

Introducing BioSites

by Brian Warling

Manager, Digital Library Operations
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- ARIZONA
- CALIFORNIA
- HAWAII
- NEVADA
- PACIFIC BASIN

Introduction: BioSites is a virtual catalog of selected Internet resources in the biomedical sciences. It contains evaluative descriptions, authored by health sciences librarians in Region 7 Resource Libraries, about high-quality resources. Librarians can use BioSites to locate resources to add to their own virtual collections. In this way, BioSites functions as a collection development resource for librarians who want to augment their local Internet collections. BioSites can be accessed at <http://www.library.ucsf.edu/biosites>. Users can browse through the BioSites collection by broad topic area, or can run searches across the entire system. This article briefly describes the genesis of BioSites and how it works.

How BioSites Came About: Health sciences libraries throughout the country are attempting to locate and provide links to the best biomedical resources that meet their collection development guidelines. Some libraries provide simple hyperlinks under very basic classification schemes, while others provide more in-depth descriptions and evaluations along with hyperlinks. Unfortunately, this represents a substantial duplication of effort. Libraries across the nation are expending precious resources doing the same work. In 1995, PSRML held two meetings of

librarians from Region 7 Resource Libraries to discuss possible approaches to cooperative collection development of Internet resources. Staff at both meetings, one at UC San Francisco and the other at UC Irvine, discussed the feasibility of a cooperative project, and what kind of project might work best. HealthWeb (<http://hsinfo.ghsl.nwu.edu/healthweb/>) and other sites were reviewed as possible models. A flexible approach seemed best, so that libraries could freely incorporate information into their own web sites. As a result of these meetings, the PSRML Working Group on Cooperative Internet Collection Development was formed in December 1995. The members of the Working Group are: Beryl Glitz, PSRML; Mary Buttner, Stanford University; Melissa Just, USC; Anne Prussing, UC San Diego; Brian Warling, UC San Francisco.

The Working Group was charged with developing a plan for a cooperative approach involving the Resource Libraries in Region 7 to identify quality Internet resources and make this information available to all health sciences libraries. The product of the group's work would be some type of system, with a sharing of labor, and an end-product which would be of use to hospital and other health sciences library staff in Region 7 (and beyond). The group decided that a centralized

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Latitudes

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Library (PSRML)**



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collection development aid or clearing-house would be the best way to meet its charge. The work of selecting and describing quality resources would be divided up among the participating Resource Libraries in the region. Work then began on building the system, later dubbed BioSites.

How BioSites Works: A key feature in the design of BioSites is its simplicity. Since BioSites is in many ways an experimental system, and since the programming time was essentially donated by UCSF, the Working Group felt it was important to keep BioSites simple. BioSites is a collaborative collection development aid. It is not designed to be an authoritative "central" catalog of biomedical Internet resources with advanced database management tools. This is well beyond the scope of the project and would have been prohibitively expensive to create. BioSites utilizes a series of simple, yet powerful, CGI/PERL programs and a freeware indexing and searching tool (SWISH).

The simplicity of BioSites' design also makes it very easy to use. Anyone can browse the resources in BioSites by broad topic; the last twenty-five resources to enter the system can also be viewed as a group. Searching is simple, yet powerful. Simple or complex Boolean searches of the full text (or limited to title words) are available. Information in a BioSites record includes the titles, creator, URL, description, MeSH headings and update frequency. Each resource is also categorized in up to two broad topics, such as AIDS, Cancer, or Public Health. While anyone can browse and search BioSites, only librarians in Region 7 Resource Libraries who have "signed on" to participate in the project may actually submit resources. The submission process is password-protected. The Working Group felt it was important to control submission of records to ensure system and data integrity. The Resource Library BioSites coordinators are Sharon Berglund, Hawaii Medical Library; Jo Anne Boorkman, UC Davis; Mary Buttner, Stanford

University; Frances Chen, Arizona Health Sciences Library; Joanne Crotts, University of Guam; Leslie Hassett, Loma Linda University; Melissa Just, USC; Barbara Lucas, UC Irvine; Anne Prussing, UC San Diego; Barbara Schader, UCLA; Brian Warling, UC San Francisco (also BioSites Editor); and Joan Zenan, University of Nevada.

Conclusion: BioSites will be "officially" released in January 1997 at the Joint Meeting in Berkeley. Demonstrations and meetings of participants are currently being planned. If the BioSites experiment proves successful, it may be desirable to include more libraries in the submission process. How well the system works is really secondary to the human element in determining whether or not BioSites is a success. As we all know, the web is nothing without content. Therefore, BioSites' success will depend on its content providers - the health sciences librarians in the region.

BioSites would never have seen the light of day were it not for the work of many dedicated people. The leadership of PSRML Associate Director Beryl Glitz, the staff at PSRML, and the Resource Library directors must be acknowledged. They identified the problem of Internet collection development as one PSRML might be able to influence, and then actually did something about it. The members of the Working Group, mentioned earlier, took their charge seriously and developed a working system in less than a year. Everyone involved in the project owes a great deal of thanks to John Kunze, Manager of the Advanced Technology Group (ATG) within the UCSF Library/CKM, for contributing his staff's time in programming BioSites. Special thanks go to Greg Williamson, the ATG software engineer who actually programmed the system. And lastly, thanks go out to the many health sciences librarians in the region who, through their contributions to and use of BioSites, will ultimately determine if it is a success.

Questions about BioSites can be sent to biosites@library.ucsf.edu. ❁

Librarians and the Webpage

by Craig Griffith, Head of Library Systems, CSUS

This is the second in a series of articles by Network librarians who have created homepages for their institutions. We hope you will find this series helpful. Please contact us if you would like to share your own experiences in homepage construction.

The dynamic global expansion and explosion of digital information has radically altered the value and uses of libraries, especially at the university or college level. Patron research in subject related areas is not defined by a physical library collection, as access to a vast digital source of information can be tapped with the World Wide Web. The homepages of the University Library of California State University, Sacramento, were authored with these principles in mind.

Before October of 1995, our library had no web presence. It was my desire to create one and with the blessing of staff and faculty, as well as the freedom to use realtively unlimited artistic creativity, the University Library homepages were born. In serving as the first and as the original University Library webmaster, and having instigated and participated in the installation, setup and operation of our web servers and ftp servers, I have extensive experience regarding how to start a homepage, to develop a web presence, to market one's efforts and to maintain currency of the content/information provided.

First and foremost, do not become obsessed with appearance. HTML (hypertext markup language) is transmitted as text; it's the instructions in the text that tells the client web browser what to do and where to do it. Keep your initial startup pages

simple, or textual, with your greatest emphasis on the content you wish to provide. Your goal is to make your pages attractive to those viewers who will come back to gain more information, so a textual presentation is just as powerful as any flash, pomp and circumstance. Simple HTML commands are good enough, and they load faster, too.

Second, your knowledge of HTML codes, of JAVA, JavaScript, FRAMES, forms and/or tables is an acquired one. Take your time and start slowly, looking at the source code of many different variations presented in homepages from around the world.

Third, your awareness of time will change in direct correlation to the maintenance time of your homepages. Content specific homepages often have many links to more information and these links are subject to change without notice. Set some time aside to verify your links on a regular basis. Nothing is more frustrating than finding an outdated or extinct link that exactly matches your search query. Updating your links shows that you care about what your audience has access to, and that you keep up on your homepage content and currency.

With these ideas in mind, mastering HTML code is not such a frightening prospect. I generally do not use any web

editor, like HotMetal or HotDog, primarily because I have memorized most of the codes and their uses. Many webpage authors do use them and find the implementation of their code writing a great deal easier.

1. Try to gain insight into how HTML works by visiting the many sites dedicated to explaining HTML, or by viewing the source code of pages already published on the Web.

2. ADVERTISE! Once you have written a homepage and placed it on a webserver somewhere out there with a verified URL (uniform resource locator) address, let everyone know where it is! There are free services on the 'net' which can help, such as Submit it, a system which adds your URL address to such search engines as Yahoo, LYCOS, InfoSeek, Excite and others. These search mechanisms are the method of choice most web surfers use to look for specific information on the Web, so if you are registered with them, potential viewers will find your homepage. If your content is valuable enough, they may bookmark your page and come back again and again. Another way to advertise your site is to post announcements in the related Usenet newsgroups. Like any marketing effort, the more you are seen, the greater your name recognition.

The University Library homepage points to a vast array of subject oriented information

(continued on page 4)

(Webpage, continued from page 3)

sources. In its infancy, it was not a visually attractive homepage, but it was full of regularly updated pointers to many information resources. It was initially registered using Submit It a week after it was originally written, and has since gone through many iterations which have ultimately led to its present form. As you become more comfortable with HTML, you may become interested in incorporating advanced mark-up while still providing a basic textual version; all this only after long hours of testing the various code types. I have extensively incorporated features like FRAMES, tables, forms, JavaScript and even server-side cgi into many supporting pages. **RULE OF THUMB:** the broader the viewing capabilities, the broader the versions of homepages you make available. Many people love FRAMES; eventually, provide them a FRAMES version. Some people only have access to non-graphical browsers like Lynx; provide a Lynx-friendly textual version. Make your code work for everyone rather than limiting it to high end graphical users; don't isolate the majority of your audience. Become browser sensitive. These ideas are the principal foundations upon which our homepages have been built. ★

A New Year A New Look

We have changed the look of *Latitudes*; however, the feature topics will remain the same. As usual, we welcome your comments and contributions. For your convenience, you will find a list of all our staff members, our phone and FAX numbers, and Internet addresses on the second page. We look forward to hearing from you. ★

Grateful Med News

The following is an update on the availability, use, and promotion of Grateful Med that may be of interest to you and your Grateful Med users.

Non-NTIS vendors

Since its very first version, Grateful Med (GM) has been sold only by the National Technical Information Service. Now GM is available from a number of sources. The software can be ordered from three book vendors, NACSCOPP, J.A. Majors, and Matthews Books. The following bookstores are also selling Grateful Med: Harvard Coop, Rush University, ASUCLA Students' Store, NIH bookstore and selected Border's.

Windows Version

At long last, a distribution date for the version that end users have been asking for has been announced. Dos GM (DOS) users were recently asked by the NTIS GM Subscription Department to indicate whether they wanted the Windows version shipped to them in January. For users with ftp capability, the software is available on NLM's ftp server: [nlmpubs.nlm.nih.gov](ftp://nlmpubs.nlm.nih.gov). Installation instructions are in the file `/grateful/windows/install.txt` and the software is in the self-extracting file `/grateful/windows/gmwin.exe`. This version will have the following features: MEDLINE searching only, Loansome Doc, modem and Internet connection, Network file server operation, compatibility to Windows 3.11, Windows '95 and Windows NT.

The American Journal of Nursing Company flat rate

The AJN Company is now offering a flat rate of \$99/year for unlimited Internet Grateful Med searching. Individuals can obtain more information and sign up by going to the AJN page (<http://www.ajn.org/mmcat/page1.html>) and clicking on any item listed on the menu. The password and code will be emailed to the registrant following payment.

IGM Online Registration

A MEDLARS password and code is conveniently available through online registration from the Internet Grateful Med home page (<http://igm.nlm.nih.gov>). For those patrons who have had problems registering for a MEDLARS code/password online, NLM reports that glitches sometimes occur. With a successful registration, Internet Grateful Med will immediately send a screen with the new user's id and password. If this screen is not received, the user should register a second time.

Grateful Med Brochures

An updated version of "Good Medicine for Your Information Needs", a brochure describing all versions of Grateful Med, including Internet and Windows GM, is available from PSRML. Please contact the RML for copies to display in your library or distribute to your patrons. ★

Jaketo Jaketak Kobban Alele Eo

(Identifying, Using, and Sharing Local Resources)

by Claire Hamasu

You know you're not in California, Arizona, or Nevada when the opening ceremony of the conference includes women from the islands welcoming you in song and delivering your lunch in handmade coconut frond baskets. You know you're leaving someplace special when the conference closes with the members of the hosting library association, again in song, distributing bamboo navigational charts of the Pacific Ocean currents (wappepe or wabebe) so that participants can find their way back once they've returned home.

The annual conference of the Pacific Island Association of Libraries and Archives was held on Majuro atoll in the Marshall Islands from November 5-8, 1996. Most participants were school or public librarians. The conference successfully blended the culture of the Marshall Islands with the library and archival concerns of locating sources of information, sharing resources, and marketing library services. A common

problem is that no depository library has been designated for many of the island governments in the Pacific. Librarians find themselves making regular visits to government agencies in order to collect and preserve these historical records. The annual PIALA meeting serves as an opportunity to bring extra copies of government reports to share with colleagues.

Claire Hamasu, Outreach Coordinator, was part of a panel, including Justina Langidrik, Assistant Secretary for Preventive Care, and Marita Edwin, Director of Youth to Youth in Health. This session of the PIALA conference addressed information needs and resources of health professionals. Ms. Langidrik spoke of the viability of traditional Marshalese lifestyle for maintaining health and Ms. Edwin showed videotapes created by her organization to promote a healthy lifestyle. Ms. Hamasu, talked about the resources available for Western medicine and the sharing of resources facilitated by the structure of

the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

PSRML has been represented at the conference since its first meeting by Irene Lovas, former Network Coordinator. With each visit, Ms. Lovas took advantage of the contacts made among the PIALA membership to arrange for visits to health care facilities and to introduce health professionals to NLM resources, as well as to attend the conference. Her encouragement of the librarians at the University of Guam led to the university's Robert F. Kennedy library becoming a Resource Library for this area of the Pacific. PSRML staff look forward to further collaboration with PIALA members, the Resource Library and other health sciences libraries in the Pacific Basin.

(The next time you're visiting the RML look for the wappepe, the outrigger canoe and head band (wut) that were gifts to the conference participants.) ★

RML Exhibit for Biomed's 50th

The Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library at the University of California, Los Angeles, will be launching its 50th Birthday celebration with an exhibit in the display case at the entrance to the library. It will feature a timeline which traces important events and dates involving the Biomedical Library, the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Public Health and the Life Sciences Division of the College of Letters and Sciences. The Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library (PSRML), 27 years young, will be featured in one of six display modules that reflect different aspects of the Library's history. The exhibit will open in late January. If you stop by the library, you are always welcome to visit us on the 12th Stack Level! ★

Regional Advisory Committee meets at UCLA

The first meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee for the new RML contract was held at UCLA on December 4, 1996. The Committee is smaller than in previous years but still includes representatives from Primary Access Libraries, Resource Libraries, and various health professions, as well as one representative from each of the three MLA chapters in our region: MLGSCA, NCNMLG, and HPCMLA.

This first meeting was devoted to a review of some of the PSRML programs being developed in the new contract. RAC members were asked to picture possible roles for themselves in these programs and suggest ways of fulfilling their responsibilities as the RAC. A lively discussion ensued and members were asked to send in further ideas for collaborations and partnerships with PSRML. All members agreed that an annual meeting was important

and should focus on specific RML priorities. To conduct ongoing business, a RAC Listserv will be established.

PSRML is very grateful to the individuals who agreed to serve on our RAC and we look forward to a productive collaboration. We encourage MLA members in the region to contact their representative about PSRML and Network issues.

RAC Members for 1996-98 include:

Primary Access Librarians:

Jane Thomsen (Carson-Tahoe Hospital, Carson City, NV); Nancy Firchow (O'Connor Hospital, San Jose, CA); Michael Kronenfeld (Maricopa Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ); Mary White (Kaiser Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA).

Resource Librarians: Karen Butter (UC San Francisco);

Nelson Gilman (USC); Joan Zenan (University of Nevada, Reno).

MLA Chapter Representatives:

HPCMLA - Mabel Trafford (Tripler Army Medical Center, Tripler, HI); MLGSCA - Liz Gnerre (House Ear Institute, Los Angeles, CA); NCNMLG - Billie White (Mercy Medical Center, Redding, CA).

Health Professional Representatives:

AHEC - Gerald Ackerman (Northeastern AHEC, Elko, NV); Medicine - Ralph Spada, Valley Medical Group, Lompoc, CA; Nursing - Jan Swanson, Samuel Merritt College, Oakland, CA; Special Populations/Community Based Organizations - Russ Toth (AIDS Clearinghouse, Los Angeles, CA); Public Health - Bill Wood (University of Hawaii, School of Public Health, HI). ★

The Evolution of Casting the Net

by Jules Darren

Recently there has been some discussion about the role of the *Casting the Net* column. The column made its debut in the September/October 1994 issue of *Latitudes* as a way to spotlight news items, descriptions of Internet resources, tips and problems encountered during a time when Internet use was not as widespread as it is today.

The time has come for all of us to learn how to better manage the tools in the new environment. While *Latitudes* will still encourage non-users to get connected and continue to feature practical, how-to articles and spotlight interesting netsightings, the *Casting the Net* column will have a more in-depth issue-oriented focus. Articles in the new *Casting the Net* column will highlight and critically analyze emerging trends in the electronic environment. Examples of future topics include security issues ranging from encryption to Intranets; copyright and licensing; electronic journals; future means of document delivery; and the changing role(s) and responsibilities of library professionals.

The logic behind the shift in focus is that while these topics can be complex and their discussion may present controversial or conflicting views they are of great importance to health and information professionals. Our aim is to increase our awareness; facilitate and encourage discussion of the issues; to anticipate change and future trends; and to find ways that we as librarians can strategically position ourselves within our organizations and profession to make the best use of the tools. Look for the new *Casting the Net* in the next issue of *Latitudes*. ★

Join PSRML at the Joint Meeting

There will be lots of opportunity for you to meet and interact with PSRML staff at this year's joint meeting of the Northern California & Nevada Medical Library Group and the Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona at the Claremont Resort in Berkeley from January 26-28, 1997.

For those of you who are new to the Internet, Jules Darren, our Information Technology Coordinator, will be offering a pre-conference workshop to get you started. "Getting Started with the Internet and the World Wide Web" will cover the effective use of search engines, the evaluation of resources that you find, and the selection of an Internet service provider.

Come and meet us in the exhibit hall. Let us know what is happening at your institu-

tions. Compliment us on what we are doing right. Advise us on how we can serve you better. The creators of BioSites will be staffing the booth with us. They can give you a tour and explain how you can make use of their efforts at your institution. (See article on page 1).

PSRML is cosponsoring the Monday session entitled "Electronic Publishing and Resource Sharing: How will our Document Delivery Models Change?". This session will explore issues related to the effect that the increasing availability of electronic journals will have on traditional models of resource sharing and document delivery. The session will begin with a review and demonstration of information retrieval systems designed to provide the end user with convenient desktop access to full-text of articles and other scientific information. Next,

three views of the future of resource sharing will be provided by Alison Bunting, PSRML Director, (the academic library and network perspective), Alan Trembly, Director of Marketing/Advertising, BioMedNet USA, (the publisher perspective) and Lucy B. Thomas, Director of the Reeves Medical Library, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital (the hospital library perspective). Finally, a moderated discussion with the panel and the audience will provide an opportunity to exchange views and gather additional ideas and opinions on the issues facing health information providers as we move from print to electronic information resources.

Finally, on Tuesday join us for lunch at the PSRML and MLA Updates session. We will fill you in on what we have been doing the past year and our plans for the next year. ★

Panning for Gold

Kudos to Sally Kilby of the California Hospital Medical Center Library in Los Angeles! She received an honorable mention for the search strategy she submitted to NLM in response to the "Gold Standard Search" article in the May-June 1996 issue of the *NLM Technical Bulletin*. She was one of two librarians to receive an honorable mention; no first place or other awards were given for this search.

**The search request was:
Your client wants information on the cost of
making health care accessible to rural America.**

The most comprehensive coverage of this search request topic can be found in the ELHILL HealthSTAR file, available by selecting HEALTH or HSTAR from the "Other Databases" screen in GRATEFUL MED. It is also now available in Internet GRATEFUL MED; click there on "Search Other Files" and select HealthSTAR. More information about this search can be found in the September-October 1996 issue (No. 292) of the *NLM Technical Bulletin*.

Sally stated that she has always wanted to do a "Gold Standard Search" for the challenge of it. This is her first submission and it **WAS** a challenge! Sally, who is also an RN, is the Medical Librarian/Coordinator of AV Services at California Hospital and the Corporate Librarian for the UniHealth System. She does a lot of searching on healthcare trends, on curriculum development for nursing and allied health training programs, and on role augmentation for professional nurses. In her "spare" time, she is the mom of two school-age children and is also a writer. She serves on the advisory board of CINAHL and was honored as a hospital "Nurse of the Year" a few years ago.

Congratulations on a job well done! ★

Online Services Reference Manual for Sale

You Won't Find This in Webster's

In response to the need expressed on the MEDLIB-1 listserv, the National Library of Medicine has arranged for the National Online Training Center to offer printed copies of chapters from the Online Services Reference Manual. When additional chapters are available or current chapters have been updated, a notice will appear in the *NLM Technical Bulletin* and in *Latitudes*. The pages will be 3-hole punched for easy insertion in any three ring binder.

The cost will be \$10.00 a chapter which includes U.S. Postal Service express mail delivery. Payment must be either by check or credit card. If using a credit card, the order may be faxed. Please include your complete address and phone numbers. There can be no phone orders, purchase orders or invoices. To order any of the chapters listed, please send request(s) with a check or credit card number to:

Mr. Charles Rapisarda
The National Online Training Center
NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region
1216 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10029
FAX: (212) 534-7042

The following are the chapters available and their last revision date:

AIDSDRUGS	Chapter 7	rev. 5/94
AIDSLINE	Chapter 8	rev. 4/95
AIDSTRIALS	Chapter 9	rev. 5/94
ALERT	Chapter 10	rev. 3/96
BIOETHICSLINE	Chapter 12	rev. 10/94
CATLINE	Chapter 15	rev. 2/96
CHEMLINE	Chapter 17	rev. 2/95
ChemID	Chapter 16	rev. 3/95
DIRLINE	Chapter 19	rev. 5/94
ELHILL Searching	Chapter 3	rev. 10/95
MEDLINE	Chapter 6	rev. 10/95
POPLINE	Chapter 25	rev. 6/95
SERLINE	Chapter 26	rev. 8/94
TOXLINE/TOXLIT	Chapter 27	rev. 11/94
TOXNET	Chapter 28	rev. 6/95
CCRIS	Chapter 29	rev. 10/94
DART/ETICBACK	Chapter 30	rev. 6/95
IRIS	Chapter 34	rev. 6/95

The National Library of Medicine is moving toward more electronic publishing of search tools and publications to take advantage of new technology. This allows staff to easily maintain publications and post timely updates instead of waiting until an entire publication is completed and sent to the printer. It also reduces cost. Even though the Manual is sold by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), NLM must pay NTIS to provide this service.

For users who have Internet/ftp capabilities and prefer to download chapters, they may still do so by connecting to the NLM Home Page (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>), selecting Publications About Using NLM Programs and Services, Online Services Reference Manual. The updated chapters are available electronically in three formats: Adobe Acrobat pdf, WordPerfect, and PostScript. ★

Do you fit the following definition?

Are you a library, information center, institution, or organization that has its own collection of health sciences materials (books, journals, or audiovisuals) from which, in part, you provide information services to health professionals? Do your "information services" include any or all of the following?

- Providing interlibrary loan service, including contributing to SERHOLD and using DOCLINE
- Answering or referring reference questions
- Performing computerized or manual bibliographic searches

Do your "health professionals" include practitioners, investigators, educators, administrators, and/or students in the health science/ biomedical disciplines?

If so, then YOU can be a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and benefit from its many services. Please consider joining your colleagues in this nationwide network that supports the goal of providing equal access to biomedical information to all U.S. health professionals.

Return your Network Membership Questionnaire TODAY, whether you are joining or renewing or may consider doing so at some future date. To date, we have received about 50% of the questionnaires we mailed in November as part of our Network Membership Campaign. If you have additional questions about Network membership or if you did not receive the questionnaire, call Heidi Sandstrom, Network Coordinator at PSRML. Thank you for your support! ★

Direct Dial Logon/Logoff to the Online SERHOLD Updating System

PSRML Network Coordinator Appointed

As some of you may already know, the logon menu screen for **direct dial** to the Online SERHOLD Updating System has been changed by NLM. We have received a new logon/logoff script; you will need to update your procedures manual with this new information. I've tried it, and it does work!

We are delighted to announce that **Heidi Sandstrom** has been officially appointed as Network Coordinator at PSRML. Heidi has served in an acting capacity in this position since Irene Lovas left us in August 1996. Many of you already know Heidi since she served as the Network Assistant for a year while completing her MLS degree at UCLA. Heidi comes to us with many skills and accomplishments. She has worked for several years as a nurse in southern California, most recently acting as Quality Improvement Coordinator for the Daniel Freeman Hospitals from 1990 to 1994. She has worked part time in the Reference Division at the UCLA Biomedical Library and completed an internship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. I know you will join me in welcoming Heidi; she is looking forward to working with regional librarians in the NN/LM's resource sharing programs. ★

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Please replace p.68 and p.69 of your Online SERHOLD Updating System Procedures Manual (September 1995) with the following:

12.6 Remote Terminal Services to the NLM TCP/IP Network

General Information: The National Library of Medicine provides remote modem users terminal services to its TCP/IP network through a 16-line telephone rotary. Local Washington, DC metropolitan users may access the terminal server by dialing (301) 402-6038. Non-metropolitan users may dial 800-841-2605. The Terminal Servers are for authorized use only.

Speeds up to 28800 baud may be achieved without the use of data compression. The NLM Terminal Server lines support the MNP 5 and CCITT V.42 bis (Maximum achievable speed 115200) data compression standards. Other modem-line parameters include no parity, 8 data bits, and 1 stop bit.

Hardware/Software Prerequisites for Remote Users: The remote user must have a computer with access to a modem and a communications package that may be used for dialout. Popular PC communications packages such as ProComm Plus and CrossTalk are good examples. Typically, the communications package would support the ANSI terminal standard and a few of the DEC VT terminal standards. It should be noted, however, that the remote computer is not limited to being a PC. Instead, the remote computer may very well be a Macintosh computer, a UNIX workstation, or any ANSI/DEC-VT emulating terminal with access to a modem for dialout.

Getting Connected: [Please note that you must type in the words before (Enter) on the instructions. For example, you will type **script "serhold"** using a space between the words script and "serhold" and typing quotes around the word serhold. Then you will press the (Enter) key.] The remote user will dial the appropriate telephone number and establish a connection. The NLM Terminal Server will respond with:

AutoProtocol Detect — Begin protocol or enter 4 returns for interactive mode. (Enter) (Enter) (Enter) (Enter)

Government system for official use only. Unauthorized access is prohibited.

Enter NES username> Serhold (Enter)

~~~~~  
**NOTE:** IN THE FUTURE, you may also get a "Enter NES Password:" YOUR PASSWORD will be SERHOLD.  
 ~~~~~

nes-ts1> script "serhold" (Enter)

National Library of Medicine Screen appears. Under Library Processing Selections, "C - CICS NLM Use only" appears. C (Enter)

You will see the normal CICS screen.

When you logoff: nes-ts1> quit (Enter)

.....

Don't hesitate to call or email Heidi Sandstrom, Network Coordinator if any of this instruction is unclear. ★

Latitudes Readership Survey ...Please!

In the last issue of *Latitudes*, volume 5, number 6, there is a readership survey on page 13. We have received some of the surveys, and would like to get more, so if you have not returned the survey, please return it to PSRML as soon as possible.

Because many institutions now have Internet access and *Latitudes* is available on the Internet, we might consider limiting the amount of print copy. Therefore, it is important to indicate on the survey if you want to continue receiving a print copy of *Latitudes*.

We greatly appreciate your help and the prompt return of this survey. ★

Library Improvement Program Underway

The Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library (PSRML) is in the process of identifying hospital libraries as potential sites for implementing its Library Improvement Program. This program assists hospitals in improving the level of information services they currently provide to their health professionals and takes eighteen months to fully implement at each site. Two to three sites will be selected during the first year of our 1996-2001 contract and additional sites will be selected during the third year of the contract. The PSRML, under contract to the National Library of Medicine, is fulfilling one of its primary goals through this program, as it works with health care institutions to provide health professionals with timely, convenient access to biomedical and health care information through the Internet and other electronic resources.

The Library Improvement Program focuses on bringing information technology to small hospital libraries that have no form of access to MEDLARS databases. It can also assist these hospitals in meeting the Joint Commission Accreditation Standard for knowledge-based information which states, "The hospital provides systems, resources, and services to meet its needs for knowledge-based information in patient care, education, research, and management."

Potential Library Improvement sites must have the following minimum requirements to be eligible for the Program:

- a minimum collection of ten current journal titles
- twenty-five books with 50% of the books published within the last five years
- one salaried employee responsible for library services for at least .25 FTE
- a minimum of 120 square feet of dedicated library space, easily accessible to all hospital personnel
- the availability of a dedicated

telephone line.

Interested institutions will be enrolled as Library Improvement Program sites under the following agreement:

The PSRML will, at no cost to the library improvement site:

- conduct an initial needs assessment of the library's services, equipment and software
- loan the library equipment and software necessary to access GRATEFUL MED, DOCLINE and the Internet for eighteen (18) months
- provide training of hospital personnel on computer hardware and software, GRATEFUL MED, DOCLINE, the Internet, and other available information resources
- provide consulting services on connecting to the Internet
- perform baseline and subsequent evaluations of the hospital's information services

In consultation with PSRML, the participating library will:

- register as a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)
- designate a contact person for the Program
- establish an Internet connection for the library

- cover the costs of searching and ordering articles
- provide library services which include reference, access to photocopying, DOCLINE/Loansome Doc service and online searching. Services not already in place must be implemented within sixty (60) days after the start of the Program, or the facility will be terminated as a Program site.
- promote the Program to hospital personnel
- issue brief quarterly reports and a final report to PSRML at the conclusion of the eighteen month Program

Based on results of the assessment of the Library Improvement Program, PSRML will design an education and training session for non-users at the Program site to increase their knowledge and usage of information products and services. A follow-up of these non-user health professionals will be conducted to determine the effect of this training session on their information seeking behavior.

If you have further questions about the Library Improvement Program, we would welcome your call. We are excited about this new opportunity to expand library services in our region and to help more libraries become a vital part of the National Information Infrastructure. ★

Historical Happening!

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), as part of its outreach effort, is presenting free hands-on workshops around the country on using the HISTLINE and *Images from the History of Medicine* databases. The Regional Medical Library will be hosting this traveling workshop on February 25, 1997 at its training facility on the 12th Stack Level of the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library. These workshops are aimed at health professionals, historians and students who wish to use the NLM's historical resources but cannot travel to the Library at Bethesda. Librarians are also welcome, but the workshop is too elementary for experienced ELHILL searchers.

Each 2.5 hour workshop consists of a verbal description and online demonstration of the two databases, followed by a hands-on tutorial. Philip Teigen, Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division, NLM, will be the instructor. Please pass this information on to others at your institution who may be interested. For more information, call Kathy Donahue, Librarian of History and Special Collections at the Biomedical Library. She can be reached at (310) 825-6940. ★

Resource Library Directors Meeting, 1996

The annual meeting of the Resource Library Directors was held on November 12, 1996, at the University of California, San Francisco in the Library and Center for Knowledge Management, one of the region's Resource Libraries. The meeting took a different form this year with the entire morning session being devoted to a discussion of electronic publishing and its future impact on resource sharing within the NN/LM.

Many familiar journals are becoming available in full-text on the Web and new electronic journals with no paper equivalent are being added to the resources available in biomedicine. This change from the traditional paper-based system will have far reaching effects on libraries and on the system of interlibrary borrowing and lending which has long been at the foundation of the NN/LM. PSRML wanted to explore possible future scenarios with the RL directors in order to begin preparing for this change.

Various models of access were discussed but attendees all agreed that any future system of access to electronic content would need to meet certain criteria for the end-user:

1. Least intervention
2. Speed
3. User friendliness
4. Reasonable cost
5. One-stop shopping
6. Readability of information
7. Ability to deal with market differentiation (rural vs urban; health professionals vs patients).
8. Easy payment method

PSRML has an obligation to educate and prepare libraries in the region for this new environment. Because of this, PSRML is co-sponsoring a program at the upcoming Joint Meeting of the Medical Library Groups of Northern and Southern California, Arizona and Nevada (MLGSCA and NCNMLG) which will include speakers from the National Library of Medicine, the Regional Medical Library, a hospital library and an electronic publishing company. Programs like this and information made available through the newsletter, web site, and other methods will help prepare regional libraries for dealing with new methods of accessing biomedical information in the future.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to updates and discussions on a variety of regional issues. New PSRML programs were described, including the Library Improvement Program (see p. 10), the Internet and Evidence-Based Medicine classes being developed, and BioSites, the web-based resource developed by PSRML and Resource Library staff, for information on substantive Internet resources (see article on p. 1).

One agenda item was a discussion of fax transmission of ILL requests by Resource Libraries, and whether or not a standard fee could be charged. Directors did not feel that a standard fee would be workable but did agree on a recommended fee and reiterated the following standardized definitions:

Faxing is a mode of delivery for ILL requests and if Resource Libraries charge for this delivery method, a recommended fee for health sciences libraries in Region 7 is \$5.00 IN ADDITION TO the regional ILL fee of \$10. This total charge of \$15 for faxing an article will include up to a MAXIMUM of 15 pages per article.

Rush fax for ILL requests takes the request out of the normal work flow pattern so that the item can be delivered within 5 hours. Requesting libraries must inform the RL that the request is coming and should indicate the day and time the item is needed. There is no recommended charge for rush fax delivery within the region BUT ALL RESOURCE LIBRARIES CHARGE A RUSH FEE FOR THIS SPECIALIZED SERVICE.

Clinical emergency fax is the delivery of an ILL request for urgent patient care, which takes the request out of the normal work flow pattern so that the item can be delivered within 1 hour. Requesting libraries must inform the RL that the request is coming and that it is a clinical emergency. There is no recommended charge for clinical emergency rush fax delivery within the region. Some Resource Libraries waive the rush processing fee for clinical emergencies, others do not. ★

Upcoming Events

December 1996

16 PDQ passwords became defunct.
Use MEDLARS passwords.

January 1997

26-28 Joint Meeting of the NCNMLG
& MLGSCA
Claremont Resort, Berkeley, CA

February 1997

1 NLM Resource Grants Deadline

March 1997

24-25 *"Fundamental of MEDLARS"
Los Angeles, CA

April 1997

13-15 The Emerging Health Information
Infrastructure
Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

June 1997

1 NLM Resource Grants Deadline

***"Fundamental of MEDLARS"** class is offered by the **Online Training Center**, call **800-338-7657** and choose **2** from the menu.

PDQ Passwords

PDQ passwords were discontinued on December 16, 1996. To access the PDQ database you now must use your MEDLARS User ID code and password. The PDQ (Physician Data Query) database provides up-to-the-minute information to physicians and their patients on cancer therapy and cancer clinical trials. *

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