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Synapse Newsletter

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Synapse

Alabama Health Libraries Association

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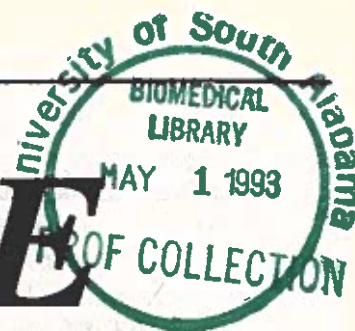


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SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.



Vol. 17, No.2

Spring 1998

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Finally, it's springtime! I'll bet you've all looked forward to warmer weather as much as I have. This is the time when things begin to gear up for another productive ALHeLA year. Read on to find out about some of the members who are hard at work.

With warmer weather comes more and more information about the ALHeLA Annual Meeting. Plans begin to come together this time of year. President Elect/Program Chair, Jie Li has identified our keynote speaker and set much of the meeting agenda. See her article for more details.

Martha Verchot and Geneva Bush, CE chairs, are busy contacting possible instructors for the course at our meeting. If you have ideas or suggestions, contact Martha.

Jan Burns and Betty Wyman are busy getting the ALHeLA directory together for 1998. They have some great ideas about format that will make this year's directory the easiest to use ever. Please be sure your library returned the survey so we have accurate up-to-date information. If your library didn't receive a survey, contact Jan.

Kudos to our membership chair this year, Marian Morris, who has done a wonderful job getting all but a few of our members to renew for this year already! We even have some new members to welcome to the organization: Pat Rodgers from University of South Alabama, Katy Ginanni from Ebsco and Jackie Simmons from Eglin Air Force Base. We are glad to have you!

Our past president Kay Hogan is still active this year planning the NetRx Internet classes for health professionals.

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ALHeLA 1998 Annual Meeting

ALHeLA's 1998 Annual Meeting is planned to be held in Mobile, at the Ramada Inn on the Bay, August 20-21. Our Keynote speaker this year is Carol Tenopir. Dr. Tenopir is a professor at the School of Library and Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has an international reputation for her work with full-text retrieval systems and for her writing. She writes a column "Online Databases" for *Library Journal*, and writes regularly for *Online* and *Database*, among other information industry publications. Dr. Tenopir received the Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award in 1993 from the American Society for Information Science (ASIS). Please mark your calendar and watch for updates on CE courses.

Submitted by Jie Li

Attention Students! (1998 Grant Information)

The Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA) presents its Second Annual ALHeLA Library Student Grant Competition! Valuable prize package includes free registration and accommodations at the 18th ALHeLA Annual Meeting to be held in Mobile, Alabama, August 20-21, 1998. Also included in the grant is attendance at the CE workshop on August 20. Our theme this year is, *Navigating the change-Wave of the future.*

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President's Column (Cont.)

Martha Verchot and Judy Burnham have been the instructors and each of these ALHeLA members has put a lot of hard work into this project. And it's paying off. Attendance at the last class in Tuscaloosa was almost double the first class. Upcoming classes will be held in Auburn, Huntsville and Dothan. Other ALHeLA members who have agreed to be instructors are Lee Clemans-Taylor and Mary Fran Prottzman.

I know that's not all of our hardworking members, but only examples of the projects that occur within the organization. If you see something you are interested in, let me know and I'm sure there's a spot for someone willing to help.

Finally, our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 12 at APLS. As I am expecting twins in July, I'm not sure if I will be able to attend the meeting or the Annual Meeting in August. If not, I'll miss you and don't have too much fun without me!

Pat Higginbottom, ALHeLA President

ALHeLA Student Award (Cont.)

Featured speaker at the meeting will be Carol Tenopir, professor at University of Tennessee Graduate School of Library & Information Science. She writes a column in *Library Journal*, and has published articles in *Online*, *Database* and other library science journals. Her area is online/electronic databases. Her keynote address will be on the impact of electronic and online databases to the future of the library.

For more information about the meeting, look at the ALHeLA website at: <http://www.uab.edu/lister/alhela>

TO ENTER THE CONTEST:

Simply submit a one-page essay on what attracts you to medical librarianship as a profession, and what you expect attendance at the ALHeLA meeting to do for you.

By July 17, 1998 send submissions to:

Martha Cook
University of Alabama Health Sciences Library
Box 870378
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0378
205-348-1366
mcook@capstone.cch.ua.edu

NetRx Project – Internet Workshop #2

The hands-on workshop was held in the computer instruction lab of the Rodgers Science and Engineering Library on the

University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa, February 24, 1998. As in the previous workshop in Montgomery, registration began at 8:00 a.m. with Martha Cook, ALHeLA member and former executive committee member, acting as registrar. Instruction began at 8:30 a.m. The workshop instruction followed the same general organization as the first workshop in November, with an overview of the history and development of the Internet, then a look at Internet service providers and a discussion of E-mail and netiquette. Listserves, newsgroups, telnet, FTP, WWW (including the different browsers and bookmarks), evaluation of websites, search engines, as well as issues such as privacy and security, were also covered in the workshop. Lunch was catered on the premises by Specialties of the House, partially supported by a donation (\$25.00) from DB Technology, a local Internet service provider. (Thanks to Jan Burns for obtaining that sponsorship!) The workshop ended at 4:00 p.m.

This workshop had a significant increase in attendance over the previous one (fourteen as opposed to eight), probably due to the earlier mailing that we did for this one. Sixteen had actually pre-registered. We still are not drawing as many rural health professionals as we would like, even with targeting specific health professionals in rural areas using a mailing list from the UAB Department of Family and Community Medicine. The likely explanation is that the rural health professionals simply don't have the time to get away for an all day class, whatever its value to them in the long run. Conceivably, it could help to schedule a workshop that runs into the evening hours, but given the amount of material that is covered in these sessions, some portion would have to be held in the daytime, so they would still have to take part of a work day off.

Overall, the evaluations turned in by the attendees at the workshop gave it and the instructors even higher ratings than those of the previous workshop, with most attendees clearly rating it an excellent learning experience. The one exception was in the use of the technologies in the lab along with the instruction, which, while still receiving good ratings, were slightly lower than the Montgomery class. There were a few technical problems with the projection in the lab that would explain this lower rating.

Expenses were down considerably for this workshop thanks to the University of Alabama allowing us to use the Rodgers Library computer lab free of charge. Also the sponsorship from DB Technology helped to offset the cost of the food provided at the break.

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Forthcoming Workshops: Tammy Lee is investigating the possibility of providing CE credit for veterinarians for the upcoming Auburn workshop on April 30. Judy Burnham has asked to be relieved of her team teaching responsibility for the Huntsville workshop on June 15, as it is such a long drive for her. Lee Clemans-Taylor has agreed to teach that workshop with Martha Verchot.

Submitted by Kay Hogan

News from Alabama

ALICAT:

ALICAT (Alabama Interlibrary Catalog) is now available via World Wide Web. It includes holdings of over 100 Alabama public, college, and university libraries, including the periodical holdings in the Alabama Union List of Serials (AULS). Both databases, ALICAT and AULS, are important interlibrary loan tools, because they display materials available in all types of Alabama libraries. You can access ALICAT from the Alabama Public Library Service web page:

<http://www.apls.state.al.us>

Or you can go directly to the ALICAT site:

http://alabama.brodart.com/search/ax/ex_br.html

Searching ALICAT over the web is very slow, but it is convenient to be able to access it from your web browser.

University of South Alabama Biomedical Library:

In October, Tom Williams assisted by Sally Murray presented a paper at the annual meeting of Southern Chapter/MLA titled "Internet Security: Big Brother MIGHT be Watching." In May they will present another paper on privacy at the Medical Library Association Annual meeting, "Internet Privacy: An Oxymoron?" Jie Li will present a paper titled "Distance Learning in Medical Education" and a poster "Comparison of Search Engines' Performance in Searching of Health Information: Evaluations and Recommendations" at that same meeting.

On March 30, Judy Burnham presented a session on the Internet for the AACN in Mobile.

As a co-instructor, Judy Burnham is teaching a series of Internet training classes for the Alabama Health Sciences Libraries Association. A class was held in Tuscaloosa in February and another will be in Auburn in April.

Two librarians from the Biomedical Library have had these recent publications: Burnham JF. Mapping the literature of respiratory therapy. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association. 85(3):293-6, 1997 Jul. Burnham JF. Mapping the literature of radiologic technology. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association. 85(3):289-92, 1997 Jul. Li J. Wu G. Marks E. Fan W. Delivering an alternative medicine resource to the user's desktop via World Wide

Web. Internet Reference Services Quarterly. 3(1):53-66, 1998.

The Biomedical Library would like to announce the newest member of SOUTHmed, the Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center Medical Library. Library personnel have started to make site visits at the SWAHEC hospitals that are SOUTHmed members: Vaughn-Jackson Memorial Hospital, Grove Hill Memorial Hospital, Washington County Infirmiry, Stabler Memorial Hospital, Atmore Community Hospital, Monroe County Hospital, Thomas Hospital and South Baldwin Regional Medical Center. SOUTHmed is the fee-based outreach program developed by the Biomedical Library to provide access to medical information for unaffiliated health care professionals.

During March and April the USA Biomedical Library will be migrating its current in-house OVID online system to an Internet connection with OVID online nationally. Users will see an increase in available databases which will now include: AIDSLINE, CancerLit, HealthStar, BioethicsLine, CINAHL, and MEDLINE. Currently we only have MEDLINE and CINAHL. Additionally, a total of 60 fulltext online journals will be added. We currently have only 15 fulltext titles. These 60 will include 14 of the most popular nursing titles.

InfoFair 98: The University of South Alabama Biomedical Library and Media Production Services is sponsoring an InfoFair to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 6-7, 1998 from 10:00am-4:00pm each day. InfoFair 98 will be held at the campus site of the Biomedical Library in Mobile. Special tours will be available.

The latest innovations in medical information online access, traditional services, media production services as well as many other technical innovations (i.e., Internet phone, the Virtual Human, distance learning) will be showcased. There will be about 20 booths showcasing traditional library and media production services as well as high-tech resources and services demonstrated by our own library and media production services staff plus selected invited vendors. Among others, EBSCO, Majors and ISI will be here. Sue Medina, Executive Director of NAAL will be here to demo the Alabama Virtual Library project, Janice Kelly from NN/LM will be here, Scott Plutchat will be showing off UAB's distance learning project, the Victor Spitzer version of the "Visible Human" will be shown along with other multimedia products for gross anatomy, radiologic anatomy, etc. by Gold Standard Multimedia, and more. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

For further information, contact Tom Williams, Biomedical Library Director by telephone: (334)460-6885 or E-mail: twilliam@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Submitted by Judy F. Burnham

Alabama Health Libraries Association 1998 Executive Committee

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ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION Executive Committee Meeting

March 13, 1998

Pat Higginbottom, President, called the meeting to order at the Alabama Public Library Service at 10:30 a.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with one correction - that the Union List tape will be ordered and paid for by the University of South Alabama instead of the University of Alabama.

There were no announcements.

OLD BUSINESS

Internet Classes: The class at Tuscaloosa went well and was well attended. There were some fourteen or fifteen attendees. Other classes scheduled are: Auburn - April 30, Huntsville - June 15, Dothan - August 7.

Regional Health Sciences Library Association Exchange: ALHeLA is on the schedule for a Roundtable Luncheon at the Southern Chapter meeting in Lexington. Feedback from last year's luncheon was very good and has encouraged planning for this year's activity.

Ad Hoc Committee on Recruitment and Training of Medical Librarians: No report from the committee. It was suggested by the group that Stephen McCall be asked to join the committee as he may have some interest in its mission.

ALHeLA Student Award: The committee will remain as it was constituted last year. Martha Cook will collect the essays. The deadline was suggested to be July 17. A flyer advertising the contest was distributed. There are only two

people in the medical librarianship class this year. The project was very successful last year.

NEW BUSINESS

MASA Manual Update: The update is progressing. The deadline for submission of chapters is next Friday.

Treasurer's Report: The balance on hand is \$7,087.58. Most deposits have been for memberships. \$515.00 was received from the University of Maryland for expenses for the first NetRx workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bylaws: Nothing new to report.

Continuing Education: Six surveys were returned and several continuing education ideas were suggested. Stephen McCall was suggested as an instructor for a class, possibly on Digital Libraries. It was pointed out that primary care is his special interest. The idea of a panel which would include the keynote speaker was suggested for the program of the annual meeting. It was decided to contact Wayne Peay or Susan Starr or Stephen McCall. Other suggestions and possible subjects were discussed and suggested for Martha Verchot and her committee to work with. Martha will contact possible instructors to determine if ½ day or a full day is possible. Funds are available to a reasonable extent.

Continued on next page

Directory: Jan Burns submitted the directory report with examples. Format and content were discussed. A three-ring binder was suggested with space for insertions. It was suggested to ask EBSCO to donate binders with art work. Items suggested for inclusion were student award information and history of ALHeLA. There was some question about the inclusion of spinal cord injury information.

Membership: Marian Morris reported that there are sixty-three members, including three new members. This is eight more than were on the rolls at this time last year.

Synapse: Diane Williams announced that the deadline for submission of news is March 27, which is two weeks after this meeting.

Union List: Robert Avant announced that OCLC is discontinuing its weekly listing of serials cessations and merged/alterd titles. More libraries will be dependent on the Union List. It is, therefore, important to submit information to him. Contributions of AULS medical libraries are on the

Internet. He announced the meeting of the Alabama Library Association and encouraged membership in the organization.

1998 Annual Meeting: Jie Li presented plans for the annual meeting in Mobile. Carol Tenopir will be the keynote speaker. Her normal fee is \$1000.00, but she would lower it to \$500.00, plus expenses for our group. The Ramada Inn on the Bay is suggested for its good view, nice rooms, etc. Equipment needs may be limited. Suggestions were solicited for banquet activity. The date is August 20-21. Other updates will be forthcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Biomedical Library at the University of South Alabama will sponsor an Info-Fair with demonstrations of new technology on May 6 and 7.

The next meeting of ALHeLA will be June 12. Pat may not be able to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Inez C. Pinkard, Secretary

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