

Annual General Meeting of the Health Sciences Libraries Group, held in the Headquarters of the Irish Nurses' Organisation, 11 Fitzwilliam Sq., Dublin at 11:00am on 30th April 1999.

MINUTES:

1. Members were cordially welcomed by Annette Kennedy, Director and Muriel Haire, Librarian I.N.O.
2. In her capacity as Chairman of the A.G.M., Anne O'Byrne (DDH) read the minutes of the 1998 A.G.M. at which, among other topics, the increase in Inter Library Lending between members, and the results of the training survey were discussed.
3. As Secretary of the outgoing committee, Anne O'Byrne next gave a report of the activities of the Health Libraries Group over the past year, detailing committee meetings held, seminars hosted and highlighting other achievements. Other changes in the Irish health libraries sector were also mentioned, notably staff movements: Aidan Beatty from the Dept of Health, Angela Canavan from Barnardos (and the Health Libraries Group committee) and Jennifer McDougall, who has returned to the UK. On a positive note, was the election of Margaret Dillon (LRH) Chairman of the Health Libraries Group, to the Executive Board of the Library Association of Ireland. On a point of information Margaret Dillon told the meeting that the L.A.I. itself was about to undergo structural changes in its administration.
4. Gillian Smith (MER) next gave the Treasurer's Report which showed a healthy balance. Briefly, the opening balance of the year stood at £720.00 with income during the year amounting to £880.00 (£10.00 received from each group member who paid for the journals index update). With sundry expenses incurred for visiting speakers, the current balance is £1511.51.
5. Margaret Dillon presented a detailed report on usage by members of the Irish Healthcare Libraries Inter-Lending Co-operative. With skilful use of graphics, a statistical analysis of usage was given and, with comparative data from previous years, definite trends were highlighted.
6. Set up in 1991 with 11 co-operating libraries offering 1009 journal titles, there are now 54 members with 2426 titles. From statistics of usage for 1997-8 supplied by 36 of the 46 members in the co-operative at that time, c.25,100 requests were made with 13,292 (53%) satisfied from within the scheme, 8,241 (32.5%) from the British Library, 460 (4%) from the BMA Library and 1,016 (10.5%) from elsewhere.
7. Further graphical analysis showed that the busiest, largest libraries are the greatest users, while the greatest users are also the greatest suppliers. Following comments regarding the increasing differential between articles received and articles supplied by many member libraries, the feeling was expressed that the incoming committee might look into the inequalities of the scheme, with a view to seeking a mutually satisfying solution.
8. Jean Harrison next gave a presentation on the Nursing Union List of Journals (NULJ) produced in Leicester by the Glenfield Hospital Medical Library, and the usage being made by contributing members. Comments were made about the comparative cost of the service (£30.00 for four updates of the Union List per annum) and the relative slowness of supplying requests by post.
9. Regarding the election of the committee for 1999-2000, Anne O'Byrne stated that nominations had been received from the existing committee, with the exception of Angela Canavan. One new nomination had also been received. In consequence, all of those nominated were deemed elected. The incoming committee, which will shortly meet to elect officers, comprises:

Catherine Breslin (SGH)
Tim Collins (UGM)
Margaret Dillon (LRH)
Tony Linnane (WHB)
Niall McSweeney (UCC)
Fiona Morley (CGH)
Anne O'Byrne (DDH)
Gillian Smith (MER)

10. Under Any Other Business, Margaret Dillon mentioned that a replacement for the L.A.I. representative on the LINC panel, vacated by Aidan Beatty, will be selected in due course. Following a discussion on quality assessment, it was agreed that the incoming committee should look into the possibility of establishing a group checklist which could be used members.

11. There being no other business, the A.G.M. ended at 1:00pm and a lunch was provided for those who wished. Following lunch, Paula Proctor, Director of Computers in Teaching Initiative, School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Sheffield gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Communications and IT in Nursing and Nurse Education' at 2:30pm.

Compiled by:
Timothy Collins (UGM)
11th May, 1999.