

Annual General Meeting of the LAI Health Sciences Libraries Group, held at the Headquarters of the Irish College of General Practitioners, Lincoln Place Dublin, at 11:00am on Friday 11th May, 2001.

Minutes:

1. Delegates were warmly welcomed by Gillian Doran, ICGP Librarian, who briefly summarised the background to the setting up of the library service and the recent publications of the ICGP.
2. With apologies from Beatrice Doran (MER), Gay Doyle (SLI), Muriel Haire (INO), Gillian Smith (MER) and Mary Thompson (GHP), the AGM then commenced with Bernard Barrett (SEH) in the Chair, accompanied by committee members Catherine Breslin (SGH), Timothy Collins (UGM), Margaret Dillon (LRH), Tony Linnane (WHB) and Anne O'Byrne (DDH). The minutes of the previous AGM (HSLG/AGM/99-00), distributed at the meeting, were read and accepted as accurate. There were no non-agenda matters arising.
3. Bernard Barrett reported on the activities of the 'Group since the last AGM, citing the increased use of Information Technology by members as a welcome trend. Not so welcome was the continuing inability of the Dept of Health to appoint a Librarian. This post has been vacant since the departure of Aidan Beatty in 1999. The Health Sciences Libraries Group committee met five times during the year, each time at a different location, hosted by each committee member in turn. Various plans were formulated and decisions made regarding future meetings. Minutes of these meetings (HSLG/C/M3-M7) were available for consultation at the AGM and can be e-mailed to any member who wishes to see them.
4. Among the most successful of the many activities organised by the committee during the year was the holding of the first workshop on updating Standards for Healthcare Libraries, held in University of Limerick on 23rd January 2001. Part of the credit of the success of this workshop must go to John Lancaster, Librarian UL, who acted as Facilitator, and is willing to act as such again at the follow-up workshop, originally planned for 9th March in St Luke's Hospital Dublin, but deferred because of government restrictions on movement imposed during the Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak. This follow-up workshop will go ahead at a later date. Following on from the presentation given at last year's AGM by Brid McGrath (see HSLG/AGM/99-00, para. 8), a one-day training seminar entitled 'Training the trainers' and funded by the Dept of Health and Children, was held in the Midland Health Board Library in Tullamore for Health Board library personnel on 29th November 2000. Individual members prepared responses to the Health Research Board's strategy document *Making knowledge work for health: towards a strategy for research and innovation for health* (HRB, 2000), emphasising the role of library and information services, as well as the importance of professionally trained staff, in supporting the information needs of those working in medicine and health. A submission was also sent to the LAI Healthcare Libraries Panel for forwarding to the Dept of Health and Children, on their new National Health Information Strategy. A number of members attended the 8th International Congress on Medical Librarianship in London in July, the first time that this five-yearly congress was held in Europe since 1974. Gabrielle Doyle (SLI) presented a poster entitled *A national document supply co-operative among healthcare libraries in Ireland* at the 66th IFLA General Conference in Jerusalem in August. The theme of the conference was 'Information for Co-operation'. A full report of the 'Group's activities is to be found in the Library Association of Ireland's *Annual Report 2000*, which was submitted by Margaret Dillon.
5. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Margaret Dillon, showing that the current balance, as of 8th May 2001 in the 'Group's account is £2,955.77p, with income during the year of £575.00 derived from the £10.00 collected from each copy of the *Index to Irish healthcare libraries journal holdings* February 2000 update, distributed to participating members. In summing up Dillon invited suggestions from the floor for ideas about future meetings or events which could be hosted by the 'Group, as finance for such would not be a problem.

6. Barrett next presented a short report on the activities of the Irish Healthcare Libraries' Co-operative sub-committee. This sub-committee had met once in the autumn and a second meeting planned prior to the AGM had to be deferred. It is hoped that this sub-committee will meet soon to look at the legal requirements of running such a service in relation to the new Copyright Act, especially with regard to members' licensing agreements with vendors for fulltext access to e-versions of journals. Other aspects of the service mentioned were the criteria governing membership to the scheme, and the request that members distribute their requests more evenly, instead of requesting everything from one library. Finally, Dillon reiterated her request, sent to members via e-mail some time ago, that all members return their statistics of ILL usage for the period January to December 2000 to her as soon as possible.

7. Details of the new discussion list which had just been set up for 'Group members, were given by Barrett. This new list, ihslg@topica.com, supersedes the earlier listings, as merging records from these listings was not an option. It is hoped that this new discussion list will be used by members. Details of how to register were given to members who had not yet done so. Following discussion, it was agreed that all members must include details of their e-mail addresses in next year's journal holdings *Index*.

8. Anne Murphy (TAL) presented a report on the work done to date in setting up an IMPACT Vocational Group for health service librarians. Following meetings last year with members of the union IMPACT, this group was formally set up, with a written constitution accepted by the union during the summer. Information on job descriptions has been collated and a reporting structure put in place. Following an inaugural meeting in the autumn, a committee consisting of Suzanne Feeney, Tony Linnane, Anne Murphy, Anne O'Byrne and Barry O'Sullivan was appointed. This committee is hoping to work jointly with the HSEA on submissions relating to working conditions, salary scales and professional recognition. In the ensuing discussion, Linnane commented that joint working parties are seen as the way forward in discussions with employers as opposed to the delays imposed by benchmarking, while O'Byrne said that the new group will be seeking advice from relevant bodies on the best way forward. Finally, in summing up, Murphy stated that, realistically, slow progress was to be anticipated.

9. Catherine Breslin reported on the preparations to date on a planned two-day workshop on e-journals and distributed copies of the likely timetable. A likely date and venue was agreed as 27th-28th September next in Tullamore. Although there were a number of suitable hotels, no final decision on venue had been made. Various individuals were named as possible speakers from libraries and various e-publishers names were also noted from the floor. Topics to be covered included copyright restrictions to e-journals and publishers' varying subscription rates. Following discussion it was agreed that final details would be confirmed by the incoming committee and made available via the new discussion list above.

10. In detailing the training needs of Health Board staff, ideas and suggestions were also invited from the floor. Among the issues cited as being worthwhile were the new Copyright Law, products such as the Cochrane Library and general PC training. The comment was also made that Brid McGrath should be invited to give another 'Training the trainers' workshop, which would be open to all staff in health board and voluntary hospital libraries.

11. As mentioned in para. 4 above, because of Foot & Mouth restrictions being in place, the follow-up workshop on library standards, which was to have taken place at St Luke's Institute Dublin on 9th March last, had been deferred. Following discussion, it was agreed to check on the feasibility of holding a re-scheduled meeting in June or July, at a time suitable to the members and to John Lancaster (UL). Meanwhile, the points for discussion, compiled by Lancaster from those made at the first workshop, would be distributed to those who had attended, as soon as an e-version became available.

12. With regard to the election of a committee for 2001-2002, Breslin stated that, with the exception of O'Byrne, nominations had been received from the existing committee members present. A further name, Angela Rice (MMH), was received and seconded from the floor.

There being no other nominations, all were deemed elected without having to go to a vote. The new committee, which will shortly meet to elect officers is as follows:

Bernard Barrett (SEH)
Catherine Breslin (SGH)
Timothy Collins (UGM)
Margaret Dillon (LRH)
Tony Linnane (WHB)
Angela Rice (MMH)

As the 'Group committee had averaged eight members in recent years, it was agreed that further co-options could be made during the year, if any member expressed such an interest. In summing up, outgoing Chairman Barrett thanked the contribution made by O'Byrne on the committee over the years and expressed the hope that, when her present commitments were eased somewhat, she may once again take an active part in the activities of the 'Group.

13. Under Any Other Business, Breslin asked all those in attendance to ensure that they were individual members of the LAI. Membership application forms were available for those who wished to join. The point was made that corporate membership did not give voting rights, important when medical or health issues were being decided on by the LAI. Following a request from the floor, it was agreed that full details of membership would be distributed via the discussion list.

14. There being no other business, the AGM ended at 1:30pm and those who wished availed of the lunch provided by Gillian Doran, who was also thanked for providing the facilities for holding the meeting.

Compiled by:
Timothy Collins (UGM)
15th May, 2002.