of  
Medicine. Preconference on October 5: "Budgeting, Planning,  
and Forecasting." Contact: A. J. Wright, Librarian, Department  
of Anesthesiology, University of Alabama, 619 19th Street,  
Birmingham, AL 35233-1924; 205/934-6500.

October 23-27, 1988

American Society for Information Sciences, Atlanta.

November 2-5, 1988

Southern Chapter/MLA Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL.

January 7-12, 1989

American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, Washington, D.C.

January 27-29, 1989

Special Library Association Winter Educational Conference, San Francisco.

April 9-15, 1989

National Library Week.

May 19-25, 1989

Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, Boston.

June 10-15, 1989

Special Library Association Annual Meeting, New York.

June 24-29, 1989

American Library Association Annual Meeting, Dallas.

ALHeLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 1988

The Executive Council of the Alabama Health Libraries Association met at St. Margaret's Hospital in Montgomery on September 9, 1988, at 12 noon. The following members attended: Marlyss Giles, Maureen Battistella, Bobby Powell, AJ Wright, Barbara Shearer, Sister Mary Giles Peresich, Lisa Russell, Dan Blucker, and Barbara Doughty.

The minutes of the previous meeting (April 14) were approved as circulated, and the following reports were presented:

**Treasurer's report:**

A balance of \$1,784.65 was reported. The accountant will file the income tax return as soon as possible.

**Annual Meeting:**

AJ Wright reported that plans are nearing completion for the annual meeting. He encourages attendance at the business meeting which will be from 4:00 to 5:00 pm on Thursday, October 6.

**Membership:**

Bobby Powell reported a total of 63 members with 29 personal memberships and 34 institutional memberships.

**Union List:**

Maureen Battistella reported that 20 of the 24 ABULS libraries support joining AULS. The next AULS list is scheduled for November, and the ABULS list is scheduled for April, 1989.

**Directory:**

Sister Mary submitted a written report. Barbara Shearer has agreed to edit the directory, and Sister offered to help with membership.

**Synapse:**

The Association expresses appreciation to Bob Donnell for his service to the organization as editor of Synapse. Paula Davis from Baptist Medical Center in Gadsden will assume editorship as of December.

**Report on exhibits:**

Mary Ann Donnell sent a written report on the ALHeLA exhibit. She suggested that we appoint a display coordinator who would assemble fliers, manuals, pictures, name labels, etc.

**Long Range Planning Committee:**

Lynn Fortney will be the chair. Suggestions for topics for consideration by the committee were as follows: the tax

(Continued on page 8)

## ABULS UPDATE

by

Maureen Battistella

Last spring Alabama Biomedical Union List of Serials libraries were surveyed to determine their interest and willingness to participate in the Alabama Union List of Serials (AULS) as an alternative to ABULS. Twenty libraries out of twenty-three responded that AULS, the OCLC-based union list of serials would be a viable alternative to ABULS assuming that serial holdings could be tape-loaded into SERHOLD for DOCLINE participation. Lister Hill Library, UAB, and the Biomedical Library, USA, were among the libraries which are interested in AULS participation.

There are several potentially problematic issues which need to be clarified or resolved in order to insure that ABULS holdings data are correctly transferred to SERHOLD by way of an OCLC tape-load. Among these are selection of OCLC records which contain the NLM title control number; consideration of "flip-flop" titles which NLM has recataloged onto one record but which OCLC/LC has split onto several records; and placing holdings for all formats of a title (paper as well as microform) onto one record. ABULS coordinators Pat Rodgers and Maureen Battistella are now working with Cathy Clayton, AULS union list editor to address these issues.

Other issues such as protocols for interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing, and other policy issues will be addressed by an Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Group chaired by Cathy Clayton. This group will be composed of persons from both ABULS and AULS.

The timeline for the conversion of ABULS to AULS has been tentatively set as follows:

- January 1989: ABULS libraries receive and pay final USC invoice.
- April 1989: ABULS libraries receive final ABULS fiche.
- August 1989: USC pulls final tape of ABULS holdings for SERHOLD tape-load.
- August 1989: Completion of data entry for ABULS holdings into OCLC.
- November 1989: AULS fiche produced, including ABULS libraries.
- August 1990: OCLC pulls tape of Alabama health science libraries' holdings for SERHOLD tape-load.

Please try to attend the 1989 ABULS Participants Meeting at the ALHeLA annual meeting. Cathy Clayton, AULS Editor, will be present and will speak about the ABULS-AULS project.

## ALABAMA TELEFACSIMILE NETWORK DEVELOPS

by

Maureen Battistella

Health science libraries have long recognized the value of telefacsimile transmission to speed the delivery of information. In Alabama most hospitals have telefacsimile machines in Materials Management, Medical Records, or Accounting departments. While not as convenient to the library, clinical librarians have been using this technology more and more often to obtain copies of journal articles rapidly. Now, the Lister Hill Library, UAB, also has a fax machine and one is expected shortly at the Health Sciences Library, Tuscaloosa.

Other Alabama health science libraries which have fax machines or access to a fax machine are: Providence Hospital (Mobile), Baptist Medical Center Princeton (Birmingham), Baptist Medical Center Montclair (Birmingham), Saint Vincent's Hospital (Birmingham), Birmingham VAMC, St. Margaret's Hospital (Montgomery), and Mobile Infirmary (Mobile). Charges and loan policies for each institution will vary.

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) and the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) are also looking into fax as an adjunct to mail delivery of interlibrary loan requests and copies of articles. NAAL has received tentative approval of a grant application written to place fax machines in its member libraries and APLS is investigating grant funding to place machines throughout its public library system as well. Both of these groups have established study groups to investigate a number of issues related to telefacsimile transmission. The APLS study group consists of representatives from most of Alabama libraries constituencies including public, academic, school, medical, and special libraries. The NAAL committee is chaired by Lynn Fortney of UAB; the APLS committee is chaired by Alice Stephens of APLS.

A 1988 directory of health science libraries which have fax capabilities is available from the SE/A RMLS. Updates to this directory will be included in the Interlibrary Loan Policy Handbook which is issued in conjunction with the annual Region 2 Union List of Serials.

## BADWARE

by

Mari J. Stoddard

Badware is software that damages your computer. It may be a poorly-written program, a bad copy-protection scheme, or, rarely, a deliberate attempt at sabotage. A computer virus will reproduce itself and spread to other computers. Like human viruses, not all computer viruses are deadly. Like those of slow viruses, the effects of the infection may not be felt for weeks, months, or even years. Trojan horse programs destroy data as soon as they are started.

Switching to typewriters to avoid viruses is a bit impractical; prevention is more realistic, as well as being good computer management. These are some steps to take:

Keep a current backup of your hard and floppy disks.

Get software from reliable sources. Legal copies of commercial software are safe; illegal copies are a favorite medium for sabotage. Shareware programs from reliable vendors, such as PC-SIG, are safe.

Always put a write-protect tab on an alien disk before putting it in a disk drive. Always start your computer with your own copy of DOS. Avoid testing a program for the first time on a computer in a network or a computer with a hard disk.

If you think you have badware, turn your computer completely off. Get help from your library's computer expert, or your institution's computer center, or from commercial computer stores.

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The above item, originally appearing in the August 1988 issue of Catalist, published by the Medical Center Library, Vanderbilt University, is reprinted here by the kind permission of Mari J. Stoddard and with gratefully acknowledgment to the editorial staff and administration of the Medical Center Library.

## MLA EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

by

Maureen Battistella

The MLA Exchange in its manually compiled, paper copy, multiple alphabetical list format has proven time consuming and not cost effective for user libraries. At \$30,000 annually, it has also become prohibitively expensive for MLA to produce in its traditional format.

The MLA Exchange Committee is charged with making the exchange more cost effective for contributors, users, and producer-libraries as well as MLA. For contributors, this means that the list should be more easily compiled; for users, this means that materials available on exchange should be more easily identified; for MLA, this means that the Exchange should be produced at less expense or at least on a cost-recovery basis.

The MLA Exchange Committee has been investigating alternatives to the traditional exchange for the last couple of years and has recently implemented some of its ideas on a trial basis. For example, the last exchange list was photoreduced in order to get more lists into distribution without increasing the size and consequent cost of the product. Vendor sponsorship of an online exchange is also being investigated, but again, may prove to have prohibitively high start-up and maintenance costs. The Exchange Committee is also investigating the implications of making the lists available on subscription in order to recover the costs of production.

Recently, Roslind Dudden, member of the Exchange Committee, Past-President of the MLA Hospital Libraries Section, and librarian at National Jewish Center in Denver, has organized and tested a pilot exchange using WordPerfect. Six libraries, Baptist Princeton of Birmingham among them, submitted exchange lists on floppy disk in MS-DOS WordPerfect format. Dudden merged the separate files on the six disks into a single, alphabetical list of journal materials available on exchange. Each exchange entry includes the mnemonic SERHOLD library code so that the holding library can be identified. This single exchange list containing the available holdings for six libraries will be distributed in the next Exchange list along with other lists in traditional format.

If the pilot project is considered successful by the Committee, MLA, and Exchange users, a number of alternatives become feasible and reasonable:

1. Exchange lists could be submitted to MLA on disk in WordPerfect or generic ASCII format rather than in hard copy; MLA could then merge the multiple lists received into one alphabetical listing.
2. As an alternative to centralized production at MLA headquarters, regional lists could be produced using the same methods in order to reduce the postage and handling of distributing the exchange and sending requested materials.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from page 7)

3. Disks could be distributed rather than hard copy and be printed out locally in order to save postage costs of centralized distribution and improve the legibility of the list.

It should be noted that the Exchange Committee and MLA is aware that many libraries which currently contribute to the Exchange do not have access to microcomputers. Typed exchange lists will certainly be accomodated in future versions of the Exchange.

Questions and comments on MLA Exchange activities should be addressed to Maureen Battistella, Chair. Pat Rodgers at the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library is heading up the ALHeLA Exchange Task Force and seeks participants in an Alabama exchange project.

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(Continued from page 3)

situation, the directory, Synapse, the union list, the exchange program, exhibits, etc.

Nominating Committee:

A question arose concerning a bylaws change in order to vote on the officers at the annual meeting. Bobby will check the archives and report to Lisa. A nominating committee will be appointed as soon as possible.

Announcements:

The Alabama Hospital Association will produce a brochure of all ALaHA affiliated associations and has requested information about ALHeLA.

There are only a few ALHeLA brochures left. It was suggested that the long range planning committee may need to review the brochure before having another printed.

Maureen has been working with the fax committee of APLS on the planning of a state fax network.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectively submitted,

*Barbara Parr Doughty*  
Barbara Parr Doughty

## VIDEO SERVICES

From our colleagues at the University of Maryland School of Medicine comes news of just-released video tapes addressing the caring for patients with dementia and patients with AIDS. Some of the new releases are:

AIDS; Emotional Needs of the Patient and Family.  
Nursing and AIDS: Professional and Personal Concerns.  
Pediatric AIDS.  
Caregiver Stress in Long-Term Care.  
Depression and Dementia.  
Managing the Resident with Dementia: Specific Nursing Strategies.

Review copies of these and other videos are available. For more information contact Susan Cohen, Video Services, Department of Physical Therapy, School of Medicine, University of Maryland, 32 S. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201; phone: 301/328-5497.

