

Annual General Meeting of the LAI Health Sciences Libraries Group, held at the Bridge House Hotel Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Tuesday 14th October, 2003.

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MINUTES

1. Minutes of last meeting (HSLG/AGM/01-02), previously circulated, were noted. There were no non-agenda matters arising.
2. Outgoing Chairman Bernard Barrett welcomed the large attendance, one of the benefits of convening the AGM as part of the two-day Annual Conference of the Group, and also welcomed the LAI President Gobnait O'Riordan, as a guest.
3. Apologies were noted before copies of the Treasurer's Report for 2002-2003 were circulated by outgoing Treasurer Angela Rice, and noted. The financial success of the 2002 two-day Annual Conference was commented on, and also the subvention to the Group from membership fees paid by participating members of the Inter Lending Cooperative scheme. Comments were also made about future expenditures by the Group on various schemes, especially strategic planning and continuing professional development through training seminars.
4. Barrett next presented the Chairman's Report, describing the work of the Group and its committee, which was increased in number during the year by the co-option of Jean Harrison, representing the Regional Health Board Librarians and Sue Faulkner, representing IDAAL (Intellectual Disabilities and Allied Libraries). These co-options are part of the committee's endeavours to include all professional groups of librarians involved in medicine and the health sciences in Ireland. A further innovation was the addition of a Communication Officer post to the committee officers, the duties of which were ably assumed by Niamh O'Sullivan. On a point of information, Barrett informed the meeting that three Group members were elected to the Executive Board of the LAI in 2003, Beatrice Doran, Margaret Dillon and Bernard Barrett, thus ensuring Group representation at the highest level.
5. During the year the Standards Steering Group under Niamh Lucey completed its major project in producing a new set of standards for healthcare libraries, a draft of which is being passed to the LAI for publication. Training is seen as being of major importance and was commented on at the 2003 Annual Conference just held. In the past year the Training Working Group under Aoife Lawton completed a successful programme of training courses in Dublin, Waterford and Galway. It is the intention of the Training Working Group to continue to expand on this programme and one of its initial goals is to ascertain what expertise exists in Ireland, before seeking such expertise elsewhere.
6. The attendance of committee members as speakers at the LAI/CILIP Annual joint Conference in Galway in June 2003 was an opportunity to forge links with the Northern Ireland members of CILIP's Health Libraries Group. One of the earliest signs of closer cooperation was the welcome attendance of HLG delegates from Northern Ireland at our 2003 conference for the first time. Further joint ventures are planned, including involvement in the HLG's 2004 annual conference, which is held in different venues across the UK and will be held in Belfast in September 2004. It is hoped that, as well as attending, this HSLG will also furnish some speakers for this conference and, following our own successful format, that some of the breakout sessions will discuss issues of relevance to Irish medical and healthcare librarians.
7. Barrett next gave details of meetings he had attended with Ciara McCaffrey and Prof. Linda Shields, University of Limerick concerning the proposed creation of an Irish branch of the UK Cochrane Centre and meetings with the Dept of Health and Children regarding the need for a national libraries advisor and the setting up of an Irish National Electronic Library for Health along the lines of the UK NELH. Barrett summed up by outlining plans for the year ahead, and the goal of putting a Strategic Plan together for the Group, in keeping with LAI recommendations. To this end, he confirmed that Shane Godbolt of the NHS Clinical

Governance Support Team will host the first of a series of Strategic Planning workshops for committee members shortly. It is hoped to ultimately make the committee more effective, and involve all Group members in fostering the best interests of the Group. One area of general interest is the choice of subject for future conferences, with perhaps one theme, and breakout sessions involving all delegates, to seek diversity of opinion.

8. Ann Murphy next presented a short report on recent developments with IMPACT, which included the setting up of a Working Group of health librarians who are members of IMPACT. This Working Group had its first AGM in May 2003, seeking a mandate from members to agree terms of reference. This Group is to meet 20th October to agree TORs. A survey of the membership is to be carried out as a matter of priority.

9. Niamh Lucey, convenor of the Standards Steering Group presented the report from the Group, detailing the major amount of time and effort which had gone into the writing of a new standards document. The background to this project was given, from the publication of the 1994 standards document, the workshops hosted by John Lancaster in Limerick in 2001 and 2002, and the assimilation of similar standards documents produced by the Canadian, American and Australian Medical Library Associations, to the creation of a special Steering Group in 2002, tasked with the writing of an updated standards document. This Steering Group, reported regularly to the committee, detailing the planning and development process, before drawing up a comprehensive draft in Summer 2003. The committee have been given copies of this draft for comment, before sending it to the LAI for adoption by the LAI at the 2004 AGM next April. The subsequent timeframe for printing and publishing should allow for a launch of the standards document later in 2004 or early in 2005. In the vote of thanks the Steering Group members were commended for seeing this project, which had been delayed over the years for a number of unforeseen circumstances, including the Foot and Mouth travel restrictions, to its successful conclusion.

10. Jean Harrison next presented a short report of the activities of the Inter Lending Co-operative Sub-Committee, which met four times during the year, before a presentation of the ILL statistics package covering the period February to October 2003 was given by Fionnuala Boyle, business partner of Muriel Haire in the production of the annual index.

11. The election of the committee for 2003-2004 then proceeded. Outgoing Recording Secretary Timothy Collins informed those present that three people were stepping down from the committee for personal reasons, Niamh Lucey, Niamh O'Sullivan and Angela Rice. Collins had also received the names of six Group members, seeking nomination to the committee. In accordance with normal procedure, it was unanimously agreed that both the existing members and the six new members be duly elected to serve on the committee. Consequently, the Irish Health Libraries Group committee for 2003 -2004 is as follows:

Bernard Barrett	Rosarii Buttimer
Timothy Collins	Louise Farragher
Sue Faulkner	Brian Galvin
Jean Harrison	Muriel Haire
Aoife Lawton	Ciara McCaffrey
Fiona McCarthy	Maire McClarnon
Emma Quinn	Penny Wiggle

This committee will meet as soon as possible to elect Officers and continue with the planned programme of activities started by the outgoing committee.

12. Under Any Other Business, a request to hold elections to the Inter Lending Co-operative Sub-committee before the close of business was deferred on procedural grounds for consideration by the incoming committee. Following a query from the floor about the effectiveness of the LAI Health Libraries Panel, LAI President O'Riordan, gave details of the work done to date by this Panel, but said that, like all of the LAI's organisational structures, its effectiveness and future was being reviewed by the Executive Board.

13. Further details of the work of the Group in the past year, the ratified minutes of all committee meetings, reports of conferences, seminars, and the minutes of previous Group AGMs, will shortly be available on the Group website:

<http://www.libraryassociation.ie/sections/healthlibs/index.htm>

14. There being no other business, outgoing Chairperson Bernard Barrett again thanked the Group members for attending this AGM, and the committee for their dedication and time, freely given throughout the year.

Compiled by:  
Timothy Collins,  
Recording Secretary,  
HSLG,  
22nd October, 2004.