

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the IFLA Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries

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Ready for Glasgow!

Plans are underway for an exciting program for the 68th IFLA General Conference and Council in Glasgow, Scotland August 18-24, 2002.

Theme of the conference is *Libraries for Life: Democracy, Diversity, Delivery*. In addition to the lectures, standing committee meetings, and exhibits, all manner of interesting events are planned. The 5km run in parkland, the “Fun Run” is scheduled Sunday morning, August 18. Nearly thirty mobile library vehicles are expected to be on display from all parts of the United Kingdom and other countries as well as a special meeting of all Carnegie librarians. About 2,000 Carnegie libraries are still in operation and the librarians have received invitations to attend the conference and the special “Carnegie Day” at Dunfermline.

There are many cultural activities arranged for participants and a wide of array of library visits scheduled. Of special interest to health sciences librarians are the tours of the Royal Botanic Garden Library and the Royal College of Physicians Library (both in Edinburgh) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow collection.

Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries

Arne Jakobsson, chair of the Program Committee, announces the Section program entitled *Expanding the Scope of the Virtual Health Library* to be held from 13:30 – 16:00 on Tuesday August 20. The program will feature three speakers:

Jan Velterop, publisher of the BioMed Central Group within the Current Science Group, London, speaking on *Turning Publishing On Its Head*

Prudence W. Dalrymple, Dean and Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, USA, speaking on *The Impact of Medical Informatics on Librarianship*

Miriam Pollack, Assistant Director of North Suburban Library System, Wheeling, Illinois, USA, speaking on *Democratizing Human Genome Project Information: A Model Program for Education, Information and Debate in Public Libraries*.

These are all topics of current interest. BioMed Central is challenging the current publishing model by embracing new technology to create publishing models that offer major benefits to both and creators and custodians of scientific information. More than 60 online journals published by BioMed Central offer free access to the information they publish. The funding of these enterprises would be generated (in part) by article processing charges to cover the legitimate expenses of reviewing, editing, producing, and distributing scientific manuscripts. The charge of \$500 per article (though waived for authors from developing countries) is minimal when compared with the cost of research itself.

The “Informationist” is the name proposed for a new professional. Just how this individual will provide clinical medical information to the health care team is being discussed widely. And the potential effects of the growth of medical informatics as a discipline upon the education, practice and professional jurisdiction of librarianship is also of great interest to all. The Human Genome Project is another facet of information that is bringing forth change in research and advancements in science.

Strategic Plan, 2001-2003

The mission and goals of the Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries were developed during the IFLA annual conference in Boston in 2001. It should be noted that the new name of the Section has been approved by the IFLA Board.

Mission

The Section acts as a forum for information professionals working in libraries and information centers concerned with health and biosciences. Its general aims are:

- to promote cooperation between such libraries, library associations, the World Health Organization, and other relevant bodies
- to facilitate awareness and application of new technologies relevant to those libraries and information centers
- to assist in the provision of health care information to health care professionals and consumers.

Goals

- 1. Change the name of the Section to reflect current terminology and emphasis**

Actions

- 1.1 Change the name of the Section to reflect current terminology and emphasis (Name change to Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries approved)

2. Provide Open Sessions and Workshops on emerging technologies in health and biosciences of general interest to the IFLA membership

Professional Priorities:

- Promoting resource sharing (f)
- Developing library professionals (h)
- Promoting standards, guidelines, and best practice (I)

Actions

Plan programmes for Glasgow and Berlin. Attempt to co-sponsor programs when possible. Expert speakers will be invited to address emerging trends in technology, health informatics, genomics and other budding disciplines, and the future of scholarly publishing.

3. Develop a position statement, with the input of WHO and NLM, defining the need for accessible health information within a cost structure that is affordable and that employs fair licensing principles.

Professional Priorities:

- Supporting the role of libraries in society (a)
- Providing unrestricted access to information (d)

Actions

- 3.1 Two members of the Standing Committee and a representative from WHO will draft a statement for review in 2002. A final statement will be submitted to the Professional Committee/Executive Committee in 2003.

4. Increase communication between librarians interested in the health and biosciences.

Professional Priorities:

- Providing unrestricted access to information (d)
- Promoting resource sharing (f)
- Developing library professionals (h)
- Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice (I)

Actions

- 4.1 Contact all IFLA institutions with a health or biosciences library to explain the new Section membership provisions and encourage new Section membership

- 4.2 The availability of the listserv and newsletter will be advertised widely to increase worldwide communication and discussion of health and bioscience issues, such as access to consumer health information.

Call for Consumer Health Information

The Consumer and Patient Health Information Section (CAPHIS) of the Medical Library Association has a Web site that includes pages on women's health, men's health, kids and parenting sites, seniors' sites, specific health problems, and drug information resources. The site may be found through the MLANET Web site or the CAPHIS site at <http://caphis.mlanet.org>.

All readers are invited to submit sites from their areas to the Editor. All news of interest to our members is welcome.

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