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Library News and Notes: Alumni Medical Library

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1995

# Library News & Notes: Winter 1995

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# LIBRARY

News & Notes

A publication of the Alumni Medical Library  
at Boston University Medical Center



Winter 1995

## From the Library Director



David S. Ginn

Welcome to the first issue of *Library News and Notes*, a quarterly communication from the Alumni Medical Library at Boston University Medical Center. Through this newsletter we plan to inform the BUMC community of new services and resources, changes in policy, educational programs, and methods of information access.

Since my arrival at the Alumni Medical Library in May, 1993, the library staff has focused on providing expanded access to electronic resources with networked versions of MEDLINE and other databases now available to users in the library as well as from offices or homes. We also plan to renovate and expand the Library's 11th floor Learning Resource Center (LRC) this summer. When completed, this new facility will provide access to over 50 computers in a general applications lab and classroom.

As we continue to provide and facilitate access to electronic resources, we also need to ensure that the library functions effectively as a place in which collections and resources are used. This year, we will begin to address the need for an improved book collection and to use data from the journal usage study (described on page 3) to help us build the strongest collection possible. Later this year we will also review the library's physical facility to identify reorganization and renovation needs.

I am pleased to say that we are moving to meet our commitment to provide the information resources, services, and programs necessary for a leading academic health sciences center, and to build a library staff to achieve our goals. As with other academic medical center libraries, the current shift in emphasis from ownership of materials to access to information only increases our responsibility to help point patrons to what they need, when and where they need it, and to provide the necessary educational support. While the provision of effective library and information services will continue to present a rapidly moving and changing target, we are confident that we have made a good start.

## BUMC MEDLINE System Expands

In November, 1994, the Alumni Medical Library's BUMC MEDLINE system was expanded and renamed BUMC MEDLINE *Plus* to reflect the addition of three databases: AIDSLINE, BIOETHICSLINE and HEALTH (Health Planning and Administration). The BUMC MEDLINE *Plus* system uses the same OVID software, developed by CD Plus, Inc., as the earlier system.

See the related article on page 3 for information about training workshops and searching assistance on these databases:

**MEDLINE** includes over seven million citations and abstracts of journal literature in medicine, dentistry, psychiatry, public health, and other biomedical sciences from 1966 to the present.

**AIDSLINE** dates from 1980 and includes more than 100,000 citations and abstracts to world literature on the biomedical, epidemiological, social, clinical, and research aspects of AIDS and HIV.

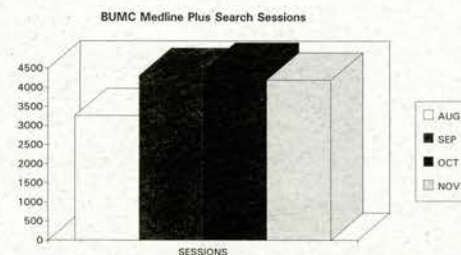
**BIOETHICSLINE** covers the ethical and public policy aspects

of medicine, with nearly 50,000 citations and abstracts from 1975 to the present.

**HEALTH** (Health Planning and Administration) includes approximately 750,000 citations and abstracts to world literature on healthcare delivery, facilities, administration, finance, quality assurance, licensure and accreditation.

**BUMC MEDLINE *Plus*** databases can be accessed free of charge from terminals in the library. In addition, remote access from home or office computers is available to BUMC faculty, staff, residents and alumni for \$200 per year for unlimited searching and at no charge to BUMC students.

Contact the Reference Desk at 638-4228 for information about **BUMC MEDLINE *Plus*** or to apply for a password for remote access searching.



# From the Library's Archives



*"A Corner in the Library"*

This picture, captioned "A Corner in the Library," appeared in the 1904 Boston University School of Medicine catalog.

The description includes information that students "have the use of the reading room during term time from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. The Librarian is in attendance every day from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. to loan books, and to assist the students in their work."

The catalog adds that the library contained "about forty-five hundred valuable volumes, including many important works of reference" and "from thirty to forty of the leading homeopathic and allopathic journals." (Compare this to the Library's current collection of more than 110,000 volumes and 1300 current journal subscriptions.)

# Computers in the Library

As you walk through the Alumni Medical Library, you will see that many changes have occurred in the past year. One such change is the addition of ten Macintosh work stations in the Reference Area on the 12th floor. You can use these workstations to access the BUMC MEDLINE Plus databases and the variety of medical education programs which support several first- and second-year medical school courses.

A total of ten educational programs run on 19 Macintosh computers in the library. Three of the pro-

grams, Keyboard Publishing's Pathology, Histology Video Review, and Microbiology Lab Atlas use the Slice of Life Video Disc. Fact sheets which explain the location of the computers and describe the programs are available on the rack by the Reference Desks.

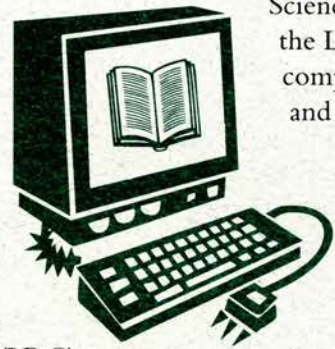
This past summer, the Hewlett Packard Corporation donated 13 computers, allowing the Library's Learning Resource Center (LRC)

to install a Novell local area network with Windows applications, creating a computer teaching classroom for the medical campus. In January, the School of Public Health, the School of Graduate Dentistry, and the Graduate Division of

Sciences began using the LRC for their computer classes and labs.

Additional changes are planned for the LRC in the coming year. Renovations are scheduled

for late spring, when the Student Computer Lab will be incorporated into the LRC to create a center for academic as well as general computing for students and faculty (in addition to the computer classroom). The new facility is scheduled for completion in September. Look for details in the next newsletter!



# Educational Opportunities at the Alumni Medical Library

In the past year, over 400 students, faculty, and staff of BUMC have taken advantage of the educational programs offered by the Reference Staff of the Alumni Medical Library. Developed and taught by Kathy Schilling, User Education Coordinator, and Joseph Harzbecker, Coordinator for Reference Services, these instructional programs are planned to meet a variety of information needs.

Library training sessions typically last 30-90 minutes and are scheduled several times throughout each month. Consult the monthly **Calendar of Workshops & Training** for a comprehensive schedule and description of all regularly scheduled classes.

**MEDLINE Introductory Workshop** includes instruction on searching MEDLINE and using MeSH (Medical Subject Headings). Recommended for all searchers, the session includes practice time and individualized assistance.

**MEDLINE: Beyond the Basics** is for those who have searching experience and want to improve their search skills or learn more sophisticated techniques. Students are invited to bring individual



*Katherine Schilling, User Education Coordinator, teaches a MEDLINE workshop in the library's Learning Resource Center.*

questions and search problems to class.

**Sources of Grants & Information Funding** introduces a variety of resources on grants and funding opportunities, including the **SPIN** (Sponsored Programs Information Network) database.

**INNOPAC Training** covers the search features of the BU libraries' online catalog, including author, title, keyword, and subject searching.

**Library Tours & Orientations** provide an introduction to the services and policies of the Alumni Medical Library. The locations and use of a variety of resources are presented.

Pre-registration is required for all workshops. Patrons may check the registration notebook located at the

Reference Desk or register by phone by calling 638-4228.

The library continues to expand its educational offerings. New workshops on AIDSLINE, BIOETHICSLINE, AND HEALTH (Health Planning & Administration) are being developed. Over the next year, look for additional workshops on Internet tools and resources, Gopher, Mosaic, and other topics.

Course instructors and faculty are encouraged to work with library staff in developing workshops on information skills for their courses. Content, scope, and scheduling of sessions can be individualized to meet the needs of each group.

*For more information, call the Reference Desk (638-4228).*

## Journal Usage Study Underway

Last February, the Alumni Medical Library began a study to analyze the use of the journal collection by counting all journals prior to reshelving them. The purpose of the study, which revealed over 120,000 uses of the journal collection in the first six months, is to provide data in support of evaluation and development of the collection. By identifying titles which receive little or no use or titles with exorbitant "cost per use," the library can determine if a specific title should be considered for deletion.

New journal titles are considered for purchase and added to the library's collection with the support of additional data and information. For example, interlibrary loan statistics are analyzed to identify titles which are borrowed on a regular basis. In addition, new journal announcements and purchase recommendation forms submitted by faculty, staff, and students are used to determine which journals the library will receive.

Through this information, the library will be able to build the strongest collection possible. We will be sharing some of the journal usage study results with you in the next library newsletter.

### Library Hours

Monday - Thursday	8am - 11pm
Friday	8am - 10pm
Saturday	10am - 8pm
Sunday	10am - 11pm

David S. Ginn  
Library Director



Lynne A. Silvers  
Associate Director

### Telephone numbers

Circulation	638-4232
Reference	638-4228 or 4226
Interlibrary Loan	638-4270
Director's Office	638-4230

# Staff Changes at Alumni Medical Library

In addition to a new library director, there have been several other changes in Alumni Medical Library staff over the past 18 months:

**Nancy Golden**, formerly Head of Public Services, left the library in July to move to St. Paul, Minnesota. Nancy had worked at the Alumni Medical Library for over 16 years.

New to the Alumni Medical Library but certainly well known to the BUMC community is **Doreen Nicastro**, Head of Educational Computing and Learning Resources. Doreen joined the library staff in July, 1993, and is responsible for managing the library's networks and integrating computer-based instruction into the curriculum since 1982, holding positions at the School of Public Health and in Information Technology. She currently holds a faculty appointment at the School of Public Health.

**Don Foucher** joined the library staff in October, 1993, as Systems Administrator, with responsibility for maintaining the **BUMC MEDLINE Plus** system as well as other computer networks in the library. Don came to the Alumni Medical Library from positions in several computer manufacturing companies, including Honeywell and GTE Sylvania.

**Katherine Schilling** became User Education Coordinator in November, 1993. Kathy came to BUMC from the Falk

Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. She is pursuing an Ed.D. at Boston University.

Administrative Secretary **Debbie Bruno** came to the Alumni Medical Library in April, 1994. Formerly an executive assistant at John Hancock, Debbie is working on her Associate's Degree at Massasoit Community College.

**Joseph Harzbecker** was promoted to Coordinator for Reference Service in July, 1994. Joe has been Reference Librarian at the Alumni Medical Library since 1986.

In August, **Lynne Silvers** assumed the position of Associate Director of the Alumni Medical Library. Lynne has held library positions at the University of Kansas Medical Center and Choate-Symmes Health Systems, and completed a sabbatical program at the Countway Library of Harvard Medical School in 1993. Prior to coming to BUMC, Lynne worked for eight years as Library Director at the New England College of Optometry.

*Address comments about Library News & Notes to  
Lynne Silvers, Editor, Alumni Medical Library,  
617-638-4271 or Lynne @ med-libmail.bu.edu*

**LIBRARY**  
*News & Notes*



*A publication of the Alumni Medical  
Library at Boston University Medical Center*