Minutes

Texas Medical Center-Health Information Librarians
Minutes of the Wednesday December 5, 2001 Meeting
Taken by Suzanne Ferimer, Secretary TMC-HIL
with revisions by Marilyn Goff

The group met at the Weston A. Pettet Optometry Library at the University of Houston College of Optometry. The group assembled at 12:00 and lunched until 12:30.

President Marilyn Goff called the meeting to order, thanking Suzanne and the University of Houston College of Optometry Pettet Library for hosting this event in their beautiful facility. The meeting agenda was reviewed, and the minutes of the September 5th meeting were revised and approved.

Next, Dr. Elizabeth K. Eaton, new director of the HAM/TMC Library was welcomed. She comes to us from Tufts University Health Sciences Library and briefly mentioned ongoing and future HAM/TMC Library efforts.

Deborah Halstead then introduced a proposal to extend Adjunct Librarian status to members of the group. This would allow the librarians whose institutions do not have access to HAM/TMC full-text journals on-line to access these materials. She presented a draft of an agreement for adjunct status and asked for comments. Those present felt that this was a good solution to the problem. Deborah asked that everyone who would like to gain this status to e-mail her at deborahh@library.tmc.edu.

News and Announcements followed with contributions from the following librarians and the libraries they represented, around the room:

Suzanne Ferimer-UHCO: Noted that the UH Libraries have purchased a majority of the titles from the current Brandon List of Core Medical Books. A one-time purchase, she mentioned that new editions of these books will be purchased from the general science fund. Many in attendance expressed interest in this collection.

Mary Jackson-HAM/TMC: Passed along a request to all from Cathy Montoya for TMC/HIL Newsletter Items. Cathy can be contacted at cmontoya@bcm.tmc.edu.

Aletta Moore--Baylor Oto: Requested donations of children's books for Ben Taub Hospital where she volunteers. These books will be given to children who are being treated. She said that 60% of the patients are Hispanic and Spanish language books are badly needed. The hospital is also establishing a lending library for patient information. She can be reached at Baylor at 713/798.4646.

Elaina Cundiff--UT MD Anderson Patient Library: Asked that we help promote the M.D. Anderson lending library on cancer information. She advised us that one does not need to be an M.D. Anderson patient to use the library resources. It was decided that she, Aletta Moore, and the new HAM/TMC Consumer Librarian, Adela Cavillo, might meet and work on mutual patient librarian service issues.

Linne' Girouard-Methodist: Announced that Methodist Hospital had purchased the Diagnostic Hospital and Clinic. She also said that Methodist has a new CEO/CFO. It was noted that Methodist and Texas Woman's University were in joint discussion concerning TWU's desire to remodel or rebuild the Houston campus.

Felicia Chuang-UT Psychiatry: The library maybe be moving in twelve months or so to the Harris County Psychiatric Hospital facility. The problem the library has with mold has been solved but they continue to run a dehumidifier. They are considering a wireless base station for the Library. Library mold and dehumidification issues were shared by many at this point.
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Sabrina Miller-HCC Colman Library: Discussed the challenges of new library carrels that arrived without lights and noted the problem of searching for carrel lamps. She said her library will be closed from Dec 21-January 1.

Marsha Sullivan-VA Hospital: It was discussed that the VA libraries are not automated. With those in attendance interested in learning the structure, it was shared that there are two types of VA libraries: the patient library, much like a public library, and the medical library which incorporates materials for the teaching to residents function in addition to standard medical library activities. The Houston staff consists of three librarians and one library technician, and they have recently opened a patient resource center with internet access. Donations of books for patients are always appreciated.

Tracy Timmons-TIRR: The library budget will be frozen, she mentioned.

Helene Vovnile-UT Public Health: The cause of the mold situation was discussed and its pending resolution shared. The library will not be able to access books or journals until January 14 or 21 due to the renovation in the library.

Robert Wright-UH Pharmacy: Selected as replacing Derral Parkin who had taken another position elsewhere in UH Libraries, he opened a discussion of electronic reserves, proxy, and Scifinder and asked for comments from anyone who has had any experience with them.

Marjorie Jackson-Texas Heart Institute: Planning on move to the new facility in January, she was interested in library move information. The new library space will quadruple their present size and will be located on the fifth floor of the new building. Their staff has increased to 2 1/2 FTE.

Beatrice Varman-HAM/TMC: The HAM/TMC and the Houston Public Library are applying jointly for a grant to bring the Frankenstein exhibit to Houston in October 2002.

Deborah Halstead-HAM/TMC: Construction on the lower floors should be complete and normal service should resume in January 2002. Shirley Dickerson will leave ILL December 21. Along with Dr. Eaton, it was announced that the PDA Sink or Swim teleconference was being investigated for an 18 January presentation, and a discussion of the future of this device and interest in the teleconference followed.

Marilyn Goff-TWU: The Houston campus has a new manager, Ms Helen Wall. The school is still recovering from the June flood, it was noted, at which point, operational shared now has 15 beds in outlying areas and 120 beds in recovery as well. The negotiations with Methodist Hospital and possibly Baylor College of Medicine were discussed as part of the planned renovation or new build of the campus. The holiday break (closure) of December 22 through January 1 was announced.

Loann Nguyen-Baylor LCR: Requested everyone to get information to the TMC-HIL Newsletter through her or Cathy Montoya. To update the listserv, contact her.

Election of officers was the next item on the agenda. Marilyn Goff was elected President and Suzanne Ferimer was elected Secretary.

The next meeting will be held at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. The date in March is still to be determined but March 6 and 13 are most likely.

The meeting was then adjourned and Suzanne Ferimer lead all on a tour of the beautiful Pettey Library.