

U P D A T E



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The Bulletin of the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association

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EDITOR'S REMARKS

Inside this issue of the Update, you will find a list of topics for discussion at the annual meeting in April that were formulated by the members of the GHSLA Strategic Planning Committee. A form has been included for you to indicate your first and second choices for discussion groups. Please return the form to Carol Burns, A.W. Calhoun Medical Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. 30322 by April 1, 1986.

If you have any material you would like to submit for publication in the next edition of the Update, please send it to me at the address below before May 1, 1986. Thanks!!

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GHSLA STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
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The Strategic Planning Committee has been hard at work developing a set of topics for discussion at the annual meeting in Unicoi this April. A day-long meeting at the Mercer School of Medicine Library yielded the outline presented below. Our intent is to provide a range of topics of interest to members of the organization, break into discussion groups centered on each topic, and conclude with general discussion. At the end of the session, we should have determined a course of action for GHSLA for the next several years, along with specific ideas regarding implementation.

Following the outline is a short form we would like each GHSLA member to complete before the Unicoi meeting. Your input now will help the committee further develop the discussion session. Please rank the six areas in order of importance as you see it, with 1 being the highest rank. If you are planning to attend the Unicoi meeting, please also list your first and second choices for discussion groups. We will make every attempt to accommodate your first choice, but we also wish to have representation on each group from all geographic locations and library types.

Before turning to the outline, let me introduce you to the members of the committee:

Marilyn Barry
DeKalb General Hospital

Sandy Martin
Morehouse School of Medicine

Tom Basler
Medical College of Georgia

Jocelyn Rankin
Mercer School of Medicine

Carol Burns, Chair
Emory University

Aurelia Spence
Central State Hospital

Carole Dean
Centers for Disease Control

Susan Statom
Colquitt Regional Medical
Center

Mary Fiedler
Candler General Hospital

Possible Project Areas

1. Resource Sharing (locating and sharing specific bibliographic items)
 - A. Possible networks
 - GHSLA members
 - All health sciences libraries in Georgia or some subset thereof
 - Other?
 - B. Implementation possibilities
 - Development of statewide union list of serials and union catalog of books
 - SERHOLD project
 - SEMPUL project
 - SOLINET
 - OCLC
 - Use of DOCLINE or other electronic mail systems
 - Other?
2. Reference Referral (location factual information)
 - A. Possible networks
 - Local consortia (health sciences or multi-type library)
 - All health sciences libraries in Georgia or some subset thereof
 - Other?
 - B. Implementation possibilities
 - Development of formal referral networks and mechanisms
 - "Buddy" system
 - List of specialized reference librarians
 - Link with consultants' registry
 - Use of incoming WATS (800 numbers)
 - Development of a union catalog of reference materials
 - Other?
3. Consumer Health Information (providing information on health and disease to the general public)
 - A. Preliminary questions
 - What is the health sciences library's role in providing information to the general public?
 - What is the role of GHSLA in promoting or establishing such a network?
 - B. Possible networks
 - Health sciences and public libraries
 - Health agencies and associations

- C. Implementation possibilities
 - Development of a multi-type institutional network
 - Development of Consumer Health Information Center(s) for the state
 - Liaison with GLA
 - Other?

- 4. Educational Activities (providing "how to" information to a wide variety of audiences on a wide variety of topics)
 - A. Possible audiences
 - Librarians, library managers and staff in health sciences and other libraries
 - Health professionals and their professional associations
 - General public

 - B. Implementation possibilities
 - Continuing education courses (MLA, GHSLA, SE/ARMLS, other professional library associations, other)
 - Basic skills courses for library managers, health professionals (MEDLINE, etc.)
 - Consultations
 - TELNET
 - GHSLA Newsletter and other marketing devices
 - Liaison with other professional library and health organizations
 - Other?

- 5. Consortia (development of consortia within the state and promotion of inter-consortia cooperation)
 - A. Possible networks
 - Subsets of GHSLA membership
 - Health sciences library networks
 - Multi-type library networks

 - B. Implementation possibilities
 - Share membership lists among existing consortia
 - Development of new consortia
 - Formation of a statewide consortia council
 - Establishment of formal cooperative ventures among consortia
 - Other?

6. Information-gathering habits of health professionals (how to health professionals ascertain bibliographic and other types of information)

A. GHSLA role

- providing current information to its membership regarding the changes brought about by microcomputers and user-friendly databases
- Providing educational opportunities to health professionals (MEDLINE, database management systems, other)
- Other?

B. Implementation possibilities

- Liaison with health professional and their associations
- Listing appropriate educational opportunities in newsletters and electronic bulletin boards for health practitioners
- Conducting basic research on the subject
- Other?

Southern Chapter/MLA Continuing Education Fund

The SC/MLA CE Scholarship Fund was established for the purpose of supporting the expenses of Southern Chapter members seeking to become qualified MLA CE instructors. MLA currently reviews CE instructor applicants on the basis of subject expertise, teaching experience/teacher education and past MLA CE activities. Guidelines and application requirements for the SC/MLA CE Scholarship Fund are available from: Mary Evelyn Dowell, Chairman, SC/MLA CE Committee, Medical Library, Singing River Hospital, 2809 Denny Avenue, Pascagoula, Mississippi, 39567, (601 938-5040). Application deadline is April 15, 1986.

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ONLINE CORNER
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On-line searching for the end-user has become a significant trend in the last few years. Database vendors such as Dialog and BRS have put forth a tremendous effort to develop "user friendly" software. They also have aimed major marketing campaigns at those people who would rather search the literature themselves. Unfortunately, the costs of on-line searching remain high and because of this access is limited for a great number of people.

Recently the National Library of Medicine decided to make subsets of its major database - MEDLINE - available to organizations or individuals who have the computer capability of searching and storing files of substantial size. Several medical libraries are making these tapes available to their users. The libraries specify their subset (usually the journal titles available in their libraries) by creating a "storesearch" on MEDLINE. After the search strategy is stored, NLM runs it against its full database to create the subset tapes. The subset tapes can then be mounted on a 10 cal computer. Beth Israel Hospital, Georgetown Medical Library, and Washington University Medical Library have created user-friendly software which will search local MEDLARS subset tapes. "Paper Chase" created by Beth Israel Hospital has been in operation several years; Mini-MEDLINE (Georgetown) and BACS/Search (Washington University) have been developed more recently.

Mercer University medical Library will be loading its own Medlars subset tapes onto the GaIN system in the near future. The library has purchased BACS/Search from Washington University School of Medicine. This addition to the GaIN system will allow users to search locally the latest years of the MEDLINE file on a set of journals easily available within GaIN. This promise to be a welcome addition to the GaIN system.

Submitted by Jean Williams

SOFTWARE REVIEW: CROSSTALK XVI

Telecommunications software is one of the fastest-growing areas of the computer software market. There are a wide variety of packages, at prices ranging from free to approximately \$200, available to the individual needing this type of software. Essentially, all of the telecommunications packages serve one purpose, and that is to allow your microcomputer to "talk" to other computers. This brief article will focus specifically with the package known as Crosstalk XVI and the experiences we have had with it within the GaIN network

Before you select your telecommunications software, it is important to decide what you need (or want) it to do. For example, decide whether or not you need to be able to transfer files between computers; also, decide whether or not you require the ability to capture data being transmitted from the host computer. These are just a few of the issues to be raised during the selection process.

Uploading is the ability to send a file that is created to the host computer, thus saving you online charges. If you plan to use your telecommunications package to upload files to the host computer, it is important to be aware of the hardware/software parameters of the host computer as well as the parameters of the software package. For example, our GaIN libraries transmit several interlibrary loan requests on a daily basis. Many of these libraries incur long-distance communication charges in order to access GaIN. If the librarian waits until she/he gets online to type out each individual request, it follows that an expensive communication cost will be incurred. The ability to upload a file, however, solves that problem. The librarian simply uses a word-processing software package to create a file containing the interlibrary loan requests for that day. Once she/he accesses GaIN, a command is issued (via Crosstalk) that sends the file, at a 300/1200/2400 baud rate, to our host computer. This practice results in a significant savings in long-distance communications charges. However, be careful to pay attention to the parameters of the system. We discovered that the GaIN software interprets the carriage return as a control character. Thus, anytime the carriage return was used (which happened all the time) in a file, the message came out garbled on our end. A simple measure was implemented to correct the problem, but this is an example of one parameter problem that might arise.

Crosstalk XVI is a versatile package that offers the following features:

1. File Transfers - This is the ability to upload a file or message to another computer. In addition, this function allows you to receive data from another computer or exchange files between computers. Crosstalk has a file transfer protocol that insures error free transmission of files. The protocol checks for errors during the transmission process to be sure that data received matches data sent. This protocol, however, does not allow for line noise.
2. File Directory - Crosstalk XVI will store virtually an unlimited directory of phone numbers. For example, if you frequently do online searching with a vendor such as ERS, you simply store the number in the directory and let Crosstalk to the dialing. Should the number be busy or if there is no answer, you can program Crosstalk to redial the number until a connection is made.
3. Storage of Log-on Procedures - Tired of always having to type the Telenet address and password everytime you log onto the system? Well, you may set up a script file in Crosstalk that will remove that drudgery forever. Simply store the log-on procedure in the script file, and you may use it again and again.
4. Data Capture - Crosstalk XVI will allow you to "download" (capture and store) data received from the host computer. For example, in online searching, you would turn the CAPTURE feature ON, and name the file. This would allow you to store the entire search from start to finish on a disk. Using any work processing package, you could edit the search (i.e., articles that are not relevant, or add explanatory notes for the patron, etc.) as you wish. This feature has been found to be very useful to our network members.
5. Unattended Operation - If you would like to exchange files with another computer during non-prime hours, you may program Crosstalk to do so. Simply leave Crosstalk in the answer mode when you leave the library. The other computer can "call" yours and exchange data. You may even require the caller to use a password. Crosstalk will disconnect the caller after three unsuccessful tries at entering the password.

These are but a few of the features offered in this software program. We purchased the software for \$105.00 through MicroMart in Atlanta.

Reviews of Crosstalk XVI can be found in three issues on Online:

1. Holland, MP. Communications Software: Experiences with Perfect Link and Crosstalk XVI. Online (USA). Vol 8, No. 4, pp. 75-80.
2. Kolner, SJ. The IBM-PC as an Online Search Machine. I. Anatomy for Searchers. Online (USA). Vol. 9, No. 1, pp. 37-42.
3. Kolner, SJ. The IBM-PC as an Online Search Machine. IV. Telecommunications and Crosstalk XVI. Online (USA). Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 27-34.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information or if you would like to see a demonstration. My phone number is (912) 744-4056.

Kim McInnis

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MACON, GA 31207



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