

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION

Library News

AUGUST 2010

Hello and welcome to the summer 2010 edition of the Liverpool Medical Institution Library News. I am the new Librarian, my name is Adrienne Mayers and I have been in post since the end of December 2009, replacing Mair Pierce-Moulton who retired in January 2010.

I work three days a week in the Liverpool Medical Institution (LMI) library and have previously worked in school, museum and public libraries. This is my first post in a specialist library, and what a very special library the LMI has!

I feel very much at home and have been made welcome by all the staff, but most especially by Mair, Sue Curbishley, the full time library assistant, and Sally Sheard, the Honorary Librarian.

There have been some changes appearing in the main library. The existing furniture is being replaced with a purpose-built double librarian's desk and two display cabinets. We have taken this opportunity to rearrange our working area to make it more efficient and to provide a larger space for comfortable seating and a relaxing meeting and reading area.

Heritage, the online library catalogue, available via the LMI website or at <http://lmi.heritage4.com>, has had a facelift and been updated to include pictures of book covers to make searching for and identifying books, so much easier. Not all book covers are offered, but more will be added as they become available.

Post-graduate Library and Information students will be coming to the LMI library in January 2011 for a three week placement. Over the next year or so the library stock will be reclassified using the Library of Congress scheme to make the collections more accessible and using a system familiar to medical students.

The post-graduate students from Liverpool John Moores University will be sorting and collating books on the Library Gallery, starting the reclassification and reorganising the collections.

Volunteers are required to help with the reclassification project. If you are able to regularly offer one or two hours of your time and would like to learn some library skills and work with our historic collections then please get in touch for a chat.

I would also very much appreciate help from members (retired and still in practice) to assess and edit library stock relating to all medical specialties. It may be possible to help with this online from your home computer. Alternatively, we will be holding a working party, with coffee and pastries provided, on Saturday 20 November, between 10.00 and 12.30.

The Royal Society of Medicine, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Science Museum and the Wellcome Trust Collection were on the agenda when Sally Sheard, the Honorary Librarian, and I went to London in April. We are investigating the possibility of partnership working and sharing resources.

The visits were a great success and we look forward to working with these libraries and museums in the near future.

In preparation for this, we are working towards achieving accreditation for the LMI as an independent museum. This means that we will be able to host touring exhibitions from other museums and libraries, and also offer parts of our collections for exhibitions elsewhere. This will widen the audience for our collections, attract new visitors to the LMI and promote the LMI nationally.

The new display cabinets currently on order for the library are to be of museum standard. We have been very fortunate in obtaining a grant from the North West Health Care Libraries Unit for Library Development Funding to help with the purchase of the cabinets and librarian's desk.

Hoylake Cottage Hospital, Wirral celebrated its centenary this year with an open day on Sunday 18 April 2010. The LMI was approached to see if we would loan some equipment and items for a room display. Two members of nursing staff were given the challenge of setting up a room for a medical or surgical patient, as it may have been in the early days of the NHS, but also to cover the earlier days of the Cottage Hospital.

Marnie Morrison, a staff nurse at Hoylake Cottage, came along to see our collections. A wide range of instruments, equipment and even a uniform and bed slipper pan were borrowed to help 'set the scene'.

The lecture theatre portraits of Thomas Glynn and John Rutter have been tightened in their frames and given a clean up before being re-hung in the newly redecorated lecture theatre. Two further portraits have been added to the display and Lord Cohen and Sir Robert Jones now look splendid in their new home.

Further portraits are to be hung in the lecture theatre and prints are to be displayed on the back wall of the gallery. As the redecoration of the LMI continues, portraits and pictures will be moved around to enhance the displays and enable us to show pieces of work not currently on show.

'Mood Swing' CDs are available free of charge in the LMI reception area. Please pick up your complimentary copy next time you are in.

A Medical History of Liverpool from the earliest days to the year 1920 by Thomas H Bickerton Ch.M., F.R.C.S. is now available on CD from the library.

"This handsome tome is a fine contribution to the history of medicine magnificently printed, illustrated and bound. Its detail, however, is so great that it must ever remain, except for those intimately concerned with Liverpool, a work of reference."

J Am Med Assoc. 1938; 110(6):465.

This is a classic text, long out of print and rare to find second-hand. The CD is indexed and fully searchable and costs £19.95

Athens authentication is available to LMI members. This enables online access to the journals the LMI subscribes to. Students and those working in the NHS please use your University or NHS Athens passwords to access a wider range of resources.

Did you know that we offer a tailor-made online search service? A number of our members benefit from a monthly bespoke Library Search Service by LMI library staff. Searches are run on PubMed, which comprises more than 20 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books.

Search terms and keywords are previously agreed and the searches are updated each month. The results are sent direct to the member's desktop, saving them valuable working time for a very reasonable charge. If you would like to discuss personalised searches please do contact the library staff.

Following the installation of a new telephone and computer system, our new contact details are:

Adrienne 0151 709 9125 ext 106
adrienne.mayers@lmi.org.uk

Sue 0151 709 9125 ext 100
library@lmi.org.uk