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Synapse Newsletter

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## **Synapse**

Alabama Health Libraries Association

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# Synapse

ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

VOL. 1, NO. 1

NOVEMBER 1980

## Why Synapse?

“sin’aps: the point at which an impulse passes from one neuron to another.”

Webster’s definition of synapse inspired the title of the AIHeLA newsletter. The newsletter is a vital communications link between all members of AIHeLA. It is a vehicle for the exchange of information and ideas.

## Featured This Month . . .

- Steering committee meeting . . . . .Page 2
- AIHeLA Goals and Objectives . . . . .Page 3
- Programs for Upcoming meetings . . . . .Page 3
- Membership Application . . . . .Insert
- People in the News . . . . .Page 2
- AIHeLA Steering Committee Members . . . . .Page 2



## Introducing AIHeLA . . .

### What is AIHeLA?

AIHeLA is the Alabama Health Libraries Association.

### Who can join AIHeLA?

Anyone involved or interested in health libraries may join AIHeLA.

### What is a health library?

A health library is a library primarily involved in providing information on any aspect of health. Such libraries may be found in hospitals, mental health facilities, medical or allied health schools, or other types of institutions.

### What is the purpose of AIHeLA?

AIHeLA seeks to improve communications among personnel in health libraries in Alabama. A complete statement of AIHeLA goals and objectives can be found on page 3.

### How much does it cost to join?

One year’s membership costs \$10.00. This amount is tax-deductible.

### What benefits are gained by membership in AIHeLA?

Each member will receive a subscription to *Synapse*. In addition, members may attend workshops and meetings sponsored by AIHeLA. And, members will be kept up to date on all activities related to health libraries in the state of Alabama and will have the opportunity to get to know other health library personnel in the state.

### How do I join?

Fill out the membership form included in this  
(Continued on page 3.)

*SYNAPSE is the official publication of the Alabama Health Libraries Association (AIHeLA) and is published and distributed by the Southeast Alabama Medical Center, P. O. Drawer 6987, Dothan, Alabama 36302.*

# AIHeLA Steering Committee Meets

The steering committee of the Alabama Health Libraries Association held its first meeting on July 25 at the Lister Hill Library at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Attending were Lynn Fortney, Kathy Dexter, Dick Fredericksen, Anne Toll, Rachel Jones, and Bobby Powell.

## RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Dick Fredericksen reported that the questionnaire that was sent out to 151 health libraries in Alabama to assess interest in forming a state organization was returned by 110 individuals. Of these, 96 responses were positive. Based on the overwhelming responses to this questionnaire, the steering committee members agreed that the formation of the organization was feasible.

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMED

An interim executive committee was established, with Lynn Fortney as Chairman, Bobby Powell as Secretary/Treasurer, Dick Fredericksen as Membership Chairman, Kathy Dexter as newsletter editor, and Anne Toll in charge of meeting details.

## PROJECTS AND MEETINGS DISCUSSED

Plans were discussed for several projects, including the newsletter, which will be printed and distributed by the Southeast Alabama Medical Center, and a directory of Alabama health libraries. Also discussed were possible meeting sites and dates and programs for these meetings. The committee agreed that concurrent meetings with other state organizations would attract the most participants. It was suggested that meetings be held twice yearly.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ESTABLISHED

Goals and objectives for AIHeLA were formulated. Goals and objectives of similar organizations in other states were reviewed. Using these as guidelines, and taking into consideration the special needs of Alabama, the committee established the AIHeLA goals and objectives. These are detailed on page three.

Lynn Fortney discussed her contacts with other health library associations in the Southeast and promised to provide additional details at the next meeting.

The committee agreed to meet again in late September.

## Introducing . . .

Lynn Fortney, Chairman, is the head medical librarian at the Health Sciences Library at the University of Alabama. She is the former secretary/treasurer of the Southern Regional Group of the Medical Library Association. She was also the moderator of the Health Science Librarians Round Table of the Alabama Library Association.

Rachel Jones, Program Chairman, is the Health Sciences Librarian at the Jacksonville State University Library. She is the Moderator-elect of the Health Sciences Round Table of the Alabama Library Association.

Anne Toll is Consortium Librarian, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at UAB. She is a member of the Jefferson County Medical Library Association. Anne recently received her MLS from FSU.

Mary Ann Donnell is the Health Sciences Librarian at Providence Hospital and School of Nursing in Mobile. She is the former president of the Oregon Health Science Libraries Association.

Kathy Dexter, Newsletter Editor, is the medical librarian at the Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan. She is a 1978 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Library and Information Services.

Fred Crawford is the Vice-President—Association Services of the Alabama Hospital Association. Library and man-power programs are a part of his areas of responsibility. He is also the Project Director for the Hospital and Health Service Library Network grant received from the National Library of Medicine which will foster cooperation among hospital libraries in the state.

Dick Fredericksen, Membership Chairman, is the director of the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, a position he has held since the summer of 1978. He is active in the Medical Library Association and the Special Libraries Association.

Bobby Powell, Secretary/Treasurer, has been the Medical Librarian at Carraway Methodist Medical Center for over 25 years. She is also active in the Jefferson County Hospital Librarians' Association.

## Programs For First Meeting Discussed

The steering committee of AIHeLA has discussed several ideas for program possibilities for the association's meetings. Among the ideas discussed:

- \* The Joint Commission on Accreditation for Hospitals revised its standards for health libraries recently. A panel of doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, and library managers could give their views on the role of the health library in the hospital with regard to the new JCAH standards.
- \* What's out there for you: a program on resources for libraries. This would focus on available state resources for small libraries, including large health science libraries in the state, university facilities, regional hospital libraries, SERMLP, and the development of statewide plan for coordinating medical library services.
- \* The copyright law can be a big headache for libraries who supply photocopy and interlibrary loans for their patrons. A program combining necessary information on copyright compliance in libraries and procedures for interlibrary loan would do more good for this problem than two aspirin.
- \* A program on what a medical library can do as far as obtaining information for health professionals would be particularly important for library managers trying to "sell" their doctors and administrators on the important role the medical library has in a health care setting.
- \* Many health library managers are volunteers or have primary responsibilities elsewhere in their hospitals. A program on basic library management would help library managers set up their libraries to meet the special needs of their hospitals and clinics without having to spend all their time in the library.
- \* Consortia, cooperative networks, union lists: librarians bandy about these words and phrases, but a program on "networking" would explain their meaning and special benefit to small health libraries.
- \* More money always seems to be necessary in a library. A program on NLM resource improvement grants could tell you how to go about applying for money to update and improve your library's book collection.

The steering committee is very interested in your preference on these or other program ideas. Please contact Lynn M. Fortney, AIHeLA Steering Committee Chairperson, Health Sciences Library, Box 6331, University, Alabama, 35486, or Rachel Jones, AIHeLA Program Coordinator, Jacksonville State

University Library, Jacksonville, Alabama 36265, with your ideas, or mark your program preference on the membership form.

## AIHeLA Goals and Objectives Established

At the first AIHeLA steering committee meeting, the following goals and objectives were established:

**GOAL:** To improve health care for the people of Alabama by the development of an organization which will increase the total information resources available, strengthen existing health libraries, encourage the formation of new libraries, and, through joint effort, utilize more effectively the resources of individual libraries.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the sharing of information resources.
2. To upgrade information resources and services provided by health libraries.
3. To encourage the development of health libraries by making information about the availability of library consulting services more widely known.
4. To provide workshops and educational programs for health library personnel.
5. To facilitate communication among health library personnel, especially those in smaller health libraries, by providing a newsletter, publications, and program meetings.

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## Introducing AIHeLA . . .

(Continued from page 1.)

issue and send it, along with your check or money order, to the address indicated.

### Then what?

Sit back and enjoy the information, enlightenment, education and news that will be coming your way with each issue of *Synapse*. And plan to get together with your fellow health librarians at AIHeLA meetings. Details will be forthcoming! Watch for them!





## Editor's Notes

By

Kathy Dexter

Send news items to:

Kathy Dexter  
Medical Librarian  
Southeast Alabama Medical Center  
P. O. Drawer 6987  
Dothan, Alabama 36302

Deadlines:

January 1981 issue	:	Dec. 15
April 1981 issue	:	March 15
July 1981 issue	:	June 15
October 1981 issue	:	Sept. 15

This is the first issue of *Synapse*, a quarterly newsletter that will keep AIHeLA members informed about activities of the organization. This month, details about the first organizational meeting of the AIHeLA steering committee are outlined on page two. Also included in this issue is the application for membership in AIHeLA. Contributions from our readers will be an essential part of future issues. Please send news items about your activities or those of your institution. These might include new appointments, new services or special activities. We also plan to feature an Alabama health library in each issue. Contact me if you would like to have *your* library featured. We welcome all contributions and suggestions for *Synapse*.

We thank the Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan for supporting AIHeLA by printing *Synapse* and covering the costs involved in mailing each issue. Special thanks to Frances Irvine for designing our logo, and to Fred Benton and the SAMC Printing Department for their assistance in producing *Synapse*.

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