Governor’s Performance Recognition Award

On October 21 Reference Librarian Peg Spinner will be a recipient of the Governor’s 1999 Performance Recognition Award. Peg will join other Massachusetts state workers to receive this award at a special dinner at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. This dinner will be hosted by Governor Paul Cellucci to “recognize employees who serve as examples of superior service.”

Pictured are (left to right) Library Director Elaine Martin, Reference Librarian honoree Peg Spinner, and Head of Reference James Combs

The Mighty QUIN Comes to The Lamar Soutter Library

Come on without, come on within.
You’ll not see nothin’ like the Mighty Quinn!

When Manfred Mann and the Manfreds sang these lyrics back in 1968, little did they know just how prophetic their words would be. For it is now, more than thirty years later, that The Lamar Soutter Library is introducing to its patrons its own Mighty QUIN: Quick User-friendly Information Network.

QUIN is an interactive online catalog that is easily accessed from the library’s web page (http://library.umassmed.edu), by clicking on “Catalog.” It is an “integrated library system” (ILS), which brings together five library functions: Acquisitions, Cataloguing, Serials, Circulation/Reserves, and the Public Catalog (OPAC). Formerly it was necessary to consult a separate paper or computer file in each of those several areas.

But now QUIN will allow patrons to review their current borrowing record, access course reserve lists, identify the library’s up-to-the-minute journal holdings, see which materials (books, journals, government documents, video and audio tapes) are on order or have been received, access linked materials on the Web, or formulate more powerful search strategies. For example, one may limit information by date or by material type; also, one may ask that the most relevant information be listed first. And whatever information is found may be e-mailed, printed, or saved.

More than a year in the planning, QUIN has required much behind-the-scenes work on the part of the entire Library staff. Location codes had to be defined, patron records loaded, ledgers and purchase orders constructed, serial check-in grids built, search screens designed. And the work continues. The system, known as “Voyager” by its manufacturer (Endeavor Information

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Library’s Website Offers an Array of Electronic Resources

The Lamar Soutter Library has acquired access to a variety of electronic resources available through the Library’s website (http://library.umassmed.edu), to support the educational, clinical, and research information needs of the staff and students. The new electronic resources offer access to the Web of Science (Science Citation Index), electronic journals with full-text articles from Elsevier and Academic Press, full-text books from MD Consult, drug information from MICROMEDEX, and grant funding information from COS (Community of Science) Funding Opportunities.

Web of Science is the web-based interface to the data contained in Science Citation Index (SCI). SCI is a multidisciplinary database, indexing 5,300 journals representing 164 scientific disciplines. Some of the disciplines covered include biochemistry, biology, biotechnology, chemistry, medicine, neuroscience, oncology, pediatrics, pharmacology, psychiatry, and surgery.

SCI is well known in the scientific community as a means of identifying cited references. Cited Reference Searching allows one to search articles that have cited one or more other articles. A cited reference search will identify who is citing one’s research (or other research of interest); how it is being used in current research; or it will follow the history of an idea or method.

With the recent addition of 275 journals from Academic Press and Elsevier, the Library’s website is a gateway to more than 650 electronic journals. The list includes electronic journals from Springer, Ovid, HighWire Press, and many other providers. A majority of the journals are full-text and are available on the web as soon as the paper copy is published. Most titles provide back issues from 1995-1996 and are available to everyone accessing the database on the UMass-Worcester campus. The Ovid full-text journals are available off-campus to those who have an Ovid password.

Clinical information from medical textbooks is now available from MD Consult through the Library’s website. MD Consult provides access to 35 medical textbooks, 45 clinical journals, clinical practice guidelines, patient information handouts, and drug information. Included in the list of medical textbooks are Cecil’s Textbook of Medicine, Kaplan’s Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry, and the Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics. One or all of these 35 medical texts can be searched. The chapter contents may be scanned for each book and selected as needed. Also, MD Consult provides current updates related to medicine in the news, journal highlights, and what patients are reading.

MICROMEDEX is a comprehensive source for information on drug, toxicology, acute care and reproductive health. The information is organized by knowledge databases such as AltMedDex, Martindale, Poisindex, Emergindex, and Reprisorik. The system allows one to search a collection of knowledge databases simultaneously, by selecting the Integrated Index, or by searching any number of knowledge databases separately.

When in pursuit of further options for financial support, try COS (Community of Science) Funding Opportunities, located on the Library’s website under “Grants and Funding.” COS, which is updated daily, is a comprehensive source of grant information on more than 15,000 grants. Funding information is available as it relates to research, collaborative activities, travel, curriculum development, conferences, and many other areas. COS supports multiple search and alerting options.

For additional information on the electronic resources or services available in the Library, call the Reference Desk at 856-6857.

The Mighty QUIN (continued from page 1)

But why the name QUIN? Chosen from more than 60 names submitted by Library staff, QUIN is not only an accurate acronym, but it has special local relevance as well. According to LSL staff member Jeff Long, who suggested the name, “QUIN is an allusion to Lake Quinsigamond, upon whose shore our patrons conduct their library business. This lake also merges the cities of Worcester and Shrewsbury, and is thus symbolic of the merging of The Lamar Soutter Library and the library of the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research. “Quinsigamond” also was Worcester’s first name, honoring its original Native American inhabitants. Finally, this system does quintuple duty, linking five library functions.”

Brought up on July 6 and officially unveiled with much fanfare on August 2, the patrons of The Lamar Soutter Library can now, for many reasons, WIN WITH QUIN.
A Dose of Reading:

Sensory Deprivation: Blindness


- Campbell, Phyllis. Friendships in the Dark: A Blind Woman’s Story of the People and Pets Who Light Up Her World (1998). This title recounts how Campbell, born blind on a small farm in Virginia during the Depression, grew up with her beloved animals.


- Knipfel, Jim. Slackjaw (1999). This New York Press columnist unsentimentally, and even with humor, details the gradual loss of his sight due to retinitis pigmentosa.

- Kuuiisto, Stephen. Planet of the Blind (1998). Born with scarred vision and then suffering a debilitating injury to his better-sighted eye while in college, Stephen tells of his determined efforts to overcome his visual impairments.

- Milsap, Ronnie. Almost Like a Song (1990). The popular singer traces his life and career from the time he lost his eyesight from disease when he was only a few months old.

- Sullivan, Tom. If You Could See What I Hear (1975). Without sight since shortly after birth, this folksinger, wrestler, standout student, and sportsman recounts how he has pushed himself past his disability.

No Reservations About It!

At the Circulation Desk, certain reserve materials have proven to be enormously popular with students. Not even multiple copies of some of the most sought after texts are sufficient to satisfy the demand for the perennial favorites, all of which are made available for only two hours at a time.

Oversleep your Histology lecture this morning? Wake up and head for the Circulation Desk. There, more than likely, a videotape of the lecture you missed will await you. Each day a student tapes the class lecture and delivers the videocassette to us. We then promptly enter the lecture’s title into our computer database, label the cassette and carefully file the tape for the remainder of the semester. Even when a student has attended a given class, he or she will find the viewing of that day’s lecture to be a superb method for reviewing complex material, especially at exam time. In addition to taped lectures of ongoing classes, certain other videos circulate repeatedly. These include Dr. Paula Stillman’s Physical Diagnosis, as well as Dr. Sue Gagliardi’s lectures in neuroscience and Dr. Constance Cardasis’ lectures in cell biology.

Certain reserve items are so well known that even the most ostensibly cryptic requests are perfectly understood by our staff. For instance, a fourth year student asking for “the green book” actually wants this year’s Graduate Medical Education Directory, the AMA’s annual publication listing all accredited residency programs. A student requesting “Harrison’s” is in need of both volumes of Principles of Internal Medicine, multiple copies of which remain in constant demand.

Future surgeons, seeking a comprehensive bible on the subject, ask for “Sabiston’s” (Textbook of Surgery), though if it is temporarily off the shelf, “Lawrence” (Essentials of General Surgery) will do. First year students invariably order up “Robbins,” as his Pathologic Basis of Disease seems to provide the most definitive and lucid presentation on the origin and nature of disease.

Our medical school’s own Dr. Guido Majno (legendary medical historian and pathologist) has co-authored with his wife, Dr. Isabelle Joris, the reference titled Cells, Tissues, and Diseases: Principles of General Pathology. Of this work, Dr. George E. Palade, Nobel Laureate, has said, “The style is unusually effective. The authors are actually engaged in a dialogue with the reader, whose attention is skillfully maintained by question, queries, and anecdotes, as well as by the literary fluency of the text…It is, in fact, an engaging piece of writing, difficult to put down.” Considering the frequency with which our students request this resource, they must concur.

As for the basics of the human body, Moore’s Clinically Oriented Anatomy and Netter’s Atlas of Human Anatomy remain equally popular, but our reserve copy of Gray’s Anatomy, best known to the laity, rarely circulates. Yet another first year student text of choice is “Berne and Levy,” whose Physiology was recently described to us as being “difficult to read all the way through,” but invaluable for the thoroughness of its details.

In other medical areas, the texts most favored are “Larsen’s” in embryology; “Rudolph’s” in pediatrics; “Stryer’s” in biochemistry; “Jancen’s” in immunology; and “Kandel’s” in neuroscience. Of course, in psychiatry, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, known routinely as “the DSM,” serves as the absolute primer on the subject.

While earlier editions of the above works are usually found in the general circulation stacks of our library, the most recent editions are available only on reserve. We at the Circulation Desk stand ready to provide our patrons with the latest, most authoritative, and most sought after reserve materials in our collection. They need only ask.
Write On, Students (Part II)

Part I of this article, focusing upon publications by two undergraduate students at UMMS, appeared in Issue 5 of SoutteReview.

The pursuit of a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences is a journey over a long and strenuous road. A student working toward this degree is required to attend relevant science classes, pass a qualifying exam, spend many long hours in a biomedical laboratory, perform several experiments, and then write and defend a dissertation, a comprehensive work tantamount to a book in its length and intellectual force. For the dissertation reflects original research, cultivated from much reading and methodic experimentation. It aims to add to the ever-evolving body of scientific knowledge for a particular biomedical field.

The building blocks of the dissertation, this culmination of a graduate student’s years of research, often contain knowledge derived from papers previously written by that student. Here at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, paralleling the growing number of doctoral students in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) has been the number of such papers being accepted for publication in important biomedical and scientific journals. Three such graduate students in the Immunology/Virology program have recently published articles in well-respected periodicals.

Julie Jameson has recently had two papers published. She is the third author of the article, “Assessment of Human CD4+ and CD8+ T Lymphocyte Responses in Experimental Viral Vaccine Studies,” which appeared in Developments in Biological Standardization (95:95-104, 1998). She is the first author of “Human Cytotoxic T-Lymphocyte Repertoire to Influenza A Viruses,” in Journal of Virology (72:8682-8689, 1998 November).

Vickie Giuggio’s recently published article appeared in the November 10 issue of Virology. This, her first published work, is entitled “Inefficient Recognition of Autologous Viral Sequences by Intrahepatic Hepatitis C Virus-specific Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes in Chronically Infested Subjects.”

“Writing articles in professional journals is the way you can communicate your research to the scientific community,” Vickie notes. “This is an essential element of graduate school.”

Heather Van Epps’ article, effecting her publishing debut as well, appears in the July 7 issue of Journal of Virology. Her research, “Human Memory Cytotoxic T-lymphocyte (CTL) Responses to Hantaan Virus Infection: Identification of Virus-specific and Cross-reactive CD8(+) CTL Epitopes on Nucleocapsid Protein,” is an important step in the pursuit of her doctoral degree. She, too, is the lead author in this research.

All three of these students will, of course, continue their research. It never ends. In all probability, there will be more articles by them, down the road. Scientific knowledge opens up more and more discoveries, and thus opens up more opportunities for writing.