



New England Sounding Line



The newsletter of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, Jul. - Aug. 1999, Vol.9, No.2

The Dog Days and the Drought

by John Stey



Its been a dry hot summer here in New England and more busy than usual in the NER office. Geoffrey Gerrietts was hired in July as the new Technology Coordinator. He has worked for a software development company as a technical writer and we look forward to his assistance with technology issues in the region. Ed Donald pointed out that Geoff's name rhymes with carrots, thank you Ed! We would like to congratulate Nancy and Dennis Putnam on the birth of Emma Putnam on July 4th. Nancy will be back in the office early this fall. We are still seeking applicants for the Consumer Health Coordinator position. (See http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/chic_job.html)

As a result of the Spring Outreach RFP, the NER office will be funding the Alumni Library of Boston University for a project entitled *Boston AIDS Information Outreach Project* at \$23,744, submitted by David Ginn, and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy project, *Resources to Support the Development and Provision of Information Services from the Center for Integrative Therapies in Pharmaceutical Care and Sheppard Library* at \$23,380. For more information on these projects see <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/outreach/subcontracts.html>. We thank all who submitted proposals and special thanks to the RAC review committee. The Consumer Health RFP proposals will be reviewed by a national committee in late October.

No new substantive information on the re-invented DOCLINE®/DOCUSER®/SERHOLD® systems is

available at this time. (See page 2 for update.) We hope to have more details to pass on at the NAHSL Meeting in Portland, ME. Kent Smith, Deputy Director of the National Library of Medicine will be attending the NAHSL meeting and providing an NLM Update.

The NER staff will be making plans to attend NAHSL and the Fall consortia meetings. We are especially interested in how hospital libraries are dealing with consumers seeking healthcare information and or access to journal collections. We would appreciate hearing any issues or concerns surrounding the consumer health initiative and how it is impacting on your services and collections.

EFTS is efficiently meeting the needs of libraries in Regions 08 and 01. We are currently working with the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth's Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library to implement EFTS for the SCAMeL libraries. The University of Nevada School of Medicine, Savitt Medical Library in Reno is beta testing EFTS in Region 07. The possible demise of NTIS, (see http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ja99/ja99_technote.html#ntis) may open the door for collaborating with NLM to make electronic billing available nationwide.

Your comments or suggestions for the NN/LM contract for the next five years are welcomed and should be e-mailed or sent to John Stey at stey@nso.uchc.edu. The RFP from NLM will be made available after the first of the new year.

We look forward to seeing and meeting with you all at NAHSL in Portland, ME in October.

Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island Vermont



Check us out on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/>



**NN/LM NEW ENGLAND
REGION STAFF**

Ralph Arcari
Director

arcari@nso.uchc.edu

•
John Stey
Associate Director
stey@nso.uchc.edu

•
Marion Levine
Assistant Director
levine@nso.uchc.edu

•
Edward Donald
Network Coordinator
donald@nso.uchc.edu

•
Nancy Putnam
Outreach Coordinator
nputnam@nso2.uchc.edu

•
Daniel Dollar
Education Coordinator
dollar@nso.uchc.edu

•
Geoffrey Gerrietts
Technology Coordinator
gerrietts@nso.uchc.edu

•
Elizabeth Clark
Administrative Assistant

eclark@nso.uchc.edu

•
Cheryl Sinkler
Administrative Assistant

sinkler@nso.uchc.edu

The *New England Sounding Line* is produced bi-monthly by the NN/LM NER at the University of Connecticut Health Center, 263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT 06030-5370; Telephone (860) 679-4500 or (800) 338-7657; Fax (860) 679-1305. Supported by NLM Contract NO1-LM-6-3528.

Sankaty Head Light graphic used with permission from creator Rose Gonnella
Rose@PointInfinity.com

John Stey, *Editor*
Ed Donald, *Mng. Editor*

National Library of Medicine Names Associate Director

Full press release can be found at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/press_releases/humphrey.html

(Bethesda, Md.) --Donald A. B. Lindberg, M.D., director of the National Library of Medicine, announced that Betsy L. Humphreys has been named NLM Associate Director for Library Operations. This position oversees all public and technical processing services at the National Library of Medicine, including the operation of the reading rooms, reference and customer services, cataloging and indexing, MEDLINE[®] and other bibliographic online databases, the Index Medicus, interlibrary lending, preservation, and the historical collections.

Update on the status of the new DOCLINE system

This is an update on the status of the new DOCLINE system, dial-up access for the current DOCLINE system after September 30, and access to ELHILL[®] DOCUSER after September 30.

The tentative schedule for release of the Web-based DOCLINE system is December 1. We expect to begin beta-testing the new system October 15, after completing intensive testing at NLM. The current DOCLINE system will continue to operate until the new system is available either through a dial-up connection with a value-added network service or Telnet through Internet. When the new system is deployed, it will not be possible to maintain the old DOCLINE system, as all the data for the complex routing scheme, patron identification, and serials holdings will have been converted to the new Oracle based system.

In response to users concerns regarding the use of Internet Explorer v 5.0, NLM has determined that the new DOCLINE system will be functional with Internet Explorer v 4.0. Though the optimum browsers for the new DOCLINE system are Internet Explorer 5.0 and Netscape 4.06 or higher, Internet Explorer 4.0 will work correctly with the possible exception of the "printing receipts" function. An interlibrary loan request will be printed correctly, however, printing may not be completely controllable. For example, depending on the exact version and configuration of your browser, a blank page may be produced between requests or multiple requests may be printed on the same page.

The AT&T FTS2000 service will cease on September 30, 1999. NLM will have a new value-added network service provider effective October 1. An announcement will be made in mid-September.

Access to EHILL DOCUSER will cease on September 30, 1999. In October, DOCLINE libraries will have access to DOCUSER through the Web. An announcement of the URL will be made in late September.

The graphic of Sankaty Head Light which the NER has so proudly adopted as identifying it with New England was created by Rose Gonnella. The artist has exhibited her work around the world and is included in the permanent collection of the National Museum of American Art. She is an Associate Professor in Fine Arts and Visual Communications at Kean College in Union, NJ. Many of her exquisite pencil drawings of Nantucket are available as prints of Nantucket lighthouses, or in her book *summer nantucket drawings*. Her website is <http://www.pointinfinity.com/Rose/> We want to extend our deep gratitude for her permission for continued use of this graphic with NN/LM NER publications.



Education Notes: Improving PubMed

by Daniel Dollar, Education Coordinator

Several new PubMed® enhancements will help you improve your searching of this powerful retrieval system. There is now a direct link to MEDLINEplus®, NLM's consumer health resource. The link, called "Consumer Health," is found on the basic PubMed page on the upper part of the gray navigational side bar.

Below is a listing of the new PubMed enhancements, as taken from the NLM Technical Bulletin (1999 July-August; 309):

Stand-alone Numbers Searchable

Stand-alone numbers in both the Title and Abstract fields are indexed in the Text Word field while Title numbers are also indexed in the Title field, e.g.: healthy [ti] AND people [ti] AND 2000 [ti].

Secondary Source ID Field Searchable

The Secondary Source ID Field is now indexed as a separate field with the search field tag [SI]. The field is composed of a source followed by a slash followed by an accession number. The indexing is (a) the source, (b) the accession number, and (c) the entire field, e.g.:

genbank [si]
AF001892 [si]
genbank/AF001892 [si]
aha [si]
hta [si]

Note that searchers may use this field to limit to or exclude the unique HealthSTAR citations in PubMed.

For example: hospice care AND (aha [si] OR hta [si])

Journal Subsets Available

The following journal subsets are

now available to search:
Abridged Index Medicus
jsubseta
Dental
jsubsetd
Nursing
jsubsetn

For example: baseball AND jsubseta

Please note that there is no field qualifier; just use the search value.

Limit to Abstracts Only

To search for citations with abstracts in PubMed use the value hasabstract.

For example: baseball AND jsubseta AND hasabstract

Again, no field qualifier is needed.

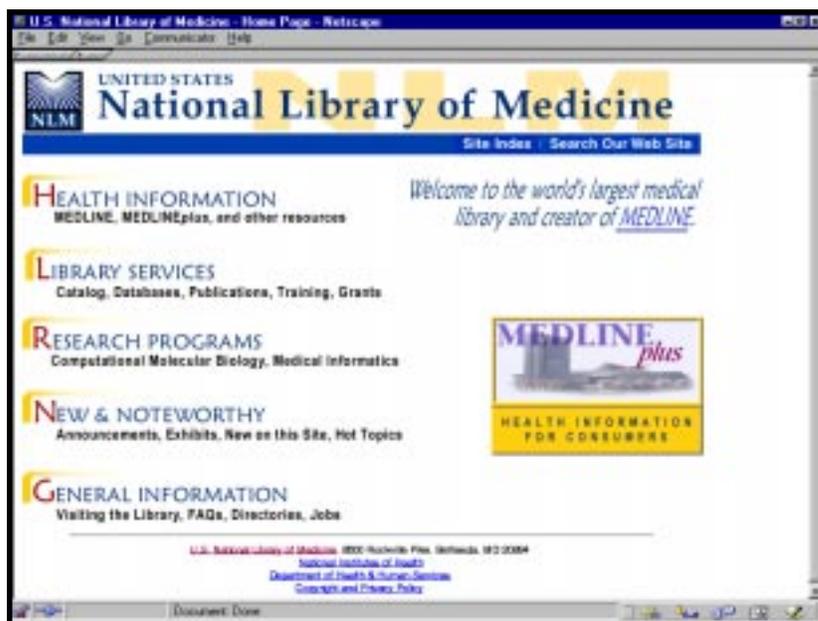
Check out PubMed's New and Noteworthy feature (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/news.html>) for information on current improvements and upcoming changes.

New Look for NLM Website

by the NLM Web Document Management Team

The NLM web site has undergone a redesign and we invite you to take a look at our new home page and new secondary pages: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/home.html>. You should note that while the look is significantly different, no URLs to pages and resources will be changing or dropped.

Our new home page is now divided into 5 fairly distinct categories, though you will find many resources under multiple categories. We have added a category of "Health Information" to channel the many requests we get for health topics and related information. We are also displaying navigation tools (the blue bar) consistently in our headers. The footer has been modified to display our full address and link to a Copyright and Privacy Policy statement. We still maintain links to MEDLINE and MEDLINEplus from our home page. We hope all of these features will help our users find the information they are looking for when they come to the NLM web site.



Impact of HealthSTAR® and MEDLINE Records Merged in PubMed

A network member in Region 1 recently contacted the NN/LM™ office asking about the “combination of HealthStar and Medline” and the impact that such a combination into one database might have on OVID costs.

Mary Mylenki, Associate Director of the NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region program contacted NLM and was given the following information by the MEDLARS® Management Section:

“NLM does not control how licensees package our [NLM's] data (separate databases or bundled together as we have begun to do with PubMed) nor do we control their pricing. The following text has recently been provided to NLM's MEDLINE licensees in response to several inquiries received about the impact of the merger of HealthSTAR and MEDLINE records into PubMed on their NLM database subscriptions:

“NLM MEDLINE licensees do not receive all records found in PubMed, NLM's Web-based retrieval system. In addition to MEDLINE, PubMed includes records from PREMEDLINE® (in process records) and publisher supplied records which have not been MeSH® indexed or processed through our quality assurance routines and are not distributed with the MEDLINE tapes. (Note: NLM does plan to lease PREMEDLINE records as soon as our XML-based format for ftp of this data has been finalized. Stay tuned for more information.)

“PubMed also includes journal citations from our HealthSTAR database and will eventually include journal citations from other specialty databases. See the related article and the MLA section of the May-June 1999 issue of the NLM Technical Bulletin at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html>. At this time, NLM distributes the traditional version of MEDLINE to licensees; that is, the version that resides on our legacy mainframe computer (where the data are created). It is possible that we will eventually distribute the expanded version of MEDLINE (i.e., the PubMed version) to licensees instead of distributing separate ‘databases’ such as HealthSTAR, AIDSLINE®, etc. once we move to our new data creation and maintenance system (and journal citations previously found in separate databases on the mainframe reside together in PubMed), but discussions on this topic are not complete. As you know, NLM is in the midst of significant reinvention activities and we appreciate licensees' patience during this period of transition.”

That's the end of the message from NLM to the licensees. So, at this time, NLM distributes the databases separately even though they have merged the HealthSTAR journal citations into PubMed. It is important to note again, however, that NLM does not control how licensees package NLM data (separate databases or bundled together) nor does NLM control their pricing. I hope this answers the question satisfactorily. Please don't hesitate to contact us again. Any further information we get from NLM will of course be passed on to you.

Copley Hospital Gets Funding

\$ On Friday, July 9, the Rural Health Care Division (RHCD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) sent out its third group of Funding Commitment Letters (FCLs). Copley Hospital in Morrisville, VT was awarded \$1,550.92. To date the RHCD has committed \$289,424.45 to 66 eligible rural health care providers.

The RHCD estimates that over \$1.5 million will be disbursed for Year One of the program (1/1/98 - 6/30/99).

RHCD began accepting applications for Year Two (7/1/99 - 6/30/00) on March 1, 1999. As of July 2, the RHCD had received 563 Form 465s for Year Two. We are encouraging rural health care providers to get their applications in for Year Two. \$12 million has been authorized to fund Year Two applications.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mel Blackwell by phone at 202/263-1625 or by e-mail to mblackwell@universalservice.org. The website is <http://www.rhc.universalservice.org>.

ILL via E-mail

Thinking of sending or receiving ILL requests via e-mail? Then you may want to take a look at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) draft document entitled : *IFLA guidelines for sending ILL requests by email*. It can be found at <http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/p3/g-ill.htm>

The Electronic Frontier

by Geoff Gerriets, Technology Coordinator

Mitch Kapor, one of the founding members of Lotus, left the company and formed the Electronic Frontier Foundation because the high pressure environment of the commercial software industry quit being fun. I'm a little like Mitch; I think technology should be fun, and I hope to be able to share that with you in my NESL column of the same name.

Usually I'll use this column to talk about projects, progress, and activities both within the region and also nationally. This first column, though, will just be an introduction to me and maybe my perspectives.

An Introduction

I'm Geoffrey Gerriets, but I answer best to Geoff. I graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 1998 with an MS in LIS. I've been a technical writer for the three years prior to my arrival here in Farmington, and I'm excited to be really working in librarianship.

As is probably clear from that introduction, my experience with both librarianship and with health sciences is limited. I'll be relying on others to keep my myopia from limiting my effectiveness while I get acclimated. A big piece of this will rely on people being able to talk to me and tell me where they think my talents can be of optimal use.

Three Perspectives

Picking out the areas where I can be useful isn't likely to be easy for anyone, so I've tried to help identify what those situations look like. I've arrived at three relatively straightforward ideas about how technology can be gainfully employed within a library setting.

- Technology can automate. A classical idea; this is the notion that machines can replace humans. To an extent, they can: some of the most monotonous work humans have been required to do can be automated, because it requires no human decisions. The OPAC's and ILS's all have major features that strive to do this; most application software has at least some aspect of automation to it.
- Technology can coordinate. Dr. Noshir Contractor, in a keynote speech at one of UIUC's meetings for technical personnel, suggested that for most pieces of the workflow, the "classical" idea of automation really wasn't feasible. Humans needed to be involved too closely, because the work was composed largely of decisions. Technology could be gainfully used in such environments, though, to reduce the cost of coordination. Email, LANs, the Internet, and even videoconferencing are all examples of this sort of technology.
- Technology can improve quality. More often than not, workflow does require intense decisionmaking. Reference work is a prime example of this: at each step along the way, from the initial interview all the way into the feedback process, human decisions and analysis play into the process. However, this does not, as Dr. Contractor seemed to suggest in his talk, render technology ineffectual in these processes. Technology can be used at each step to magnify the power of the decisions being made. Databases can be selected more readily and plumbed more deeply; lists can be sorted more effectively, feedback can be analyzed more thoroughly. The end result is a higher grade of product, be it the result of a reference question, some original cataloging, or some collection cultivation.

And Then Goodnight

When I look at a situation, I play those three factors over in my head while I'm looking for ways that technology can make things work better. They're broad generalities, and they don't lend themselves really well to a neat set of rules that can be coded into a computer and used to automate the process ... which is, I suppose, why I'm here.

Congratulations to Nancy and Dennis on the birth of Emma Joyce Putnam, born July 4th weighing in at 7 lbs 7.5 oz. and 21 inches long. The NER Office wishes the best for the Putnam family. Nancy will be returning to the office in September.



QuickDOC and the New DOCLINE

As the impending changes loom ever closer, the questions are beginning to surface about QuickDOC, the new DOCLINE, and how it's all going to work. If you're not subscribed to the QuickDOC listserv, that would be a great place to start. You'll see things like the following.

On Wed, 11 Aug 1999:



> realize that NLM is discontinuing the FTS number and will provide a new dial-up service. I also know that the new Docline will be Internet based. I have access to the Internet and have tested my access which worked fine. My question is whether or not I need to purchase Kermit to use the new Windows version of Quickdoc?

Jay Daly's response

The Windows version of QD will NOT need either Kermit or ProComm ONCE THE NEW DOCLINE COMES ONLINE. It will (probably) use either Kermit 95 or ProComm Plus32 to communicate via telnet with the current DOCLINE during the transition period. It may also be possible to continue to use one of the DOS dialups, but I'm not sure yet how that would work.

I think the question here is what to do during the period BEFORE the new DOCLINE comes up, if you are currently accessing DOCLINE via a dialup connection.

The Windows version of QD will NOT need either Kermit or ProComm ONCE THE NEW DOCLINE COMES ONLINE.

Here are my recommendations (each of them seems possible at this stage) in order of preference:

1. Get Kermit 95 and start running over telnet.

It's an extra expense (\$54), but it's easy to install and maintain. It's guaranteed to work for you through Sept. 30 (when FTS2000 goes away) and beyond, until the new DOCLINE, when it's unnecessary (indeed won't work). It'll also be the FIRST third-party program to work with the early, beta versions of QD for Windows.

2. If you already have ProComm Plus32, use that method via telnet.

Don't buy this unless you can get it for less than \$54. It's more of a pain to set up than Kermit 95, but it works, and it's likely (but not guaranteed) that it'll work with the early version of QD for Windows with the current DOCLINE. Again, once the new DOCLINE comes online, you won't need this.

3. Continue with the DOS QD and your current dialup connection.

It's likely, but not—so far as I know—guaranteed, that DOCLINE will provide some sort of alternate dialup access once FTS2000 goes away September 30, 1999. Whenever this alternate access method is announced, I'll post ASCII versions of Custom script files that should work with the current DOS dialup programs. Depending upon when all this gets decided, there could be a maelstrom of activity on and around 9/30/99, as everyone using DOS dialup programs logs onto the www.nlm.nih.gov/~quickdoc/ web site and attempts to download and install the files. I don't think that the actual downloading and installation will be very difficult, but I guess the point is that, for those using K95 or PW4, 9/30/99 will be just another day. And this probably WON'T be a viable setup for use with the early versions of QD4Win, though I'm not sure about that, yet.

I think that these are the choices, and that all three will work. It's a question of when do you want to make the change, now or around Sept. 30. A change will come, one way or another. It's also a question of convenience and access to services. At some sites, where you have to jump through hoops to get access to new software, even at \$54 Kermit may be too "expensive," in terms of time and resources. For these sites, to download a short ASCII file is MUCH easier.

nlmfiles

Do you want to know when the National Library of Medicine has put up or modified information on its website? A simple e-mail message is sent once a week with a list of files that have been updated since the last message. You can quickly discern which files are new and which ones are updated. If you were subscribed to the list during the week of August 20, 1999, you would have learned among other things that a list of Abridged Index Medicus® (AIM) Journal Titles is now available and that the *Finding Consumer Health Information* page was updated.

To subscribe to the list, send a message to lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov and in the body of the message type subscribe nlmfiles.

Abridged Index Medicus (AIM) Journal Titles

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/aim.html>

Finding Consumer Health Information

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/faqpc.html>



Medlineplus is now up to 183 topics with more being added all the time. The latest subjects added included Athlete's Foot; Breast Feeding; Fungal Infections; Heart Valve Diseases; Hip Injuries and Disorders; and Infectious Mononucleosis

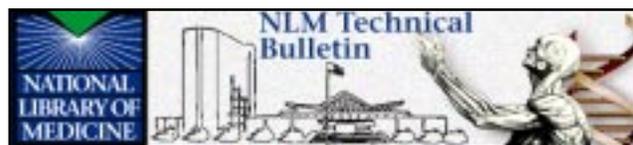
Take a look at and direct your inquiring patrons to <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

IGM Update

by Sonya Shooshan, IGM development team

A new version of IGM has been released. This version includes the following:

- change year on HealthSTAR search screen for new backfile configuration (backfile now contains citations from 1990 and 1991)
- correct AIDSLINE search strategy for newsletter articles
- fix link to Images from the History of Medicine



<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html>

NLM Technical Bulletin. 1999 July-August; 309

- Notice of NLM Z39.50 MEDLINE Server Ceasing
- New Fact Sheet, Print and Electronic Journals in MEDLINE®, Available
- NTIS Billing Plans for ELHILL Demise
- Correction to the September-October 1998 NLM Technical Bulletin Article
- Titled MeSH Coming Attractions
- TRI97 Available on TOXNET®
- HealthSTAR Files Reconfigured
- MEDLINE Files Reconfigured in ELHILL
- Remembering ELHILL
- NLM Home Page Redesigned

IGM Brochure Available

by Daniel Dollar, Education Coordinator



We would like to announce the creation of an Internet Grateful Med (IGM) tri-fold brochure for your use from the NN/LM—New England Region. You can locate this publication at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ner/education> on the NER Education page. It is a 49 Kb PDF file—there is also a link provided to get a free PDF viewer, if you do not have one.

Please try to download the publication first, before requesting a print copy. From previous experience with the PubMed brochure it can get a little overwhelming sending out print copies via snail-mail, but please don't hesitate requesting a copy of the brochure if you cannot download it or get a clean copy from your printer.

The publication was created using Adobe PageMaker. If you have access to PageMaker, we can send the file to you in order to customize the brochure for your local institution.

We hope this brochure will be of assistance to you and your patrons. Direct all comments and questions to Daniel Dollar.

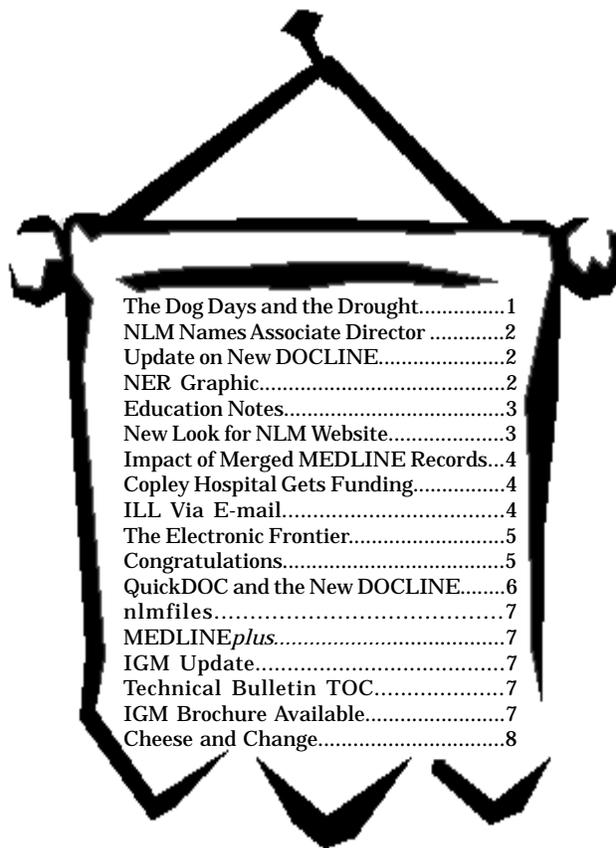
Cheese and Change

Donna Beales, librarian at Lowell General Hospital, recently read the book *Who Moved My Cheese?: An Amazing Way to Deal With Change in Your Work and in Your Life* which had been talked about at a recent NECHI meeting. She agreed to send us her thoughts after reading it.

'Cheese' is one of *those* little books, short on pages, but long on folk wisdom. Set in a maze, the book chronicles the reactions of various animal personalities when a formerly copious supply of cheese suddenly runs dry. Some run off immediately seeking new cheese, willy-nilly, with no plan. One ventures out slowly, with much fear and trepidation, and gradually comes to gain self-confidence and mastery within change. Another refuses to move on, coming back again and again to the former cheese-filled area, unable or unwilling to see the dangerous and crippling effects of trying to cling to what worked in the past.

Though the book is really broad-based and applicable to any business, it speaks to the state of flux professional librarianship is experiencing. Technological applications used yesterday will be replaced tomorrow, and we must be ready and open to learn new

ones as they arise. Perhaps not all change is good, but change is inevitable. Intelligent librarians will see themselves and their colleagues reflected in the actions of the maze inhabitants, and the savvy ones will take notes.



The Dog Days and the Drought.....	1
NLM Names Associate Director	2
Update on New DOCLINE.....	2
NER Graphic.....	2
Education Notes.....	3
New Look for NLM Website.....	3
Impact of Merged MEDLINE Records..	4
Copley Hospital Gets Funding.....	4
ILL Via E-mail.....	4
The Electronic Frontier.....	5
Congratulations.....	5
QuickDOC and the New DOCLINE.....	6
nlmfiles.....	7
MEDLINEplus.....	7
IGM Update.....	7
Technical Bulletin TOC.....	7
IGM Brochure Available.....	7
Cheese and Change.....	8

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine
New England Region
University of Connecticut Health Center
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030-5370



Return Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 13 Farmington, CT
--

