



..... 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