



ICS Newsletter

Medical Library Association/International Cooperation Section Newsletter

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Notice:

The ICS Newsletter is published three times a year by the International Cooperation Section of the Medical Library Association. Deadlines for submissions for ICS Newsletter are: March 31, July 31 and November 15.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Getting Involved

As we come up to the 2007 MLA Annual Meeting, this is my last Message and, inevitably, it contains a strong element of looking back over my past year as Section Chair. The nature of my work at Elsevier brings me into contact with many, many librarians from every conceivable part of the scientific and medical community. We all know as medical librarians that the information we organise and make available is the very stuff of scientific progress, and that through our work we make a real impact on the lives and well-being of others. During the past year, two events that I have attended have brought this home more than any other.

For the first time, MLA's European sister association, EAHIL, held its biennial conference in country that was formerly part of the Soviet bloc. At the time of the conference, the Romanian city of Cluj was awash with excitement at their imminent accession into the European Union. The conference itself was notable for the largest ever representation from eastern and central Europe, both delegates and presenters. It was clear that the medical library profession in these countries can point to an extraordinary record of achievement and progress since the iron curtain fell. It was also clear that this had been achieved in the face of the most daunting budgetary constrictions (and in some cases social upheaval).

This was even more in evidence at the AHILA conference in Mombasa, which Lenny Rhine and I reported on fully in the last issue of the Newsletter. Six months on, my abiding impression of the AHILA programme is that of an extraordinarily creative embracing of the opportunities emerging on the web. Libraries who have survived for years with tiny numbers of foreign journal subscriptions - or even none at all - are leaping technological generations and taking eager, intelligent advantage of what is now freely available. Presentation after presentation dealt with creative resource discovery and with how to maximise the resources newly available via HINARI, PubMed Central and elsewhere. Connections may be slow, flaky and expensive - the University of Zimbabwe pays more than 1,500 times for its bandwidth than I do at home in London. But our professional colleagues are working night shifts so they can use all the bandwidth for downloads, and developing all kinds of other workarounds so that their doctors and students can have the information they need.

What links the African and Eastern European medical library experience is the tenacity, intelligence and spirit of innovation with which apparently insoluble difficulties have been tackled and in so many cases by-passed. We can all be proud to be in the same profession and, in our increasingly distance-

independent world, working alongside people whose professional commitments and achievements are an example and a lesson to us all.

As Elsevier's lead person on the HINARI project and as a member of MLA's Librarians Without Borders working party I have been lucky enough to see first-hand and participate in opening up resources where there is no money to buy them, and I would urge all ICS members to look at how you and your organisations can become involved in this process. It is certainly worthwhile. At AHILA there were reports of developments in evidence-based medicine, problem-based medical education and many other desirable benefits that can only be built on a solid infrastructure of information services. We are already beginning to see concrete and significant results from African-based research teams, again entirely stemming from access to HINARI and other resources.

As well as being worthwhile on a macro level, it is also tremendously rewarding personally. Collaboration is a two-way process, and the new perspectives to be gained, new knowledge and attitudes to be acquired are an important part of what makes collaboration of this type so enjoyable.

And Finally,

I must finish my last column as Section Chair with a piece of bare-faced promotion aimed at all ICS members who will be attending the MLA annual meeting in Philadelphia. To celebrate the growing links between MLA (through ICS and the Librarians Without Borders task force) and HINARI, and particularly the registration of the 2,500th HINARI library, there will be a raffle with a difference at the first Business Meeting on Sunday afternoon at MLA.

Every delegate will find a HINARI raffle ticket in their packet, bearing a number and the name of one of the 2,500 libraries. Our President will draw one of these names from the hat. The holder of the winning ticket will receive an iPod,. But much more importantly, the library named on the winning ticket will receive a new, fully-loaded PC workstation with enough consumables to run for at least a year. The raffle is being organised by MLA, the HINARI team and Elsevier, but is being sponsored by all the major HINARI publisher partners. You have to be at Business Meeting to claim your prize (our wily Executive Director stops at nothing to ensure that these business meetings have a comfortable quorum!). Our President will continue pulling tickets out of the (metaphorical) hat until some lucky MLA member runs shrieking and waving down the aisle in true Price Is Right style.

It is intended that this will be a bit of fun for all concerned, and a useful windfall for the lucky library, but there is also a serious MLA purpose to all this. By involving all the MLA delegates we are hoping to raise the profile of medical libraries as far as the wider medical library community is concerned. We know that ICS and its active members do a great deal of very good work in the world's poorest countries, but we are comparatively small in numbers and the level of need is great and continuing. LWB has made a great start in focussing wider MLA attention on this need, and the raffle is a small but gaudy stunt to help this process along. After the draw, delegates will be urged to get in touch with the libraries on their ticket and to see if they and their library can make a difference. As ICS members we know how important this can be, and it's up to us to find ways of getting this message across to as many of our colleagues as possible.

And So To Next Year...

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to chair ICS in the past year, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks both to my ICS colleagues who have helped me and supported the work of the Section in such a wholehearted way, and to my employers Elsevier who have been equally supportive to my MLA and other professional commitments. It is a particular pleasure to hand over the (again, metaphorical) ICS sceptre and orb of office to Marcus Banks, whom I know will be an exceptionally energetic and effective Section Chair.

*Submitted by,
Tony McSean
ICS Chair*

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS DEVELOPMENT

Due to frequent mobility, poverty, language, immigration status, low literacy, and cultural and logistic barriers, most migrant farm workers don't receive adequate social services and primary health care.

It is the purpose of the CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS DEVELOPMENT to provide the knowledge development, information dissemination and training of professionals who deliver specialized health care to minority and special populations.

The Center of Excellence received a grant from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute, in Washington DC and a contract from Texas A&M University System Health Science Center South Texas Center. The purpose is to enhance capacity-building of the health care workforce to improve quality of services to migrant families. The Center is located in McAllen, Texas at the Ramiro R. Casso Nursing and Allied Health Center which is one of 5 campuses of South Texas College. The program director is Dores Jay-Pang.

Since 2005 the Center of Excellence has presented two conferences. One conference covered the interdisciplinary approach to mental health and the other pertained to alternative health care for culturally competent providers. A third conference in environmental health is being planned for August this year.

The Center delivered many presentations at local and national levels from California to Washington DC and in Mexico. Dores was the keynote speaker at the 2006 National Rural Women's Health Conference in San Antonio. Also, during the month of October, 2006, the Center was selected and invited by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Regional Health Administrators to participate the Healthy People, Places, and Practices in Communities Workshop and the National Prevention Summit: Prevention, Preparedness, and Promotion in Washington, DC. The Center director, Dores Jay-Pang, participated by providing technical assistance, organizing, attending or hosting many events.

Seven continuing education online courses for healthcare providers have been developed. The courses are delivered by expert professionals using WebCT and Horizon Wimba from the South Texas College Distant Education department. The curriculum addresses risk and protective factors and they are intended to overcome health disparities across the life span of migrant farm workers and their families.

The courses include Culturally competent healthcare for migrant workers; Grassroots approach to migrant's health; Ethical and legal issues in health care of migrant populations; Health of the migrant child; and Mental health and the migrant family. The course starting the week of April 2, 2007, is titled "Health Care Alternatives Used by Special Populations." This course will introduce healthcare providers to the health issues of migrant adults and children along the U.S. - Mexico Border that utilize Curanderismo alongside Western Medicine. The concept "Heart heals heart" and spiritual ceremonies will be demonstrated and folk diseases will be discussed. The instructors are a psychiatric nurse specialized in psychotherapy and a pediatrician. Both instructors have done extensive studies and research into curanderismo.

The url for the CENTER OF EXCELLENCE is www.southtexascollege.edu/milagros. You can contact Dores Jay-Pang, the program director, at djaypang@southtexascollege.edu for more information.

*Submitted by,
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Summary of HINARI Training Activities in Hanoi, Vietnam

In March 2007, the following HINARI workshops were held in Hanoi, Vietnam:

March 06-09:

HINARI Training Workshop: sponsored by WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific Region; local sponsor/coordinator - Center for Scientific and Medical Information (CISMI); co-facilitators - Julius Dizon, WPRO, Nguyen Hai Ha and Dang Phuong Lien; 3 ½ day course for 28 participants - medical/hospital librarians, physicians, and researchers.

March 12:

Hanoi College of Pharmacy: overview of pharmacy-related Internet resources including HINARI; discussions with library staff included in-service training for pharmacists and development of National Drug Information Center.

HINARI Training Mini-Workshop - Bach Mai Hospital: 2 ½ hour course for 13 physicians.

March 13:

Thai Nguyen University: visit to an almost complete Learning Resource Center; discussed HOA with senior library staff (one had attended previous week's workshop); also presented a brief overview of HOA to junior staff.

March 14:

Library and Information Science Department, Hanoi College of Culture: 'Marketing for Libraries' and 'Managing Change' presentations to more than 100 3rd year students, and 8-10 faculty members.

Hanoi College of Public Health: 'Evaluating Internet-based Health Information' presentation to 15-18 faculty members and library staff.

March 15:

HINARI Training Mini-Workshop - Hanoi College of Pharmacy: 4 hour course for 12 faculty members and library staff.



At the various sites, the hardware/bandwidth ranged from acceptable (CISMI, Hanoi College of Pharmacy) to excellent (Hanoi College of Public Health, Thai Nguyen University). Almost all participants had sufficient baseline computer and searching skills. Some had a reasonable knowledge of HINARI, while others were introduced to the program during the workshops.

English language skills varied. During the initial workshop, the Vietnamese co-facilitators summarized/translated significant parts of the presented material. There was no or minimal translation during the two mini-workshops and the presentation at the College of Public Health and complete translation at the Library and Information Science Department.

During the 'hands on' activities, almost all the participants were able to successfully complete the exercises with periodic input from the facilitators. For each module, we reviewed the answers for the whole group, which proved useful.

Each HINARI workshop included discussions of the 'DOs and DON'Ts' and how to market the resources. Both of these discussions review the parameters for the distribution of the institutional ID and password. The consensus was that, after a review of the DOs and DON'Ts with potential users, the ID and password should be distributed.

Participants were encouraged to train others at their institutions. At the initial workshop, this included small group discussions where participants identified potential user groups and discussed strategies for training. At the Hanoi College of Pharmacy mini-course, there was a discussion of incorporating HINARI into the curriculum.

At the principal workshop, the assistance of the two Vietnamese facilitators was invaluable. They were able to translate key material and, during the hands-on exercises, work with individuals with less English language skills. After the workshops, the participants have a better understanding of the HINARI resources and this should result in increased use of the material. For example, one participant at the initial workshop is from a new applied genetics research institute where there is a high need for current research articles. Also, several educational institutions are in the process of registering for more than one of the HOA gateways since their curriculums include multiple disciplines.

Due to the 2nd able to add activities including the Mini-Workshop As a group, the faculty and of Pharmacy had the best understanding of the potential cause of these skills and the able to accomplish a condensed workshop time.

In Hanoi, the food story. There are literally best way to describe the traffic.

I enjoyed working showed a real interest in the resources.



week's flexible schedule, I was ing the trip to Thai Nguyen University at the Hanoi College of Pharmacy. library staff of the Hanoi College language/searching skills and un-use of the full-text material. Because smaller size of the group, we were siderable amount during the lim-

was great but the traffic is another millions of motor bikes and the fic pattern is 'organized chaos'. with the participants as they learning and utilizing the HINARI

*Submitted by,
Lenny Rhine*

Greetings from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

As editors of "A Good Place to Start: the IDS Knowledge Services guide to finding development information online", we are trying to contact libraries and resource centres in low and middle income countries, to offer them a free copy of our publication by post. The book can also be downloaded from our website, for those with good internet connection.

The small, 86 page book has been written to help make it easier for people to find information about International Development on the Internet. It is written by staff of the IDS Information Department and covers over 30 themes such as Migration, Livelihoods, HIV and AIDS, Governance, Education, etc. Our editorial staff have produced a list of websites on each topic that they feel are good places to start searching for information and the book also includes advice on how to improve and evaluate search results.

We have allocated a large quantity of these books to go to development organisations in low and middle income countries. If you would like to request a copy, please email agoodplacetostart@ids.ac.uk with your name, job title and address and we will gladly send you one. Stocks are limited however, so if you would like a copy, please email us by the end of March.

For more information, or to see a PDF version of the book you can visit <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/info/sliGoodGuide.html>

If you would like to receive information about other Knowledge Services and publications from IDS, please email me at agoodplacetostart@ids.ac.uk and state whether you would prefer information by email or mail.

Best wishes

*Cheryl Brown
for Cheryl Brown and Gabrielle Hurst, editors "A Good Place to Start"*

News from the membership:

The following article, co-authored by MLAICS member **Pam White** (Library Services Manger for West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust) and Cheryl Twomey (Head of electronic Knowledge Access Team (eKAT), London Health Libraries), has received a Highly Commended award from the Emeral Literati Network:

White, Pam and Twomey, Cheryl. Informing Interlibrary Networking and Document Supply in the English National Health Service: a Comparison of Models from Five Different Countries and a Caribbean Network. *Interlending & Document Supply*. *Interlending & Document Supply* 2006 34(2): 78-83.

Elizabeth Connor, assistant professor of Library Science at The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina, USA is the editor of "Evidence-Based Librarianship: Case studies and active learning exercises". She has published widely in peer-reviewed library science journals and has authored several books of interest to academic librarians. The case study contributors work in a variety of academic library settings. This book features case studies and active learning exercises related to using evidence-based approaches in several types of academic libraries. Evidence-based librarianship is important to practicing librarians, library science students, and library science educators as it focuses on applying practice-based evidence gleaned from users, direct observation, and research.

Practicing librarians (both entry level and mid-career), library science faculty, and library science students alike will appreciate the practice-based research, global perspectives, intellectual frameworks, and higher-order thinking featured in this scholarly work.

Key features are: Peer-reviewed case studies from leading academic librarians; Active learning exercises for on-the-job training and library science education related to evidence-based practice; Detailed bibliography.

Also, effective July 2007, Elizabeth Connor is a tenured faculty member in Library Science at the Citadel, at the rank of Associate Professor.

International Activities at MLA 2007



MLA is upon us again! Below are hours of international activity at this year's annual meeting in Philadelphia:

International Visitors Reception, Sunday, May 20, 6-7 pm

Invitation from Marcus to attend the Open Forum about the progress of the Libraries without Borders Task Force, Tuesday, May 22nd, 2-3 pm:

Please plan to attend the open forum about the work of the Librarians without Borders task force over the past year. It will include pictures of library outreach efforts by Lenny Rhine!

Task force members will share the group's charge and seek your input about what to do over the next year. All ICS members are welcome.

Task force members are: Grace Ajuwon, Marcus Banks, Carole Gall, Jill Mayer, Tony McSean, and Lenny Rhine.

Other ICS activities in Philadelphia:

ICS Section Program, Tuesday, May 22nd, 3-4:30 pm

ICS Business Meeting, Tuesday, May 22nd, 4:30-6 pm

See you there!

i-connect Workshop



Elite School of Optometry Library science
L to R: P. Sieving, N. Krishnan, B. Anton

A series of serendipitous events and chance meetings led to invitations to the two of us to participate in the first *i-connect* Workshop in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India, March 15-17, 2007. The goals of the workshop, which brought together librarians from six countries on four continents, were to plan and lay the foundation for the development and maintenance of information resource centers at six "community centers for ophthalmology" in developing countries (India, Nepal, Tanzania, Guatemala and Egypt). These resource centers will provide support for the clinical, teaching and research functions of their respective institutions, through outreach, traditional library services and improved access to learning resources and management tools. Ultimately, the goal of the workshop is to participate in the reduction of blindness through improved access to learning resources and management tools. This goal is grounded in the goals of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight (www.v2020.org). The workshop was also an opportunity to build a community of resource center professionals in support of community centers of ophthalmology.

The *i-connect* workshop was hosted by the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, and sponsored by SEVA Foundation, the Center for Innovation in Eye Care, with additional support by Google and the Lavelle Fund for the Blind.

The core participants were the librarians from community centers for ophthalmology in India, Nepal, and Tanzania; those from Centers in Guatemala and Egypt were unable to attend this year. Those in attendance were:

(Mr) Anup Kumar Das, Netra Niramay Niketan, West Bengal, India;
(Mr) P. Kirubanithi, Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology, Madurai, India;
(Mr) Makoye Damas Pastory, Ophthalmic Resource Center for Eastern Africa, Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology, Moshi, Tanzania;
(Mr) Mukesh Singh Gour, Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya Department of Community Ophthalmology, Madhya Pradesh, India,;
(Ms) Sudha Risal Sharma, Lumbini Eye Institute, Rupandehi, Nepal.

Additional participants were workshop coordinator (Ms) Catherine Howett, British Columbia Centre for Epidemiologic & International Ophthalmology, Vancouver, Canada; (Ms) Bette Anton, Fong Optometry & Health Sciences Library, Berkeley, California, USA; (Ms) Pamela Sieving, National Institutes of Health Library, Bethesda, Maryland, USA; (Ms) Sabera Banu, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India; (Ms) Sally Parsley, International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH), London, England; (Ms) Preethi Pradhan LAICO, Madurai; (Ms) S. Sharmila, LAICO, Madurai; (Ms) R. Kumaragurupari, Aravind Eye Hospital & PG Institute of Ophthalmology, Madurai and (Mr) M.C. Raja, Aravind Eye Hospital & PG Institute of Ophthalmology, Madurai.

Community centers for ophthalmology provide a community-based approach to eye health in developing countries, where more than 90% of the world's blind live. The World Health Organization estimates that, globally, 75% of all blindness is preventable or curable, and only 1% is present at birth.

An important focus of the workshop was to discuss and plan for sharing of resources among the participants. Topics included technology presentations to support decision-making regarding the development of a scaleable cataloging system. The two primary cataloging systems that were introduced were the UNESCO developed system, CDS-ISIS [http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2071&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html] and the UNESCO-distributed Greenstone Digital Library (<http://www.greenstone.org/cgi-bin/library>). CDS-ISIS is currently in use at some of the Resource Centers. There was a demonstration of the Vision 2020 e-resource (www.v2020eresource.org), Aravind's online collection of tools to help assess, plan, implement & manage eye care programs in the developing world. We viewed some of the electronic teaching and learning resources freely available through the ICEH. The authors presented information on general issues relating to open access and, in particular, open access vision resources. They also presented information on the Association of Vision Science Librarians (AVSL) (optometry.berkeley.edu/~library/AVSL.HTM) and welcomed workshop participants as new members of the Association.

Travel to India for the workshop offered the opportunity for us to visit AVSL member librarians at other Indian vision centers. The AVSL is an international organization composed of professional librarians, or persons acting in that capacity, whose collections and services include the literature of vision. We have gained several Indian members in the past decade, and this trip was an important opportunity to meet face-to-face. In Chennai (Madras) we visited with the librarians of the Elite School of Optometry and the Sankara Nethralaya Eye Hospital; in Hyderabad, we visited the librarian of the LV Prasad Eye Institute. We toured the libraries and their respective schools and medical centers, meeting administrators, researchers, clinicians and instructors.

Finally, we were welcomed by the Madras Library Association (MALA) to speak on "Scholarly Communication in 2007: Challenges and Opportunities for the Global Biomedical and Librarian Communities." The talk was co-hosted by the Sundaram Medical Foundation, which provided the facility, and the Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies.

Observations & Challenges

Regardless of background and education levels, the librarians we met during our short time in India share with us a passion for connecting people with the information they need, and a certainty that what we do as biomedical librarians makes a difference in the lives of people. There are enormous challenges facing all of us, whether we have libraries rich in resources and technological support, or whether we work out of small facilities with few resources. They seem less formidable when shared.

Those of us in AVSL have known for years that professional networks help us expand what we are able to do as individuals. We now have the opportunity to develop this network even more widely, with members in more than 20 countries. In the 6 weeks between returning home from the workshop and writing this article, we have seen connections growing, and resources flowing in both directions. We look forward to the second workshop in spring, 2008, and the opportunity to work together with our new colleagues.



Following Scholarly Communications presentation at the Madras Library Association
L to R: N. Krishnan (Elite School of Optometry), B. Anton, P. Sieving, A. Shankar Kumar (Sankara Nethralaya)

*Submitted by,
Pamela Sieving, AHIP, and Bette Anton*

Pam Sieving is currently chairperson of the Association of Vision Science Librarians (AVSL)/MLA Vision Science SIG and informationist at the National Institutes of Health Library, Bethesda, MD, USA.

Bette Anton is a former chairperson of the AVSL/MLA Vision Science SIG and Head Librarian, Fong Optometry & Health Sciences Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.

Moldovan Librarians Visit England



It all started when the Moldovan Librarians, Silvia Ciubrei and Elizaveta Vedean, attended the European Association for Health and Information Libraries (EAHIL) Conference in Cluj, Romania in September 2006. Diane Darrow and I also attended the conference to introduce the Moldovan Librarians to their European Medical Library colleagues. I was particularly happy to introduce them to my lifelong British friend, Shane Godbolt. Shane is the Director for the British non-profit organization - Partnerships in Health Information. The goal of this organization is to create and support international library partnerships between British medical libraries, and medical libraries in developing countries. Partnerships in Health Information currently support partnerships with medical libraries in Africa and Eastern Europe.

At our Transylvania medical library conference, Shane learned that Diane and I had invited the Moldovan medical librarians to a study tour of North Carolina libraries to take place in March 2007. Shane and I were excited about the opportunity this might offer for them to stop in England and visit some English medical libraries for a few days before they arrived in North Carolina. Shane had offers of help for the English visit from several people attending the conference. A group of us, including Rowland Shuttleworth from Blackwell's, brainstormed the potential English trip on a walking tour of beautiful Cluj, Romania (the heart of Transylvania). Blackwell's kindly sponsored the visit, hosting a day showing their extensive Oxford-based operations, and providing accommodation in Oxford for a short stay. Valery Ferguson from Manchester, England and Eve Hollis and Evana Cooke from Oxford, England, also attending the conference, were all willing to help.

On March 14, 2007, Silvia Ciubrei and her Library Director, Dr. Liubovi Karneva, traveled to Oxford, England where they visited the world famous Bodleian Library of Oxford University, as well as several other libraries. They received training on evidence based medicine at the world center for EBM - the UK Cochrane Center. They also received training on the World Health Organization's fabulous database HINARI which offers free full text access to 2,300 medical journals for medical librarians and health care professionals in many of the world's lowest income countries.

The visit included a full hosted day in London, where they saw many famous sites - Westminster Abbey, The Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Big Ben, and much more. The trip to England was a huge bonus for the goal of offering our Moldovan colleagues opportunities to share experiences with medical librarians outside of Moldova. It was also the perfect prelude to this trip to North Carolina.



*Submitted by,
Donna Flake
Director, Coastal AHEC Library*

Moldovan Librarians Visit North Carolina

Previously, this newsletter reported on the partnership begun in 2005 between all the North Carolina Medical Libraries and the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova. The newest development in this successful partnership was an organized study tour of English and North Carolinian medical libraries for two of the Moldovan libraries. This article provides an overview of the study tour.

On Wednesday March 21st, two of our Moldovan medical library colleagues arrived in Wilmington to begin their three week study tour of medical libraries in North Carolina. This was a dream come true to Liubovi Karnaeva and Silvia Ciubrei, Director, and Deputy Director of the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova. This was their first trip to the United States, and they were eager to begin their adventure.

Wilmington and Coastal AHEC



The next day was spent at the Coastal AHEC medical library, getting acquainted with the staff and learning how we operate the library. Prior to their arrival, we created a colorful banner containing the Moldovan flag to welcome them, as well as a poster with many views of their library in Moldova. Rob Ferencak who is a UNC-W student with a minor in foreign languages, and also works nights and weekends in our library, provided translation for Liubovi from French to English. Silvia speaks English, but Liubovi does not, so Silvia normally translates for Liubovi, but Rob took on some of the responsibility too. Liubovi speaks Russian, Romanian, and French.

During their stay in Wilmington, we held a reception at the Coastal AHEC Library. Attending were many physicians, NHRMC employees, Coastal AHEC employees, Friends of the library, and also the directors of the local libraries. Luda and Valerie Pototov (originally from Kazastan, and now Wilmington residents and employees of New Hanover Regional Medical Center) also attended, and generously translated in Russian and English for Liubovi.

Greenville and Laupus Health Sciences Library

On Monday March 26th, Diane and I drove Liubovi and Silvia to East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, where we were met by Eastern AHEC's Executive Director, Dr. Steve Willis, and David Kennedy, Eastern AHEC's Chief Financial Officer. Silvia and Liubovi were so impressed with the beautiful new Laupus Health Sciences Library. Dr. Dottie Spencer, Library Director, warmly greeted our Moldovan colleagues, and carried out the exciting and knowledge filled itinerary for their two day visit to Greenville. She also hosted Liubovi and Silvia in her home for the two night stay. They enjoyed a trip to the County Doctor Museum in Bailey, a detailed tour of the history of medicine department in the library, and a demonstration of book preservation technique. This was particularly important as they are trying to preserve their historical books in Moldova. ECU honored Silvia and Liubovi with a reception attended by 75 people. Dr. Spencer gave Silvia and Liubovi ECU purple and gold sweatshirts, and other ECU mementos. Dr. Spencer had arranged the Moldovan and American flags as the focal point of the room. Silvia and Liubovi gave Dottie Spencer and David Kennedy special medals from their University, only given to those who give great service to the Moldovan University.

Librarians at ECU also introduced them to several useful tutorials written by ECU Health Sciences Librarians using a piece of software called Macromedia Captivate. Silvia plans to try to obtain the software and recreate the tutorials using Romanian and Russian languages.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

David Kennedy generously drove Liubovi and Silvia to Chapel Hill. Their first introduction to the campus was the famous Carolina Inn, followed by a tour of the Bell Tower and the Old Well on campus. Jill Mayer, librarian with the AHEC central office at the Health Science Library at Chapel Hill, opened her home to Silvia and Liubovi for their two night stay. Carol Jenkins, Director of the Health Science Library, organized a lovely reception for Liubovi and Silvia. Liubovi and Silvia gave Carol Jenkins a medal from their university, as well as several other mementos of the Moldovan University. Liubovi and Silvia learned about marketing classes to doctors and others, about designing courses, and much more. After two nights in Chapel Hill, Suzanne Porter (Curator of Duke's History of Medicine Collection) drove Liubovi and Silvia to Duke. Duke University and Durham, North Carolina.

Rick Peterson, Associate Director of the Duke Medical Library, organized Liubovi and Silvia activities at Duke. He gave them a tour of the beautiful Duke gardens in full bloom, and a look at the Duke Chapel. Rick provided tours of the Medical Library, which included a reception in the Duke History of Medicine room. Liubovi and Silvia met Pat Thibodeau, Director of Seeley Mudd Medical Center Health Sciences Library, and gave Pat a medal from their Moldovan University. Suzanne Porter took them to a local art museum and to the mall. Liubovi and Silvia went to dinner with Peggy Schaeffer, who is a Duke librarian working with Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill on an IMLA grant, whose daughter, coincidentally, is in the Peace Corps in Moldova.

Charlotte

Rick Peterson put Liubovi and Silvia on the train in Durham, and Lee Kaufmann (Director of the Charlotte AHEC Library) met them in Charlotte. While in Charlotte, Silvia and Liubovi toured the facilities at Carolinas Medical Center including the new consumer health library at the Levine Children's Hospital - they looked wonderful in hard hats! They visited all the hospitals as well as medical libraries in the Charlotte region and were very impressed with the focus on patient-centered care here in the U.S. While in Charlotte, Silvia and Liubovi had discussions with the library staff concerning technology, academic applications, client support, etc. Kerry Sullivan set up an aggregator for Silvia and got her started with some feeds. Dinner conversations that evening included salaries, understaffing, image, etc.the same librarian issues across continents! Again, Liubovi and Silvia gave Lee Kaufmann a medal of special thanks from their university.

Winston-Salem and the North West AHEC area

Amy Six-Means, medical librarian from North West AHEC, drove to Charlotte to pick up Liubovi and Silvia. Then they traveled to Hickory to pick up Karen Martinez, another medical librarian from Northwest AHEC, and began a tour of libraries in the Northwest ANHEC region. They visited Wilkes Regional Medical Center (North Wilkesboro), Cannon Memorial Hospital (Banner Elk), Belk Library (Appalachian State University), and two of the Northwest AHEC Libraries (Boone and Hickory). They also drove a distance on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Liubovi and Silvia got to see Grandfather Mountain. Late at night they went to Winston-Salem where Liubovi and Silvia stayed in accommodations provided by Carpenter Library of Wake Forest University.

They spent a day in Winston-Salem itself with a tour of Carpenter Library, the last of the four medical school libraries they visited. David Stewart, Associate Director of the library, hosted them. Their time in Winston-Salem was particularly significant, as they finally got to meet Ellen Daugman, Humanities Librarian from the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University. Ellen is a lifelong friend of mine, and it was her father from Latvia who inspired me to work to help the Medical Library of Latvia, and later the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova. It was very important to me that Liubovi and Silvia meet Ellen. Ellen took them on a tour of Old Salem. Also during the Winston-Salem portion of their trip, Liubovi and Silvia got to meet a very important player in the North Carolina-Moldovan partnership, Dr. Steve Mackler, a dentist from Greensboro, who helps to inspire health partnerships between North Carolina health practitioners and those in Moldova.

Back to Wilmington

Nancy Stein, medical librarian from Northwest AHEC, drove Silvia and Liubovi east on I-40, and my husband and I drove west on I-40, and Silvia and Liubovi rode with us back to Wilmington.

On the final full day of their NC visit, we had a closure meeting with Dr. Mike Reaves, Chairman of the Coastal AHEC Board, and Dr. Mark Darrow. Silvia and Liubovi discussed some of the valuable things they learned on this trip, and things they plan to implement when they return to their library in Moldova. They plan to create a center for Moldovan health professionals to learn new electronic programs. On the last night of their NC stay, we had a farewell dinner at Shell Island.

*Submitted by,
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