



MLA Meets in Vancouver

The joint meeting of the Medical Library Association and the Canadian Health Libraries Association was held May 5-11, 2000 in Vancouver, Canada.

The theme of the meeting was "Demystifying the Dragon: Strategies for 2000 Plus."

We had Canadian hospitality and beautiful vistas of snow capped mountains across a gorgeous harbor.

2,432 people attended the conference.

Thirty-six continuing Education Courses were offered on topics as diverse as Alternative Health Care, Research Design, Benchmarking, Applied Quantitative Methods, Web Site Architecture, Ethnic Awareness, Copyright, Bioethics, and Licensing of Electronic Resources.

At the opening session of the conference,

EAHIL's own Elizabeth Husem expressed greetings from EAHIL with warmth, poise, and a great smile.

Most mornings of the conference began with sunrise breakfast seminars at 7:30 a.m. from companies such as EBSCO, OVID Technologies, SilverPlatter, Swets Blackwell, and others.

The Plenary sessions were excellent and well attended.

Tom Ferguson, MD, presented "Digital Doctoring: Health Online and the Empowered Medical Consumer."

David Suzuki, Ph.D. spoke on the Ecological Millennium: Setting the Bottom Line."

Dr. Suzuki gave a dynamic presentation encouraging his audience to care about the environment and help it to recover.

I enjoyed the Awards Luncheon and

Ceremony where thirty-eight persons received awards.

Shane Godbolt, from Britain was inducted into the prestigious Honorary Membership of MLA at the awards ceremony.

MLA has bestowed only nineteen Honorary

Memberships in its history.

Qualifications for Honorary Membership are that a person must demonstrate outstanding achievement, notable leadership, have made an impact on the advancement of MLA's mission and have an outstanding professional reputation.

MLA honorary members are elected for life.

One of the most interesting presentations was the one by Elliot Siegel, Ph.D., of the US National Library of Medicine.

His topic was "Getting Health Information to the World: International Programs at the National Library of Medicine."

(See elsewhere in this newsletter for an overview of his comments.)

The new Sister Library Initiative of MLA's International Cooperation Section with Latvia and Antigua generated much enthusiasm and conversation.

(See article on The Medical Research Library of Latvia and MLA.)

The meeting concluded with the nine hour conference symposium on Electronic Journals.

Donna Flake

MLA representative to EAHIL



View over the city of Vancouver, BC.

(Donna Flake, USA)



NLM Global Health Partnerships - a Review of Dr Elliot Siegel's Presentation in Vancouver

Dr. Elliot R. Siegel, Associate Director for Health Information Programs Development at NLM, presented an excellent program at MLA in Vancouver on NLM's Global Health Partnerships. He discussed International MEDLARS Centers, which used to register their users when NLM charged for MEDLINE.

The International MEDLARS Centers helped NLM by assisting with indexing the medical literature from their countries. NLM is now taking a broader view of our global community, and in 1998 NLM created a New Global plan.

The priorities of the International plan are:

- 1.) Connectivity
- 2.) Document Delivery
- 3.) Special Needs of Developing Countries

In December 1998, NLM held a meeting of people from as many international MEDLARS Centers as could attend. Internet has greatly helped spread medical information globally, but some libraries in developing countries have problems with Internet because

telecommunications are below standards and there are frequent power cuts.

NLM has a multicultural initiative on Malaria. NLM has worked very closely with Mali and other African locations on this initiative. Other new NLM initiatives include setting up International Docline centers. With this, NLM works with institutions of a country in order to initiate its libraries to cooperate and help each other.

One problem is that some libraries are not large enough to be a Docline center. One year ago, Dr. Siegel and others from NLM had a meeting in Taiwan to encourage libraries in Taiwan to cooperate with libraries in nearby countries for document delivery and other endeavors.

Now Taiwan and Singapore and Malaysia are working together.

Also, many libraries in China are now doing interlibrary loans with libraries in Vietnam.

The British Library is working with a

German document delivery center to encourage document delivery among European libraries.

NLM is encouraging and supporting library-to-library partnerships. Dr. Siegel mentioned the sister library arrangement between Emory University Medical Library and a medical library in Georgia in the USSR. He also mentioned a sister library arrangement between a medical library in Zambia and the University of Florida. Dr. Siegel also praised the work of Lenny Rhine in promoting Sister Libraries for many years, and also congratulated and applauded the MLA International Cooperation Section Sister Library Initiatives with Latvia and Antigua.

Dr. Siegel's presentation prompted several questions and also words of thanks to NLM for the role NLM is taking in global outreach.

Donna Flake

MLA representative to EAHIL

Can You Help Locate Former Cunningham Fellows?

The MLA Cunningham Fellowship is a program which brings medical librarians from outside the US and Canada to the US for 4 months of work and study. One Cunningham Fellow is selected each year and typically the Cunningham Fellow visits 12 libraries from February to May. In February 1999 the MLA Board approved the appointment of a Cunningham Fellowship Program Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to the charge and all aspects of the Cunningham Fellowship. The task force members are Donna Flake (Chair), John Breinich, Elizabeth Connor, Elizabeth Eaton, Ruth Fenske, Jacqueline Doyle, Frieda Weise, and Anne Greenspan. The committee meets approximately every six weeks by conference call. The first face-to-face meeting was in Vancouver at the Annual MLA Meeting. We require help in locating these former Cunningham Fellows. Any information is helpful; however, optimally we need addresses, phone numbers and email.

Dates of Visit	Cunningham Fellow	Cunningham Fellow's Home Institution
1974/75	Lucita B. Dones	Women's University, Manila, Philippines
1977/78	Maria Dulcinea Nunes	University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal
1978/79	Catherine Pi-Ying Yang	China Medical College, Taischung, Taiwan
1979/80	Margaret Okeke	University of Ibadan, Ibadab, Nigeria
1980/81	Erna G. Klopfer	University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa
1981/82	Teresita Chavez Moran	Our Lady of Peace Hospital, Manila,
1983/84	Mahesh P.S.	JIM Medical College, Davangere, Karnataka, India
1985/86	Chandraiya	Fiji Medical School, Suva, Fiji
1987/88	Sitsofe Afua Dzansi	The University of Ghana Medical School Library, Accra, Ghana

Donna Flake

dbf1@med.unc.edu