



Books & Bytes

University of Washington

Health Sciences Libraries

Spring 2006

Health Sciences Libraries
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From the Director

The information landscape of health sciences faculty, staff and students is constantly changing and, as a consequence, health sciences librarians must continually re-invent our services and programs to meet the critical information needs of our clients. The evolution of new search tools (Google, PubMed) as well as new technologies (PDAs, wireless computing, blackberries) have enabled users to access more information than ever before. No longer is a trip to the library a necessity when it is possible to download the latest issue of JAMA to your computer. Are health sciences librarians going to go the way of the dinosaur?

This issue of Books and Bytes is testimony to the fact that the Health Sciences Libraries (HSL) continues to re-invent itself, expanding the boundaries of librarianship and playing a key role in the education of future health sciences librarians. The U.S. News and World Report recently rated the UW Information School Health Sciences Librarianship program as number 3 in the nation! Health sciences librarians have played a key role in this program for many years. HSL

has also hosted numerous fellows over the years. In this issue two of our current fellows describe their experiences. Ann Bett-Madhavan is a Sewell Memorial Fund Fellow working with Public Health – Seattle & King County and HSL librarians. Sandy Tao is in her second year as a National Library of Medicine (NLM) Fellow; the first year she spent at NLM, and this year she is spending at HSL. We also describe a recent visit from Hanne Caspersen, a Cunningham International Fellow from the State and University Library, Aarhus, Denmark.

A highlight of this issue is the story of a remarkable gift that we recently received from Dr. Peter Brooks, a retired general surgeon and former state legislator from Walla Walla, Washington. We are very fortunate to have many generous donors who contribute to enhancing our collections and our services. They are acknowledged on page 2.

Sherrilynn Fuller, Ph.D.
Director, Health Sciences Libraries
Associate Dean of University Libraries

Ann Bett-Madhavan

Sewell Fellow

During the past 6 months there has been another new face around the Health Sciences Library: Ann Bett-Madhavan, a recent graduate of Drexel University's College of Information Science and Technology, is a Sewell Memorial Fund Learning Partnerships Fellow. The Fund's goal is to increase librarians' identification with and health professionals through immersion in their work environments.

Ann is currently participating in a one year joint partnership between the UW Health Sciences Libraries and Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC). The health department's mission is to achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout King County by providing public health services that promote health and prevent disease. And, while their information needs are diverse and wide ranging, their needs are inadequately met.

Ann's mandate is to assess the information needs of local public health practitioners, plan and then implement a digital library to meet those needs. In doing so, she is drawing on the expertise of such individuals as Neil Rambo, Nanette Welton, Linda Milgrom, Debra Revere, and Sherrilynne Fuller. Ann anticipates that the beta version of the digital library will be online within the month. It will initially include free online resources, but will eventually incorporate access to restricted electronic journals and document delivery.

During her next six months at PHSKC, Ann plans to further develop the digital library, train PH staff in information-seeking skills, and evaluate the impact of these services.

Dr. Brooks and His Rare Gift



Dr. Peter Brooks, a retired general surgeon and former state legislator from Walla Walla, came to the Health Sciences Library in March to donate a rare book, "Anatomia Corporum Humanorum," by English anatomist William Cowper, published in Latin in 1739.

Accepting the book on behalf of the library was Colleen Weum, left, Rare Books and Special Collections Manager, and Sherrilynne Fuller, Director, Health Sciences Libraries and Associate Dean of University Libraries. A reception was held in honor of Dr. Brooks and his extraordinary gift in the Rare Books Room of the Health Sciences Library. Other guests included Dr. Brooks' granddaughter, Dr. Kent Saltonstall, a cousin of Dr. Brooks, Dr. Daniel Graney, UW Professor of Biological Structure, and several library staff members.

Dr. Brooks, 89, said the book was given to him and his wife as a wedding present in 1942. "It has brought great joy to me over the years, and I just thought this is where it should end up."

The book, according to Weum, is a second edition of the original written by Cowper in England in 1698. It features 140 marvelous hand-drawn plates illustrating the human anatomy. According to Morton's Medical Bibliography [5th edition, Morton, Leslie, Gower, 1991], the book is considered, "The most elaborate and beautiful of all 17th century English treatises on anatomy..."

"The book is an amazing piece and in such wonderful condition. What a generous gift from Dr. Brooks," Weum said. Fuller added, "We are very grateful to Dr. Brooks for placing his trust in the UW Health Sciences Library for caring for this remarkable book and we hope he will visit us and his treasure in the future."

Dr. Brooks attended medical school at Columbia University and joined the Navy as a physician just before World War II, serving on front line ships, including at the Battle of Iwo Jima. He taught at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston before moving to Walla Walla in 1949, saying he wanted a "country practice."

If you would like to see this or other rare books in the Health Sciences collection, you may make an appointment with Ms. Weum by telephone at (206) 543-3439 or by e-mail at <weum@u.washington.edu>.

Health Sciences Libraries Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who have recently made donations to the HSL:

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Cunningham Fellow Hanne Caspersen

*Sherry Dodson
Library Liaison*

A two-week visit to the Health Sciences Libraries from March 6-17 was the first stop for Hanne Caspersen, awarded the 2006 Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship from the Medical Library Association. Ms. Caspersen is a medical librarian from the State and University Library, Aarhus, Denmark, and will spend 3 months touring and working in medical libraries in the U.S. with stops in Philadelphia, Hanover, N.H., Houston, Loma Linda, the National Library of Medicine and ending at the Medical Library Association (MLA) Annual Meeting in Phoenix to be held in May.

The Cunningham Fellowship, established in 1967, honors Eileen Cunningham, a remarkable librarian said to have possessed boundless enthusiasm coupled with tremendous energy. Mrs. Cunningham was the director of the Vanderbilt Medical Library from 1929-1958 and was recognized there as the "librarian who made Vanderbilt Medical Library famous around the world." She traveled extensively, spoke 5 languages and campaigned vigorously against the high prices of German periodicals in 1933, successfully persuading medical libraries to boycott a German publisher until he reduced his prices.

Ms. Caspersen's visit to the Health Sciences Libraries suitably honored

Mrs. Cunningham's memory and the fellowship's intent. She shadowed Sherry Dodson, Clinical Librarian, at Resident Report, Medicine Grand Rounds, Evidence-Based Medicine classes and worked at providing answers to clinical questions for the Medicine Service at UWMC. Hanne met with every department in the library, visiting librarians and patrons at Harborview Medical Center, the King County Department of Public Health, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the health literacy outreach project site at the Salvation Army. She accompanied several from the library to hear William Gates III, former President Jimmy Carter and William Foege at the William H. Foege Building dedication March 8.

The Health Sciences Librarians provided housing for Ms. Caspersen during her two week stay and she provided us with a slide show describing her library and comments about our differences and our many similarities. Hanne had the chance to be a tourist and very much enjoyed sightseeing in Seattle as well as a trip to the Olympic Peninsula. Hanne was impressed with how the health sciences librarians are working so closely with clients outside the library and is anxious to try some new approaches once she returns to Aarhus. We all commiserated at the excessively high cost of licensing electronic journals and databases. To further honor Mrs. Cunningham's memory, perhaps a Danish-Seattle vendor boycott could be in our future? At the very least, all of the librarians look forward to seeing Hanne at the MLA Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

Sandy Tao

NLM Fellow

I am often asked to introduce myself and to explain what an NLM Fellowship is. For most of the people, I tell them I am an intern from the National Library of Medicine, in training at University of Washington Health Sciences Library. To the curious few, I say I am on an odyssey. The fellowship is my voyage to the world. It is a journey that has taken me to places I have never been to before; I have been constantly challenged mentally, socially and intellectually.

Among all my voyages, one of the most rewarding experiences has been working with community-based organizations. I am able to participate in the Health Literacy program at ARC (Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center), work with SITC (Students in the Community) to develop patient education materials for the residents of Aloha Inn (a homeless transition housing unit), as well as interact with the EthnoMed team (a collaboration between the Library, Harborview Medical Center and the interpreter service to deliver medical and cultural information on immigrant and refugee groups). Through these experiences, I have begun to think broadly about the health issues and information barriers relating to our social environment. At ARC, Pharmacy faculty Michaelene Kedzierski always tells the students that we need to meet where people are, and constantly question our own assumptions.

I learned it's not just meeting where people are - physically, but also mentally. By practicing acceptance and understanding, we establish mutual trust with the patients. The self-awareness and recognition of change comes from within - as a care provider, it's important not to be judgmental, but accept how things are and work with what we have. This mental framework has also been extremely valuable for me to understand professional relationships at all levels. As a newcomer to the Library profession, I learned I need to practice more patience and understanding. I learned I need to constantly question my own assumptions and challenge many of my logical fallacies. As I reach the end of my odyssey, I hope I have become a better person, ready to embrace the new world ahead.

HSL Receives Planning Grant

The Health Sciences Library has received a planning grant from the Washington State Library to develop strategies for a statewide health information network oriented towards helping members of the public, librarians and health professionals find quality health information online as well as local resources. The aim of this project is to create an identifiable "people's medical library" for Washingtonians, which would provide reference assistance and access to documents to consumers as well as to library staff and health professionals in communities throughout the state. Funding for this award is made possible through the Washington State Library in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Life After the U

Sarah Safranek

Library Liaison

Many people who have learned to use online information resources at the UW wonder how they are going to access reliable medical information after graduation. HSL buys subscriptions for many of the resources available through HealthLinks, and according to agreements with vendors, must restrict access to current UW students, staff and faculty.

To assist you once you leave the UW, we have created a listing of free sources of patient education handouts, medical texts, journals, and drug information, as well as links to information on several of the most popular commercial clinical information resources at this URL:

http://healthlinks.washington.edu/howto/life_after_u.html

Excellent free sources of patient education

materials include the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) website, which contains handouts written and reviewed by physicians and patient education specialists from AAFP, and consumer-oriented MedlinePlus, from the National Library of Medicine. Much of the information on both sites is also available in Spanish. In addition to information on many medical conditions, MedlinePlus contains a medical encyclopedia and dictionary, and information on drugs, supplements, and herbal preparations. Other free sources for herbal medicine information include HerbMed, and TCM Herb Library. Visit Pillbot.com for drug pricing comparisons, or RxList, which has information on 5,000 U.S. drug products, a database of tablet imprint codes, and listings of top drugs by prescriptions dispensed, and US sales. A free version of drug reference Epocrates Rx is available for download to PDAs.

Carriers of King County Library System library cards may access Health and Wellness Resource Center, a consumer-oriented database, or information from National Organization of Rare Disorders

(NORD). KCLS also provides access to news resources such as Washington Newstand, which provides full text articles from the Seattle Times, PI, and Tacoma News Tribune. For full text of other major newspapers, KCLS provides America's Newspapers from Newsbank. See Life After the U for additional links to free health news websites.

The Merck Manuals (Home Edition, Health & Aging, Geriatrics, Diagnosis & Therapy, Veterinary, and Encyclopedia of Drugs and Chemicals) are available free online. MerckMedicus offers a collection of 50+ medical textbooks free to licensed healthcare professionals. Access requires registration and provision of a state license number. The Dermatology Atlas Online, created at Universities of Heidelberg and Erlangen, Germany, is an excellent source of dermatology images. Copyright information on image use can be obtained from the website.

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