THLA NEWS

Vol. 18, No. 2, 1998

Annual Holiday Party!

Tuesday, December 8, 1998
6:00 pm

University of Toronto Faculty Club
Main Lounge
41 Willcocks Street

(1 block S. of Harbord, E. of Spadina)

Hot & Cold Hors D'Oeuvres Galore
*
Cash Bar

Door Prizes!

$15 per member at the door / $12 for students
$17 for non-members

Please RSVP to
Anita Lambert-Lanning
Tel: (416) 603-5306 Fax: (416) 603-5821
anita.lanning@utoronto.ca

DOCLINE Update

DOCLINE is an automated interlibrary loan system that was developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and has been in use in the United States since 1985. It has become a preferred method of managing ILLs for many libraries because of its speed, automatic routing feature, and its tracking and statistical analysis capabilities. In addition, it eliminates telephone interruptions for library staff - a major consideration for busy ILL departments.

In Canada, more than 150 libraries participate in the DOCLINE network, with at least one library from every province registered! Ontario, alone, has in excess of 87 registered participants, 38 of which are THLA/Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto libraries. Of those, approximately 14 are actively using DOCLINE, with more intending to become active within the next few months.

The Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto is encouraging their member libraries to become active DOCLINE participants as quickly as possible. To facilitate this, a DOCLINE Working Group Meeting was held on Thursday, November 12, 1998. The main aim of this working group is to provide encouragement and technical expertise to libraries interested in taking advantage of this system. The working group will meet quarterly, but will have members available via telephone or e-mail to assist others with technical issues. It is hoped that a "buddy" system could be developed among experienced DOCLINE users and those libraries just beginning the start-up process.

Non-Consortium THLA libraries are also urged to become active DOCLINE participants. If you would like more information about DOCLINE or are registered but need help getting started, contact me at (416) 756-6143, *mpakosh@nygh.on.ca*, or contact THLA President, Karen Smith, (905) 420-4991, *karen_smith@pfcan.com*.

QUICKDOC

QuickDoc is an ILL file maintenance system that works in conjunction with DOCLINE and allows for off-line data entry. It has excellent report and billing capabilities. It is a DOS based program that works in Windows 3.1 or Windows 95. A web based version is being developed, with its release scheduled to coincide with NLM's conversion to web interfaces for DOCLINE (summer of 1999). QuickDoc is available to THLA and Consortium libraries at a reduced cost.

- Maureen Pakosh
THLA DOCLINE Representative
DOCLINE Working Group

New Column in the Newsletter

We're introducing a new column in this issue of the newsletter: **Tips & Tricks**!

This issue's tip is on searching the CANMEDLIB discussion list.

Most of us are familiar with subscribing and posting messages to discussion lists. In particular many of us subscribe to CANMEDLIB. Have you ever wanted to re-read an old posting that you've long since deleted from your mailbox? In this issue, we'll show you how to search for past messages by keyword, and have copies of those messages e-mailed to you in seconds.

In Brief

- The **CHLA/ABSC** web site has been revised and enhanced. It is available at: www.med.mun.ca/chla

- The **Brandon/Hill Selected List of Books and Journals in Allied Health** appears in the October 1998 issue of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*. The list of 410 books and 78 journals is a useful selection guide for libraries supporting allied health educational programs or allied health personnel in an academic or health care setting.

- **Wolters Kluwer** is in the process of completing its acquisition of **Ovid Technologies**. Ovid, a leading provider of subscription based electronic information services primarily to medical and scientific markets, will remain a separate company within the Wolters Kluwer International Healthcare Division.
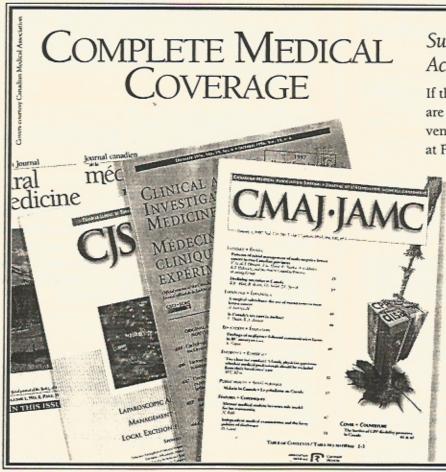
President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The Executive has been busy organizing some worthwhile events for you, namely: the Holiday Party in December; a General Session in March; a CE course in April; and the Annual Banquet in May (great speaker lined up). We hope that you will find these events interesting enough to attend. I say this because of the terribly low number of responses we received to the survey, as well as the too numerous to mention overdue membership renewals. If you truly feel that the THLA no longer has anything of value to offer you PLEASE let us know and we'll pack it in and call it a day. On the other hand, if you think that we are still worth the effort, I strongly urge you to fill in the survey and send it to Anita Lambert-Lanning as soon as possible, as well as send in your renewal forms and payment. We truly wish to serve you as best we can but we need your collaboration. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party.

Season's Greetings and Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

- Karen Smith
THLA President

Extended Hours, New Staff at CHIS

Good news! Thanks to a special project contract with the Canadian Health Network, the Toronto Reference Library's Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS) has extended its hours of service:

Walk-in / Local phone (363-7056)

Mon – Thu	10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Fri – Sat	10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Toll-free line (800-667-1999, Ontario only)

Mon – Thu	10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Fri	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sat	10:00 am – 12:00 pm, and 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The new hours are in effect until March 31, 1999 with an option to renew the contract for an additional two years. As a result, **Rona Lang** and **Glynis Sheppard**, librarians at CHIS since January 1996, have temporarily moved from part-time to full-time status, and 3 new part-time librarians have been contracted:

Marietta Forster-Haberer

- Marietta is coming back into the CHIS fold (she worked at CHIS from 1992-1995) and most recently was employed as the Manager, Learning and Information Resources Centre, Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine.

Nancy Kilgour-Solheim

- a recent FIS graduate, Nancy has an extensive medical background and was awarded the THLA Annual Prize in Health Sciences Librarianship, 1998.

Shona Lam

- Shona's work experience has included reference librarian positions at the Canadian Medical Association and at Health Canada - Health Protection Branch, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control.

CHIS has also received additional funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health, a portion of which will be used to add more health websites to the Toronto Reference Library's in-house electronic database, *WorldVue*. **Wanda Zan** and **Marietta Forster-Haberer** will be working on this project. **Kara Richardson** has been hired as a part-time reference librarian to replace their hours. Kara is a recent graduate of the School of Library and Information Studies at McGill and has worked in a number of libraries at McGill and at the Royal Victoria Hospital Medical Library in Montreal.

THLA Members in Print!

The November/December 1998 issue of *Computers in Libraries* features an article by THLA Past-President, **Brian Cameron** – "Assessing the DVD Option in a Medical Library"

Shahida Rashid of Women's College has an article in the October 1998 issue of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*: "Innovation and Survival: a Case Study in Planning Medical Library Services"

Mergers and Name Changes

Northwest GTA Hospital Corporation
Etobicoke General, Peel Memorial and the Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital have amalgamated to form the Northwest GTA Hospital Corporation (working title). The sites are currently known as the Etobicoke, Brampton and the Georgetown Hospital Campuses. Visit their web site at: www.egh.on.ca.

Rouge Valley Health System
The Centenary Health Centre, Ajax and Pickering hospitals now form the Rouge Valley Health System.

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
A new corporation unfolds with the amalgamation of the former Lyndhurst Hospital, the Rehabilitation Institute of Toronto and the Toronto Rehabilitation Centre. The new organization is a fully affiliated research and teaching hospital of the University of Toronto. Services will continue to be offered where they are currently located.

Trillium Health Centre
Mississauga and Queensway Hospitals are now one organization: the Trillium Health Centre. The facility will continue to operate at its two existing locations. The Queensway Site will evolve to become an ambulatory care facility.

Web Health Watch

MEDLINE*plus*
(Consumer Health Information)

The National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE*plus* site is designed to direct the public to resources containing information that will assist them in researching their health questions. The home page is clear and concise, providing links to health topics, medical dictionaries, databases, clearinghouses, online publications and news (including government publications, books and newsletters), consumer health libraries and more. Although there are a lot of links provided for every division on the home page, many of them are limited in scope. For example, the list of health topics provided is very brief. However, this site has only been available since Oct 22, 1998, and it refers to the list of health topics as "growing". It is hoped that it will become more comprehensive in time. MEDLINE*plus* can be considered a stepping stone to good places on the web for consumer health information.

```
[medlineplus.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus]
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- Liz Groskorth

Grateful Med Gets a New Look

Recently the National Library of Medicine revamped its Internet Grateful Med database. The changes enhanced the site considerably. Below are some of the aspects that were upgraded.

- there is no longer the need to search PreMedline separately. PreMedline is now incorporated with Medline.
- the database now searches all the years since 1966 instead of by groups of years, which was tedious.
- they have eliminated the search for one year only, which I truly miss. The option now is to enter the information in the year range (i.e. from 1997 to 1997) which takes two steps instead of just one.
- when viewing your results, the database no longer gives you eight items at a time. They give you twenty right off the bat. Moreover, each citation now has a "Related Articles" button that gives you the option to see more articles like the one you are interested in. This is a great addition to the database.

The best reason to use the Web version of Medline is the price. However, the added capability of searching Pre-Medline, which Dialog doesn't offer, is excellent. It's also great when you just want to quickly verify a citation and/or get the UI number to order through Docline. Of course if you are up to it, you can use PubMed but that's a whole other can of worms.

```
[igm.nlm.nih.gov]
```

- Karen Smith

Tips & Tricks

Searching CANMEDLIB

CANMEDLIB is a forum for discussion of issues and dissemination of information important to Canadian medical/health libraries. See the box below for instructions on subscribing. Messages posted to the discussion list are archived and are searchable by keyword.

The steps are as follows:

- send a message to the listserv with your search command
- the listserv will mail a list of posts that fit your search criteria
- send a message to the listserv specifying the item numbers of the posts you want to retrieve
- the listserv will then send you mail containing a copy of each post you ordered

The **listserv address** for CANMEDLIB is:

```
listserv@morgan.ucs.mun.ca
```

The basic search command is:

```
search keyword in canmedlib
```

EXAMPLE

Search for all messages that mentioned THLA.

Send the following e-mail to listserv@morgan.ucs.mun.ca (leave the subject line blank):

```
search THLA in canmedlib
```

The listserv will then send you a list of posts that contain the word THLA:

```
-> 16 matches.
Item #   Date       Time  Recs Subject
___      __         ___   __   _____
000035 95/04/24 09:40   25  union list available
000251 95/09/20 11:43   21  looking for two journals
000308 95/10/12 15:07 423  Resource Sharing Task Force
```

To get the actual posts, send an e-mail to listserv@morgan.ucs.mun.ca with the command (leave the subject line blank):

```
getpost canmedlib item#
```

For example, to get a copy of the first message, item #35, send the following in the body of your e-mail message:

```
getpost canmedlib 35
```

> To subscribe to CANMEDLIB, send e-mail to the listserv, (leave the subject line blank):
> listserv@morgan.ucs.mun.ca
>
> In the message body, type:
> Subscribe CANMEDLIB *YourFirstName YourLastName*

Computers in Medicine
Don't let this one go by ...

The October 21, 1998 edition of *JAMA* is devoted to **Computers in Medicine**. The issue contains original research, a systematic review, and a number of reports related to computerized systems in clinical care, doctoring online, and using computerized resources in clinical practice. As librarians we spend so much of our time processing materials (like this *JAMA* issue) that we have little time to read what it contains when the day is done. While every article in this issue is not to be missed, there are two that reveal the timely and controversial nature of computers in medicine to librarians in particular.

Librarian Betsy Humphreys of NLM and Dr. Donald Lindberg, who is also a member of the *JAMA* editorial board, put forward a potentially controversial vision of web-based information. They view public policy as the primary means to facilitate universal access to the new networks, to "head off efforts to use the transition to the electronic environment as an excuse to privatize scientific information and data, and to guarantee a high level of health data privacy without destroying easy access for legitimate purposes".[1] This is a very powerful assumption and just when health librarians were starting to get used to the idea of charging for SDI services and heaven forbid starting our own private 'information businesses' as well.

Multiple attempts at universal standardization for basic identifying of information (metadata) in web-based publications have been proposed by the Dublin Core[2] and by numerous other groups seeking to transfer every possible kind of health information over the Internet (from symptoms, findings, problems, organisms, values in reports and lab results to graphic images and voice records from the electronic medical record). The bottom line from Humphreys and Lindberg reads: 'the tools are there' now go to it. The World Health Organization[3] would most certainly agree with this challenge to web developers and information retrievers alike. Do you?

In another article in this seminal *JAMA* issue, two physicians from the Oregon Health Sciences University have made some interesting conclusions in their systematic review of electronic information retrieval systems.[4] While they do cite the evidence from a primary precision and recall data study in which librarians achieved significantly better precision (read high specificity),[5] they conclude that advanced searching methods are not significantly more effective than simple text word methods. Librarians have been demanding better, more efficient search systems with simpler end-user interfaces since what seems like the beginning of time. But what we have managed to do with these monstrous, complicated, command laden systems is what physicians are continually having difficulty with - finding the evidence. We collaborated and went on to develop the traditional 'disease/intervention-outcome/limiters' approach to searching the medical literature. We did this in the UNIX/DOS/MAC and now Windows operating systems with a fine-toothed comb. When the going got tough librarians like Ann McKibbon[6] from Canada and Carol Lefebvre[7] from the UK developed methodological hedges to turn traditional searching techniques into "Power Searching".

Critical needs demand critical thought and this kind of thought is not developed without context and while textword searching will always be a powerful tool it would be nothing without context, hence controlled vocabulary. Librarians exercise critical thought to be more content specific and therefore more precise with existing tools. While newer and simpler tools may come and go, I have no doubt that health librarians will continue to get 'more juice per squeeze' out of each new wave of web-based 'fruit' to come along.

References

1. Lindberg DAB, Humphreys BL. Medicine and health on the Internet: the good, the bad, and the ugly. *JAMA* 1998; 280(15): 1303-4.
2. Dublin Core Metadata. *Metadata for electronic resources*. Available at: http://purl.oclc.org/metadata/dublin_core.
3. Group Consultation on Health Telematics, December 11-16, 1997. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 1998. Document WHO/DGO/98.1
4. Hersh WR, Hickam DH. How well do physicians use electronic information retrieval systems: a framework for investigation and systematic review. *JAMA* 1998;280(15):1347-52.
5. Haynes RB, McKibbon KA, Walker CJ, Ryan N, Fitzgerald D, Ramsden MF. Online access to MEDLINE in clinical settings. *Ann Intern Med* 1990;112(1):78-84.
6. McKibbon, A. Panning for gold: applying critical appraisal to literature searching. Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA) Conference; 1991 June; Hamilton, Ontario.
7. McDonald SJ. Lefebvre C. Clarke MJ. Identifying reports of controlled trials in the BMJ and the Lancet. *BMJ* 1996;313(7065): 1116-7.

- Anita Lambert-Lanning

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For more information, contact Marcia Chen (416) 978-7111; Fax: (416) 971-1399; conted@fis.utoronto.ca or www.fis.utoronto.ca/conted. Price range: $100 - $595. Discount for early registration.

Jan 7 - Feb 25	**Searching Your Family Tree**
Jan 10 - Feb 28	**How to Succeed using the Internet Channel for Business**
Jan 11 - Mar 1	**Strategies for a Web Presence**
Jan 13 - Feb 3	**Entrepreneurial Skills for Internet Consultants**
Jan 14 - Mar 4	**Overview of Internet Technologies**
Jan 15	**Business Intelligence**
Jan 15 - Mar 5	**Internet/Intranet Security Issues**
Jan 16 - Mar 20	**Effective Project Management**
Jan 16 - Mar 6	**Internet Application Development**
Jan 16 - Mar 6	**Introduction to Java for Programmers**
Jan 16 - Mar 6	**Web Site Implementation & Management**
Jan 18 - Feb 22	**Mastering Web Searching** (*web course*)
Jan 22	**The Information Professional as Trainer**
Jan 22	**An Introduction to Legal Information Resources**
Jan 29	**Creating Web Documents: The Basics**
Jan 29	**A Survival Guide to Presentations**
Feb 5	**Creating Web Documents: Design and Functionality**
Feb 10 - Mar 17	**Introduction to VRML**
Feb 12	**Making Sense of Making Dollars**
Feb 12	**Searching for Information Online: Strategies and Techniques**
Feb 18 & 19	**Planning, Creating & Managing Websites**
Feb 19	**Records Management Program Administration**
Feb 26	**Web Search Strategies**
Mar 5	**Internet Basics**
Mar 5	**Records Inventory & Retention Scheduling**
Mar 8 - Apr 19	**Creation & Management Tools for a Dynamic Website**
Mar 11 - Apr 15	**Building an Intranet**
Mar 12	**Internet for Health Care Professionals**
Mar 13 - May 8	**Intermediate Java Programming**
Mar 13 & 14	**Web Server Configuration - Unix**
Mar 15 - Apr 26	**Current Awareness Services on the Net** (*web course*)
Mar 19	**Advanced Electronic Records Management**
Mar 20, 21	**Web Server Configuration - NT**
Mar 24 - Apr 28	**Internet Search and Retrieval Strategies**
Mar 26	**Evaluating Records Management Software**

Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS)
Toronto Reference Library

These free presentations are held in the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Dec 9		**Diabetes : An Overview**
6:30-7:30pm		Mr. Amish Parikh of the Canadian Diabetes Foundation will give an overview of diabetes and its treatment.
Jan 13		**Facts About Fat**
6:30-7:30pm		Gabriella Ptasinksi, a registered dietitian, will deliver this presentation.
Feb 17		**Women's Health**
6:00-7:30pm		[Note earlier starting time]

CASLIS – Toronto Chapter

Contact: Gitta Rice, (416) 325-1254, riceg@gov.on.ca

Dec 10	**SLA/CASLIS Holiday Social** (see below)
Feb 4	**Internet Search Engines**
	Presented by Gwen Harris and Sandra Wood.
Mar 2	**Advocacy**
Apr 7	**Information Audit**
Prices:	$12.00 Members; $20.00 Non-members; $5.00 Students.

SLA – Toronto Chapter

Contact: Shonna Froebel (sfroebel@tse.com), sla.org/chapter/ctor/events/socfrm.htm

Dec 10	**SLA/CASLIS Holiday Social**
	U of T Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks St.
	Cost: $20.00

Distance Learning Workshops

Offered via the Internet by Arlington Courseware. Cost: $20 - $35 U.S. (Course duration: 6-8 weeks) www.bearfountain.com/arlington

Dec 1 - Jan 22	**Tune in the Net: Global Reach for the 21st Century**
Dec 1 - Jan 22	**Make the Link: W W W for Everyone**
Jan 4 - Feb 12	**Dynamic Duo: XML & Dynamic HTML**

THLA 1999 Events

Mar 30, 1999   **Mid-Winter meeting:**
- Canadian Health Network
- Tour of the Consumer Health Information Service, Toronto Public Library

Apr, 1999   **CE Event**
(To be announced)

May 3, 1999   **Spring Banquet**
Speaker: Captain Karen Breeck, MD
Medical Editor, *WebDoctor*

Upcoming Conferences

Jan 21-23, 1999
OLA Super Conference '99
Toronto Convention Centre
www.ola.amlibs.ca/olaupcom.html

Feb 2-5, 1999
Canadian Internet World 99
Toronto Convention Centre
events.internet.com/canada99

May 14-20, 1999.
MLA's Annual Meeting '99
Present Tense – Future Perfect?
Chicago, Illinois.
www.mlanet.org/npc99/index.html

May 25-29, 1999
CHLA/ABSC 23rd Annual Conference
Bridge to the New Millenium
Halifax, Nova Scotia.
www.library.dal.ca/chla-absc99

Jun 5-10, 1999
SLA 90th Annual Conference
Knowledge Leaders for the New Millennium: Creators of the Information Future
Minneapolis, Minnesota.
www.sla.org/conf/99conf/index.html

Jun 16-20, 1999
CLA 54th Annual Conference & Trade Show
Facing the Challenge: A Practical Survival Guide
Toronto, Ontario.
www.cla.amlibs.ca

1998 - 1999 THLA EXECUTIVE

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THLA NEWS

Deadline for submissions

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