



NEWS FROM EUROPE

..... from Ireland

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Selects ALEPH

Ex Libris (UK) Ltd announced today that the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has signed a contract for the installation of the latest version of ALEPH 500.

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious medical institutions. Founded in 1784, the RCSI regulates the practice of surgery in Ireland, and also provides medical, surgical, nursing and physiotherapy education at undergraduate and postgraduate level. The RCSI Medical School is one of the largest in Ireland, with over 1,000 students. In addition, the Library serves

over 3,000 staff and students in the College's associated hospitals, and a wide range of health-care professionals throughout Ireland. It is a truly international organization, with more than 60 countries represented among its students and alumni. The RCSI is actively engaged in research, with over 100 research students and many projects covering a wide range of biomedical disciplines.

The RCSI Library is one of Ireland's best equipped and most modern health information resources, but it also contains a rich heritage of rare books and archives, with over 20,000 books in the history of medicine collections. The ALEPH library system will form an important part

of the College's IT strategy for the new millennium. The RCSI is the second ALEPH site in Ireland.

"We selected ALEPH," says RCSI Librarian Beatrice Doran "because we were impressed by its functionality and its ultra-modern design. ALEPH represents the best in cutting-edge technology, and we wanted to ensure that the College would remain at the forefront of medical education and training in Ireland - and throughout the world."

Further information on the RCSI can be obtained from the College's World Wide Web site at <http://www.rcsi.ie>

Beatrice Doran

..... from Poland

Last year at the end of May the XVIII Conference of Medical Libraries with the title Collaboration of scientific libraries and broad computer network services – new challenges and perspectives took place in Kraków. The professionally prepared programme included 32 oral presentations grouped in 9 subject sessions. About a hundred people attended this conference. The discussion focussed on the following topics:

- services based upon new electronic technologies
- common electronic catalogues (central catalogues, consortia using the same integrated library systems)
- the quality of the library and its staff in the era of new technology
- the library in computer networks under the eye of the law
- on-line journals and network databases
- specialist medical information services and educational tools
- informative-searchable languages in medicine and related disciplines

In addition to librarians, computer science specialists, physicians, pharmacists, scientists and students took part in the conference. Many presentations and exhibitions organised by publishers and companies specialising in the provision of library services accompanied this meeting.

Cultural events were also a nice supplement. A cocktail-party was given on the Renaissance courtyard of the Jagiellonian University Museum of Pharmacy where a unique exhibition displayed medical and pharmaceutical old prints and manuscripts dating from the XVI and XVII centuries. Running through the whole conference was the wonderful music of the philharmonic orchestras. The participants of the conference also attended a marvellous dinner party given in the court in Nieposomice.

The main conference organiser - the Jagiellonian University Medical Library - has published the conference materials in CD-ROM format where full text lectures,

presentations of companies and an animated exhibition of old prints can be found.

This librarian meeting in Kraków will remain an important event for us from a professional point of view. Alas it was overshadowed by the news of the sudden death of Professor Janusz Kapuscik, the head of the Main Medical Library in Warsaw. Professor Kapuscik initiated the medical librarian's conferences and zealously supported the idea of collaboration of various health care system libraries. Now we shall do our best to keep readers informed about ways of future collaboration.

It is worth mentioning here that for the last few years medical librarianship in Poland has been undergoing considerable transformation, with regard to automatization and extending access to Internet. The new century paves the way for making future plans with all our past progress in mind.

Anna Uryga



..... from France

Seminar for Medical Librarians from Francophone Countries, Tours

Between 27 February - 7 March 2000 the International Conference of the Deans of Medical Faculties of French Expression (Conférence Internationale des Doyens des Facultés de Médecine d'Expression Française - C.I.D.M.E.F.) organized a seminar for medical librarians from francophone countries in Tours, France. Such seminars are organized (and fully financed, including all participants' expenses) periodically by the CIDMEF at various levels targeting various audiences. This year the theme was New Technologies for Information and Communication and of the 16 participating librarians, 10 were represented by the respective number of medical libraries in Romania; the other 6 were from Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, Togo and Cambodia. The Faculty of Medicine in Tours was chosen as the venue because it is the home of the organizers, Professor Etienne Lemarié (Pneumology) and Professor Christian Binet

(Hematology). Both working and living conditions were excellent, plus there was the bonus of being in the Loire valley and region, famous for its exquisite chateaux and also its wine. Tours itself revealed its graceful beauty and noble atmosphere in the early spring sun. The seminar benefited from excellent lecturers, invited to present and discuss the topics included in the programme: Anne Parrical from the Faculty of Medicine Library in Lausanne, Switzerland - Information resources on the Internet; Search Engines, and Electronic vs. print-full text publications: Benoit Thirion, Librarian, University Hospital Centre in Rouen, France; Health Information in French on the Internet, CISMef, Listservs: Jean-Francois Deneff, Professor of Histology at the Leuven Catholic University; Digital images, multimedia: Gislaine Massard-Decleve from the Medical Library of the Leuven Catholic University; MeSH and Search strategies on PubMed: E. Lemarié;

Evidence-based medicine: Corinne Touchelay from the Tours Medical Library and Eric Boissinot, Audiovisual Laboratory of the Tours Faculty of Medicine. Presentations were extremely professional and attractive and the interventions from participants and discussion lively. The benefits were manifold: new skills acquired through hands-on experience but especially the awareness of the richness of French resources. One site alone, the CISMef (Catalogue and Index of the French Medical Sites, at <http://www.chu-rouen.fr/cismef>) manages to gather in an excellent structure, so many resources of such a wide range of topics that it is bound to reward any (re)searcher. The event, as these events usually are, was also a wonderful opportunity to establish new contacts and to forge new friendships, a new stimulus to keep the ball rolling.

Ioana Robu

NEWS FROM THE MLA

Report of the 1999 Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meeting of the Medical Library Association

The Medical Library Association is comprised of geographic chapters as well as subject oriented sections. Geographic chapters meet at least once a year. I had the joy of being in charge of the local arrangements for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meeting of MLA. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is composed of states primarily along the middle eastern sections of the US. These states are



Local librarians welcoming attendees of the Welcome Reception.

North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Our Mid Atlantic Chapter meeting was held October 5 - October 9, 2000 in my hometown Wilmington, North Carolina.

Five Continuing Education Courses were taught:

- Multimedia Basics
- Copyright Law in the Digital Age
- The ABCs of Intranet Development
- Power and Influence
- Evidence Based Medicine

Some of the presentations included:

- The Clinical Librarian
- Skills and competencies for Health Sciences Librarians for the 21st Century
- Building the Virtual Clinical Campus
- Providing Consumer Health Information Electronically
- Beautifying the Library with Little or No Dollars
- We Do Publish! Don't We?
- Managing Electronic Subscriptions
- Charting the Successful Voyage Into the Information Frontier

- Intranets
- Programs and Resources for Chaplains and Pastoral Care
- The Information Audi
- Molecular Biology

There was a Professional Issues Forum with panelists including our MLA President, Frieda Weise.

The social program included a Welcome Reception at the antebellum Bellamy Mansion which was built in 1858. (This is considered old in the USA.) The local librarians wore period costumes to welcome the attendees. The conference also featured a Shrimperoo on the beach at Wilmington with a seafood feast and a dance.

ADDENDUM: Carol Jenkins, Library Director of the Health Sciences Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was elected President-Elect of MLA. She will begin her President-Elect term in May 2000.

Donna Flake