

ASHSL – INTERIM

Introduction

Many librarians suffered from professional isolation in the early days of health care libraries in Scotland. Tribute must be paid to the pioneering spirit of Toni Bunch, the first professional librarian to be appointed in the Scottish Health Service in 1965, for arranging informal meetings at which newly appointed librarians could become acquainted and share experiences. This ad-hoc group increased from twenty in 1970 to forty in 1974. The number of appointments continued to increase, particularly in the nursing discipline. Many problems had been identified at these early meetings, including lack of recognition, inadequate financing, salary gradings which would attract only newly qualified librarians and no career structure. The need for a professional body which would represent and promote health care libraries and librarians working in health care disciplines was apparent. The best way forward would be to form a properly constituted official group which would be recognised by the Scottish Home and Health Department. This was achieved in 1975 when the Association of Scottish Health Sciences Librarians was formally constituted as an independent organisation.

At the AGM of 1976 it was decided that a newsletter would help to keep members up-date between meetings. An editor was appointed and after much agonising the editor's choice of 'Interim' as a title was agreed. Announcement of the commencement of Interim published in the LA Record had unexpected repercussions. Letters came flooding in asking for copies. The secretary regretfully informed those concerned, (except British Library and the National Library of Scotland), that the newsletter was for members only. The second issue proudly sported an ISSN. In the knowledge that our activities would be preserved for all time we felt that ASHSL had truly been launched as a professional group.

Happy Birthday SHINE!

Selina Gillespie

09/10/05

Newsletter of the Association of Scottish Health Sciences Librarians

Editorial

At the AGM of the Association, held in Edinburgh on 18th November, 1976, it was agreed that there was a need for a newsletter to help bridge the gap between the two meetings held each year. Accordingly, an editor was appointed with the brief to produce a semi-annual newsletter.

The choice of title proved troublesome. Newsletter of the Association of Scottish Health Sciences Librarians seemed rather too long a title for a publications which the editor intends to keep as short and to the point as possible, and no amount of playing around with initials could produce a likely acronym. Finally, after much consideration, taking into account the purpose of the newsletter, the editor's choice has come to rest on INTERIM, and the editor's decision is final!

As she pointed out at the AGM, the editor's job is to put this newsletter together, and not to write it in its entirety. Members of the Association are therefore invited (euphemism for "urged") to send their items for inclusion in the forthcoming newsletters to the editor at the address below. The sole instruction to authors is: - Please type the item if possible; if not, please write clearly.

In conclusion, the editor sends to all members of the Association her best wishes for 1977.

A letter from the Chairman to Miss Bunch

Dear Miss Bunch,

Through the facility of our newsletter, it is my first pleasant task as Chairman to pay tribute to you, founder Chairman of the Association, 1975-76, but anyone who has knowledge of the development of health sciences libraries in Scotland knows your leadership began when you were appointed librarian at the Scottish Health Service Centre, the first professional librarian in the Scottish Health Service. Little did those who appointed you realise the force they had introduced.

Your driving spirit brought together each new recruit, with whom you shared your wide experience, firing them with an enthusiasm they did not know they possessed. Before long, an informal group had formed, providing at its meetings a form for the discussion of common interests and problems.

Although you frequently feel impatient at the slow rate of growth and inadequate provision, nevertheless your verbal and written contributions have put health sciences libraries on the map.

Financial restraint imposed upon the National Health Service makes future planning difficult, but we optimistically look forward to a time when there will be a rationalisation of libraries for health. The foundations have been laid.

The Committee will follow the tradition you have set and hopes that you will continue to offer advice.

Yours sincerely

Selina Gillespie

Chairman

New Committee

The new Committee elected at the last AGM is as follows:

Chairman : Mrs Selina Gillespie, Glasgow Royal Infirmary
Secretary : Mrs Elizabeth Ferro, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh
Treasurer : Mrs Vivienne Shaw, Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow
Representatives: Mrs Cynthia Anderson, Glasgow University Library (Medical); Mrs Christina Coltart, Scottish Health Education Centre (Administrative); Mrs Marion Ruscoe, Highland Health Sciences Library, Inverness (Nursing); Miss Jane McIntosh, Western General Infirmary, Edinburgh (Patients)

Subscription reminder

Subscriptions for 1977 (Full members £2.00, Institutional members £2.00, Associate members £1.00) are now due. Please send cheques/postal orders signed, crossed and made payable to "Association of Scottish health Sciences Librarians" to the Honorary Treasurer, at the following address:-

Mrs V. Shaw, Librarian,
College of Nursing and Midwifery,
Stobhill Hospital,
Balornock Road
Glasgow G21 3UN

Please inform Mrs Shaw of any change in address, or alteration in address.

Periodicals Exchange Scheme

The Secretary has received a reply to her letter to the Library Association Medical Section (LAMS) expressing the Association's concern at the demise of the Periodicals Exchange Scheme. In his letter, Mr P.J. Bishop, the Section's secretary, says that while personally deploring the decision of the Wellcome Institute to cease the operation of the scheme, he well understands that they are no longer able to finance it, since it was costing about £1, 000 per year to run. He goes on to say that some of the commercial drug company libraries might be willing to meet the cost of postage involved in sending out lists once a year and the and that the committee of LAMS is investigating this possibility. A further suggestion is that librarians attending meetings do so armed with lists of duplicate journals for distribution to colleagues.

News of members

Congratulations to Jenny Rollo, Librarian at Fife College of Nursing, who announced her engagement to David Pratt of Burntisland on 20th November. They hope to be married next September and to live in Fife.

Eileen Harvard-Williams, whom members of this Association will remember better as Eileen Cumming, has not deserted the world of health sciences librarianship entirely. Later this year the Library Association will publish her bibliography, Hospital and welfare library services, which includes material from the early nineteenth century to the present day.

Toni Bunch, our immediate past chairman, went recently to Belfast to lecture on Library services for health administration. The audience consisted of students of the Department of Librarianship at Queen's University and Librarians connected with health and welfare library services throughout the Province. Also lecturing at the same seminar were Mona Going, Kent Area Health Authority and Brian Cooper, Rampton Hospital.

More news of members

Elizabeth Ferro, John Miller and Marion Ruscoe all had letters published in January's LA Record. Elizabeth also has her name at the foot of letter to the editor of SLA News in the November-December 1976 issue. Keep writing!

Toni Bunch is to be congratulated on her graduation as Masters of Arts for research in the Department of Librarianship on Friday 29th October, 1976. We all look forward to the publication of her thesis on information sources in Health administration which we hope will find a place on the desk of every health service administrator.

Keep this date free!

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Friday 22nd April at the Scottish Health Service Centre, Edinburgh. This meeting will consist of several seminars/discussion groups which should allow plenty of scope for members to put forward their points of view. More detailed information will be sent to members nearer the time of the meeting.

COMPETITION

How many words can you make using the letters of INTERIM? No proper nouns, no plurals (!). The editor and the Concise Oxford dictionary will be the judges. Please send all entries to the editor before 30th April, 1977.

INTERIM

Editor: Mrs Jane Mallinson, Medical Library, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow G4 0SF