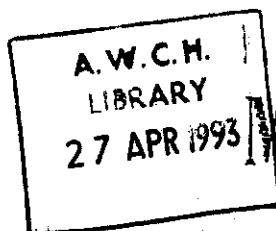


THE GRATIS NET

Newsletter of the GRATIS networks



No. 5



March 1993

Note from the Editor

It's hard to believe that the first quarter of 1993 is over already. It's also hard to believe (I've heard it on the grapevine) that the requisition for my desktop publishing software has finally been signed. It has been a long time coming, but better late than never! With the end of the quarter it's time to submit your January-March statistics if you have not already done so!

There is not a great deal of news, so let's hope that means that the network is running smoothly. All readers are reminded that if they would like a message passed on to other network members, they may send it to the Editor direct or via their state reporter, whose name appears below:

State reporters -
GRATIS - Marion Steele
GRATISACT - Wilma Hewitt
GRATISQ - Mary Ann Ross
VICGRATIS - Bill Freeman

Deadline for issue no. 6 is June 15, 1993.

S.A. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF GRATISNET NATIONAL UNION LIST

The University Co-op has sent the Title Master File print-out to Nereda Wilkinson for distribution amongst the sub-committee.

The sub-committee members now have the task of checking each title with the view to rationalising the journal title entries. As before, this is a time consuming task and can only be done as time allows. NUCOS and ABN are being used as authorities.

NEREDA WILKINSON
National GRATISNET Union List
Co-ordinator

CONVENOR'S COLUMN

Dear colleagues, 1993 will be the year of the combined union list. It has taken many hours of work for a small band of volunteers but at last the remaining paper-work is ready for the computer.

Perfectionists are warned that there will still be a lot of tidying-up to be done. Some duplication of titles remains to be identified. In many instances ISSN's were not available and positive identification has not been possible. Where doubt exists, these entries have been included and members will need to verify any duplications and errors.

The issues involved with on-line, disk or fiche production will need careful discussion with the membership at large and it is to be hoped that each state will canvass the needs of its own members to present an informed and reasoned contribution to debate at the AGM on the Gold Coast.

The Queensland Committee, who will take up the responsibilities of the National Committee following the AGM, have already commenced work by preparing a proposed policy and philosophy statement for the National network. This draft, which will be available soon, is a starting point for discussion on a co-operative basis. Some of the thorny issues of "fast-track", "book loans", "charging", "faxing" which have risen since the original concept of free exchange of photocopied articles brought GRATIS into being, urgently need decisions and the formation of a policy which satisfies the needs of all members. We need to debate the concepts of flexibility and conformity to find a workable balance.

Elisabeth Gatehouse
GRATISNET National Co-ordinator.

NETWORK NOTES

NEWS FROM GRATISACT

The TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) Library is now settled into their new premises in rural Symondston. Leanne Griffith has left TGA and returned to work in Adelaide and we wish her well in her new Library. From April 1st, Joselyn Hayman will be at TGA and all enquiries can be directed to her on (06) 2398607. TGA's journal holdings are on ABN. However, if you require a hard copy, please contact Wilma Hewitt on (06) 2793934.

Discussions on the merger of Woden Valley Hospital Library and Health Advancement Services Community Resource Library are progressing well with the physical merge expected to take place in about six months.

NEWS FROM GRATISSA

SCAF

There will be no Inter-Library Loans Officer at the Child Adolescent and Family Health Service (SCAF) from 27/4/93 to 21/5/93 inclusive. Please choose an alternative library during that time or your request may be away a very long time!



Congratulations to Karen Hill (SIDS) on the birth of her daughter, Blythe.

SRGH

Welcome to Leanne Griffith and Caroline Zanker, the new staffers at the Repat. Library! A new Librarian is being appointed, and should commence work there at the beginning of May.

NEWS FROM GRATISQ

HEALTH LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

The conference programme is due to be released around Easter time. The programme committee was most impressed by the number of people from the health area who proffered papers and/or posters. This much we can tell you, however -

The conference proper will be held on three days:

Tuesday 24 -Thursday 26 August, 1993, and special interest groups will meet on the Monday.

The venue is Hotel Conrad, Broadbeach, Gold Coast, and the joint conference dinner on the Wednesday night will be at Dreamworld! -- Yes, you can go on the Thunderbolt roller coaster, if you want -- but maybe not after dinner?

Mark it in your diaries and watch for further information!

QIHS

Due to the lack of fax equipment in the library and the amount of time expended by library staff in gaining access to distant fax equipment and in sending material through it, the Intellectual Disability Services Library (QIHS) has been forced to charge \$12.00 for each urgent fax request sent to a requesting library.

Each of us finds lucidity only in those ideas which are in the same state of confusion as his own. Many simply do not have the will power to resist writing a book when they have reached a point of "understanding" this abstract subject.

Marcel Proust

Library Profile

ANOTHER GRATISSA MEMBER JOINS ABN

Crippled Children's Association of South Australia

Established in 1976 to provide a multidisciplinary team approach to overcoming disabilities in children, this small medical library of nearly 3,000 monographs, 80 serial titles,



Julie Emmerson,
Librarian, Crippled
Children's Association
of South Australia

200 videos and an assortment of audiovisual items serves primarily medical practitioners and specialists. It is also open to the community in general, particularly to families of physically disabled children.

Specialising in rehabilitation medicine and physical disability including paediatrics, speech pathology and rehabilitation engineering, the Library also features a significant toy library for kids with disabilities. Educational software is also used by teachers at the Association. Literature searches for staff and other specialists are in heavy demand in particular the use of BRS and DIALOG to support searches on Medline.

It is intended to replace the existing card catalogue shortly but the introduction of an OPAC is dependent first on the selection of an integrated library management system, which is still in the planning stage. In respect to future use of automated services, it is hoped that access to AARNet may eventually allow searching of databases at flat rate charges as subscription to CD-ROM services is not likely to prove economical.

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Holdings of the Crippled Children's Association of South Australia Library can now be found on ABN.

GRATISNET CLASSIFIEDS

ANNUAL REPORTS

A number of spare copies of Royal Adelaide Hospital Annual Reports for 1989-1990 and 1990-1991 have been given to the Jepson Library to distribute or use as required. The 1989-1990 report has an excellent sesquicentennial insert including many historic photographs. These reports have previously been in short supply, so if any library has missed out on a copy, put a request in to:
The Librarian
Royal Adelaide Hospital
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000.
Copies will be allocated in order of receipt of requests.

GRATISNET ADDRESSES

TIRED OF LOOKING UP ADDRESSES ON FICHE?? What you need is a printed copy of all the GRATISNET members' addresses, nicely printed on A4 paper, ready for you to put into a ring-binder or to make into a booklet. Interested?

Toowoomba Base Hospital have compiled such a directory. The directory is current as of September, 1992, when the new fiche came out. As we are notified of changes like phone numbers, or new members, we write in the directory, so that everything is in the one place. When the new fiche arrive, we make all the amendments on disk, and print off a new copy.

We are more than happy to share this directory with other libraries. If you think this directory would be of help to your Inter-Library Loans, please write to us and ask for a copy. We are asking for a \$6.00 voucher to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

Contact: Library
Toowoomba Base Hospital
Private Mail Bag 2
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

THE MAGICAL DISAPPEARING LIBRARY BUDGET

by

Julie Hooke

Jepson Library, Royal Adelaide Hospital

If you have been wondering why your library budget (with increases - if you're lucky) doesn't go as far as it ought to, you have no doubt also told yourself that inflation, the value of the Australian dollar and perhaps even a greedy publisher or two were to blame. And you would no doubt be right.

I had heard it said that there was a 75% increase in costs over about the last five years or so - on what authority I don't know, but it sounded good and seemed to go down well as an explanation of why we had to keep lopping important journals off our very basic list.

This worked really well until our ALIA Branch President asked me if I could supply her with some statistics on our cost increases between 1983 and 1993.

Out came all the 1983 paperwork, including a nice listing (by subject) with final 1983 prices. 1993 needed a bit of work, and the two were matched, ignoring all those titles which, in our less than affluent state, we had (in the interim) been forced to receive via slow boat and long-distance camel, those which had merged or were otherwise no longer comparable. I ended up with a representative list of 169 titles, and discovered that in 1983 this lot cost me \$14,008.77. I then totted up the 1993 list and found to my horror that this year (so far) I have spent \$48,797.81 on the same titles. I am no statistician, and don't pretend to be, but that to me looks suspiciously like an increase of 248% on our 1983 costs.

Even with generous (non-c.p.i.-linked) increases, there can't be too many libraries that can say they have maintained their spending power over that time.

It is therefore little wonder that most of us are having trouble making ends meet and are getting very good at sharing what resources we do have left.

A few of these increases virtually jumped off the page at me in their eagerness to be noticed. They and a few others chosen to include a spread of subject areas are listed below to illustrate the problem.

If anyone has any practical (legal - of course!) ways of counteracting our disappearing purchasing power, why not share them with us all!!

SUMMARY

(N.B.: all averages and percentages rounded down to the nearest whole number)

Total no. of journals included	169
Percentage increase of 1993 list over 1983 list	= 248%
Average cost per title 1983	\$82
Average cost per title 1993	\$288
Percentage change in average costs	+ 251%

continued on page 5

Some examples of increases in costs with percentages and country of origin:

Title	1983	1993	% inc.
NEW DOCTOR [Australia]	\$24.00	\$35.21	+ 46%
SCIENCE NEWS [U.S.]	\$38.47	\$70.63	+ 83%
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY [U.S.]	\$71.02	177.67	+ 150%
AUDIOLOGY [Switzerland]	\$146.00	\$428.60	+ 193%
JOURNAL OF SPEECH AND HEARING RESEARCH [U.S.]	\$72.20	\$224.46	+ 210%
SURGICAL CLINICS OF NORTH AMERICA [U.S.]	\$51.49	\$161.50	+ 213%
NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL JOURNAL [New Zealand]	\$67.50	\$216.73	+ 221%
SEMINARS IN ONCOLOGY [U.S.]	\$67.46	\$230.50	+ 241%
DIABETES CARE [U.S.]	\$46.10	\$166.03	+ 260%
PHYSIOTHERAPY (2 copies) [U.K.]	\$61.15	\$220.80	+ 261%
GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY [U.S.]	\$223.01	\$872.05	+ 291%
ARCHIVES OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY [U.S.]	\$47.34	\$187.17	+ 295%
JOURNAL OF CANADIAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION [Canada]	\$18.95	\$75.17	+ 296%
ACTA PSYCHIATRICA SCANDINAVICA [Denmark]	\$123.36	\$495.74	+ 301%
AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORK [Australia]	\$24.00	\$97.88	+ 307%
CLINICAL ORTHOPAEDICS AND RELATED RESEARCH [U.S.]	\$177.64	\$754.74	+ 324%
ANAESTHESIA AND INTENSIVE CARE [Australia]	\$32.20	\$144.56	+ 348%
CIRCULATION [U.S.]	\$73.39	\$360.03	+ 390%
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY BIOLOGY PHYSICS [U.K.]	\$353.58	\$1771.00	+ 400%
BRAIN [U.K.]	\$57.40	\$290.54	+ 406%
BRITISH JOURNAL OF CANCER [U.K.]	\$194.74	\$1058.01	+ 443%
INVESTIGATIVE RADIOLOGY [U.S.]	\$81.67	\$448.74	+ 449%
INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE [Germany]	\$92.50	\$529.01	+ 471%
BRITISH JOURNAL OF RHEUMATOLOGY [U.K.]	\$58.24	\$360.00	+ 518%
BRITISH JOURNAL OF PLASTIC SURGERY [U.K.]	\$39.64	\$255.30	+ 544%
ANESTHESIOLOGY [U.S.]	\$65.10	\$432.48	+ 564%
JOURNAL OF ADVANCED NURSING [U.K.]	\$76.44	\$651.29	+ 752%

N.B.: Prices used for this study have included only those for which a subscription was purchased in both 1983 and 1993, and where the method of delivery was the same or the standard method offered by the publisher. Journals which have merged or where multiple-copy rates were paid or the method of delivery (e.g. airmail to SAL) has changed have been omitted to try and obtain the fairest comparison.

**The GRATISNET Co-ordinating
Committee wishes everyone a happy
and safe Easter**



