

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Middle Atlantic Region
Region 1

Quarterly Report
Third Quarter, Year 1 -- November 2001 - January 2002

New York Academy of Medicine

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A. NETWORK PROGRAMS

On December 5, in Princeton, NJ, the RML and the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) co-sponsored a conference entitled "Thinking the Unthinkable: Bioterrorism and Disasters – Resources for Medical Librarians." So soon after September 11 there was a considerable amount of emotion evident among many attendees. Micelle Volesko, Director of the NJHA Library and Corporate Information Services, introduced the program with this 1998 quotation from D.A. Henderson of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Defense: "Specialists in infectious diseases thus constitute the front line of defense. The rapidity with which they and emergency room personnel reach a proper diagnosis and the speed with which they apply preventive and therapeutic measures could spell the difference between thousands and perhaps tens of thousands of casualties. Indeed, the survival of physicians and health-care staff caring for the patients may be at stake...." A copy of the program is attached (Appendix A). The conference was attended by approximately 85 librarians and other interested persons, and was very well received. The RML and NJHA subsequently received inquiries about replicating the program elsewhere.

Resource Libraries

Gail P. Gill, long time director of the library at the Delaware Academy of Medicine (DAM), announced her impending retirement, and a new library director, P. J. Grier, was named. On November 7, Mary Mylenki traveled to Wilmington, DE, to meet with Mr. Grier, Judy Govatos, Director of the DAM, and Ms. Gill. They discussed the role of the Resource Library and future programs that the DAM might be involved in.

Network Membership Program

November was the beginning of the Network Membership renewal drive. Using Network records in DOCUSER, labels were produced and postcards mailed to the over 600 Network members in the Middle Atlantic Region. The postcards urged them to update their DOCUSER records, warning that "what we see is what you'll get" when membership certificates were produced. This proved to be quite effective.

At the same time we began compiling lists of public libraries in the region in anticipation of the drive for Affiliate Members. This was approached on a state-by-state basis, with New York the first.

Staff responded to a request originating with Dr. Lindberg, via Dr. J.A. Barondess, president of the New York Academy of Medicine, for information regarding the status of connectivity of

rural hospital libraries, with particular reference to a library in upstate New York. This was in connection with an unsuccessful grant proposal from a small hospital which did not have its own library. Information about circuit librarian services in the area, as well as general information on membership, was provided to Dr. Barondess and passed on to Dr. Lindberg.

When a DOCLINE training workshop planned for Ithaca, NY, was canceled for insufficient enrollment, Joanne Jahr, Network Programs Coordinator, "made lemonade" by conducting her first comprehensive training session via telephone. In a two-hour session she successfully talked two librarians from the South Central Library Resource council through the intricacies of DOCLINE and SERHOLD.

As RML representative, Ms. Jahr attended the January 7 meeting of the METRO Hospital Library Services Program Advisory Council at METRO headquarters in New York City. Ms. Jahr also attended a meeting of the Brooklyn Queens Staten Island consortium on December 10.

Ms. Jahr provided a SERHOLD learning session to nine members of the NY Academy of Medicine library staff.

Electronic Document Delivery Project

The project was originally planned for six Resource Libraries (three pairs). Since four formats for electronic document delivery were identified for testing, it made sense to add two more libraries, rather than try to have one pair test two formats. The final eight participating Resource Libraries are Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Albany Medical School, New York Medical College, New York State Psychiatric Institute, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Upstate (Syracuse), Weill Cornell Medical College, and the New York Academy of Medicine. By mid-December Gary Byrd and Cindy Bertuca of SUNY Buffalo had drafted a plan for the EDD pilot project, and a copy was distributed by e-mail to all the participants.

A second in-person meeting was held on January 31, 2002. The participants were paired off to test the following types of transmission: NYAM and New York State Psychiatric - Ariel TIFF; Albert Einstein and SUNY Upstate - PDF; SUNY Buffalo and NY Medical College - Web TIFF; and Albany Medical College and Weill Cornell - Web PDF.

Document Delivery

Ms. Jahr had been chosen as one of the four NN/LM representatives on the DOCLINE Interface Review Team (DIRT). The first meeting of the entire group was held at NLM on December 6-7, 2001.

DOCLINE activity included the temporary deactivation and reactivation of 82 accounts; approval of 85 routing tables.

Communications

The November-December issue of the newsletter, *Middle Atlantic Perspective*, was published in the first week of December and publicized via the regional and chapter listservs.

A total of 24 messages were posted to the listserv during the quarter.

RML staff participated in all scheduled teleconferences.

Classes Taught

November 8; PubMed/Gateway/Toxnet; South Eastern NY Library Resources Council, Highland, NY. Peggy Falls presented a class to seven librarians. (Reporting form attached Appendix B.)

Grant Programs

No report.

B. OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Health Professionals

In response to a request via NLM from the librarian for Mainline Health Hospitals, Peggy Falls traveled to Wynnewood, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia, to present an overview of NLM databases and programs to the staff and residents. The entire class of Medical Residents had been scheduled to attend. Unfortunately, only one showed up, the others claiming they were not aware of the program. In addition, technology failed as the AV department did not have the required hardware on site, and the laptop battery died ten minutes into the presentation. Nonetheless, the library staff and Director of Medical Education were grateful and said they had gained a great deal of information, not only about searching NLM databases, but also about NLM programs in general. The Outreach Coordinator promised continued telephone support to the librarian and provided him with an NTCC manual as a reference tool. (Report form attached Appendix C.)

Consumer Health

Peggy Falls, Outreach Coordinator, had several telephone consultations with Rebekah Tanner of the Mohawk Valley Library Association regarding program plans for the "Safe Farms, Safe Food, Safe Futures" conference to be held in Schenectady, NY in March.

A planning meeting for the upcoming conference on health literacy was held; the date of the conference is set for April 30, 2002. Erica Burnham, Consumer Health Coordinator, is coordinating this effort. The RML is a co-sponsor together with the METRO Consumer Health SIG, and Libraries for the Future.

Ms. Burnham attended a CHOICES Advisory Committee meeting at New York Public Library on December 17.

Subcontract: Consumer Health

On November 26, Mary Mylenki and Erica Burnham traveled to Rochester, NY to discuss planning for a large-scale consumer health venture, which would be partially funded by the NN/LM. The project, called CLIC-on-Health (Community and Library Information Collaboration on Health), will be managed by the University of Rochester and the Rochester Regional Library Council, and will involve the Rochester public library and other community groups. The RML will provide funding for a planning grant.

Exhibits

Staff exhibited at one health professional meeting.

November 15-18, American Speech Language and Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA, P. Falls and J. Jahr.

(Exhibit report appears in Appendix D.)

With Jo-Ann Benedetti of Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, NY, Ms. Burnham assisted at a class at the Queens Borough Public Library (New York, NY) on October 19. The class was called “From the Trenches: Consumer Health Information on the Internet.”

C. STAFF ACTIVITIES

Maxine L. Rockoff, Ph.D. was named Director of NYAM’s Division of Information Management (which includes the Library) and Director of the Regional Medical Library. Dr. Rockoff joined the staff in November.

E. Burnham attended the AMIA post-conference on Critical Issues in Consumer Health Informatics on November 7-8. Ms. Burnham continued to attend NOAH Content Committee meetings as well as a Steering Committee meeting, as a transitional representative for the Academy until Dr. Rockoff could assume the chair of the Steering Committee.