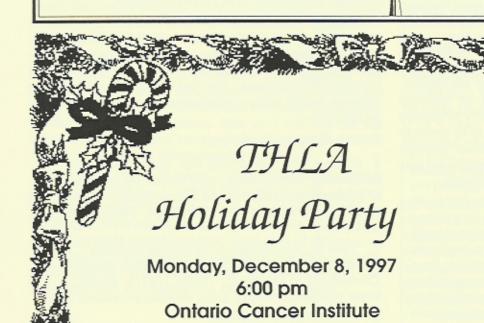
THLA NEWS



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NOVEMBER 1997 Vol. 17, No. 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Quality Filtering the Internet2
A Note from the President3
Faces & Places3,4
Letters to the Editor: More on the Caduceus and the Staff of
Aesculapius5
Faxon Canada Update5
The Hippocratic Corpus6
Continuing Education/ Upcoming Events7
THLA 1997/1998 Events8
General Meeting Report8
THLA Executive8
Newsletter Deadlines8

Learn to see, learn to hear, learn to smell. Know that by practice alone can you become an expert.

> Sir William Osler (1849-1919)

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QUALITY FILTERING THE INTERNET

Two separate projects have led us to investigate mechanisms for establishing the quality of Internet health care resources.

One project, for the Consortium of Ontario Academic Health Libraries (COAHL), is to develop a website where community health care practitioners can access sources of health information services. A unique aspect of this project is that the target groups themselves are involved in the development process. Physiotherapists, midwives, oncology nurses, nurse managers, health facility managers, and family physicians were surveyed to identify their information requirements and ability to access information via the Internet. A core group of seventy individuals representing each of these groups indicated that they would be willing to evaluate our prototype website when it becomes available.

The site will link to organizations such as the COAHL libraries, other health libraries, major professional organizations, even private information brokers that offer services such as document delivery, mediated literature searches, and reference service. However, this gateway will also lead those searching for online information to sites offering free MEDLINE, select Internet search engines and directories.

Accordingly, we require a tool that will assist us in selecting these Internet resources, as well as a basis upon which to recommend their use to health care professionals.

Concurrently Dr. Alex Jadad of the Health Information Research Unit at McMaster University was interested in examining the validity of systems used to rate health care websites. You may have noticed a variety of symbols displayed on websites which resemble awards. Our systematic review identified forty-four rating systems, fifteen of which provided no details about the criteria they use to make judgements about the quality of a website. The remaining twenty-nine systems listed rating criteria on their website or when contacted by e-mail, however, did not reveal the methodology used to generate those criteria. The simple conclusion of this research is that health care professionals and consumers should not regard such awards as reliable indicators of quality.

In order to develop a filtering tool for the COAHL project, we looked to academic organizations, professional associations, and librarians, who recognize the need for credible methods of filtering Internet health care resources and have produced various guidelines and rating systems.

Criteria common to each of these tools will be compiled, along with feedback from COAHL members, to generate rating criteria for general Internet informational resources, search engines, and indexes/directories, the features of each being unique, along with a mechanism for applying these guidelines.

Rating Criteria Resources

- Silberg WM, Lundberg GD, Musacchio RA, Assessing, Controlling, and Assuring the Quality of Medical Information on the Internet - Let the Reader and Viewer Beware. JAMA, 1997; 277(15): 1244-5.
- Tate M, Alexander J. Teaching Critical Evaluation Skills for World Wide Web Resources. Computers in Libraries, 1996; 16(10): 49-55.
 www.science.widener.edu/~withers/evalout.htm
- AMA Library Choices. www.ama-assn.org/med_link/med_link.htm
- Health on the Net Foundation Code of Conduct. http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/ Conduct.html
- Grassian E. Thinking Critically About World Wide Web Resources. UCLA College Library. www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/instruct/ critical.htm
- Working Draft White Paper: Criteria for Assessing the Quality of Health Information on the Internet. www.mitretek.org/hiti/showcase/ documents/criteria.html
- 7. Auer N. Bibliography on Evaluating Internet Resources. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. refserver.lib.vt.edu/libinst/critTHINK.HTM
- Anna Gagliardi, Internet Content Specialist, Health Information Research Unit, McMaster University, Hamilton, gagliard@fhs.csu.mcmaster.ca

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

More and more health sciences libraries have mounted web pages providing links, useful information about the library, its staff and services. For a look at interesting ways in which the web is being put to use, check out the virtual tour offered by the Health Sciences Library at the University of Washington in Seattle (www.hslib.washington.edu/hsl/libtour/). Tourists can view photos of the library, request a literature search over the web, and ask reference questions.

This year, the **THLA Annual Holiday Party** returns to the Ontario Cancer Institute. This evening has always been a popular and enjoyable event. I encourage everyone to come out and socialize with your colleagues. Unlike last year's festivities, this year will not see the president singing any carols or holiday songs. I leave this function to far more capable voices.

Enclosed with this issue of THLA News is the THLA Directory. Charles Lamb (1775-1834) once said that Directories, Court Calendars, even the works of Gibbon and Hume were works he could do without. I know that our directory is something that most of us find ourselves referring to many times throughout the year. Again, thank you to Dorothy Davey for maintaining the database and producing the current directory.

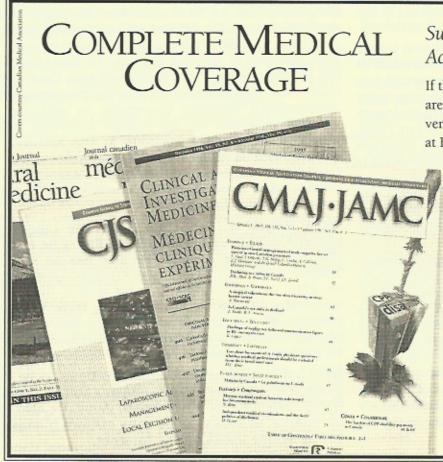
- Brian Cameron, President

FACES AND PLACES

Vivian Hung, formerly of the Ontario Medical Association Corporate Information Centre and past THLA Secretary, has moved to Hong Kong. She is working as manager of the corporate library of the Hong Kong Tourist Association, a 300-staff organization whose mandate is to promote HK. The library is to support the marketing efforts and has a photo/slide collection.

Congratulations to **Valda Svede** of the C.C. Clemmer Health Sciences Library at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College on completing her Masters in Education in Educational Administration at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at U of T. She is currently enrolled in their doctoral program part-time.

Elaine Jagnandan is an experienced, reliable and responsible Library Technician, looking for employment. She is experienced in public and technical services in both hospital and pharmaceutical libraries. She has developed excellent computer skills, knowledge of scientific and medical terminology, as well as excellent communication, interpersonal and organizational skills. For more information or to request a resume, contact Elaine at 416-630-7952.



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FACES AND PLACES

St. Michael's Hospital Health Sciences Library has adopted a new program model. Here is the Library Team as of September 1997.

Elizabeth Reid has worked in the hospital library field for over twenty years, most of this time as head of the Health Sciences Library at the Toronto Western Division of The Toronto Hospital. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.Sc. (Honour Science), then B.Ed. (Science; School Librarianship) and finally a Master of Library Science (M.L.S.) degree (specializing in the sciences). Her position at SMH Health Science Library is Manager/Information Specialist. She is the information specialist for the Neuromusculoskeletal and Trauma programs and for health administrative staff supporting the various program areas.

Jennifer Chen holds a B.Sc. and a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Toronto. Upon graduation, Jennifer worked for an executive search firm as the Information Services Manager. Prior to coming to St. Michael's Hospital, she worked as a reference/research librarian at the Addiction Research Foundation for three years. Under the new model, Jennifer takes the role of information specialist for the Heart Program, Perioperative Services and Intensive Care. She is also responsible for meeting the information needs of the medical students at the hospital.

Lella Dal Ferro traded in her moth net and insect classification keys to pursue information studies at the University of Toronto after being awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in biology and geography from York University in 1993. She graduated with her Master of Information Studies (M.I.St.) in 1996. Upon graduation she worked as a science librarian at York University and as an information assistant at the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association. Under the new program model, Lella takes the role of information specialist for Nutrition and Digestive Diseases, Laboratories, and Medical Imaging.

Before arriving at St. Michael's Pam Richards worked at the Leisure Information Network as an Electronic Librarian. She also helped build the database for the Health Science Library online catalogue before signing on full time. Pam earned her undergraduate degree in the Natural Sciences at Johns Hopkins. Both of her masters' degrees are from the University of Toronto. She studied the history of evolution during her first Masters in the History of Science and Medicine. She earned her Master of Library Science degree in 1996. Under the new program

model Pam will be taking responsibility for the information needs of the UREEO program and the house staff.

Marina Simms has many years of experience in health science libraries. She was employed at Women's College Hospital for eight years prior to joining St. Michael's Hospital two years ago. Marina completed a two-year course at Ryerson in Library Arts after earning a B.A. in French at York University. Marina is in charge of Interlibrary Loans.

Rebecca Strange graduated in 1989 with her Master of Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S.) from the University of Western Ontario. Upon graduation, she spent three years as a researcher and database trainer with InfoGlobe, the electronic publishing division of the Globe and Mail. Prior to joining St. Michael's, Rebecca was employed as an information specialist for five years within the pharmaceutical industry, with Purdue Frederick and Janssen Ortho. Under the new program model, Rebecca takes the role of information specialist for Inner City Health.

NEW FACES AT THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

Steve Billinton, Archivist, has been working in archives since 1990. He has a history degree from the University of Saskatchewan and this June graduated from the Master of Information Studies program at the University of Toronto with a specialization in archival studies. He has worked in the archives of the John G. Diefenbaker Centre, the University of Saskatchewan and the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. Currently, in addition to working part-time as the college Archivist, Steve works in the Justice Portfolio at the Archives of Ontario. He is a member of the Association of Canadian Archivists and the Archives Association of Ontario, and is currently Treasurer of the Toronto Area Archivists Group.

Dave Hagelaar, Part-time Reference Librarian, recently completed his Master of Library Science at the University of Toronto. He also has an M.A. in History from the University of Guelph, specializing in 17th century England, and a B.A. from the University of Toronto. In addition, Dave held the position of full-time academic librarian intern at McMaster University, Mills Memorial Library, where he gained considerable reference experience.

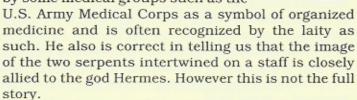
Dave has held some interesting positions, as he was Head Researcher for a game company and researched 6,000 questions for a new board game. He also has an interest in books, as he runs his own business/hobby selling books on the Internet.

MORE ON THE CADUCEUS AND STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was interested to read Clifford Snyder's article "The Caduseus" (sic) in the September THLA News.

Dr. Snyder is perfectly correct in indicating that the caduceus is used by some medical groups such as the



Reference to my Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary informs me that despite the fact that the caduceus has been used to symbolize the healing arts, the staff of Aesculapius is usually considered the more appropriate symbol.

Aesculapius was the Roman god of medicine. His symbol was a staff with a *single* snake wrapped around it. The symbolism apparently arose due to the snakes' abilities to shed their skins and grow new ones thereby appearing to revitalize themselves.

If one refers to the logos of many associations of healing arts practitioners, for example, the American Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association, you will note that the staff of choice is the staff of Aesculapius rather than the caduceus.

I hope these few comments are of some interest to your readers. Thank you for your fine publication and your diligent efforts to make it ever more interesting. I look forward to reading it.

Rod Hamilton, College of Physiotherapists of Ontario



Congrats on the latest issue of THLA News -- it looks great.

I liked your new column and was especially intrigued that it should deal with the caduceus since I've recently come across several articles/notes that talk about it. One

in particular struck me as right on the money. It's an excerpt from a speech given by Robertson Davies to medical students at Johns Hopkins in 1995, and is quoted in *Harper's* magazine, July/97, p29:

...the guiding symbol of your vocation. I mean the caduceus, which has for centuries ... been the special mark of your profession. It is the staff of Mercury with twining snakes. Legend has it that one day the god Hermes... came upon two warring serpents, who writhed and fought upon the ground at his feet. To restore peace the god thrust his staff between them, and they curled around it, forever in contention but held in a mutuality of power by the reconciling staff.

What are the serpents? Are they damned ghosts? No: They are vividly alive and relevant. They are Knowledge, or Science, and Wisdom, and in your profession the caduceus is a perpetual reminder that you are required to hold them in balance and to keep one from devouring the other...

Madeline Grant, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

EDITOR'S ENDNOTE:

I failed to include the source of that article due to lack of space (http://129.255.168.54/Providers/Textbooks/SnyderMedHx/049Caduceus.html).

FAXON CANADA LTD. AND PERIODICA ANNOUNCE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

In September, **Faxon Canada**, a pre-eminent Canadian subscription management and information services company in London, Ontario, purchased **Periodica**, the largest provider of French language periodicals and newspapers in North America, announced today that Faxon Canada will purchase Periodica's Quebec-based operation.

Periodica, founded in 1946, has built a considerable reputation for product and service excellence throughout the library community in Quebec and other parts of Canada. Over the last few years, and in response to changing client requirements, Periodica expanded its range of services to include sourcing and distribution of French language videos, books and multimedia CD ROM. They are now the single largest distributor of French language materials in North America.

Faxon Canada's future intent is to integrate Periodica's offices and those of its Montreal operation. Faxon Canada has maintained an office in Montreal since 1985.

Faxon Canada forms the Canadian operating arm of Dawson Holdings PLC, an information services company founded in 1809. Dawson fully supports Faxon Canada's acquisition of Periodica as it complements their mission to offer comprehensive services to every type of library and information centre worldwide.

The purchase of Periodica positions Faxon Canada as the leading supplier of French language materials in Canada and solidifies their already significant presence in the Quebec library and information market.

THE HIPPOCRATIC CORPUS

Life is short, art is long, opportunity fugitive, experience delusive, judgment difficult. It is the duty of the physician not only to do that which immediately belongs to him, but likewise to secure the cooperation of the sick, of those who are in attendance, and of all the external agents.

The Hippocratic Corpus is a library, or rather, the remains of a library. Although the thirty-four books which are included in the Collection were attributed to Hippocrates himself in antiquity, scholars now know that they were in all likelihood composed between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C.E.

Between the career of Hippocrates and the pre-Socratic philosophers a special kind of prose for medical writings was developed in Greece. Although the island home Cos of Hippocrates is located within what was a Doric speaking region, the medical writers of Cos who developed the Hippocratic treatises appropriated the dialect of philosophy, that is Ionic. The use of Ionic instead of the native Doric dialect is analogous to the practice of Renaissance scientists, such as Andreas Vesalius, using Latin instead of the vernacular for their treatises.

One of its earliest specimens is the Hippocratic tract Ancient Medicine by an anonymous 5th century physician devoted to traditional lore and technique, though familiar with contemporary theory. Ancient Medicine is one of two polemical works in the Hippocratic corpus. Both Ancient Medicine and On Epilepsy attack the divine origin of disease and the intrusion of hypothetical philosophers into medicine.

Excerpt from an on-line exhibition prepared in conjunction with the Colloquium "Antiqua Medicina: Aspects in Ancient Medicine" held in McLeod Hall, at the Health Sciences Center of the University of Virginia on February 27, 1997. www.med.virginia.edu/hs-library/historical/antiqua/textn.htm

"Life is short, art is long," is without a doubt one of the most familiar and precious expressions in the medical profession. Our knowledge of the teachings of Hippocrates is based on writings which are mostly notes accumulated while visiting various Asklepiads and those scribed by his students, as well as followers of the Hippocratic school. It is doubtful that Hippocrates wrote copiously, but it is factual that he lectured a great deal.

There was a book-loving Egyptian Pharaoh by the name of Ptolemy Philadelphus, who was born in Cos (324-285 B.C.E.) and who commissioned his Egyptian scholars, his army officers and his ship captains to seek and retrieve as many manuscripts of Hippocrates that was possible over the then known world. The zealous Egyptians pursued and collected every text, script, and piece of writing with Hippocratic label which they could purchase or steal. They brought to Ptolemy hundreds of writings, original and copied, large and small, new and worn, and these were culled to 70-odd separate texts and at least 59 treatises, which were placed in the great library at Alexandria, Egypt and bound into the massive volumes called Corpus Hippocraticum, or Hippocratic Corpus or Hippocratic Collection. It is probable that the Hippocratic Corpus does include not only the writings of the 5th century B.C. physician, but unintentionally also other authors from Cos, Cnidos, Sicily, and Egypt. It was and still is impossible to segregate the authentic writings of only those of the Father of Medicine.

Excerpt from "Hippocrates' Corpus" by Clifford C. Snyder, M.D. Professor, Dept. of Surgery, University of Utah School of Medicine

http://129.255.168.54/Providers/Textbooks/ SnyderMedHx/038HippocratesCorpus.html

CHLA/ABSC '98: CAPITALIZING ON INFORMATION CALL FOR PAPERS

The Planning Committee invites submissions for contributed papers, poster sessions or web-based demonstrations for the CHLA/ABSC Conference, June 6 - June 10, 1998, in Ottawa.

For papers, submit two copies of the abstract (maximum 250 words) by fax, mail or e-mail by **November 28, 1997.** Address enquiries or submissions c/o: Judy Levine, Contributed Papers 22nd Annual CHLA Conference Planning Committee Library, Ottawa General Hospital 501 Smyth Rd. Ottawa, ON K1K 4C9 Internet: jlevine@ogh.on.ca

Fax: (613) 737-8529

For poster sessions, please send an abstract which briefly describes the topic of the session. Address enquiries or submissions by November 28, 1997 c/o: Jo-Anne Cody, Chair Poster Sessions 22nd Annual CHLA Conference Planning Committee Health Canada, Departmental Library Locator 1901C, Jeanne Mance Building Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9 Internet: jo-anne_cody@inet.hwc.ca Fax: (613) 957-3379

CONTINUING EDUCATION / UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto Continuing Education Courses

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There is a discount for early registration.			
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Nov.23	23 Current Awareness Services on the Net		
Nov.28	Designing & Delivering Effective Internet Instruction		
Nov. 28	B Electronic Records Management		
Nov. 28	A Survival Guide to Presentations		
Dec. 5	5 Advanced Search Tools for the Web		
Dec.5	ec.5 Operating Your Own Information Service Business		
Dec. 12	Indexing: A Hands-On Workshop		
Dec.12	Dec.12 Internet Basics		
Jan.16	an.16 Business Intelligence		
Jan.16	Jan. 16 Creating Documents for the WWW		
Jan.23	Cataloguing Internet Resources		
Jan.23	The Information Professional as Trainer		
Feb.6	Internet Basics		

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Jan.12-Mar.2	Java for Programmers
Jan.12-Mar.2	Strategies for a Web Presence
Jan. 14-Feb. 18	Building an Intranet
Jan.14-Mar.4	Multimedia Preparation for the Web
Jan.15-Mar.5	An Overview of Internet Technologies
Jan.17-Mar.7	Effective Project Management: More than Software
Jan.17-Mar.7	Internet Application Development
Jan.17-Mar.7	Introduction to Java and JavaScript for Non-Programmers
Jan.17-Mar.7	Website Implementation and Management

To receive a detailed brochure, contact the FIS Continuing Education Department.

Consumer Health Information Service Metro Toronto Reference Library

Feb. 12-13 Websites: Planning, Implementation

Managing Your Boss: Harnessing the Power

CHIS is hosting these free health education presentations at 789 Yonge Street.

Dec. 10 Learning About Fibromyalgia 6:30 - 7:30 pm Speaker: Ann Maw Ontario Fibromyalgia Association

Above You

& Management

Feb.6

Jan.21 The Safe Exercise Prescription 6:30 - 7:30 pm Speaker: Dr. Julia M.K. Alleyne Women's College Hospital and Columbia Health Care

WOMEN'S HEALTH MATTERS FORUM & EXPO

Jan.23-24, 1998 Metro Toronto Convention Centre. \$10.00 per day. Speakers include: Dr. Susan Blumenthal, Senior Advisor to President Clinton on Women's Health; Bonnie Sherr Klein, author and rights for the disabled advocate; Patricia & Arthur Parson, authors. Information Line: 416-323-6000.

CAPITALIZING ON INFORMATION

The 22nd Annual CHLA/ABSC Conference will be taking place in Ottawa June 6-10, 1998.

CASLIS and SLA - Toronto Chapters

Nov.25 Fee for Service - A View from the Trenches

Dec.2 Holiday Social - Books for Business

For more information, contact

CASLIS: Mary Cordeiro, (905) 339-0856;

cordem@globalserve.on.ca

or SLA: Sean Forbes (416) 947-7898; sean.forbes@ArthurAndersen.com

To list your event in this column, please contact Gaby Fernandes at (416) 756-6746 or by e-mail: fernandes@library.utoronto.ca

THLA 1997/1998 EVENTS

Mon. December 8, 1997 Holiday Social

Mon. February 9, 1998 General Meeting Dr. Noyak, CISEPO (Canada-International Scientific Exchange Program)

Mon. April 6, 1998 General Meeting

Mon. May 4, 1998 Annual Dinner Meeting

GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Dyslexia, Learning Disabilities, and Chiropractic Presentation by Dr. Allen Turner October 6, 1997 at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre

Approximately 20 THLA members and one hungry patient turned up to hear Dr. Allen Turner's fascinating discussion of the apparent benefits of chiropractic treatment on dyslexia and learning disabilities in children.

Dr. Turner has gained some acclaim in this area, and has been featured in numerous broadcasts and news articles. He spoke to the group on how some children with learning disabilities are perceived as having low intelligence, when in fact they are usually very bright but have some blockage to their learning processes. What he does is chiropractically treat a disfunction of the nervous system which may be blocking some function of learning.

Dr. Turner discussed several cases, including one in which a child had suffered a fall at age three which had caused a misalignment of her vertebrae. The child's dyslexia improved considerably once Dr. Turner started treating her, and after six months, the child was tested and found to be functioning above her grade level.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Turner held an open forum and took questions from the interested audience. Dr. Turner also noted that CTV was beginning to research him and may be broadcasting a news item featuring him some time in the future. He has promised to provide the THLA with the air date so those who missed this interesting presentation may catch the broadcast.

- Marina Englesakis, Secretary



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THLA NEWS DEADLINE for submissions

January Issue: January 9

March Issue: March 9

May Issue: May 9