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Synapse Newsletter

Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library

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1992

## **Synapse**

Alabama Health Libraries Association

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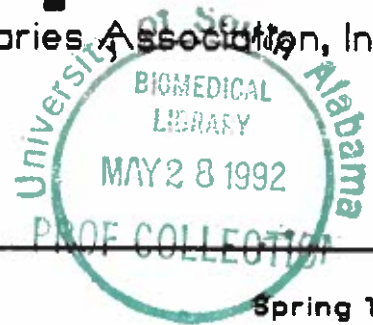
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# Synapse

Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc.



Vol. 12, Issue 1

Spring 1992

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Barbara Doughty

"There is a vast amount of this effete and worthless material in the literature of medicine, and it is increasing rapidly....Nine-tenths at least, of it, becomes worthless, and of no interest within ten years after the date of its publication, and much of it is so when it first appears." (1)

This quote might well have come from some modern day physician trying vainly to keep up with the ever increasing mountain of medical literature that deluges him or her daily. (However, today much of our information will become worthless in much LESS than ten years.) It was in 1887 that John Shaw Billings made this observation. And again, in 1891, he said, "They (indexers) have to handle such rubbish, for the proportion of what is both new and true is not much



greater in medicine than it is in theology." (2)

Well, times have not changed very much, have they? The more things change, the more they remain the same, to quote an old cliché. Today, as in Billings' time, there is a plethora of literature but a paucity of time for consuming that literature. Today, it is still a challenge to locate accurate, reliable medical information in the midst of all that "rubbish".

We have now entered into what we call the information age and have become used to such terms as "information explosion, end-user searching, user friendly systems, data bases, MEDLINE, GRATEFUL MED", and many others too numerous to name.

However, medical librarians

have been collecting, organizing, and retrieving medical information for many years, and we do not look for that to change. The tools may be different, the methods may be different, the strategies may be different; but the challenge to librarians remains the same. Our dedication remains the same. We shall continue to assist our patrons to find the most recent, the most reliable, the most authoritative information possible. We shall continue to pursue the goal of our association to promote better health care for the citizens of Alabama through the provision of medical information.

1. Billings, John Shaw. Our medical literature. Transactions of the Association of American Physicians. 2: 57, 1887.
2. Billings, John Shaw. Transactions of the Association of American Physicians. 6: 251, 1891.



1992  
EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL

Barbara Doughty,  
President

Joy Harriman,  
Vice-President

Tamera Lee,  
Secretary

Lisa Russell,  
Treasurer

Judy Burnham,

Kathy Fetters and

Sandra Pheiffer,  
Members - at - Large

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SYNAPSE

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The Executive Committee approved the ALHeLA Achievement Award at its last meeting. The purpose of the award is to honor an individual for outstanding contributions to ALHeLA or the medical profession through service, leadership, or research. The award may be given annually but is not necessarily given every year.

Anyone wishing to make a nomination for the award is encouraged to do so. Letters of nomination for the 1992 award should be sent to the president of ALHeLA and should be received by June 30. The Executive Committee shall review the nomination petitions and make the selection (of course, members of the Executive Committee are excluded for nomination during term). The award, should one be given this year, shall be presented at the ALHeLA Annual Meeting in Mobile in September.

Send nominations to:  
Barbara Doughty  
Health Sciences Library  
University of Alabama  
Box 870378  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE  
APPROVES  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD

## Executive Council Minutes - 1/31/92

The Executive Committee of the Alabama Health Libraries Association met on January 31, 1992 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alabama Public Library Service Board Room. Members present were: Barbara Doughty, President; Joy Harriman, Vice-President; Tamera Lee, Secretary; Lisa Russell, Treasurer; Judy Burnham, Kathy Feters and Sandra Pfeiffer, Members-at-Large; Beth Laughlin, newsletter editor; and Jay Harris, Chair, Exchange Committee.

Barbara Doughty called the meeting to order. In reviewing the minutes of the September 27th meeting, a motion carried to correct the membership term for Treasurer from a four-year to a two-year term. Also changes were made on the membership statistics counted prior to the Annual Meeting: from nineteen to twenty-three personal memberships and from forty-eight to forty-nine total memberships. The minutes of the August 2nd meeting were accepted with no corrections.

Lisa Russell distributed the Treasurer's Report.

Barbara Doughty distributed the financial

report of the annual meeting and reported a profit of \$786.43 for ALHeLA.

Joy Harriman shared plans for the 1992 Annual Meeting to be held September 24-25 at the Malaga Inn, Mobile, Alabama. Ms. Harriman reported that although the accommodations and rates were quite different from those of the state parks, the Malaga Inn was one of the most charming and reasonable places to stay, located in the historic district of Mobile. The theme of the 1992 conference is "professionalism". The continuing education course on Thursday will be on "image"; an image consultant will be the guest speaker. The theme of the program on Friday will be "quality assurance". The committee decided to conduct a two hour luncheon business meeting on the second day of the Annual Meeting. The committee agreed not to solicit vendors for exhibits, but rather for financial support. Ms. Harriman asked that committee members fax her a list of vendors they deal with most to provide contacts for a form letter to solicit conference funding.

Nancy Clemmons, Chair,

Bylaws/Handbook Committee, was absent from the meeting. Lisa Russell requested a consideration for a change in the bylaws, specifically, what constitutes a quorum for a business meeting?

Judy Burnham gave the Directory Committee Report and provided a handout of goals for the coming year. For the cost of publishing the directory this year, Ms. Burnham reported that the committee decided to solicit advertisements from vendors rather than donations to avoid duplicate solicitation, since vendors were already being asked to financially support the conference.

Jay Harris presented the Exchange Committee Report. Lister Hill Library is participating in a pilot project to automate the MLA Exchange List through a software program called "SerialsQuest", produced by Abacis, a subsidiary company of Faxon. Mr. Harris lead a discussion of utilizing this program on a consortium basis to facilitate integrated searching amongst participants and vendors. The cost for obtaining an issue from the list is currently seven dollars, with an additional cost for usage. Some

## Minutes - Continued

committee members thought this price was not feasible/affordable for their respective libraries. Mr. Harris plans to send a Lister Hill mailing to inform ALHeLA members about the project, providing a price list and loading aspects of the program.

Sondra Pfeiffer provided the Liaison Committee report. She informed the committee about the upcoming Alabama Library Forum, to be held the week of April 27. On Tuesday, April 28 from 1:00 until 3:30 p.m., ALHeLA will present a program. Lynn Fortney, Marketing Manager for the Biomedical Division of EBSCO, will speak on the topic of "Marketing for Library Services" and will offer 2.5 credit hours. The forum will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Birmingham.

With Pat Rodgers absent, Barbara Doughty presented the Membership Committee report. Ms. Doughty lead a discussion of printing costs for membership brochures. The committee decided to order one thousand brochures at a maximum cost of ten cents each. The color will be cream with black ink. Membership forms will be sent with the directory

and included in Synapse.

Beth Laughlin distribute Synapse and announced the next deadline for information, March 1.

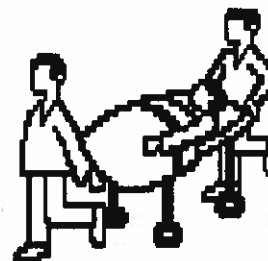
Maureen Battistella provided an update on the Union List. Four libraries who have not updated their holdings since 1989 are in danger of being dropped from SERHOLD.

In terms of old business, Barbara Doughty reminded the committee of the Alabama Library Forum (ALF) meeting in April. Ms. Doughty plans to call an Executive Committee meeting at ALF on the same day of the ALHeLA program, April 28th, instead of holding the scheduled meeting on May 8.

Ms. Doughty led a discussion of the proposed criteria and guidelines for the ALHeLA Achievement Award. In reviewing the proposed recommendations made at the 1991 conference, the committee decided that the recipient of the award does not have to be a member of ALHeLA.

No new business was reported. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Tamera Lee





October 3-6, 1992  
Columbia, SC

CALL FOR PAPERS!

SC/MLA 1992 Annual Meeting  
**Discovery**  
Education • Research • Reality

Discover Columbia, South Carolina, for the 1992 annual meeting of the Southern Chapter of MLA, October 3-6! Hosted by the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library, the conference will be housed at the centrally located downtown Marriott. Nearby you will find historic sites such as the state capital, the University of South Carolina campus and the South Carolinian Library, location of the opening reception. An innovative state museum will be the featured location of the conference banquet. Excellent shopping and restaurants are available within walking distance, such as the Congaree Vista area shops and the restaurants in the Vista/downtown area. Also, Riverbanks Zoo would be a wonderful way to spend some free time! We invite you to DISCOVER COLUMBIA during SC/MLA! For more information, please contact Tom Lange at (803)733-3344 or (803)733-1509 (FAX).

We want to hear from you! We know there are many innovative projects throughout the region. We know you're engaged in use studies, collection management projects, marketing, new services and new management practices. We want you to share your ideas with the chapter membership.

**DISCOVERING OURSELVES:**  
Projects or philosophical papers dealing with the development of skills, collections, facilities or ethical sensibilities.

**DISCOVERING OUR USERS:**  
Projects or philosophical papers on identifying and meeting the changing needs of our users.

**DISCOVERING OUR TECHNOLOGY:**  
Projects demonstrating innovative technologies or uses of technology.

**DISCOVERING OUR FUTURE:**  
Papers on improving our educational programs, professional development, management skills, and research abilities.

**PRESENTING A PAPER AT THE SC/MLA ANNUAL MEETING:**

--provides a golden opportunity to share your activities and ideas.

--allows you to practice your oral delivery skills in front of a sympathetic audience.

--provides recognition among your peers and within your institution.

--is FUN!!

Send your abstract (250 words) by **MAY 15** to:

Carol Burns  
Program Committee Chair  
Health Sciences Center  
Library  
Emory University  
1462 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
FAX: (404)727-8469

CALL CAROL AT  
(404) 727-5820  
if you'd like to  
submit an abstract

**--News Release--**

**National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region**

The National Library of Medicine is soliciting proposals for a third round of Grateful Med Outreach Purchase Orders. Requests for Quotations (RFQs) were mailed to all members of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). At least 12 Outreach Purchase Orders will be awarded for a maximum of \$25,000 each to hospital and academic libraries. Funded projects will be designed to introduce health professionals to Grateful Med, provide them with a link to information services from a health sciences library and acquaint them with the resources that are available to them from NLM and the National Network.

The distribution of RFQs was done differently for this round of funding. In rounds one and two, only one RFQ was prepared and mailed to all NN/LM members. Two RFQs were prepared for this third round and mailed separately to hospital and academic libraries. Proposals will be evaluated according to type of library. As part of the continuing effort to reach out to underserved health care professionals, proposals should target one or more of the following: minority health professionals; health professionals in rural (metropolitan area under 100,000), minority and inner city settings. Funded projects will target primarily health professionals who are unaffiliated with a medical library, although this is not a mandatory requirement for inner city hospitals. If you have specific questions about the RFQs, contact Kathleen VanSteelant at NLM, 301-496-6127. For the first time, RML staff are available to assist in proposal development. Contact Lisa LoVullo, 1-800-338-7657. The deadline for submission is May 29, 1992.

The first Regional Advisory Council (RAC)/Resource Library Directors' Meeting of the new contract period (1991-1996) was held in December. Many issues were covered, since the RAC was unable to meet in June due to problems with the host facility. At the meeting, the revised RAC bylaws and resource library agreements were discussed and the coordinators obtained feedback on Loansome Doc implementation, outreach issues and RML publications, such as *SEA Currents*. The RAC is comprised of health professionals, Resource Library directors, and representatives from the Primary Access Libraries in the region and meets biannually. A review of the meeting was published in *SEA Currents*, January/February 1992. The next meeting of the RAC will be in April.

**###**

msb: 2/25/92rev

RAC Report  
Maureen Battistella  
Alabama Representative, 1992-93

The first 1992 Regional Advisory Council and Resource Library Directors meeting was held in April in Ellicott City, Maryland. Battistella attended as Alabama state representative. Because so many of the representatives were new to the RAC, much of the time was spent in orientation, during which academic library directors met separately.

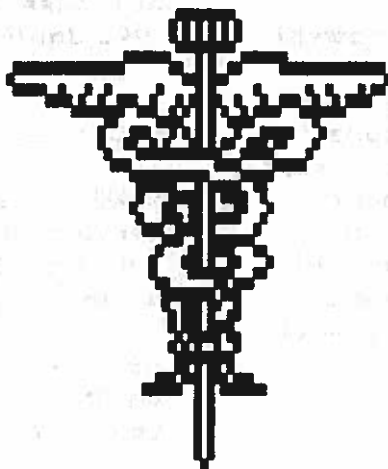
The NNLM Region 2 has several new initiatives this year. An RFP will be put out to academic libraries for a Technology Awareness Day. A Technology Awareness Day will bring vendors, equipment, and software into the library for demonstrations and exhibitions. Approximately 4 contracts will be awarded.

The NNLM Region 2 will also be putting out an RFP to library associations and consortia to sponsor outreach exhibits at state health professional meetings. Approximately \$1500 will be awarded in each contract.

Consortia development and Grateful Med Outreach Contract reports were given from projects throughout the region. The third round of funding for Grateful Med Outreach has now been announced by NLM and LoVullo reports that 34 project proposals are expected from our region. A report detailing Loansome DOC traffic to Region 2 libraries was distributed.

Membership and Network registry drives are now underway at the NNLM Region 2.

Academic library directors engaged in lengthy discussions about whether the maximum recommended ILL cost was still accurate. Another cost study (and increase?) may be in the works. The NREN and INTERNET were discussed by all RAC representatives and academic library directors. ARIEL (which uses the INTERNET) and other new packages such as Adonis were discussed as a means of speeding ILL delivery.







# IN THE NEWS!

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## FROM USA:

The University of South Alabama Biomedical Library celebrated National Library Week April 5-11. Faculty, staff and students of the Colleges of Allied Health Professions, Medicine, and Nursing and staffs of the University of South Alabama Medical Center, USA Knollwood, and USA Doctors Hospitals were eligible to register for prizes that were awarded during the week. Two copycards were awarded each day at both the Campus site and the Medical Center site of the biomedical library. At the end of the week a name was selected at each site to receive a free computer search (value up to \$20.00).

The Faculty and Staff of the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library welcome DIANE WILLIAMS as the newest library faculty member. Diane received her MLS from the University of Alabama and joins USA as Computer and Collection Development Librarian. Diane has worked in the Technical Services Department of the Biomedical Library and has a strong background in computer technology. Her undergraduate degree is from Rhodes College. She worked at the University of Georgia prior to coming to USA.

JUDY BURNHAM, UMC Site Coordinator for the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, has received a Continuing Education Grant from the Medical Library Association. She plans to attend the course "Research Methods for Health Science Librarians" at the MLA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. Judy received one of three grants that were awarded nationally. CONGRATULATIONS, JUDY!

## Publications:

Shearer BS, Wall JC and Burnham, JF. Anatomy of a literature search. *Clinical Management* 1992 Jan/Feb; 12(1):23-8.

Shearer BS and Burnham JF. Making connections: equipment, software and database vendors. *Clinical Management* 1992 Jan/Feb; 12(1):29-33.

## FROM BAPTIST HEALTH SYSTEM:

MAUREEN BATTISTELLA, BMC Princeton, is serving as a member of the Regional Advisory Committee and recently attended a RAC meeting in Baltimore.

BETH LAUGHLIN, BMC Montclair, is serving on the Program Committee for this year's Southern Chapter/MLA meeting.

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## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

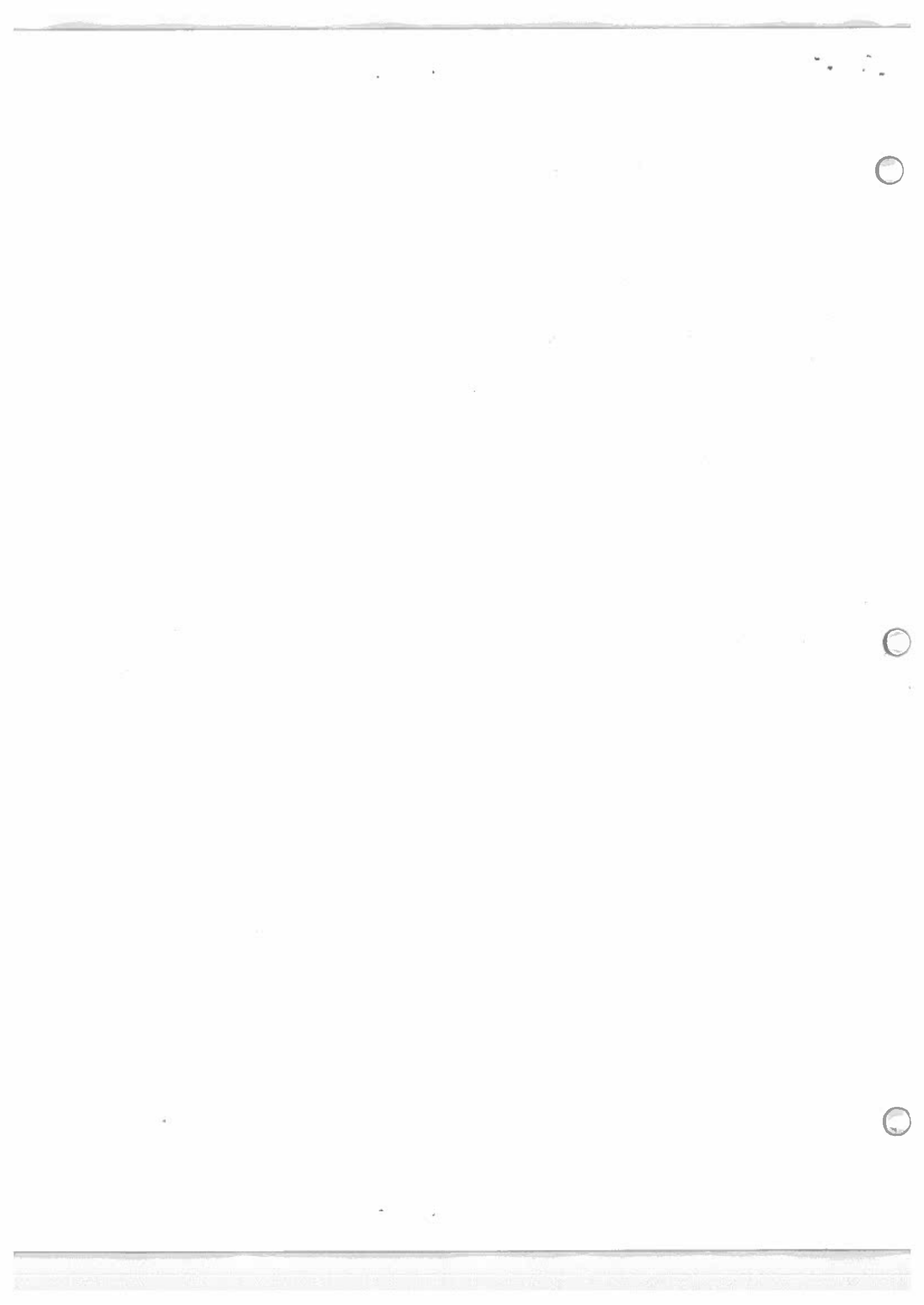
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The Biomedical Library (BML) of the University of South Alabama welcomes applications for 2 information services positions. These tenure track faculty positions report to the coordinator of public services and are available June 1, 1992. Responsibilities include general reference, online searching, library orientation, group and individual instruction within the library locations or at users' sites, and staffing reference desks at all BML locations. The information services librarians actively promote BML services and resources. Each position provides information services at both BML sites: the campus site, which moves to a new building in late 1992, and the medical center site, 6 miles distant at the main university hospital. All BML faculty participate in planning and evaluating services and resources; professional development, research, and service activities are required as well as MLA certification within 3 years of employment. The positions require an ALA-accredited MLS, an enthusiastic service orientation, and excellent written and spoken communication and interpersonal skills. Entry-level librarians are welcome to apply, but professional experience with health sciences electronic and print reference tools, course work in the sciences, and proficiency in microcomputer applications are highly preferred. Salary is competitive and commensurate with professional experience (\$22,000 - \$26,000). Excellent benefits include TIAA/CREF. Review of applications will begin May 1, 1992 and continue until both positions are filled. The positions are available due to promotions. The University of South Alabama is an equal opportunity employer. Send application letter, curriculum vitae, and the names of 3 professional references to Information

Services Search Committee Chair,  
Biomedical Library, University of South  
Alabama, 312 Library Building, Mobile, AL  
36688.



HAVE YOU RENEWED  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO  
ALHeLA FOR 1992?  
MEMBERSHIP FORM IS  
ON LAST PAGE!



Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc.  
1992 Membership Renewal Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(For Institutional Memberships, please list person or department  
to whom Synapse should be addressed)

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Institutional \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15.00

1992 Membership Year

Make checks payable to **Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc.**

Mail to: Alabama Health Libraries Association, Inc.  
University of Alabama  
Health Science Library  
P. O. Box 870378  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0378

SPENCER MARSH  
UNIVERSITY OF S AL BIOMED LIB  
312 LIBRARY BLDG  
MOBILE, AL 36688

Kahn-Sibley Medical Library  
Baptist Medical Center Montclair  
800 Montclair Road  
Birmingham Alabama 35213  
205 592-5640  
205 592-5269 (Fax)



F5