
Communications to the Editor

To the Editor:

The Medical Library Association's Nominating Committee requests permission to have the following notice published in a conspicuous spot in the next issue of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*:

The Nominating Committee invites members of the Medical Library Association to submit for its consideration the names of personal members of the Association who in their opinion would serve the Association well as president, secretary, treasurer, director or Nominating Committee member. State the individual's qualifications as completely and accurately as possible and specify the office for which he is being recommended. All suggestions will be gratefully received and treated as confidential communications. Please submit recommendations to the Nominating Committee chairman, Helen Yast, American Hospital Association, 840 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

HELEN YAST, *Chairman*

MLA 1969/70 Nominating Committee
Chicago, Illinois

To the Editor:

It may be conceded that education for health sciences librarianship in the United States has become more formalized and structured. The significance of American achievement in this area, catalyzed by funding made available by the Medical Library Assistance Act, was very clear at the Third International Conference on Medical Librarianship held in Amsterdam in April of 1969. The coalescence of health sciences librarianship as a specialization, the definition of major areas of specialized knowledge, the integration of information science, the design of innovative courses, the development of strong cooperative relationships between library schools, medical schools, and other university departments, the initiation of a number of educational research projects, the extensive use of field work as a component element of training programs—all of this is now very apparent. The academic degree programs and internship programs have expanded and intensified their efforts so that some 100 per-

sons each year graduate from these two types of programs. The continuing education programs of MLA, AHA, etc. have also been intensified during this period.

Publication of an "Annotated Bibliography of Education for Medical Librarianship, 1940-1968" by Miss Sherrilyne Shirley in the October issue of the *Bulletin* is therefore timely in view of the increasing number of persons engaged in, or contemplating, educational programs in this rapidly developing field of librarianship. Our appetites are whetted by the statement that all shades of opinion in this "controversial topic" will be represented equally and that "all the important references have . . . been included." However, what promised to be a significant contribution proves to have fizzled like a damp squib. *Parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus.*

Unfortunately, the "Annotated Bibliography" does not convey the vitality, strength, innovation, and direction of recent activity. The text which glues together the annotations is characterized by a lack of insight into the main currents of change. Furthermore, the omissions are glaring, the principal one being the failure to include the "Proceedings of an Invitational Conference on Education for Health Sciences Librarianship" (1) held in Seattle in September 1967. This document which contains papers by Brodman, Asheim, Bodemer, Kronick, Rees, Strother, Pings, Orr and Esterquest, with accompanying discussion, presents an integrated synthesis of recent developments and reflects the viewpoints of practicing librarians, library school educators, medical personnel, concerned with the basic issues and problems underlying education for health sciences librarianship.

Other surprising omissions include an article by Brodman (2) on the relationship between master's degree programs and post-master's internships and an article by Rees (3) which contains a classification and a more recent inventory of courses than the Winter 1968 issue of *Journal of Education for Librarianship* (number 29 of Bibliography). Yet another omission is the seminal paper by Fleming (4) published in 1957 which was a landmark in the history of medical library education in that he clearly

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EDITOR

advanced the concept of specialization in the library school curriculum. This paper marked the transition from the notion of an introductory course in medical librarianship to the concept of an integrated curriculum.

In summary, the Bibliography neither charts the major streams of recent efforts nor reflects the great progress made in the past decade in the development of diverse educational programs. There is every evidence within the library schools that education for health sciences librarianship is a pace-setter and may offer a model for similar specialization in other fields. It is unfortunate that the Bibliography underestimates the extent and significance of the positive achievements realized.

ALAN M. REES
Cleveland, Ohio

REFERENCES

1. LIEBERMAN, IRVING, ed. Proceedings of an Invitational Conference on Education for Health Sciences Librarianship, September 10-12, 1967, edited by Irving Lieberman. Seattle, School of Librarianship, University of Washington, 1968.
2. BRODMAN, ESTELLE. Interrelationships between academic degree programs and postdegree internship training. *Bull. Med. Libr. Ass.* 50: 365-367, Oct. 1968.
3. REES, ALAN M. Professional medical library training in the United States in relation to the qualifications of medical library manpower in Ohio. *Bull. Med. Libr. Ass.* 50: 368-379, Oct. 1968.
4. FLEMING, THOMAS. Medical librarianship, a mid-century survey: a symposium. Present status and future possibilities of education for librarianship in the medical sciences. *Bull. Med. Libr. Ass.* 45: 339-353, Oct. 1957.

To the Editor:

In your July issue, you published a letter from Mrs. Frances G. Livingston of Louisville, calling attention to the disadvantages of the large size and weight of the five volumes of 1968 *Cumulated Index Medicus*. Experience in

this and other libraries is in complete agreement with Mrs. Livingston.

For 1969 *Cumulated Index Medicus*, we are planning eight volumes instead of five. The total contents of *C.I.M.* will be about 10 percent greater, but each volume will be smaller, and the volumes will be more nearly uniform in size. Preliminary cost estimates indicate that the greater number of volumes will not increase the cost by more than most libraries would probably be willing to spend for the added convenience and durability.

We trust that this decision will meet with general favor.

CLIFFORD A. BACHRACH, M.D.
Bethesda, Maryland

To the Editor:

The Medical Library Association's Nominating Committee requests permission to have the following notice published in a conspicuous spot in the next issue of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*:

The Nominating Committee invites members of the Medical Library Association to submit for its consideration the names of personal members of the Association who in their opinion would serve the Association well as president, secretary, treasurer, director or Nominating Committee member. State the individual's qualifications as completely and accurately as possible and specify the office for which he is being recommended. All suggestions will be gratefully received and treated as confidential communications. Please submit recommendations to the Nominating Committee chairman, Helen Yast, American Hospital Association, 840 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

HELEN YAST, CHAIRMAN
MLA 1969/70 Nominating Committee