

HLABC FORUM

AGM & CONFERENCES 2003

Inside ...

Letter from our New Prez

2003 AGM Minutes

Conference Links

AfterLife Interview

HLABC FORUM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

New!!	From the Editor	3
2003/2004 HLABC Executive	President's Letter	4
	Seen on the List	4,16
• President Tracy Havlin	Annual General Meeting Minutes	5
• Vice-President Elect Shannon Long	Evidence Based Librarianship 2003	8
• Past President Rebecca Raworth	CHLA 2003 Information Mosaic	9
• Secretary Mimi Doyle-Waters	News from PDARG.....	10
• Treasurer Marcia Bilinsky	Electronic Health Library of B.C.....	11
• FORUM Krista Clement / Pat Boileau	Website Report	13
• Website Robert Melrose / Mary-Doug Wright	C.E. Day: Mini-Medical School.....	14
	Notes from the Afterlife	15

The *Forum* is published quarterly by the Health Libraries Association of BC

ISSN: 0826-0125

For membership information, visit our website at www.hlabc.bc.ca or write to:

Fees are \$25.00 (regular) or \$15.00 (student, maximum 2 years) and include the *Forum*.

Submissions and story ideas are welcomed.

Publication is not guaranteed and manuscripts may be edited.

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THE FIRES

[http://www.pep.bc.ca/
operations/
operations.html](http://www.pep.bc.ca/operations/operations.html)

[http://
castanet.firewatch.net/](http://castanet.firewatch.net/)

FROM THE EDITOR

It's 11:45 p.m. Sunday night and from the safety of my living room I'm watching the Kelowna fires. Over the last few weeks, the courage and fortitude so many people in B.C. have shown leave me speechless. Ruth, Krista and Anne have never been far from my thoughts.

It's been quite a summer and I've sat down and tried to write this piece numerous time, but one thing or another always takes my mind off the task at hand. There's the destruction and devastation throughout B.C. caused by the fires. The computer worm that struck so many organizations and the resources that have gone into fighting this battle. A respiratory illness found in a Surrey nursing home that, at first glance, looked a lot like SARS was cause for tremendous worry. Here in the Lower Mainland, a ban on water sprinkling and all eyes are on the Capilano Reservoir. Let's not forget the Black Out in Eastern Canada and the many ramifications that will bring. Our jobs are to provide a society with more information, more data, more resources at an ever-faster rate of speed. Yet we are, in my opinion, as the Black Out indicated, just a step away from the Stone Age. Food for thought.

The summer of 2003 hasn't been all doom and gloom. Many of us enjoyed the magical Cirque du Soleil, a very loud Mama Mia, the brilliant Nicola Cavendish in Shirley Valentine, the Jazz Fest and, according to Ms. Newsted, a successful Folk Fest. Is it any wonder this editorial didn't get written any sooner with so many events to go to and places to see? But now it is September and, in my opinion, a new year. Before setting our noses to the grindstone it's time for a little reflection in this issue of the Forum.

Readers, please meet the new executive of 2003/4. Krista and I will continue to edit the Forum with Ms. Clement taking on much of the work. Each issue of the Forum will have a theme of interest. Krista and I welcome article contributions from members of HLABC.

As usual, we will have a report on the finances of the Association and the web site with minutes from the Annual General Meeting. The summer's events are reviewed: the Mini Medical School workshop, the Provincial Database Initiative and the CHLA and its new endeavors. Members of the HLABC stand for cooperation, coordination and innovation as our actions demonstrate.

I look forward to the coming year and your comments and suggestions for the content of the Forum.

- Pat Boileau, Editor

Note: Due to technical difficulties, photographs we hoped to include in this issue of the Forum have not been included. A revised v.27 no.1 may be released with graphics at a later date.—KLC 19 Sept 2003.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Tracy Havlin

Where has the time gone? Seems like we just had our HLABC mini-medical school CE day and AGM and now the summer is almost over. I hope all of you have taken personal time away from work and had some fun vacationing with family and friends. I managed to escape the daily routine in early August, spent a few glorious days in Tofino, followed by an epic hiking/camping trip with my dog, on the Elk River Trail in Strathcona.

What else has been happening in the past couple of months? There have been some interesting discussions on the listserv about the Provincial Health e-Library Initiative, and a clarification of RNABC's library services. You may have also noticed the number of recent BC health librarian job postings (e.g. UBC, CISTI and SFU) which is encouraging- looks like another busy fall. Behind the scenes, the HLABC executive has started discussions with Christopher Torgalson who will be redesigning our organizational website with input from the website committee.

When Krista asked me to write this message for the Forum, I thought, I don't have much to report as the new HLABC president. Not to mention that Rebecca Raworth is going to be a tough act to follow - she planned a lot of excellent meetings, created new policies, and exemplified a fun spirit in the process. The 2003 - 2004 HLABC executive members haven't even met yet and I'm still trying to sort out our meeting dates. On that note, it would be really helpful if some of the member libraries offered to host a general meeting and provide a tour and/or talk about your specialized library services.

In closing, I should mention that for the most part I'm going to be your invisible president over the next year because I'm unable to attend general meetings with the mid-week commute and ferry schedule. In light of that I need to extend advance thanks to Shannon Long, current vice-president, who will be taking on the added workload of chairing general meetings and keeping me informed of developments.

I'm looking forward to another exciting year for HLABC... let's keep working together to advance our expertise and make a positive impact on healthcare!

SEEN ON THE LIST

----- Original Message -----

Subject: CLA What's New
Date: Tue, 08 Jul 2003 12:01:37 -0600
From: Andrew Hubbertz <Andrew.Hubbertz@usask.ca>

Brian Campbell, of Vancouver Public Library, was the 2003 recipient of the Canadian Library Association Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award. Although Brian has worked chiefly within the library profession, his contributions to freedom of information deserve recognition within the larger access community.

Brian has been a strong advocate for freedom of information, a leader in information rights in British Columbia, and organizer of several important information rights conferences in British Columbia. He deserves our thanks and congratulations!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Annual General Meeting June 13, 2003

The meeting was convened at 8:15 p.m.

Present: Abzinger, S.M.; Bailey, D.; Beck, C.; Bilinsky, M.; Boileau, P.; Bruce, D.; Clement, K.; Doyle-Waters, M.; Einblau, L.; Foster, P.; Gelette, C.; Giustini, D.; Hall, D.; Havlin, T.; Heino, D.; Hornby, K.; Howard, L.; Hunt, W.; Jardine, M.; Kachmar, O.; Leitz, L.; Liard, H.A.; Long, S.; Ludwig, P.; MacDonell, K.; MacFarlane, C.; Melrose, R.; Morrison, B.; Neill, J.; Newstead, D.; Pennimpede, C.; Raworth, R.; Renaud, F.; Rochlin, R.

1. Approval of Agenda

There were no additions to the Agenda.

2 Minutes of Previous AGM - June 14, 2002

The minutes of the 2002 AGM were approved.

Motion: T. Havlin, R. Raworth

3 President's Report - Rebecca Raworth

2002/03 was a busy, productive but challenging year. We had our first general meeting at the Tzu Chi Institute but sadly it closed five months later. Our Christmas brunch was held in Richmond and we had an extremely interesting general meeting at QLT in March. A special bonus was the opportunity to see some of QLT's excellent art collection.

Anne Allgaier,

the chairperson of the PDARG Committee, was expected to attend the AGM but was unable to do so, and therefore her report is posted on our website. Essentially, the committee examined what other similar committees had done and amalgamated their results. Wendy Hunt and Robert Melrose have been working on modernizing our Bylaws. The website team has been active (see below). Rebecca thanked Tracy Havlin for successfully taking on the huge job of planning almost the entire CE program we all enjoyed on Friday. She also thanked Ollie Kachmar, Wendy Hunt, and Patricia Foster for planning our excellent banquet, the Medical Library Service for hosting the CE in their new building and for demonstrating successfully a feminist model of management!

5. Vice-President's Report - Tracy Havlin

HLABC Professional Development/Travel Grant

The proposal was well received. Charlotte Beck suggested that we should probably develop more policy about how the grant could be shared if there was more than one or two applicants. Tracy invited suggestions for policy wording.

Motion: R. Raworth, S. Long

HLABC Executive Travel Expenses Policy

This policy was developed to encourage members from outside the lower mainland to work on the Executive. This proposal was approved. Tracy will revise the wording on the policy to include general meetings as well. Motion:

K. Hornby, R. Raworth

Sue Abzinger questioned why travel to the three general meetings was excluded. Tracy explained that while it was important that the Executive attend all Executive meetings and the AGM, the other three general meetings did not

absolutely require all of the Executive present.

\$5 Dues increase

It has been many years since we have had an increase in dues and an informal survey of dues for CHLA chapters showed that our dues were low. All money from this increase will go to support the proposed Development Grant. Dean Giustini noted that our organization looks quite rich according to the information on the Treasurer's Report. Shannon Long explained, however, that we have a number of expenses to pay (e.g. arising out of the CE and AGM) so it is more an issue of timing. Lea Starr pointed out that the Association should carry one year's operating expenses in reserve.

The increase was approved. Motion: Sally Taylor, Marcia Bilinsky

CE course report

Tracy thanked everyone for participating & said overall the course was highly successful. She especially thanked Karen MacDonell and the MLS staff for providing such a wonderful space to hold the course. She has scanned the evaluations which looked very positive & then apologized for the drilling noise which a few people commented on as distracting. Tracy added that the revenue made from the course would be used to supplement the budget and provide for the new travel/PD grant.

6 Treasurer's Report - Shannon Long

Revenue	2002/2003	2001/02
Membership Fees	1760.00	1780.00
AGM Revenue	1260.00	720.00
CE Revenue	4205.00	1750.00
Int. on Bank Account	2.53	6.21
Increase, Bond Fund	88.45	
46.22		
Total Revenue	7315.98	5302.43
Expenses		
Forum Printing	0.00	
187.27		
Forum Mailing	0.00	
52.30		
Speaker's Honoraria	26.55	
400.00		
CE Instructor's Fees		
And Supplies	3208.79	
1807.19		
Meeting Refreshments	375.12	610.37
AGM Dinner	1554.14	
1266.56		
Filing Fee, Soc. Act	25.00	
50.00		
Misc (postage, gifts & stationary)	288.91	
445.84		
Bank Charges	5.76	
<u>0.00</u>		
Total Expenses	5484.27	4819.53
Summary		

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Bank Balance (start)	4202.33	3744.47
Bank Balance (end)	5924.41	4202.33
Difference – Revenues		
Less Expenses	1743.05	457.86
Cheques not yet cleared	0.00	-21.18
Adjusted Bank Money	5924.41	4181.15
Bond Fund	1505.03	
1416.58		
Total Assets	7429.44	5597.73
(Membership: 94 Total: Lifetime 6; Regular 85, Student 3)		

7 Forum Report - Pat Boileau & Krista Clement

The editors reported that they found the process of learning to work together challenging, especially given the physical distance between them. They are planning Forum issues for September, December, March and June. Pat will go to Kelowna for a brain-storming session with Krista later this summer. The editors are still interested in developing “theme” issues. They would like feedback, pro or con, on what they do. Lastly, they will continue to do brief surveys via the Internet.

8 Website Report - Robert Melrose

Mary Doug Wright, Teresa Lee and Robert Melrose are the current members of the website committee. Robert reported that the underlying architecture of the site is sound but the content, logo, etc. need updating. Teresa will develop 2 or 3 ideas for the Executive but needs to have things tied up by the end of August, as she is returning to school. The Committee has someone interested in using the Typo3 content management system on the site. This software would permit updating of the site from remote locations. We are hoping to get this work done for only an acknowledgement and a small honorarium. CHSPR will continue to host our site and, since we own our domain name, even having to move the site wouldn't present address problems. Examples of proposed content to be added include association lists, links to job pages, etc. Comments or feedback is sought, especially for any proposed new logo. Charlotte Beck asked if there were plans to digitize older issues of the Forum.

Krista Clement said that she may be able to do this if someone sends her the issues.

9 PDARG Report - Anne Allgaier

In Anne's absence, Lea Starr provided the report.

10 Report of BC Academic Health Council meetings re provincial database licensing - Lea Starr

British Columbia Academic Health Council – Provincial Health Databases Licenses

“The British Columbia Academic Health Council is a non-profit society, organized as a federation of independent and publicly funded health care and post-secondary institutions in BC as well as related Government ministries. BCAHC is built around the vision that collaboration on the many systems issues related to ‘academic health’ is needed and adds value to member organizations, to regions, to the health care and academic communities, and to the public. It is primarily a networking and facilitating agency. BCAHC has the capacity to coordinate and administer initiatives that, in the eyes of its member organiza-

tions, could benefit from a collaborative approach.” (BC Academic Health Council Concept Paper, April 3, 2003. George Eisler, CEO BCAHC)

In May, George Eisler was approached by a few librarians in the academic health community with the concept that BCAHC sponsor a initiative for licensing of provincial health databases. Two meetings of members of the health care community, librarians and educators have been held to develop a concept paper for the Council and Operating Committee to consider. There have been two meetings of people to date. Representation has been from hospital libraries, (Sue Abzinger, Beth Morrison, Greg Rowell, Ann Allgaier) Post-Secondary libraries, (SFU, UBC, UNBC, University College of the Cariboo, UVIC, BCIT) the Ministry of Health Library, and health authority educators, (Pat Semeniuk, Paul Anderson), Medical Library Service of CPS (Karen MacDonell), ELN. An early draft of a proposal has been prepared. George Eisler shared a draft discussion paper “Information For All: providing electronic health information to support the health care delivery, research and education in British Columbia”, Catherine Quinlan, Spring 2002 which he indicated was a strong document. Between these two papers there is enough to pull a strong proposal together to present to the BCAHC Advisory Council and Operating Committee early this summer.

George Eisler is supportive of the concept and has indicated that it fits the paradigm of work that should be undertaken by the BCAHC. He recognized that several initiatives had been started in the past. Everyone attending the meetings has also been extremely interested. Three subgroups have been formed to consider organization structure, core resources and technology infrastructure. The team also discussed communication strategy. The timeline that has been indicated as desirable is August 1, 2004 to coincide with the first intake of the Expanded Medical Program.

11 Bylaws - Wendy Hunt

Wendy and Robert have completed a first draft of our new Bylaws. They have been working on the language, e.g. changing chairperson to “chair”, “must” to “shall”, etc. Wendy suggested that other changes be considered, e.g. removing Sec. 14, B & C, which relate to non-reporting societies. The Executive will review the new Bylaws before the next AGM.

12 CHLA/ABSC Update

Rebecca read out the report Cathy Rayment gave to CHLA.

13 Other Business

EVIDENCE BASED LIBRARIANSHIP 2003

EBL 2003 “Improving Practice Through Research” was held June 4-6 at the University of Alberta (Edmonton). At least two HLABC members attended this second international conference: Dean Giustini and Barbara Saint. Conference papers and links are posted on the websites (see sidebar).

In the near future, we are told, an EBL International Working Group will be started, so if you are interested, keep an eye on the EBL list-serv for more information: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/EVIDENCE-BASED-LIBRARIES.html>

EVIDENCE BASED
LIBRARIANSHIP
CONFERENCE - EBL 2003
[http://
www.asebl.ualberta.ca/](http://www.asebl.ualberta.ca/)

EVIDENCE BASED
LIBRARIANSHIP
<http://www.eblib.net/>

CHLA 2003—INFORMATION MOSAIC

The 2003 CHLA/ABSC Conference was well attended. More members were present for the Annual General Meeting quorum than at AGMs held back east! HLABC was very well represented. The discussions were lively — be sure to check out the new CHLA logo and the name change from BMC to JCHLA. As always, I came home inspired to attempt more than ever—always a dangerous condition.

I had not been to a major conference since 2000 (Vancouver). Here are three trends I noticed: “Evidence based medicine” appears to have progressed from a theoretical debate, to a pervasive reality. Collaboration and synergy are apparent everywhere. Electronic and distance solutions become more feasible all the time.

Evidence based medicine/ practice / librarianship seemed very hypothetical several years ago. Presenters at that time asked whether EBP was realistic, how it could be implemented, and described tentative studies into the field. This year, the studies were bolder and the concepts have been used effectively in many “real life” contexts. The work of Canadian librarians in this area is commendable.

Co-operation, collaboration, amalgamation. Libraries are working together across institutions, across disciplines, and often across the miles. Some of these ventures are entirely self-directed. Others have been provoked by external changes and political realignments. Library associations, such as Saskatchewan’s, have found ways to leverage their group influence in the bigger picture. Sometimes a freelance, corporate, or public partner has become involved to make an inter-library project possible. Our diverse organizations are inexorably being drawn into common streams, and I don’t think any of us can remain aloof and unaware of the currents around us on so many levels.

And of course it seems that all of this is “on the Web.” Every presentation had an associated website. So many organizations are delivering information to remote patrons and facilities, using electronic technology more suited to Star Trek than humble bookshelves.

Between these presentations, we also browsed the exhibit hall, taking the opportunity to bend the ears of the vendors there. Another highlight was the main Banquet, featuring an extremely energetic and skilled team of Ukrainian dancers. Many of us went for walks around Edmonton and discovered various intriguing restaurants. One evening a bunch of librarians invaded the revolving restaurant on the top of our hotel, and stayed way, way past closing. Jim Henderson was there, and we dubbed him an honorary British Columbian for life.

I hope you enjoy the photographs and do make plans to come to the next conference in Newfoundland / Labrador!

CANADIAN HEALTH
LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION/
ASSOCIATION DES
BIBLIOTHÈQUES DE LA
SANTÉ DU CANADA 2003
CONFERENCE

<http://www.chla-absc.ca/2003/>

NEW WEBSITE

<http://www.chla-absc.ca/>

NEWS FROM PDARG

Report of the Provincial Database Review Group of the Health Libraries Association of BC

Many people working in health sciences libraries in BC have long been frustrated by the lack of progress regarding the provision of access to electronic resources to all health professionals in BC. The most recent initiative, spearheaded by Elizabeth Woodworth, Chief Librarian for the BC Ministry of Health, was derailed by the last election in 2001 which resulted in a change of government in BC. It was the sense of frustration, combined with a large dose of eternal optimism, that led to the formation of the Provincial Database Review Group (PDARG) at the June 2002 AGM.

Our task has been to assemble information on existing consortial models of providing access to databases and various electronic resources, and making this information available to the members of HLABC. We have posted our terms of reference, membership, as well as information about other consortia on the HLABC website.

A Medline search retrieved references to articles describing consortia that we had not previously heard of in Europe, the U.S. and in Australia. Information about one of these models, SALUS, a consortia in South Australia, is now posted on the HLABC website, along with others such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Knowledge Information Network and Health Knowledge Network in Alberta. Recently, the Saskatchewan government announced a College of Medicine Renewal Plan which includes funding for electronic resources for all healthcare practitioners in Saskatchewan.

To keep up to date with news regarding consortial access to electronic resources, visit the HLABC website at <http://www.hlabc.bc.ca> and click on the "consortium planning page" link that will take you to the members only PDARG section of the website. To access the PDARG section, you need a userid and password, which can be obtained from web mistress Mary-Doug Wright.

Although we didn't know it at the time, the establishment of PDARG was very timely. Early this year the BC Academic Health Council began investigating provincial access to databases for health professionals and students in BC and BC health librarians had the necessary information already assembled and available to support this new initiative. The initial fact sheet is included in this Forum issue, and the new website link can be seen on the right. PDARG will provide updates on this initiative in the next Forum as well as on the HLABC website.

Anne Allgaier,
Chair of the Provincial Database Review Group
Health Libraries Association of BC

September 4, 2003

e-HLbc

Electronic Health Library of BC
An Initiative of the BC Academic Health Council

Electronic Health Library of BC

Improving access to knowledge for BC's health professionals

The Electronic Health Library of BC (e-HLbc) is an initiative of the BC Academic Health Council to explore the potential for expanding access to electronic library resources (databases, indexes, abstracts and full-text resources where available) to all interested health agencies, professional associations, and post-secondary education institutions across BC, and investigate the feasibility of negotiating province-wide licenses to access these resources.

Our Goals

Improve Health Outcomes and Enhance the Quality of Care: A major goal of the e-HLbc is to increase knowledge of current health research by healthcare practitioners, policy-makers, research scientists, health educators, and students across BC. Professionals are challenged to obtain the substantial knowledge required to remain current, given rapid advances in diagnostic and treatment protocols and related technology. Facilitating access to up-to-date information will enable health professionals to better do their jobs - to provide patient care that is evidence-based, to develop programs that improve health outcomes, to teach students best practices, to reinforce quality care.

Recruit and Retain Health Professionals: Successful recruitment and retention of health professionals is key to ensuring quality care. While there is a global health human resource shortage, it is particularly challenging in rural and remote areas. Providing province-wide access to electronic health resources is one strategy to assure health professionals that they will be able to remain at the forefront of their practice, despite the fact that they are geographically removed from major population centres.

Meet the Needs of the Expanded Medical Program: By January 2005, the University of Northern BC and the University of Victoria will be training medical students. While classroom learning will largely occur at the university sites, clinical learning will occur at hospitals throughout the province. The students will require access to the same research and study materials as students in Vancouver in order to complete their coursework. Critical to the success of the medical education program will be the ability to assure these students and clinical faculty that province-wide access to electronic health information is available.

Support Student Learning Across the Province: In addition to expansion in the medical program, there has been and will continue to be an increasing number of seats in several other health sciences programs in BC post-secondary education institutions. This will generate a need for greater capacity for student placements in all health disciplines. To meet this need, placements will be provided in new settings - across the con-

FOR CURRENT INFO:
http://www.bcahc.ca/BCAHC_page.asp?pageid=678

tinuum of care and across the province. Students and clinical faculty in these settings will require access to the same research and study materials as their counterparts in the traditional urban acute care settings. Providing province-wide access to electronic health information will facilitate creating a consistent and uniform approach across the health authorities for supporting health sciences students.

Support Health Research: The past several years have seen significant growth in health research in BC. A province-wide electronic health library would firmly anchor BC's information infrastructure, act as a catalyst to attract researchers and students, stimulate investment, nurture lifelong learning, and foster further growth of research in BC.

Project Principles

Simplify Access: The e-HLbc will facilitate knowledge transfer by providing a single access point to a comprehensive set of high quality electronic resources - accessible through a website, in urban and rural and remote areas of the province, from the workplace or from home, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Presently, for some health professionals, in some parts of BC, there is no access to electronic resources.

Eliminate Duplication of Resources: Currently, some individuals are licensed to access various databases through more than one agency (e.g., health care practitioners may be covered by licenses through their workplace, through their professional association and, if they are also clinical faculty, through a post-secondary education institution). Since licensing costs for each agency are based on an estimate of the number of users, this results in duplicate (or triplicate) licensing costs. Province-wide licensing would eliminate this duplication of expenditure.

Maximize Access and Minimize Costs: Currently, agencies separately negotiate licenses from vendors who hold the distribution rights to various electronic resources. A coordinated province-wide approach to negotiating licensing agreements will leverage purchasing power and result in better terms and conditions. It should be noted, however, that total costs may not decrease, given the objective to extend access to a larger number of users province-wide, including to those health professionals who currently have no or limited access to electronic resources (e.g., pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, nutritionists).

Who is involved?

The e-HLbc is overseen by a Working Group whose members represent educators and librarians from the health authorities, post-secondary education institutions, professional associations, and the Ministries of Health Planning and Health Services.

The e-HLbc Business Plan

The Working Group will develop a Business Plan for implementing and operating the e-HLbc. The Business Plan will include:

- Communications strategy to facilitate communications among e-HLbc stakeholders (using a project website)

- Inventory of e-library resources currently accessed by health agencies, education institutions, and professional associations, and cost estimates associated with existing access

Recommended set of electronic resources which will comprise the e-HLbc, and a negotiating strategy for securing province-wide licenses
 Plan for user training and support
 Evaluation plan with indicators for evaluation of the e-HLbc
 Financial plan to implement the e-HLbc, including costs for licenses, training and support, evaluation, and ongoing sustainability; a cost-sharing formula to equitably distribute costs among potential participating agencies; and identification of other potential funding sources.

About BCAHC

The BC Academic Health Council works to optimize the effectiveness of relationships among health practitioners, health educators, and health researchers and their respective organizations. BCAHC members include the province's six health authorities, post-secondary education institutions, and the Ministries of Health Planning, Health Services, Children and Family Development, and Advanced Education. For more information about the BCAHC, visit our website at <http://www.bcahc.ca>

For more information about the e-HLbc

Contact Sandra Morris, Senior Project Manager, BC Academic Health Council
 604-739-3910, Ex 227 or email smorris@bcahc.ca
 Revised August 21, 2003

WEBSITE REPORT

Since the AGM in June, the website committee has been developing a redesign of the HLABC website. The proposed changes to the site discussed at the AGM were to be a new logo and new look for the site and changes for inputting content into the site. A web designer was contracted to provide a new look and logo for the site. The designer will be provided with a small honorarium and the site will be included in their portfolio.

The executive has seen a sample of the proposed design from the web designer. The final decision for the redesign will be made by the executive at their meeting in September. A sample of the proposed website redesign can be viewed at <http://www.bedlamhotel.com/114.html>.

The second phase of the website update will occur once the new design is in place. The categories from the previous site will be incorporated into the new site along with increased content. Transferring and updating the content will occur in the fall. The website committee will be reduced from three members to two members this fall as Teresa Lee will be returning to school full time. If anyone wishes to join the website committee please contact either Mary-Doug Wright (mdwright@chspr.ubc.ca) or Robert Melrose (melrose@dsrf.org).

Submitted by:
 HLABC website committee; Robert Melrose, Mary-Doug Wright, Teresa Lee.

NEW WEBSITE
 PROPOSAL:

[http://
 www.bedlamhotel.com/1
 14.html](http://www.bedlamhotel.com/114.html)

*Please send comments to the List
 to encourage discussion and
 consensus (HLABC-L)*

C.E. DAY: MINI-MEDICAL SCHOOL

1910 FLEXNER
REPORT

[http://
www.carnegiefoundati
on.org/elibrary/docs/
flexner_report.pdf](http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/elibrary/docs/flexner_report.pdf)

FREE PUBLIC 'MINI-
MED SCHOOL'
LECTURES AT BC
CHILDREN'S &
WOMEN'S

[http://
www.bcriwh.bc.ca/
about_us/whats_new/
events.htm](http://www.bcriwh.bc.ca/about_us/whats_new/events.htm)

On Friday the 13th of June, a 'Mini-Medical School' for health librarians was hosted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. It was a most useful, cost-effective and entertaining CE day for HLABC members. A brisk series of lecturers stimulated us to consider the physician's viewpoint on a number of topics, including medical school, Anatomy & Physiology, Pharmacology, Physical Exam & Diagnosis, Hospital structures, Palliative Medicine, and Internal Medicine.

Thanks to the HLABC executive/organizers and to Tracy Havlin (who was an amusing patient for the 'exam and diagnosis' section). The multi-speaker format lends itself to learning, I thought. The food during our breaks was excellent. MLS is in a great new location, centrally located with lots of windows. Thank you to MLS staff for the tours.

It was terrific that we had some history of medicine and Problem Based Learning, similar to materials covered in the SLAIS course on health librarianship. PBL explains the annual wave of students through our facilities, who appear with patient charts and unusual requests of the literature.

Glad to hear about Drs. Pang and Mack's information needs. Dr. C. Pang emphasized the on-line full-text materials she uses, but she was quite unclear about the licensing and payment for those resources. It reminds us all that we need to continue to tell our users about the sources of information that they are consulting. Thanks to Sally for clarifying Elsevier access issue!

Dr. Mack uses UptoDate, for those who were not at the workshop, a "digested" clinical resource which is becoming quite popular in some circles. Digested, summarized, one-stop-shopping tools can be very expensive, however, and there is debate among librarians about whether the content is consistently evidence-based or current.

Dr. Mack had a striking quote re: taking a patient history and making a diagnosis "This is how we use history - the story helps you". Observing his manipulation of Tracy's leg, with accompanying commentary, was eye-opening! A physical exam demands very direct skills and knowledge which doubtless can only be acquired through actual hands-on experience.

Dr. Dimmick's suggestion to librarians "Remember the past". This was apropos of his wanting access to older journals, the "German school" of pathology and laboratory research.

Dr. Hawley brought a holistic view of information in palliative care, specifically the patients' need for human contact and access to books and libraries. Patients see the library as a place of safety, support and information exchange.

All in all - a great day.

- Dean Giustini & Krista Clement

NOTES FROM THE AFTERLIFE

A series on retirement and career change

*There aren't many people who begin working in health libraries **AFTER** retiring, so Kelowna's Elaine Scherer brings together our two themes in a new way. Read on*

Elaine, tell us a bit about yourself and what you did before retiring.

I was one of those young teachers who came out of the "fast track" university program in the 1960s. So, I was still 19, with just two years of training, when I faced my first high school classes. I still remember how much taller the Grade 12 boys were than I was, and how very much more confident!

That led to a U. of Alberta Bachelor of Education degree, and later a 5th year in School Librarianship at UVic. Thus equipped, I worked as a teacher librarian in elementary schools in the Central Okanagan. At 51, still working fulltime, I completed an M.Ed., all of it done on weekends and during the summer.

Then four years later you retired?

What changed was that my husband decided to take early retirement, and I took another look at my working life. While I'd put a lot of time into developing my career, I wasn't sure I wanted to be away from home every working day while Bob was finally enjoying some free time. So in June 1998 I began my next career: de-employed.

How long did your new life of leisure last?

About three months! That September, Kelowna General Hospital began running radio and newspaper ads asking for volunteers. By then I was thinking about ways I could make some sort of community contribution that would help me keep mentally and socially active. I turned up for one of the sessions and had already picked a few possibilities out of the long list. Then I heard, "Does anyone here have any library experience?" and spoke up before I had time to wonder what I might be getting into. The next thing I knew, I was whisked into the hospital library and introduced to Ruth Rochlin. When she heard I actually had cataloguing experience, it was a done deal.

So you found yourself being an unpaid cataloguer in a whole new specialized field?

That and a few other things. I volunteer one day a week, mostly doing medical cataloguing, but also handling journals for the doctors' lounge and weeding the overall journal collection.

How did you find the changeover after a career in school libraries?

Oddly, after all those years where working face-to-face with students was the #1 priority (and rightly so), it turned out to be quite restful to move to "back room" work and leave Ruth to deal with the patrons. What a novelty to settle into just one library project without having to break off every few minutes to handle some other must-do job.

That's not to say that anyone turns into a fullfledged medical cataloguer

overnight. Obviously I found the new vocabulary a major challenge, since it's my job to choose subject headings for material that sometimes seems to be written in a language normal people don't speak. My other learning curve involved the software used for KGH's library catalogue. Luckily, I had introduced - with much anguish, but basically successfully - new library software in my own school library fairly recently, so even at my time of life, I was pretty well prepared for anything the hospital library system could throw at me.

You've just come up to your 5th anniversary as a part-timer in the KGH library. Looking back, any thoughts?

When I started volunteering I suspected that the work might turn out to demand too much of my newfound free time, and that my good intentions would disappear. This has not happened. I enjoy the work now as much as when it was all new to me - in fact, probably more, since now I feel I'm accomplishing so much more in less time, and making my best contribution to the library's role.

When I look back, two major factors stand out. First: Ruth Rochlin herself, whose background with KGH and professional abilities provide such a supportive work atmosphere. Second: being a volunteer "professional" means you no longer have to provide a replacement when you take time off to travel, which I must admit is a continuing part of my life these days. For me, this has got to be the best of both the work and retirement worlds.

Just after this interview, Elaine and her family were evacuated from their home as the Okanagan Mountain fire bore down on Kelowna. More news in the winter '03/04 Notes From The Afterlife.

Notes From The Afterlife is a continuing feature. We welcome your ideas. Editor Elsie Wollaston can be reached at (604) 684-3036 or elbruijn@interchange.ubc.ca <<mailto:elbruijn@interchange.ubc.ca>>.

Send us your ideas for stories about health libraries and any form of job change.

EVENT ALERT!

PNC/MLA CE DAYS
OCTOBER 17-18 2003

[http://
depts.washington.edu/
pncmla/ce/ce_days.html](http://depts.washington.edu/pncmla/ce/ce_days.html)

SEEN ON THE LIST

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Sat, 6 Sep 2003 14:40:53 -0400 (EDT)
From: Deb Monkman <dmonkman@yahoo.com>
Subject: Safe after hurricane hit

Hi Everyone,

I am in Bermuda, Gord is typing this in Vancouver on the phone. I am safe, and my house isn't damaged, relatives and freinds are OK.

This was the worst hurricane in 50 years, it was brutal! The second worse was in 1963 when I was 6months old! Lots of damage to repair around the island. Thanks for emails, phone calls, healings, prayers etc. Stay in touch Love Deb