



BROOKLYN, QUEENS AND STATEN ISLAND  
HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE THREE  
FALL 1993

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## GIVING THANKS WHERE THANKS ARE DUE.



As a child, in preparation for the Thanksgiving feast, it was a family custom to decorate our much-treasured wicker cornucopia. We would fill it with fruits, vegetables and nuts until it overflowed, and then proudly place it on our dining room table as the centerpiece. I can still see that wicker horn o' plenty sitting on my parent's table when I visit them in Florida!

As librarians, I would imagine that our cornucopia be filled with the following items: overdue books returned, bills paid, pleasant people and surroundings, working equipment, professional activities, speedy delivery of interlibrary loans, and a copy of the Handbook of Medical Library Practice!

My personal cornucopia has been filled to the brim with good things. Unfortunately I am always looking for the bad apple amongst the good! I am most grateful for my parents, Elena and Bill, for all they have done and continue to do. In these hard times, I'm lucky to have a job that I enjoy, thankful for good friends and family, good health and many other blessings.

I realize that this newsletter isn't my personal journal, so you can wipe your eyes and put away that hanky - let's get down to business! Thanks for listening, though!

Due to space constraints, my column "Things They Never Taught You In Graduate School" will be in the next issue. Thank you to the members who sent in an item of interest - I hope that others will follow the trend. When I sent a copy of the previous newsletter to my friend (and editor divine!) Paula, she suggested that we have an address somewhere in the newsletter so that people will know where to address newsletter correspondence. As a result of Paula's editorial assistance, I have created the nifty little box below.

Best wishes to you for a Happy Holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

This newsletter is issued four times a year by BQSI. Correspondence may be addressed to:  
George A. Wahlert, Editor  
Morgan Library - Long Island College Hospital  
340 Henry Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
MLCNY #: S-80 METRO #: 127  
Please submit items for the next newsletter by January 15, 1994. Thank you.



# VIEWS ON VENDORS:

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:  
CATALOGING



Lydia Friedman  
Maimonides Medical Center

Have you ever ordered catalog cards using ISBN numbers and received cards that were not what you ordered?

This was occurring frequently when I received catalog cards, of Mosby publications, from MARCIVE. I pursued this problem by contacting MARCIVE and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) cataloging section. The NLM also contacted the Library of Congress CIP office. For verification I sent them copies of CATLINE records showing duplicate ISBN numbers on different books. No one would accept responsibility for the problem, leaving the customer (the library) at a loss and having to pay for cards they never ordered. At NLM's suggestion, I contacted Mr. Emery Koltay, Chief, Standard Book Numbering Agency at R.R. Bowker, to make him aware of the problems Mosby creates for librarians. He appreciated the information and will look into the matter.

I also called Ms. Nicki Yaiser, Director of Customer Quality Support at Mosby. She explained that there was a period of time when Mosby reused ISBN numbers for books that were no longer in print. She has received complaints from other libraries as well and assured me that Mosby has already corrected the problem. However, she said that it may take up to six years before our receipt of duplicate records cease.

Though it is always preferable to order catalog cards using the NLM citation numbers from the CATLINE records, libraries do not always have the staff time or funding to do so. Also, book jobbers often use the ISBN numbers when ordering the cataloging records for you.

Carefully check your catalog cards, or machine readable records, for Mosby publications. Contact your cataloging vendor if you receive incorrect records. They may give you credit for the incorrect cards or re-run them using an NLM citation number you provide.

(FOR YOUR INFORMATION - Speaking of cataloging vendors, MARCIVE once completely cut off our library from further ordering of cataloging cards, directly or through our book jobber, because we owed them \$11.00. Since we were a long time customer we asked if they could wait until we had a larger order - this would avoid the costly processing of such a small check request. They refused, and would only suggest opening a deposit account.)

Please forward any comments regarding this column to Lydia Friedman.

**THOSE WERE  
THE DAYS,  
MY FRIEND!**



From the BQSI Archives:

A "social get together" was held at the Hofbrau Restaurant on May 28, 1968 for what was then the Brooklyn and Queens Medical Librarians. The price of dinner started at \$3.50!

Mr. Leon Elveson, Treasurer, reported that we had \$56.04 in our bank account at the Spring 1978 meeting.



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

# FROM MEMBER TO MEMBER



Sharon Barten resigned from her position at the Nassau County Medical Center and has moved to upstate New York. Good luck and best wishes to you Sharon.

Raja Jayatilleke, BQSI President, has a new address and telephone number:

College of Staten Island  
The Library  
2800 Victory Boulevard  
Staten Island, New York 10314  
718-982-4016

The Metro delivery number is 48.

Selma Amtzis writes from West Palm Beach in Florida that she is enjoying her life there sunning, swimming, bowling and shopping! Once a week, she volunteers in a library at the Wellington Regional medical Center and has been responsible for organizing the library. Selma writes "in retirement, I am still getting my professional satisfaction". She send regards to all of her friends at BQSI. Keep up the good work, Selma, and send some sun our way!

Value of the Hospital Library is a fact sheet issued by the MLA and contains statistics from the 1991 study of 15 Rochester, N.Y. hospitals. Of the 208 physicians who participated, 71.6% of them stated that as a result of the information provided by the library, they changed the advice given to patients. A 1987 Chicago study showed that 95% of respondents said that information from their hospital library contributed to higher quality care for patients.

Another MLA publication, Hot Quotes: Pro-Library or Pro-Librarian Citations is a bibliography of positive library/librarian citations, from articles, books and presentations at meetings.

Here are some samples from the list:

"Every job requires its share of drudgery. Some days a doctor doesn't save any lives. Some days a librarian does." (Zordell, P. The worth of librarians, Library Journal, 1991 October 116:8,10).

"The solution is not in the presence of the library but in access to a medical reference service librarian." (Beck, W.C. Fire extinguishers, libraries, and librarians, Guthrie Journal, 1987 Winter 56:151-15). In this article, Beck states "...a library requires a librarian just as the fire extinguisher needs a knowledgeable firefighter".

The 11-page compilation from the Hospital Libraries Committee makes for interesting reading and good public relations for libraries and our profession.

Rosalyn Barth  
LaGuardia Hospital



# BITS AND BYTES

Creedmoor Psychiatric Center is not on DOCLINE. They will accept ALA forms for interlibrary loans. Address your requests to the Medical Library, 30-45 Winchester Blvd., Queens Village, New York 11427.

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center Medical Library is looking for an Assistant Director. For more information on this professional position, contact Mary Buchheit, Director of the Medical Library at 718-604-5689.

As a lover of pictorial symbols, your editor would be happy to have a copy of The Golden Wand of Medicine: A History of the Caduceus Symbol in Medicine, under his Christmas tree! The book is written by Walter J. Friedlander and is available for \$45.00 from Greenwood Press. The caduceus is shown at right.



**CORRECTION:** In the last issue, the telephone number for the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research was incorrect. Rosalyn Barth would like us to know that the correct number is 1-800-358-9295. Thank you Rosalyn.

If you check Volume II of the JCAHO 1994 Accreditation Manual for Hospitals, there is a section on Knowledge-Based Information (IM.9, page 48). This particular section covers professional library and health information services for hospital staff, as well as patients and their families.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



A wish for a happy holiday is being sent to thee,  
whether you light a candle on a menorah or Christmas tree.

For this is a special time of year,

when we gather with family and friends to spread good cheer,

So, best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful 1994,  
good health and happiness and much, much more.



And, if you happen to see Santa as he rides in the sky,  
you can be sure he is saying "Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas to BQSI".

George A. Wahlert

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**TO:**

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Medical Library  
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