In addition to these short presentations and product displays, there will be exhibit tables that focus on new and improved services such as Health Net, Library publications, remote access via the Library’s proxy server, and the Library’s ever-growing website. Browse the exhibits. Attend a program or two. Win a door prize. Enjoy delicious hors d’oeuvres from the Struck Café. We hope to see you there! AN

Library Survey: Faculty Responses

This is the third in a series of articles reporting the results of a survey of the UMass Medical School faculty, students, and residents in the Spring of 2000. The purpose of the survey was to assess patron usage and satisfaction with collections, resources, and services in the medical library and elicit comment on Library-wide services. continued on page 2
Ovid Online Replaces Local Ovid System

Access to the suite of databases that the Library offers through the Ovid interface was changed, effective February 1, 2001. The new interface, referred to as Ovid Online, was introduced in the Library in January so that the older, local Ovid system and the new system could run in parallel.

The decision to move to Ovid Online was made for several reasons, including the currency of the databases and the improved interface and features of the Ovid Online system. There is no password needed to access the system. Remote access may be gained by logging on to the Library’s new proxy service. (Registration at the Library is required for this service.)

Ovid Online content includes databases such as MEDLINE, Pre Medline, CancerLit, BIOSIS, PsycINFO, Evidence Based Medicine Reviews, CINAHL, approximately 100 full-text journals and 18 full-text medical textbooks. With Ovid Online, the user connects with the Ovid server in Utah instead of with a server located at UMass.

Instead of the time lag created by receiving CD updates from Ovid, the servers at Ovid are updated weekly. MEDLINE and PsycINFO are updated each week.

New features and enhancements are also available sooner with Ovid Online, since it is the focus of Ovid Technologies’ development. One of the major enhancements currently available only with Ovid Online is the ability to search multiple databases at one time and then to eliminate duplicate citations. Another new feature is the ability to delete one or more sets from a search strategy.

Access to Ovid Online is IP-dependent and Ovid Online will recognize your school or clinical system computer as being within the UMass domain. Ovid users will no longer need to register for a login or set a password. To use Ovid Online, a user should be a registered borrower at The Lamar Soutter Library. Your name and barcode will enable access to the proxy service provided by the Library.

For more information about Ovid Online, please contact the Library’s Reference Desk at 856-6857.

The Library Collection: Help Us Help You

The Lamar Soutter Library welcomes and encourages suggestions for books to be added to the Library’s collection. Request forms are available at the Circulation Desk or on the Library’s webpage at http://library.umassmed.edu/MatReq.html.

Items are added to the collection in support of the mission of the Library and its written Collection Development Policy, as the budget allows.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ingrassia, Assistant Director for Library Technical Services, at (508) 856-1041 or by email at: Barbara.Ingrassia@umassmed.edu.
Virtual: a Reality

Imagine that you are looking for a book and that you can search sixteen research libraries’ catalogs simultaneously. That is the concept behind the Boston Library Consortium’s (BLC) Virtual Catalog (VC). With funding provided by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the sixteen-member group of the BLC has been working with two public library networks in the Boston area to develop the Virtual Catalog.

The VC allows you, as a library user, to seamlessly search the combined holdings of the members’ online card catalogs, to view the results in a common system, and to initiate interlibrary loan (ILL) requests based on real-time local circulation status and ILL policies. The materials you order will be sent to this library’s Circulation Desk. You will be notified when the material arrives. When you are finished with the material, you will return it to the library’s Circulation Desk so that it can be shipped back to the lending library. This service will be provided to you at no cost.

Besides UMass Medical School, members of the BLC include UMass-Amherst, UMass-Lowell, UMass-Dartmouth, UMass-Boston, Marine Biological Laboratory/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, MIT, Wellesley College, Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Brandeis University, Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts State Library, and one out-of-state institution, Brown University in Rhode Island.

The catalog is currently in various stages of implementation. Four of these libraries have just opened their catalogs to public access. UMass Medical School will soon go live with Library staff implementation. Sometimes this spring or summer, once a smooth workflow has been established, we will join in with the “First Four” and go live for public use. Eventually all sixteen BLC libraries will be brought on board. In addition, two public library networks, which contain about one hundred public libraries, are participating in the project.

A Trip to (The Other) Portland

Giving presentations and poster sessions at professional conferences in the Northeast are not unusual occurrences for Library staff. It is less common, however, for librarians to travel cross-country for such activities.

In late January, Reference Librarian Robert Vander Hart traveled to Portland, Oregon to present an hour-long program at the eighteenth annual Online Northwest Conference. Sponsored by the Interinstitutional Library Council of the Oregon University System, Online Northwest is a one-day conference that focuses on learning about computers and technology in all types of libraries.

Vander Hart’s presentation, co-authored by Reference Librarian Peg Spinner, was entitled “Usability Displays of Service and Humanity

In the opening days of March, two catastrophes befell the Library. While on duty March 3, longtime Technical Services employee Dorothy Adams suffered a debilitating stroke. Two colleagues, John Marengo and Kerry Mayotte, quickly and calmly responded to the emergency. In addition to summoning medical assistance, they monitored Dorothy’s vital signs and ensured that she be kept as comfortable as possible until the appropriate personnel could rush her to the adjacent hospital’s ICU.

Two days later, a blizzard struck central Massachusetts, leaving three-foot snowdrifts in its wake. Although most area schools and businesses were brought to a halt, the Library’s doors remained open. Providing yeoman service, staff members Mary Ann Slocomb, James Comes, Harvey Fenigsohn, and Doug Parker worked extra shifts at the Circulation and Reference desks, assuring many of the more than 300 customers who braved the forbidding weather to use our facilities. (Two of these staff even brought blankets and bunked on the premises overnight!)

We commend our colleagues who, under such stressful conditions, coolly demonstrated the highest levels of service dedication and human compassion toward others in need.

Donors Thanked

We wish to thank the following individuals for their donations of books and journal issues to The Lamar Soutter Library during 2000:


The Library accepts offers of materials in good condition, published primarily during the past ten years, for possible addition to the main collection. Older items, with special historical significance continued on page 4.
Dose of Reading: Orphans and Adoption

Blais, Madeleine. Uphill Walkers: A Memoir of a Family (2001). A journalist, Blais recalls how she and her siblings survived their childhoods in Holyoke, Massachusetts after their young father died.

Dahlberg, Edward. Because I Was Flesh (1964). Born in Boston at the turn of the century, iconoclast Dahlberg here recalls much of his life, including his years at a Jewish Cleveland orphanage.

Fisher, Antwone. Finding Fish: A Memoir (2001). Soon to be a motion picture starring (and directed by) Denzel Washington, this memoir tells of Fisher’s early years in a Cleveland orphanage, running wild on the streets, and then having to confront emotions of anger and abandonment, while in the Navy.

Klose, Robert. Adopting Alyosha: A Single Man Finds a Son in Russia (1999). A testament to his perseverance against numerous international bureaucratic obstacles, this narrative delineates how this journalist, an unmarried man, ultimately prevailed in his attempt to adopt abroad.

Lewis, Judy. Uncommon Knowledge (1994). A penetrating analysis of her youthful torment, this memoir recalls her learning, in her thirties, that Clark Gable and Loretta Young were her biological—not merely adoptive—parents.


Norling, Donna Scott. Patti’s Journey: From Orphanage to Adoption and Reunion (1996). Born during the Depression, Norling recreates her experiences growing up in a Minnesota orphanage.

Rhodes, Richard. A Hole in the World: An American Boyhood (1990). Following physical and emotional abuse inflicted upon him and his brother by their stepmother, Rhodes and his sibling were sent to a Missouri working farm in 1950.

Satre, Jeanne M. Eight Was Not Enough: The Unlikely Adventures of an Only Child (1998). Satre describes her experiences with her husband, who are the adoptive parents of six interracial and special needs children.

Simpson, Eileen. Orphans: Real and Imaginary (1987). In this unusual book, the author combines her own memories (of growing up as an orphan in Westchester, NY and Hanover, NH) with scholarly essays on the orphan as a cultural figure.

Waldron, Jan L. Giving Away Simone (1995). Waldron recounts how, as an unwed mother in Boston in 1969, she relinquished her newborn daughter, but was reunited with her eleven years later; this memoir also details the difficult process of their subsequent reconciliation.

Wilson, Rex L. Out East of Abilene: An Adoption Memoir (2000). Set in Oklahoma, this memoir describes his life in a state orphanage from about his fourth through twelfth years. J L