



# Volume 8, Number 1

## Connections: Newsletter of IFLA

## Health and Biosciences Libraries Section

### International Federation of Library Associations

Volume 8, Number 1

July 2009

### The Chair's Perspective

March 2009

Every year seems to be very busy and without volunteers this newsletter would never eventuate. Volunteers are the lifeblood of many organizations and according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics *Voluntary Work, Australia Survey (2006)* 34% of the adult population (5.4 million people), volunteer. Of these slightly more women (36%) than men (32%) volunteer and 44% of those aged 35-44 yrs volunteer, the highest participation level of any age group. I am sure this would be similar in your country and so a big thank you must go to Carole who has created yet another great newsletter. Thanks Carole.

As you may know the theme for this year's section meeting is



**Heather Todd, Executive Dir.  
Engineering and Sciences  
Library Service, U Queensland**

***"Consumer Health: Health Literacy, Patient Empowerment & Health Promotion"*** (more details in the newsletter) As health librarians we often take the consumer health information for granted – we know that whenever we

need to find out information (for ourselves, family and friends and sometimes friends of friends) we go to a range of sources such as MedlinePlus or even drug databases if we want to know more about a

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## Medical libraries in search for Medical Humanities

The theme of the IFLA Québec Conference 2008 "*Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding*" inspired the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section Standing Committee to organize a program on Medical Humanities. "*The role of humanities in medical education and patient care*", 12th August 2008.

The New York School of Medicine gives the following definition for the concept 'Medical Humanities': "*An interdisciplinary field of humanities (literature, philosophy, ethics, history and religion), social science (anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, sociology), and the arts (literature, theater, film, and visual arts) and their application to medical education and practice.*" ... "*The humanities and arts provide insight into the human condition, suffering, personhood, our responsibility to each other, and offer a historical perspective on medical practice. Attention to literature and the arts helps to develop and nurture skills of observation, analysis, empathy, and self-reflection -- skills that are essential for humane medical care.*"

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**The Speakers: Medha Joshi, Octavia-Luciana Porumbeanu, Bruce Madge, Adriaan Swanepoel and Yetunde Abosede Zaid and the Session Chair Päivi Pekkarinen**

## Medical libraries in search for Medical Humanities, Conts p. 2

The program was very well received with nearly one-hundred participants, and aroused a lively discussion.

The aim of the program was to give insights into issues such as

- Does the use of literature, art, music, and philosophy in the context of patient care improve communications skills, *human understanding*, and patient satisfaction?
- How can a medical library support integration of humanities in medical education?

These issues were addressed by five papers: two from Africa, Nigeria and South Africa, two from India and one from Europe. To date, no medical school that the authors referred to in those countries, has integrated humanities in medical education, or has given courses in humanities to physicians or nurses; no library of the medical schools or hospitals has provided a collection of humanities for physicians or nurses. Therefore the program made librarians in Nigeria, South Africa, India and Romania to conduct surveys on the attitudes of physicians and medical students to humanities in medical education and patient care.

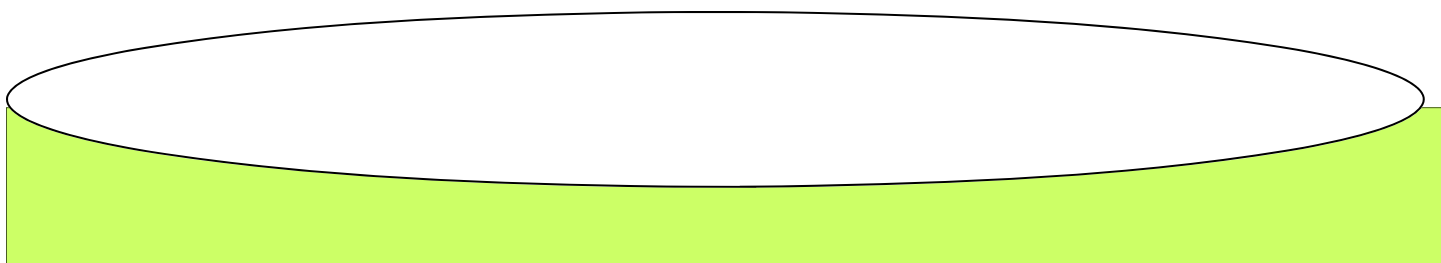
### Nigeria

Nigeria was represented by **Yetunde Abosede Zaid**, a PhD student and a librarian at the University of Lagos Main Library. She gave a paper, *Humanities in the medical education and patient care: lessons from some colleges of medicine in the Nigeria Universities*, jointly authored by her colleagues **Adefunke Olanike Alabin** and **Taiwo Oladele Ogunyade**. It analyzed the results of a survey on the need for humanities in medical education conducted in Universities of Western Nigeria. Six universities took part in the survey, including the Medical School of Ibadan, the oldest in Nigeria, founded 1948, and the Medical School of Lagos, the youngest in Nigeria, founded in 1999. Altogether 450 inquiries were distributed to the teachers/physicians, students, and librarians of the medical schools. 95% of the teachers/physicians, 82 % of the students “considered it important” that arts and humanities (*Medical Humanities*) be taught in medical schools; 52% of the teachers/physicians and 45% of the students “highly recommended” that arts and humanities (*Medical Humanities*) be part of the curriculum; 93% of the teachers/physicians “would have enjoyed” studying arts and humanities during their formal years of medical education if these subjects were available or if the medical library provided for them.

The librarians considered it essential to integrate arts and humanities in the curriculum of medical students, as well as to build a collection of humanities in the medical library.

As a result of this survey, a Panel has been set up at the University of Lagos to review the curriculum of medical education and the requirements for building a *Medical Humanities* collection in the medical library, Yetunde Abosede Zaid concluded with enthusiasm.

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**Medical libraries in search for Medical Humanities , Conts p. 3**

**South Africa**

Dr **Adriaan Swanepoel**, Director of University Libraries, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, presented the results of his study *Using citation analysis to determine the use of information sources in the humanities by postgraduate students in the health and biomedical sciences: a case study*. The material consisted of the citations of 48 theses in health and biosciences approved at the Tshwane University of Technology, during the years 2004-2007. Altogether the theses had 5365 citations, of which 18 were to the humanities literature, 171 to that of social sciences. The reasons for the small number of citations to humanities could be: humanities are not taught at Tshwane University; students are not sensitive enough to issues of humanities; the subjects of theses are so specific that a wider humanistic perspective is not relevant. But the results could be different, if courses in *Medical Humanities* were provided, Adriaan Swanepoel pondered.

**India**

Insights into India were given by the papers of Dr **V. Vishwa Mohan** and **Vahideh Zarea Gavgani**, Department of Library and Information Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad, and Dr **Medha V. Joshi**, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, *Development and use of humanities collection in hospital libraries in Hyderabad: a survey* and *Medical humanities collection development: policy guidelines for Indian hospital libraries*.

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**Medha Joshi giving her lively talk.**



## Medical libraries in search for Medical Humanities , Conts p. 4

The former dealt with a survey on the need for humanities literature for patient care in 25 hospitals in Hyderabad, the well-known technological centre, the latter gave the results of a survey conducted in 10 hospitals in the areas of Mumbai. Both the surveys gave evidence that only some of the hospitals had a library, and no library had a humanities collection for the use of physicians and health care personnel. The authors considered it vital to draw common guidelines for collection policy and to enhance international cooperation for establishing *Medical Humanities* collections for medical education.

Yet, Medha Joshi, who was the only author from India participating in the session, started her lively presentation with a question: Why *Medical Humanities* for physicians in India, where numbers of patients and health problems become more and more challenging? This is exactly why! she affirmed. She based her reasoning on two factors: first, great numbers of patients imply great differences in cultures and languages; second, due to high level of medical education and technology, India is becoming a global centre of clinical trials. Therefore, understanding cultural differences and ethical values becomes more and more critical in building the physician-patient relationship and in assessing the outcome of medical care. In India, a country characterized by a holistic view of knowledge, it is quite logical to see *Medical Humanities* as an integral part of medical education. But international cooperation will make it easier even in India, Medha Joshi pointed out with a reflection.

### Romania

European views were given by the joint paper of **Brudge Madge**, President of Cilip, London, UK and Dr **Octavia-Luciana Porumbeanu**, University of Bucharest, Romania. Their interesting presentation *The art of medicine – visualising medicine from Vesalius to MRI* looked at the ability of medical students to “understand” and appreciate visual arts and the need for this ability in medical practice, in the physician-patient relationship. Bruce Madge set the background for his presentation by showing examples of anatomical images of traditional medicine, such as ancient Chinese acupuncture charts, Tibetan therapeutic thangka, and Vesalius’ study of the human body “*De Humani Corporis Fabrica*” (1543), and also x-ray technique produced works of art by Angle Palmer. Then he proceeded to question: do medical students have an ability to see images like these also as works of art, and if so, does this ability, this sensitivity, help them to communicate with their patients?

Octavia-Luciana Porumbeanu, for her part, had made a study with an inquiry on the attitudes of medical students at the University of Bucharest to these questions. On the one hand, the aim was to find out, if medical students considered it useful for them to “understand” visual art, and if they thought that there would be a need for *Medical Humanities* in their medical education; on the other, if medical students considered it important to use images in communicating with their patients and if the computer could replace the physician in interpreting radiologic images. The return rate of the inquiries was 88%, which shows the great interest of medical students in the questions. The answers also support the hypothesis that images improve the physician-patient communication.

The majority of the students held that understanding and appreciation of art was useful for their studies - “*medicine is not only a field of science but also an art*”.

IFLA, Quebec, Tuesday 12 August at 16.00-18.00

[IFLA 2008 Programme New York University School of Medicine: Medical Humanities](#)

Related see: [Global Connections](#) vol. 5, no 1, 2006: 9-12

Text by Päivi Pekkarinen, paivi.pekkarinen@helsinki.fi

National Library of Health Sciences, Finland

Pictures Päivi Pekkarinen and Archives of Medha Joshi

## News Flashes

### **Oliver Takes Position at MAR NN/LM**

Kathleen Bur Oliver, MSLS, MPH, currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section (2004-9), has accepted a new position as Associate Director of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region (MAR), which is based at NYU Medical Center Ehrman Medical Library. The Regional Medical Library, one of eight supported by the U.S. National Library of Medicine as a part of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), supports collaboration among libraries and information centers that serve health information needs in the states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The NN/LM's goal is to enhance access to health information for health professionals and the public. As Associate Director, Ms Oliver represents the Middle Atlantic Region, oversees the operations of the MAR and its staff, represents the Region and NN/LM at meetings and to the community and is the primary liaison at the operational level with the National Library of Medicine. Under the guidance of the Director, Karen Brewer, Ms Oliver oversees the implementation and evaluation of the network plan. Most recently Kate's career focus has been in strategic leadership and planning initiatives. She has been an investigator on many funded projects and is particularly interested in information access for public health professionals. Kate started in her new role as Associate Director on May 11, 2009.

### **McSeán Reviews WHO Global Health Library**

Beginning in June 2009 Tony McSeán, Board member of IFLA HBLs, will spend six months working for the World Health Organization on a relaunch of their Global Health Library (GHL).


With the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, the World Health Organization has set up a six-month review of its Global Health Library. The GHL has at its core the Global Index Medicus - a bibliographic database of health and medical literature developed collaboratively by the WHO's regional offices. Tony McSeán, a long-time Medical Library Association member based in London, is in Geneva leading the review. The review started by evaluating the effectiveness of the existing GHL ( [www.globalhealthlibrary.net](http://www.globalhealthlibrary.net) ) in relation to the advances since its launch in 1995. The second stage, already under way, is to propose development priorities and new resources and services, which will reflect a greater emphasis on interactivity and the impact of HINARI in the world's least developed countries.

### **Current Board Members of IFLA HBLs**

The current Standing Committee members of IFLA Health and Bioscience Libraries Section 2009 are Heather Todd, Chair; Ulrike Dieterle; Carole Gall; J. Michael Homan; Layne (Nonnie) Klein; Bruce Madge; Tony McSeán; Claire Nguyen; Kathleen Oliver; Päivi Pekkarinen; Win Shih; Doris Wisher; and Wenju Zhang. For more information about each board member, see the Section web site under Standing Committee Members <http://www.ifla.org/en/about-the-health-and-biosciences-libraries-section> .

### **IFLA 2010 Moved from Brisbane to Göteborg**

From Sjoerd Koopman, Professional Programmes Director, IFLA in July 8, 2009 email to Heather Todd, "You will have seen the announcements of the relocation of the IFLA Congress 2010 from Brisbane to Göteborg." One of the consequences is to cancel the HBLs satellite session, which was to be held 14<sup>th</sup> August on *Developing Health Science Librarians Expertise: From graduate school curriculum, to post-graduate training, and to professional development offered by employing libraries*. This is a great disappointment to many involved and it will be on the agenda of the Section Standing Committee business meeting in Milan. The Section Standing Committee is considering options at the time of publication of this newsletter, and will email the group with future plans concerning a Satellite session for 2010.



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particular drug. Last month I had reason to appreciate the importance of patient information that was packaged with the drug - my daughter was prescribed some medication but things didn't go as planned. Rather than rushing back to the doctor she read the consumer information and was quite content to see if her 'problem' resolved itself - which it did - Not only did this save a trip back to the doctor it reinforced the concept of quality information.

Quality information is only as good as its source and the announcement in early March that President Obama signed into law the 2009 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which includes a provision making the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy<sup>1</sup> permanent was very welcome. The NIH *Revised Policy on Enhancing Public Access* requires eligible NIH-funded researchers to deposit electronic copies of their peer-reviewed manuscripts into the National Library of Medicine's online archive, PubMed Central (PMC). Full texts of the articles are made publicly available and searchable online in PMC no later than 12 months after publication in a journal.

The new provision reads:

The Director of the National Institutes of Health shall require *in the current fiscal year and thereafter* that all investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication.

This will provide a significant amount of publicly available information into the hands of all health consumers - which in turn will empower us to take control of any issues related to our health needs.

I am sure that this year's presentations will provide a wealth of information - unfortunately I am unable to go to Milan as ICML is being held in Brisbane in early September. As you know IFLA 2010 will not be held in Brisbane - but don't let that stop you from visiting Australia. It is not too late to register for ICML2009! - I hope to see many of you either at ICML or at future IFLA meetings.

Heather Todd, Chair  
Health and Biosciences Libraries Section, IFLA  
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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02\\_article/article\\_view.asp?art\\_id=2962&nav\\_cat\\_id=222&nav\\_top\\_id=50](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/article_view.asp?art_id=2962&nav_cat_id=222&nav_top_id=50)

## IFLA Satellite Session 2008

The theme for the satellite session in 2008 was *The role of evidence based research in medical libraries*. It was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in the Centre de formation continue, de l'Université Laval, Québec City.

The day was divided into two broad themes

1. Library Efforts in Support of Evidence-based Research
2. Research Conducted by Health Science Librarians

### 1. Library Efforts in Support of Evidence-based Research:



#### Being evidence-based: the shoemaker's daughter gets roller blades

Ann McKibbin, Associate Professor,  
Department of Clinical Epidemiology and  
Biostatistics, McMaster University, Canada

- *Ann's current interests are in knowledge translation, medical/health informatics, and information retrieval. Specifically she is interested in how health professionals use electronic information resources, the results they get, and how identified information is used in practice.*



#### Development of an information skills training delivered to staff of the Centre of Health and Social Services of the Grand Littoral

Dominique Caron, Spécialiste en ressources documentaires-santé,  
Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval, Canada

- *Dominique Caron has completed a Master Degree in Information Science at the Université de Montréal. Dominique was awarded a Bachelors degree in medicine in 2001. She is currently employed as a Medical Librarian by the Science Library of Université Laval*



#### Calgary Health Information Network: Measuring the Success of a New Partnership

Elizabeth Aitkin, Librarian, Rockyview General Hospital Knowledge Centre, and  
Renee Reaume, Health Information Network Calgary, Calgary, Canada

*The paper was presented by Rene Reaume.*

- *Elizabeth Aitken joined the University of Calgary in 2006 as the librarian responsible for the management of the Rockyview General Hospital Knowledge*



Centre including reference, education, collection development and outreach services to meet the information needs of health professionals, patients, their families, and consumers. The Knowledge Centre is part of the Health Information Network which provides health information services to all Calgary Health Region staff and patients.

- *Renee Reaume is the Head, Health Information Network Calgary. The Health Information Network provides library service and access to the Calgary Health Region and the Tom Baker Cancer Centre staff and patients. Renee is responsible for monitoring performance of the network and measuring service outcomes. Renee has been with the University of Calgary since 2006.*



**Supporting evidence-based education and research via the e-learning platform: a curriculum-integrated approach**

Julia Chan, Yu Chun Keung Medical Library, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

- *Julia L.Y. Chan is working currently in the University of Hong Kong as the Medical Librarian and Team Leader of the Branch Libraries Services Team. Prior to this, she has taken responsibilities in various post including Dental Librarian, Reader Services Librarian and Collection Development Librarian in the University of Hong Kong. She was awarded the Fellow of the Hong Kong Library Association and Distinguished Member of the Medical Library Association (U.S.), Academy of Health Information Professionals*



**Where do I start... Training non-medical librarians and technicians in the how and what of medical resources and evidence**

Mindy Thuna, University of Toronto Mississauga Library, Canada

- *Mindy Thuna began working at the University of Toronto Mississauga Library in 2005 as the AstraZeneca Science Liaison librarian. Prior to librarianship, Mindy completed her BSc. in Palaeontology and her MSc. in Vertebrate Morphology. As well, she has worked as an educator in a variety of eclectic locations, including The National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya.*



**The medical librarian's role in the promotion the evidence: a Cuban experience**

Ania Torres Pombert, National Coordinator Centre of Clinical Trials (CENCEC), Cuba

- *Ania Torres Pombert has received a Graduate in Information Management on Health, Infomed, in 2002 and a Master in Information Sciences, University of Havana in 2007. Ania is presently Instructor Professor of the University of Havana, and Researcher of CENCEC (National Coordinator Centre of Clinical Trials)*
- *Lic. Bárbara Lazo Rodrique, Director of the National Medical Library, presented this*

paper (pictured above) as Ms Pombert was unable to attend



**Personal Collaboration: Improving Your Community's Health Literacy**

Ysabel R. Bertolucci, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Oakland, CA, USA

- *Ms Bertolucci has 35 years of experience as a hospital librarian for Kaiser Permanente a California based health maintenance organization. She is a past member and chair of the IFLA Standing Committee for Health and Biosciences Libraries and currently chair elect of the Consumer and Health Information Section of MLA.*



**Making the case for librarian-mediated searching in academic health libraries**

Suzanne Maranda, Bracken Health Sciences Library, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

- *After 20 years as a health sciences librarian, Suzanne Maranda became the*

*Head of the Bracken Health Sciences Library in 2005 where she leads a team of dedicated librarians who have embraced evidence-based principles in teaching, learning and professionally*



**3-Step Plan to Review and Renew Evidence-based Information-Seeking Skills**

Ulrike Dieterle, Distance Services and Outreach Coordinator, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin- Health Sciences, Learning Center, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

- *Ulrike has 20 years of experience in libraries and 10 years of experience in distance learning, a previous career in teaching, and knowledge in the assessment /application of instructional technologies. She has developed successful training programs for diverse groups and organizations.*

**2. Research Conducted by Health Science Librarians :**



**Information Overload and Information Poverty: Do they impair healthcare services managers' effectiveness?**

Jackie MacDonald, Library and Knowledge Management Services, Annapolis Valley Health, South Shore Health, South West Health & Dalhousie, School of Nursing–Yarmouth Site, Yarmouth, NS, Canada



**Public Health Practitioners Information Access & Use: Conjoint Analysis as a Tool for Determining Information Preferences**

Claire Twose, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA

- *Claire Twose is Associate Director for Public Health and Basic Science Liaison Services, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University.*



**Information use behaviour of clinicians of Evidence based medicine (EBM) process in**

**Thailand**

Somrux Sahapong, Lampang Manmart, Dusadee Ayuvat, Somkiat Potisat, Thailand

- *Somrux Sahapong is a Medical Librarian at Mahidol University and PhD cadidate., Khon Kaen University, Thailand. Lampang Manmart is Associate Professor. Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. Dusadee Ayuvat is Associate Professor. Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. Somkiat Potisat is Director. Department of Medical Service, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand*



**Distinguished users: an experience of the Information literacy on the health system**

Manuel Delgado Pérez, Cuba

- *Manuel Delgado Pérez, graduated in Education at VillaClara's Pedagogical Institute in 1979. He later graduated in Scientific Information and Bibliothecology at Marta Abreu University in Villa Clara in 2005. Master of Sciences in Pedagogical Sciences. He is currently, Director of the Medical Science Information Center in Villa Clara Province; Philosophy Profesor at VillaClara's Medical University and Coordinator of the Information and Knowledge Management Department of VillaClara's Medical University.*

**Acknowledgements:**

Many thanks to the New England Journal of Medicine who sponsored the wonderful refreshments for the day.



(Tom Richardson, Director, Institution Sales & Service New England Journal of Medicine)

Thanks also to Bruce Madge and  
J. Michael Homan the two Moderators of the day



(J. Michael Homan)



(Bruce Madge)

Papers and PowerPoints of most of these presentations are available via the MLA website:

[http://www.mlanet.org/resources/global/ifa\\_hbs2008.html](http://www.mlanet.org/resources/global/ifa_hbs2008.html) who very kindly offered to host these for our section. Thanks MLA



Heather Todd





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**Connections: Newsletter of IFLA  
Health and Biosciences Libraries Section**  
<http://www.ifla.org/en/health-and-biosciences->

Statue at the square of the Québec IFLA Conference 2008.  
Photograph by Päivi Pekkarinen

