



Volume 16

Number 2

June 1999

ISSN 02666-853X

## Editorial

Locating good quality health promotion material for people with learning disabilities and for people whose first language is not English, can be a difficult task. Help is at hand, however, with the publication of *FamilyWise*, a pictorial tool for discussing health promotion issues. Ann Glover, a health visitor, who devised the pack has written in this issue of the *Newsletter* (pages 4-5) explaining the concept behind *FamilyWise*. If any reader based in Scotland would like to borrow *FamilyWise*, please contact the Health Promotion Library Scotland on tel: 0645 125 442.

Welcome to Suzy Paisley and Peter Craddock who join the *Newsletter* editorial team as Web surfers! Suzy and Peter have launched their new column of "Internet sources of interest" on pages 8-10. Suzy, from a health sciences background and Peter, from a community care/disability background have provided us with an interesting kettle of fish which I hope you will enjoy pursuing.

Group members benefit from the income received from advertising in this *Newsletter*. If you know of any companies whose products are of interest to health and community care librarians, ask them to consider advertising in these pages. Better still, ask them to contact Colin Engel, the Group's Advertising and Marketing Co-ordinator. Colin's contact details are on the inside back page of this *Newsletter*.

I look forward to meeting as many HLG members as possible at the forthcoming Library Association's fifth Umbrella conference at Umist in July. If you are interested in deaf awareness, come along to what promises to be a very useful workshop on Saturday morning. See you there!

**Margaret E S Forrest**  
**Editor**

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## Group News

### Health Libraries Review

Primary care is very much in focus at the moment, with the Primary Care Groups (PCGs) coming into operation on 1 April. It is, therefore, apposite that the June issue of HLR is devoted to this topic.

Many of the papers in this issue were presented at the Group's annual conference "First aid on the front-line: information for primary care" held in Lancaster 2-4 September 1998. For those who were unable to attend the conference this issue provides an opportunity for you to catch up on this important topic and for those who were able to attend, to refresh your memory on some of the excellent presentations in what proved to be a very successful conference. We are very grateful to Steve Rose for editing this theme issue for us.

The September issue will not concentrate on a particular theme. Articles range from the work of the World Health Organisation, to articles on database searching; providing library support to develop clinical guidelines; the adoption of Internet technology by UK postgraduate centres; and more papers on primary care. We are encouraged to see so many high quality articles being submitted from a variety of sources. So please keep them coming!

**Penny Bonnett**

### People

**Matt Jordan** has joined the Winchester-based Centre for Health Information Quality as Information Officer and **Claire Pillar** as Manager. **Maria Grant** has left the Centre to take up a research post at the University of Salford

**Elaine Beckett**, the new Librarian at Frenchay Hospital, started at the beginning of January. **Sheila Headford** has left Frenchay Hospital to take up the post of Senior Library Assistant at the University of the West of England. **Wendy Saywood** has left Frenchay Hospital to get married and live in Scotland.

**Helen Bingham** has been appointed Library Services Manager for Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trusts.

**Leah Carter** has left the Royal Hospital Haslar.

**Tom Hain** has taken up the newly created post of IT Co-ordinator for SWRLIN.

**Suzy Holloway** has recently left the North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke to take up her new position as Library Manager at Frimley Park Hospital.

**Anne Lancey** from the Royal Hampshire County Hospital has obtained an MA in Library & Information Studies.

**Angela Perrett** has now left her 2 part-time jobs at Gloucestershire Health Authority and the Postgraduate Library at Wootton Lawn, also in Gloucester. She has recently been appointed Librarian to the RCN in Wales.

# Travelling Scholarship

1998

## **How much is the scholarship?**

Up to £500 sterling

## **How often is it awarded?**

It is awarded annually

## **Who can apply?**

It is open to anyone who is a member of the Health Libraries Group

## **What is it given for?**

The scholarship is for travel to a conference, for research or for a study visit. It is given to enhance the knowledge and development of the profession and to further the continuing professional development of the applicant. It is to be used before the end of 2000.

## **How do you apply?**

An application form is available from Susan V Howard, HLG Hon. Secretary  
Imperial College School of Medicine, Charing Cross Campus, The Library, The Reynolds  
Building, St Dunstan's Road, London, W6 8RP.

## **When is the closing date?**

31<sup>st</sup> December 1999

## **Who decides and when?**

A panel from the HLG committee will decide who should receive the scholarship. The successful applicant will be invited to give a presentation to the HLG committee and to write a report, which will be considered for publication in  
*Health Libraries Review*

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**Helga Perry**, formerly of the Medical Library, Gloucester Royal, has taken up the post at Gloucestershire Health Authority.

**Claire Shemilt** left the Management Library at Southampton University to take up the post of Librarian for the S. Birmingham Mental Health NHS Trust.

**Brenda Stables** is covering **Sue Dorey's** maternity leave. She is based at Poole Postgraduate Centre Library and providing cover both there and the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

**Jackie Webb** is the new librarian for Severn NHS Trust Library services.

## Health Information and Community Care News and Notes

### **The Familywise Programme: a Health Promotion Resource for Professionals**

Families who are experiencing difficulties with their children's behaviour often turn to health visitors for help. In response to this health visitors working in Huddersfield NHS Trust decided that they wanted a resource based on pictures rather than text to use when working with families. They wanted something, which was non-threatening, humorous and accessible to all across the socio-economic groups, including those people who may have problems with literacy, or whose first language might not be English. So began the idea behind FamilyWise which

started in 1994, initially with funding from the local commissioners, but over the two years of research and development money coming from grants and the Trust itself.

The **FamilyWise** programme is proving to be very popular with individuals, families and groups. Professionals working in disciplines ranging from health, social services, education and voluntary organisations are also discovering the benefits of a more client-centred approach to working with people.

The concept behind **FamilyWise** is a simple one. Bright, colourful and humorous cartoon books without words focusing on twenty-one different areas of health promotion together with accompanying workers' books make up the programme.

**FamilyWise** encourages a self-empowerment, humanistic approach, which focuses on the individual. The programme aims to facilitate self identification of health needs and in partnership with a professional the individual is encouraged to look at ways of addressing those needs.

**FamilyWise** is evaluated on a model of attitude change, showing intermediate indicators of change, which may lead onto a behaviour change. An evaluative study of the pilot programme was undertaken within Huddersfield NHS Trust and on a smaller scale in two other NHS Trusts, one in the north of England and one in the south of England. The results of these studies were very positive and over 90% of the clients' comments showed that they had found **FamilyWise** helpful. The saying '*every*

*picture tells a story*' really does seem to be the case with **FamilyWise!** Families using the programme identify with images and situations in the cartoons and are enabled to articulate issues, which sometimes they themselves may not have been conscious of before.

The titles in the **FamilyWise** programme are:

FamilyWise (assessment book)
Housekeeping (budgeting)
Happy Families 1 (positive parenting)
Happy Families 2 (general behaviour management)
Temper tantrums
Potty training
Bedwetting
Sleeping problems
Crying
Eating problems
Safety
Happy Hours? (general substance misuse)
Which Works? (drug and solvent misuse)
Booze (alcohol misuse)
Quitting? (smoking cessation)
Stressed?
Nosh
Teeth
Poorly? (minor ailments)
Sexual health
Pregnancy

For further information contact Ann Glover, FamilyWise team co-ordinator, 01661 844700 or e-mail [annglover1@aol.com](mailto:annglover1@aol.com)

**Ann Glover**

## Cochrane Library Update

*Ruth Frankish keeps us up to date with the latest developments in the Cochrane Library...*

You may have noticed that some of the titles of reviews in CDSR have been changing recently. In an effort to improve the quality of the presentation of reviews further, a copy editor has been assessing each one to make sure the titles more concisely reflect the contents of the review; they have also standardised all of the abstracts and made them more readable. Something that users have found frustrating in the past is the difference between the short title of a CDSR review that appears in the index window listing, and the full title at the top of a review. With issue 2:1999 this work will all come together, when the short titles of reviews will be removed and the titles that appear in the index window will be the full title of the review.

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) database in 'Other sources of information' on the Cochrane Library contains titles and abstracts of published reports from the many members of the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA). If you take a look at the database you will find many varied topics covered by the reports and a search on the Cochrane Library often brings up references in the HTA database which will be worth looking at. (Not all the reports are systematic reviews; increasingly HTA organisations are doing primary research.) Most of the abstracts also contain URLs which will lead you to either the full-text or a summary of the document or at least to

the web site of the relevant HTA body. The database also now includes titles of on-going projects being conducted by HTA groups. Access to the HTA database can also be found through the CRD web pages at [www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd)

It is possible to arrange training locally on either the web or the CD-Rom version of Clib. For those of you who access CDSR via Ovid's EBM reviews, it might also be possible to offer training adapted for this software. Please get in touch to find out more.

### **Ruth Frankish**

Cochrane Library Trainer  
NHS Centre for Reviews and  
Dissemination,  
University of York, YORK, YO10 5DD  
01904 434562, [rcf2@york.ac.uk](mailto:rcf2@york.ac.uk)

## **The National Research Register**

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/research/nrr.htm>

The National Research Registrar (NRR) is a register of ongoing and recently completed research projects funded by the United Kingdom's National Health Service. The first release contains information on over 28,000 research projects, as well as entries from the Medical Research Council's Clinical Trials Register, and details on reviews in progress collected by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.

As the most comprehensive register of current research in the NHS, it has enormous potential to:

- Identify unpublished research - particularly important to systematic reviewers of research;
- Provide early warning on research which may lead to important research findings;
- Improve the uptake and participation in clinical trials;
- Identify and bring together researchers between and across related areas of research;
- Help avoid unnecessary duplication in research - a waste of resources as well as potentially unethical.

Records held on the NRR can include details on the research title, research question, methodology, sample group, outcome measures and research project contacts. Projects are indexed on an ongoing basis, using the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) thesaurus of the National Library of Medicine.

The NRR is assembled and published by Update Software Ltd on behalf of the Department of Health in the United Kingdom. Please e-mail [nrr@update.co.uk](mailto:nrr@update.co.uk) if you have questions or comments.

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## Internet sources of interest

*Welcome to this new column by Suzy Paisley and Peter Craddock who have been busy surfing the Web for sites of interest...*

'WWWhere to start?' was my second thought on deciding my contribution to this new column (my first thought being how very nice of HLG to ask lil'ol' me!). A reference to StatBase (the ONS WWW service at [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)) in the last issue of the newsletter leads me to this issue's theme. In the hope that they will provide some solutions to those heartsink statistical enquiries please find, for your enjoyment, five WWW sources of statistics.

For health services where else can we start but the DoH's own webpages. Remember the days of chasing information on DoH Statistical Bulletins? You can find details of statistical publications together with web-based statistical collections on activity, performance, workforce and finance at:

[www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm](http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm)

A recent addition includes data from specific surveys including back pain, contraception and complementary healthcare.

Moving on, the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) facts and figures page takes you through an A-Z of infectious diseases. From AIDS to whooping cough, calling off at dysentery, measles and salmonella you can find information relating to incidence and prevalence, epidemiology, background

to disease and, in places, links to related organisations. All at:

[www.phls.co.uk/facts/index.htm](http://www.phls.co.uk/facts/index.htm)

Ok, so how about the rest of the world? The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) forms part of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The NCHS website - it's big - has, amongst many other things, a data warehouse and a FASTATS facility giving 'bitesize' statistical summaries on a huge list of topics. It's at:

[www.cdc.gov/nchswww/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/default.htm)

And of course, the World Health Organization (WHO) is known for collecting one or two bits of data. The WHO Statistical Information System (WHOSIS) website has too many things to list in this short column - but particularly useful is the links page to national statistical sources for over 120 countries. The WHOSIS site starts at:

[www.who.int/whosis/](http://www.who.int/whosis/)

### Suzy Paisley

#### Age Concern

Claims to be "one of the most comprehensive sites concerning older people in the world". Can't dispute this - over 1000 pages and growing. All the Age Concern Information Factsheets can now be downloaded from this site. Categories include: income, legal issues, health, community care and miscellaneous.

Website: [www.ace.org.uk](http://www.ace.org.uk)

#### New Horizons Un-limited

Seize the day! Put no trust in the morrow! is the motto of a new US internet information service committed to "promoting communication and

providing information to empower people with life long disabilities and their caregivers". Provides information on resources and services available in the community and encourages the interchange of information between persons with disabilities. US orientation, plenty of vitality - more promise than actual at this stage but worth bookmarking for growth. Particularly like the title: Avoiding attendants from HELL: a practical guide to finding, hiring and keeping personal care attendants (June Price). Contact: net: **www.new-horizons.org**

#### Family village

Disability website run by Waisman Centre of the University of Wisconsin. Mainly for Americans but worth a visit if only for the village design concept but also for health information. Describes itself as a "global community that integrates information, resources, and communication opportunities on the Internet for persons with mental retardation and other disabilities, for their families, and for those that provide them services and support".

The village community concept is developed with the use of simple icons representing individual locations: the Library, Coffee Shop, Hospital, Shopping Mall, Post Office, Office, House of Worship, School, Sports & Recreation, Community Center, Bookstore and Information Point.

Accessing the library brings up (the once) familiar picture of a card catalogue. A-Z selections can be made from this relating to a wide range of categories. Includes a list of generic search engines: general, health and disability, health and disability Internet

Directories (a list of sites that index health and disability information on the Web), Parent and consumer support organisations, IT products etc. Contact: **www.familyvillage.wisc.edu**

#### Dis-Forum.

Mailbase list to provide an "efficient mass communication channel for all staff in HE whose responsibility is to support disabled students". Run by CCPD, the Central London Access Centre, part of the National Federation of Access Centres and responsible to the DFEE for the assessments of disabled undergraduates in South East England. Contact: **www.wmin.ac.uk/ccpd/**

#### AbilityNet

Joint initiative of the Computability Centre and the Foundation for Communication for the Disabled. Mission is to extend the work of making mainstream computer technology accessible to people with disabilities. Hence it offers a useful example of a user-friendly interface with large text and graphic-free alternative access. About a year old - limited range of pages but useful directory of disability sites. Contact: **www.abilitynet.co.uk**

#### EASI

US version of Abilitynet - for "librarians who want to make their services accessible to people with disabilities" Includes full text articles on making CD workstations and computer catalogues accessible to people with disabilities. Provides link to disability providers. Contact: **www.isc.rit.edu/~easi/lib/html**

National Information Center on Deafness

Based at Gallaudet University, the "world's only four year university for deaf and hard of hearing undergraduates". Includes a publication list with ordering facilities, links to other sites related to services and healthcare for people who are deaf. Contact: [www.gallaudet.edu:80/~nicd](http://www.gallaudet.edu:80/~nicd)

Disability Net

Describes itself as a 'worldwide information and news service for all disabled people and people with an interest in disability issues'. An impressive site this, highly interactive, primarily for users with disabilities and with a lot of useful information. Comprehensive directory of disability agencies. Various forums. Publications list and Amazon linked ordering facility. Contact: [www.disabilitynet.co.uk](http://www.disabilitynet.co.uk)

British Council of Disabled People  
National umbrella organisation for groups controlled by disabled people. Useful site for current issues and comment. eg. The New Genetics and Disabled People, The Glenn Hoddle Karma Saga. Contact: [www.bcodp.org.uk](http://www.bcodp.org.uk)

**Peter Craddock**

### **The National Electronic Library for Health**

You can find the building site for the National Electronic Library for Health (NeLH) at <http://www.nelh.nhs.uk>. The site will:

- give you a point of contact within the development team so that you

can make suggestions, proposals and comments;

- update the NeLH Strategy monthly;
- provide a link to the Mailbase NeLH discussion list for people interested in contributing;
- link you to the Projects Database.

### **Information for Health**

Information for Health: an Information Strategy for the Modern NHS 1998-2005, sets out the aims and principles for implementing the new NHS Information Strategy and is available from the NHS Executive web site at

<http://www.imt4nhs.exec.nhs.uk>.

### **Statistics from the NHS Regional Librarians Group 1996-1997**

Statistics from the NHS Regional Librarians Group are available from the Library & Information Statistics Unit (LISU) at Loughborough University. For further details tel. 01509 223071 e-mail [lboro.ac.uk](mailto:lboro.ac.uk) or visit the LISU web site at <http://info.lut.ac.uk/departments/dils/lisu/regpub.html>.

### **Wired for Health**

The Department of Health and the Department for Education and Employment are working together to develop the Wired for Health web site to ensure that young people and their teachers are able to access relevant and appropriate health information at the touch of a button.

<http://www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk>

## HEBS Cyberschool

*Donald Mackay writes about a new Web site launched by the Health Education Board for Scotland...*

Sex, drugs, AIDS, smoking and much more – this generation of Scottish schoolchildren will be the first ever to have the facts at their fingertips. HEBS (the Health Education Board for Scotland) have recently launched the HEBS Cyberschool

<http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/cyberschool>

the first virtual health promoting school in the world. The HEBS cyberschool ensures that no schoolchild in Scotland, be s/he in Stornoway or Stirling, will be without access to vital health information delivered in a lively, fun and interactive way. Packed with up to date health news, reliable facts, videowalls, clubs, competitions and prizes, the site will be an invaluable aid in school work – both for projects and for provoking discussion, as well as an absorbing leisure time activity. Set up like a school with a common room, classroom, library and staffroom, teachers and parents will appreciate the wealth of educational materials. Research reports, statistics, surveys and gateways to other sites are all there.

## The National Guidelines Clearing House Web Site

New, free web based library resource, for up to date evidence based clinical practice guidelines:

<http://www.guideline.gov>

## Pharm-line on NHSnet

Pharm-line, now available on NHSnet, is a bibliographic database on pharmacy practice and clinical use of drugs, using *Cairs-Web* search software. It indexes and abstracts relevant technical papers from medical and pharmaceutical periodicals. For more information contact: Cairns, 18-19 Oaklands Park, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2FD. E-mail: [cairs@cairs.co.uk](mailto:cairs@cairs.co.uk)

## Tarius Interactive

Claiming to be the first ever good practice pharmaceutical database, it is the latest tool to provide regulatory information for pharmaceutical companies who want to make sure they remain in compliance. Including guidelines on compliance with Good Laboratory Practice, Good Clinical Practice and Good Manufacturing Practice for human drugs in the EU and USA. Available in three modules, Tarius EU, Tarius US and Tarius GCP. Each is available on separate subscription. For more information look on :

<http://www.tarius.com>

## Off-Label Drug Use Database.

The off-label drug use database, has been acquired by The Thomson Healthcare Information Group (THIG). The database provides an official compendium of medications available in the USA and Canada, nutritional and veterinary products and diseases and medical conditions. The database will be offered by Micromedex, a subsidiary of THIG. For more information see their web-site at

<http://www.micromedex.com>

## **MLA headquarters moves to new location**

The office of the Medical Library Association (MLA) has moved to a new location at 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60601-7298. Because the old and new headquarters offices are in close proximity, only the address will change. All telephone numbers, fax numbers, lock box, and e-mail addresses will stay the same.

MLA is a professional organisation of more than 1,200 institutions and 3,800 individual members in the health sciences information field. MLA members serve society by developing new health information delivery systems, fostering educational and research programs for health sciences information professionals, and encouraging an enhanced public awareness of health care issues.

## **New CD-ROMs from the Wellcome Trust**

The Wellcome Trust have developed four new CD-ROMS on major international health topics. They are:

Sickle cell disease - Interactive tutorials on a number of subjects which include an image collection and a glossary.

Trachoma - Interactive tutorials highlighting the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Also includes 150 image collection.

Malaria - Eleven interactive tutorials which include an image collection and a glossary.

Sexually transmitted diseases - Seventeen interactive tutorials as

well as a 300 image collection and a glossary.

They are available from: CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8DE. Tel: 01491 832111; Fax: 01491 829292

## **The IBIS Academic & Library File on CD-ROM**

The print version of which has been available for 27 years, is now on CD-ROM. It allows users to question and interrogate over one million academics. Initially, the CD-ROM will be free. Contact : Rachel Toofail, Reed Business Information on: Tel. 0181 652 8032 Email: [walf.help.uk@rbi.co.uk](mailto:walf.help.uk@rbi.co.uk)

## **How to Find Health Information on the Internet.**

Bruce Maxwell's *How to Find Health Information on the Internet* is a guide to reputable health information sites on the Internet. Maxwell has checked 600 of them himself. To qualify sites need to be offering useful information, reliable, do not charge and easy to use. There are four sections: search engines and reference sites; conditions, diseases and illnesses; prevention and treatment; and healthcare issues. Published by Congressional Quarterly Inc., Washington DC. ISBN 1-56802-271-9.

## **Three Hundredth Full Text Journal added to Journals @ Ovid**

Ovid Technologies reached an electronic full text milestone with the addition of the three hundredth journal title to the [Journal@Ovid](#) online full text database.

With 300 journal titles and 11,571 total issues spanning up to six years, [Journals@Ovid](#) is the largest and most comprehensive sci-tech-med SGML full text database in the world.

Launched eight months ago on June 16, 1998 with 80 journal titles, [Journals@Ovid](#) has grown by an average of almost 30 titles per month, with several hundred more titles planned for addition in 1999.

[Journals@Ovid](#) is designed to meet every library's full text demands, from the hospital to the large university to the multi-site biotech or pharmaceutical company. What began as the Ovid Full Text Collections has evolved into a flexible database of electronic journals.

Each [Journal@Ovid](#) title is linked to other [Journals@Ovid](#) titles through references in the articles, and also to appropriate bibliographic databases on Ovid On-line. Links are currently available to *MEDLINE*, *CINAHL*, and *PsycINFO*. Links to *EMBASE*, *BIOSIS*, *Current Contents*, *ClinPsyc*, *PsycLit* and *PsycFirst* will be added soon. The user can search these bibliographic databases and then link to the full text journals to which they have subscribed, or link from references in the full text back to the abstracted, bibliographic citation in any of these databases.

Whether customers subscribe to titles individually or in collections (predefined sets of journal titles), they receive access not only to the current journal issues, but to the entire electronic backfile of that journal as well. In addition, a single subscription to a [Journals@Ovid](#) title comes with access to all 300 journals'

tables of contents and bibliographic citations with cited references.

For more information, contact Steve Hawe, Ovid Technologies Ltd, 107 Hammersmith Grove, London W6 ONQ. Tel: 0181 748 3777; Fax: 0181 748 2302; e-mail [shawe@ovid.com](mailto:shawe@ovid.com); <http://www.ovid.com>

## **EPIC Encyclopaedia of Clinical Practice**

*Alexander Hamilton, Sales and Marketing Manager of EPIC brings us up-to-date with information about the forthcoming second edition of EPIC Encyclopaedia of Clinical Practice.*

The second edition of the EPIC Encyclopaedia of Clinical Practice will be available in CD-ROM format later this year. Designed to be user friendly the set of three CD's allows PC searches to be carried out on 151 events covering a period of six years defined by age and gender. The data on diseases, symptoms and procedures can be specific at national, regional or health authority level and displayed as tables, graphs or maps.

With this unique medical reference book in CD-ROM format, millions of patient medical records can be summarised in seconds. Its extensive collection of medical statistics allows you to view the changing pattern of disease and is an invaluable tool to the healthcare market.

The data are sourced from the General Practice Research Database (GPRD) owned by the Department of Health and contains over six million, anonymised and validated patient records captured at the time of GP consultation.

Purchasers of the original version will automatically receive their update. New customers will be able to purchase the set of three CD's for £250 + VAT. All enquiries and advance orders should be sent for the attention of Alexander Hamilton, Sales & Marketing Manager, EPIC, Regeneration House, York Way, Kings Cross, London N1 0BB. Tel: 0171 713 1188; Fax: 0171 713 1119.

### **Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association**

The Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association has opened a Library and Information Centre at their headquarters at 76 Firhill Road, Glasgow G20 7BA. The Library is the first of its kind and provides information on motor neurone disease and related issues. It is available to patients and families and to health and social care professionals. For further information contact Sandra Wilson, Information Officer/Librarian Tel: 0141-945-1077, Fax: 0141-945-2578 E-mail: [info@scotmnd.sol.co.uk](mailto:info@scotmnd.sol.co.uk) Website : [www.scotmnd.org](http://www.scotmnd.org)

Motor Neurone Disease is the name given to a group of diseases in which nerve cells controlling muscles of movement are destroyed. Although it can affect different people in different ways, it usually begins with the wasting of the hand muscles before spreading to other parts of the body. Some people may develop twitching and cramp in the arms, legs and chest and some have difficulty swallowing, breathing and speaking. In all cases, mobility will be affected, and because intellect, vision, hearing and sense of touch are retained, awareness of the condition remains intact. The disease is not rare and within the UK approximately one person in

50,000 develops it each year. It affects people all over the world in much the same ratio with the exception of a few small areas around the Pacific where Motor Neurone Disease is more common. The cause of the disease is unknown and there is no cure. However, recent research has discovered a gene mutation which is helping to increase an understanding of MND. An average course of the disease may be around four years, however, some people live with mild disability for more than twenty years.

### **National Carers Week 1999**

National Carers Week this year is being held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June. Publicity for the week highlights how caring affects relationships. A report will be published on this topic and there will be activities and events nationwide. For further information, contact Carers National Association, 20/25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JT. Tel: 0171 490 8818. Fax: 0171 490 8824.

### **National Strategy for Carers**

The Department of Health has recently published a National Strategy for Carers which is designed to enhance the quality of life for all carers by promoting: freedom to have a life of their own; time for themselves; the opportunity to continue work, if that is what is wanted; control over their life and over the support needed in it; better health and wellbeing; integration into the community; and "peace of mind". *Caring about carers: a national strategy for carers* is available free from the Department of Health, PO Box 410, Wetherby LS23 7LN. Tel: 01937

840250. Fax: 01937 845382. The report is also available at <http://www.doh.gov.uk/carers.htm>

### **Careline**

The Careline Information Centre for Wandsworth have launched their web site providing free access to local healthcare and social services information. Aimed at residents and people working in the London borough, Careline began in 1993, initially as a telephone-only service, with funding from Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Health Authority and Wandsworth Social Services. The new site can be found at <http://www.careline.org.uk>

### **Memory and Therapeutic Techniques**

A reading list providing an overview of the literature relating to the nature of memory and the emerging role of alternative therapies in treating people with dementia. £3 from: Alzheimer's Disease Society, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH. Email: [info@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:info@alzheimers.org.uk)

### **International Year of Older People**

The UK Government is committed to a principle of equality for current and future generations of older people. During the International Year of Older People, the Government will work with voluntary organisations on four key themes of: citizenship (looking at income, security, recognition and representation); generations together (promoting multigenerational initiatives); lifelong learning (promoting educational opportunities in the widest

sense); and organisations valuing older people (looking at how organisations can be encouraged to understand and act on the changing needs of older people). Age Concern is providing the Secretariat for the International Year in the UK. For more information, contact Radha Patel, UK Secretariat, c/o Age Concern England. Tel: 0181 765 7554.

### **UN International Year of Disabled Persons**

The United Nations International Year of Disabled Persons runs from October 1998 to December 1999. For an information pack, contact: Help-Age International, 67-74 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8QX. Tel: 0171 404 7201

### **RADAR Website**

RADAR (The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation) has launched a new website on disability issues. The site gives information and advice for disabled people, families and carers. There are answers to over 60 frequently asked questions and also information on RADAR campaigns. Radar's website is at: <http://www.radar.org.uk>

### **Take Action!**

RADAR has also launched a comprehensive legal action pack, Take Action!, aimed at giving advice to disabled people about their rights under the Disability Discrimination Act and how to pursue them. Take Action! will be regularly updated until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2000 as new legislation comes into force. Price £20. Available from: RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 8AF. Tel: 0171 250 3222

## **Access Officers Association**

The Access Officers Association supports professionals who promote and facilitate accessible environments and services for all including people with disabilities. They have devised a very good checklist for carrying out access audits. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, networking facilities through regional meetings, information packs and an annual half day seminar at the Association's AGM. Membership costs £40 per year. For more information contact: Judith Forrest, Access Officers Association, Membership Secretary, Planning Department, Norwich City Council, City Hall, Norwich NR2 1NH. Tel: 01603 212533; Fax: 01603 212510

## **Workability**

Workability, run by the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, is a country-wide scheme which aims to provide 10,000 disabled people with computers, training and job support. Training started in September using computers (complete with programmes and Internet access) donated by Microsoft. Trainees are able to receive online help and can access distance learning. A network of computer 'buddies' offers employment support including helping with CVs, applying for jobs and preparing for interviews. For more information contact: Leonard Cheshire Foundation, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4QD. Tel: 0171 802 5200

## **Gloucestershire VIP Project Report**

The Gloucestershire VIP Project report is now available in text hard copy, Braille and diskette (text format or Word

97). This is an evaluation of a pilot project which looked at how to be more effective in serving blind and visually impaired people throughout the county. The report was undertaken on behalf of Share the Vision, the RNIB and Gloucestershire County Library, Arts and Museums Service. Cost £10 + post and packaging. Contact: Sarah Pritchard, Service Support, Gloucestershire County Library, Arts and Museums Service, Quayside House, Shire Hall, Gloucester GL1 2HY. Tel: 01452 425024; Fax: 01452 425042; E-mail: [clams@gloscc.gov.uk](mailto:clams@gloscc.gov.uk)

## **RNIB Curriculum Information Service**

This new service was launched by the RNIB in September, and will provide up-to-date information and advice to teachers, learning support assistants and parents of visually impaired children. The service will help with the answers to queries, such as how to obtain a foreign language dictionary in large print or Braille, or how to help a blind pupil measure angles. For further information, contact: Suzy Wallis, Tel: 01905 357635, E-mail: [swallis@rnib.org.uk](mailto:swallis@rnib.org.uk)

## **News to You - information tapes**

Information news sheet from the RNIB. Lists recent information tapes from the public, private and voluntary sector. Publication free (also in alternative formats) from: Customer Services, RNIB, PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 6WS. Tel: 0345 023153; Fax: 01733 371555.

## **Website Audit**

The Royal National Institute for the Blind can audit your website to make sure it is fully accessible to blind and partially sighted users. You will be advised of any difficulties and practical solutions will be suggested. To find out more contact: Julie Howell, RNIB Website Editor, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA. Tel: 0171 391 2191; Fax: 0171 387 9934; E-mail: [jhowell@rnib.org.uk](mailto:jhowell@rnib.org.uk)

## **Web Access for the Visually Impaired.**

The BBC is attempting to make the Web accessible by the Visually impaired. Betsie (BBC Education Text to Speech Internet Enhancer), will process pages, removing images, JavaScript and change columns of text into lines. The text can then be enlarged, or converted into speech. See

<http://www.bb.co.uk/education/betsie>

## **RED Spoken word Service**

RED lists approximately 14,000 spoken word titles currently available for sale in the UK. Loose-leaf format with monthly cumulative updates. £130 per annum + £8 pp. Contact:

Retail Entertainment Publishing Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7LB. Tel: 0171 566 8216; Fax: 0171 566 8259

## **Health Videos for the Hard of Hearing**

Videos for Patients and the British Deaf Association, in association with the Wilfred & Elsie Elkes Charitable Trust, have produced a number of subtitled

health videos. Topics include asthma, depression, high BP, cystitis, prostate cancer and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The videos are available at £17.50 each from: Videos for Patients, 18 Denbigh Close, London, W11 2PH. Tel. 0171 2662852 Fax. 0171 2661206

## **Educating Peter**

This 27 minute video has been produced by Hearing Concern to raise deaf awareness. It demonstrates the challenges faced by deaf and hard of hearing people and also looks at public reactions. Contact: Hearing Concern, 7/11 Armstrong Road, London W3 7JL. Tel: 0181 743 1110

## **Bury Library's Hearing Impairment Unit**

A Hearing Impairment Unit in Bury Central Library has been made possible by a £45,000 grant from the Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, a London based charity which last year gave money to fund new initiatives in library services. Bury was one of only four library authorities to receive a grant. The Unit, is staffed for 18 hours a week by a qualified librarian who is able to use British Sign Language. The librarian will also be working extensively in the community and in other libraries to promote and develop the service. As well as providing an extensive collection of books on all aspects of deafness (including: Deaf Culture; sign language; medical topics; education; welfare; English skills and biography) the Unit also provides many other resources including:

- Subtitled videos
- CD ROMS on sign language and many other subjects

- Internet facilities
- Journals
- Uniphone
- Induction loop
- TV and video with Closed Caption Video Reader and teletext

There is also an extensive Resource Collection. This includes many aids to everyday living for both the profoundly deaf and hard of hearing including: domestic loop system; telephone amplifiers; domestic equipment such as smoke alarms and alarm clocks with flashing lights and vibrating pads; person to person transmitters; closed caption video readers and textphones. All this equipment is available for people to borrow and try in their own homes.

The service will also be running information and advice sessions plus a club for children. In the future the Unit will be used as a training and development centre for both local authority staff and outside organisations. The aim is to provide a service not only for individuals with hearing problems, but also for their friends and relatives, students and professionals working with

the deaf people as well as potential employers. For more information contact: Lenke Csaba, Hearing Impairment Unit, Bury Central Library, Manchester Road, Bury, Lancashire BL9 0DG. Tel: 0161 253 5874; Minicom: 0161 253 6484; Fax: 0161 253 5857

### **How to Provide Information Well**

The National Information Forum (NIF) has produced a new leaflet on the provision of information to Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian and Pakistani people in its *How to Provide Information Well* series. Available from: NIF, BT Burn House, Post Point 10/11, Bell Street, London NW1 5BZ. Tel: 0171 402 6681

**Contributors:** Age Concern England, Penny Bonnett, Lisa Cardy, Rachel Coton, Peter Craddock, Helen Elwell, Ruth Frankish, Ann Glover, Alexander Hamilton, Christine Jones, Donald Mackay, Kate Misso, Clare O'Brien, Suzy Paisley, Jane Rowlands, Sandra Wilson

## **Current literature**

by John Hewlett, with information from Margaret Forrest, Andrew Pantin.

Additional material is always welcome: please send the full reference to John Hewlett, 8 Railway Street, Langley Park, Co.Durham DH7 9YS; or by e-mail to [JohnH@durphi.demon.co.uk](mailto:JohnH@durphi.demon.co.uk)

The aim of this column is to cover the recent printed literature in medical, health and welfare librarianship and information science. Material of general interest such as computing, multimedia and library planning is not usually covered unless there is a specific MHW library/information aspect: such material can be traced in general current awareness bulletins or current awareness columns in specialist journals.

## CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION

Shipman, J. Document delivery suppliers web page. *Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery and Information Supply* 1998; 9 (2): 1-62.

The author has set up a web page <http://www.nnlm.nlm.gov/pnr/dosupp/> to give information about commercial document delivery suppliers; it now includes over 25 suppliers worldwide.

## CONSUMER HEALTH AND PATIENT INFORMATION

Barker, A.L., Polson, R.G. Best of Health: evaluation of a high-street consumer health information shop in a rural area. *Journal of Information Science* 1999; 25 (1): 15-26.

Polson, R.G. *Best of health: consumer health information in a rural area. An exploration of usage of a High Street consumer information shop.* Aberystwyth: University of Wales, 1997. Unpublished MSc Econ.dissertation.

Charnock, D., Shepperd, S., Needham, G., and other. DISCERN: an instrument for judging the quality of written consumer health information on treatment choices. *Journal of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases* 1999; 53: 105-111.

## EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Metcalf, C. Dear Mark: a recent graduate's letter to his mentor. *Bibliotheca medica canadiana* 1998 Winter; 20 (2): 62-63.

A brief article outlining some of the doubts and successes of a new professional.

## HEALTH SCIENCES DOCUMENTATION

Moore, J. *Core list for nurses, midwives and health visitors 1998.* London: Medical Information Working Party, 1998. £5.00. ISBN: ISBN 0-9513419-3-6.

Obtainable from Cambridge Medical Books, London SW6 3DU.

Snow, B. *Drug information: a guide to current resources. 2nd ed.* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1999 Spring. \$70.00 hbk, \$46.00 pbk. ISBN: 0-8108-3320-4 hbk, 0-8108-3321-2 pbk. 592pp.

Palmegiano, E.M. *Health and British magazines in the nineteenth century: an annotated bibliography.* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1998. \$59.50. ISBN: 0-8108-3486-3. 296pp.

## HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANSHIP

Homan, J.M. Whither peer review: Prague '97 [Editorial] *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 1998 June; 86(3):

Lipscomb, C.E. 100 years of MLA: views from the Bulletin [Editorial]. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 1998 June; 86(3):

Downing, L., Higgins, R., Smith, T. *Peripatetic library service project: assessing the value of a peripatetic library service for primary care in the Highlands. Final report.*

Inverness: PLSP, 1999. £5.00. ISBN: 0-9535144-0-4.

Obtainable from PLSP, c/o Kinmylies Medical Practice, Assynt Road, Inverness IV3 6PB.

### **HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION**

Donaldson, L.J., Gray, J.A.Muir. Clinical governance: a quality duty for health organisations. *Quality in Health Care* 1998; 7(Supplement): S37-S44.

Gleiner, J.A. Clinician acceptance of information technology. *Journal of Integrated Care* 1998; 2:86-89.

Harvey, T. A site for sore eyes: the essential [NHS & health care] sites on the hyper-text highway. *British Journal of Health Care Management* 1998; 4 (11): 539-542.

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES**

Downing, L., Higgins, R., Smith, T. *Peripatetic library service project: assessing the value of a peripatetic library service for primary care in the Highlands. Final report.*

Inverness: PLSP, 1999. £5.00. ISBN: 0-9535144-0-4.

Obtainable from PLSP, c/o Kinmylies Medical Practice, Assynt Road, Inverness IV3 6PB.

McGuinness, R. Discover: health information. *Managing Information* 1999 January; 6(1): 29-32.

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS: CD-ROM AND DISKETTE**

McGuinness, R. Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews on CD-ROM [a review]. *Managing Information* 1999 January; 6(1): 55.

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS: TERTIARY SERVICES**

Booth, A., Farmer, J. Between idea and reality. *Library Association Record* 1999 February; 101(2): 104.

On "getting review findings into practice".

Sutton, A.J., Jones, D.R., Abrams, K.R., and others. Systematic reviews and meta-analysis: a structured review of the methodological literature. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy* 1999; 4 (1): 49-55.

Brettell, A.J., Long, A.F., Grant, M.J., and other. Searching for information on outcomes: do you need to be comprehensive. *Quality in Health Care* 1998; 7: 163-167.

### **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING**

Lindsey-King, C. Knowledge management: your link to the future. *Bibliotheca medica canadiana* 1998 Winter; 20 (2): 74-75.

Introduces a website which includes the Special Library Association's document Competencies for special librarians of the 21st century - <http://homepages.fis.utoronto.ca/~lindsey/title1/htm>

Thornley, R. The librarian as project manager. *Bibliotheca medica canadiana* 1998 Winter; 20 (2): 70-71.

Moore, K.-A. Project management: can libraries benefit? *Bibliotheca medica canadiana* 1998 Winter; 20 (2): 72-73.

Demczuk, L. The one-person library: new skills and attitudes. *Bibliotheca medica canadiana* 1998 Winter; 20 (2): 64-65.

Vine, R. Entrepreneur, ME? *Bibliotheca medica canadiana* 1998 Winter; 20 (2): 68-69.

A new role for a librarian, as an Internet trainer.

#### **PUBLISHING AND PRINTING**

Vandenbroucke, J.P. Medical journals and the shaping of medical knowledge. *Lancet* 1998 December 19; 352: 2001-2006.

Goldbeck-Wood, S. Evidence on peer review - scientific quality control or smokescreen? *British Medical Journal*; 1999 January 2; 318: 44-45.

Smith, R. Opening up BMJ peer review: a beginning that should lead to complete transparency. *British Medical Journal* 1999 January 2; 318: 4-5.

Stewart, T. The librarian as publisher. *Bibliotheca medica canadiana* 1998 Winter; 20 (2): 66-67.

A different role for a librarian, working in a software development company, publishing but not printing.

#### **USERS**

Pantin, A. *The information needs and aspirations of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and dietitians at St.James's and Seacroft University Hospitals, Leeds (UK)*. Leeds: Leeds Metropolitan University, 1998. Unpublished MSc Inf.Studies dissertation.

Available from Andrew Pantin, Library, Education Centre, Seacroft Hospital, York Road, Leeds LS14 6UH for £10.00.

## **Diary of Events**

Items for inclusion should be sent to: Mrs S. V. Howard, Librarian & Information Services Manager, Imperial College School of Medicine, Charing Cross Campus, The Reynolds Building, St Dunstan's Road, London, W6 8RP. Tel: 0181-846 7154; fax: 0181-846 7565; e-mail: s.howard@cxwms.ac.uk

#### **1999**

8-10 June

Library & Information Show. NEC  
Birmingham

16 June

Research for the Uninitiated HLG CDP study day, London. Contact: Gillian Edwards, Library & Information Service, Greenwich District Hospital, Vanbrugh Hill, SE10 9HE. E-mail: [gillynip@arcadia.idiscover.co.uk](mailto:gillynip@arcadia.idiscover.co.uk)

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30 – 2 July

EAHIL Workshop: Towards quality in Medical Information Services: Virtue of Virtual Environment. Tartu, Estonia. Enquiries: Keiu Saarniit, Medical Information Centre, Tartu University Clinicum, Puusepa Street 8, EE-2400 Tartu, Estonia. Tel/Fax: 372 7448186. E-mail: [keiu@cut.ee](mailto:keiu@cut.ee)

1-3 July

Under One Umbrella Library Association Conference. UMIST Manchester. Health Libraries Group sessions at 6.30pm on 1st July on accreditation, 9.30am 2nd July on Deaf Awareness, 11.30am on 2nd July on Computing, 9.30am on 3rd July on Implementation of HSG(97)47, 11.30 3rd July on DiLis Project, 2pm 3rd July on collecting for the future of medical history. Details: [events@la-hq.org.uk](mailto:events@la-hq.org.uk)

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Health and Medical Information on the Internet. Aslib course. £240 members/£290 non-members. Details: Aslib, Staple Hall, Stone House Court, London, EC3A 7PB. Tel: 0171-903 0000. Fax: 0171-903 0011. E-mail: [pdg@aslib.co.uk](mailto:pdg@aslib.co.uk)

14-16

4<sup>th</sup> Joint Conference. Postgraduate Medical & Dental Education. Life-Long Learning in the New NHS. National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands. Call for papers, workshops and posters. For further details and application form please contact: Maria Redfearn, Solihull Hospital Education Centre, Lode Lane, Solihull, B91 2JL. Tel: 0121 685 5089. Fax: 0121 685 5482.

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21 Copyright health. LA Continuing Professional Development event for librarians in the health sector. £60 + VAT personal members/£84 + VAT institutional members/£100 + VAT non-members. Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 2AE. Telephone: 0171-636 7543, ext: 288/9 or e-mail: [events@la.hq.org.uk](mailto:events@la.hq.org.uk)

27-31 August

Third Northumbria International Conference on Performance Management in Libraries and Information Services. Longhirst Management Training and Conference Centre, Longhirst Hall, Northumberland. Call for papers. Contact: Michael Long, Manager, Information North, Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, NE1 1SE. Tel: 0191-232 0877. Mobile: 04111 67530. Fax: 0191-232 0804. E-mail: [michael.long@dial.pipex.com](mailto:michael.long@dial.pipex.com)

26 October

Health and Medical Information on the Internet. Aslib course. £240 members/£290 non-members. Details: Aslib, Staple Hall, Stone House Court, London, EC3A 7PB. Tel: 0171-903 0000. Fax: 0171-903 0011. E-mail: [pgd@aslib.co.uk](mailto:pgd@aslib.co.uk)

April 2000

Medical libraries and publishing in the third millennium. HLG CPD Joint study day with Royal Society of Medicine. St William's College, York.

July

2-5  
8<sup>TH</sup> International Congress on Medical Librarianship. Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London. Information: <http://www.icml.org>

## Newsletter Editorial Notes

*Library Association Health Libraries Group Newsletter* is a supplement to *Health Libraries Review* which is the official journal of the LA HLG. Published quarterly by Blackwell Science, it is available to Group members at the special price of £33.00 (1998). Members requiring the journal should order direct from Blackwell Science, PO Box 88 Oxford OX2 0NE quoting their LA membership number.

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Susan Howard Diary of Events  
(Imperial College School of Medicine Library) E-mail: s.howard@cxwms.ac.uk  
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### *1999 Copy Dates*

**Please send your contributions to the *Newsletter*  
by the following dates:**

**7 June (September issue); 20 September (December issue); 10 January (March issue)**