

Background

In 1965 the Medical Library Assistance Act (MLAA) was passed by the United States Congress in response to a report by the President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke. This group of physicians and laymen were charged with the task of gathering and studying information that would help the nation combat these disorders and help improve the general state of health care in the U.S. The study pointed out that one of the major difficulties in attaining higher levels of medical care was the failure to provide effective information services to health practitioners and researchers.

At that time, Idaho had only 2 libraries with qualified staff and significant health science collections (25+ journal subscriptions and 1000+ books). These were the VA Hospital in Boise and Idaho State University in Pocatello. Health professionals used out-of-state resources for their information needs. These included the Oregon Medical School Library in Portland, the mail services of the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons, and occasionally the National Library of Medicine. At best these services were time consuming and not very responsive to the immediate needs of providing quality health care to the citizens of Idaho.

In 1968 the Regional Medical Library (RML) program, a national network of 11 existing health science libraries, was established by the National Library of Medicine. Funding was provided through the Medical Library Assistance Act. This program initially provided a subsidized and centralized service for filling health information needs within the 5 state region of Idaho, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Montana. At the same time, the RML staff began to spend time in each state visiting hospitals, libraries, and health professionals to encourage and assist in the development of hospital libraries and health information resources.

That same year the Idaho State Library formed the Libraries of Idaho Teletype (LITTY) network with funds from the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA),

Title III, Interlibrary Cooperation. This network enhanced communication between the major public, academic, and state libraries. It was also used by Idaho State University and the State Library as the communication link between Idaho and the RML for interlibrary loan and MEDLINE search requests.

In 1972 a MEDLINE terminal was installed at the VA Hospital in Boise. In order to extend access to the MEDLINE databases to all health professionals in Idaho, the Treasure Valley AHEC secured funding from a two year grant with the Veterans Administration to establish the Health Information Retrieval Center (HIRC). The State Library and the State Board of Education agreed to ask the State Legislature for continued funding for this statewide project.

During this period of development of a health information network, the RML funded a University of Washington staff member at the State Library for two years with the general mission to prepare a plan for Idaho's health information services.

In 1973 the Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA), consisting of hospital library managers, some academic librarians, and other interested persons, was formed as an official section of the Idaho Hospital Association.

It became increasingly apparent that there was a need to coordinate these various activities and establish a statewide health information network to serve all the citizens of Idaho. In 1976 the State Library, with the approval of the State Library Board and the Board of Education, submitted a grant proposal to the National Library of Medicine for funding to establish the Idaho Health Libraries Network (IHLN). A three year grant was approved and funded in 1977.

The purpose of the network was and still is "to assist the State Library and health information providers in Idaho to draw together the available resources and build a health information network to achieve maximum self-sufficiency within the State and to provide increased access to and more effective delivery of information for all qualified users."

The methodology for achieving these goals is to develop and strengthen hospital

libraries, to provide training for hospital library managers, to compile various union lists of health science materials, to coordinate resource sharing protocols among the academic, hospital, and public libraries, to assist in grant writing for health care institutions, to maximize self-sufficiency by cooperative acquisition of journals, to present Idaho's concerns to the RML, and to develop a planning document for continued access to health information.

As a result of these network activities, Idaho now has 34 hospitals with commitments to maintain hospital libraries and library managers. The Union List of Health Science Journals in Idaho contains holdings information for 9 academic libraries, 17 hospital libraries, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, and the State Library Depository Collection. In 1980 approximately 80% of all the requests for health science journal articles were filled by libraries in Idaho, as compared with only 52% in 1975.

The citizens of Idaho have benefited from the network. Health information necessary for quality patient care is readily available because, through the Idaho Health Libraries Network, health science resources have been and continue to be developed and cooperatively shared by all libraries.

This planning document has been developed to ensure continued access to health information.

Demography

Idaho is a large, rural state. The economy is based on agriculture, mining, forestry and its related products, and manufacturing. The total population of 943,935 is scattered over 82,715 square miles of rough terrain.

The state tends to divide into three naturally and historically defined geographical areas. Each area has a large population center and university-- the north (centered around Moscow and Lewiston with the University of Idaho), the southwest (centered around Boise and Boise State University), and the southeast (centered around Pocatello and Idaho State University).

Travel distances between major cities are long and slow, especially during the long winters in northern Idaho. Because of this natural isolation, these cities have not always turned to each other for services. Pocatello has looked towards Salt Lake City which is half the distance and 2 1/2 times the population of Boise. Moscow leans towards Spokane which is 1/3 the distance and 2 1/2 times the population of Boise.

There are 51 hospitals, ranging in bed size from 10 to 310, with an average of 67 beds. Only 12 hospitals have more than 100 beds. Nine of Idaho's 44 counties do not have a hospital. Three counties have no physicians; 21 counties have 5 physicians or less.

Idaho does not have a medical school, or a school of library science, or any academic classes for health science librarians.

While the state falls into three clearly defined areas with widely dispersed populations, we have tried to develop a plan that takes the uniqueness of each area into consideration and yet provides guidelines for a coordinated statewide network.

HEALTH INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN IDAHO

Academic Institutions:

The 10 counties of north Idaho have an estimated population of 210,000. The University of Idaho, located in Moscow, is the oldest institution of higher education in the state. The school was established in 1892 while Idaho was still a territory. The University is a land-grant institution which includes 9 recognized colleges and an enrollment of about 9,000. It is designated as the WAMI (Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) Premedical Studies Program Site for Idaho because of the strength of its supporting curricula, especially in the biological sciences. Northern Idaho also has a small community college in Coeur d'Alene, North Idaho College, and a state college in Lewiston, Lewis-Clark State College. The colleges offer 2 year and 4 year nursing degree programs.

The 10 counties of southwest Idaho have an estimated population of 335,000. This area has the State's fastest growing university -- Boise State University -- which was founded in 1932 as a private two year college, became a four year state supported college in 1969, and a university in 1974. Enrollment is almost 10,000. BSU's School of Health Sciences includes departments in Nursing, Preprofessional Studies, Allied Health Studies, and Community and Environmental Health. Southwest Idaho also has 2 small 4 year colleges: College of Idaho at Caldwell, and Northwest Nazarene College at Nampa, which is developing a 4 year BA in Nursing with emphasis in Rural Nursing. Both of these colleges are within 30 miles of Boise.

The remaining 24 counties of southeast Idaho have a population of 399,000. The Idaho State University (ISU) is located in Pocatello. This institution was established as an academy in 1901, became Idaho Technical Institution in 1915, the Southern Branch of the University of Idaho in 1927, Idaho State College in 1947, and the Idaho State University in 1963. Current enrollment is approximately

9,000. ISU's College of Medical Arts includes Departments of Dental Hygiene, Radiologic Technology, Nursing, Speech Pathology, and Audiology. The College of Pharmacy offers a choice of four majors, each leading to the degree of M.S. in Pharmacy, in addition to the basic Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. ISU is one of ten universities awarded a Carnegie Corporation grant in 1970 to plan Doctor of Arts degree programs, and one is now available in Biology, with a Doctor of Philosophy also granted in Biology.

ISU is one of the main providers of interlibrary loan services to health professionals in Idaho. The library's collection has the largest medical holdings in the state -- approximately 12,840 books and 1,160 health science journal titles. Approximately 55% of the titles in the Union List of Health Science Journals in Idaho are held at ISU. The Library is extremely cooperative and efficient in filling interlibrary loan requests from hospital libraries and HIRC. The Regional Medical Library in Seattle also recognizes this invaluable service and considers ISU to be one of the two referral centers in Idaho on which the RML reimbursement subcontract is based. ILL traffic is expedited by the use of the ONTYME II Electronic Mail Service which links ISU with HIRC, the State Library, Boise State University, the University of Idaho, the Regional Medical Library, the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center Library, and the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center. ISU also has a very good collection of Government Documents dealing with topics and government agencies related to the health sciences. Online computer searching of MEDLINE (MEDLARS), SDC, and DIALOG is also available from the University library. There is a charge for this service.

Southeast Idaho also has the College of Southern Idaho at Twin Falls, a two year college with a nursing program, and a two year private college at Rexburg, Ricks College.

Health Manpower Education Consortia:

Three health manpower education consortia have been established to help meet the expressed continuing education needs of Idaho's health professionals. These three non-profit Idaho corporations, North Idaho Consortium for Health Education (NICHE), Area Health Education Consortium of Treasure Valley (AHEC), and Southeast Idaho Center for Health Resources (SICHR) affiliated in early 1975 in an informal confederation for the purpose of coordinating health education throughout the state.

These health education consortia have been active in continuing education programs and show interest in library service within their areas. The Treasure Valley AHEC secured funding through the Veterans Administration in 1974 to establish the Health Information Retrieval Center (HIRC) in Boise.

Health Information Retrieval Center (HIRC):

HIRC, originally funded by a grant from the Veterans Administration, was subsidized by the Idaho State Library with a state appropriation until June 30, 1981. The 1980 State Legislature did not renew its funding. Therefore the service is now operating on a cost recovery basis. It is still located in the Medical Library of St. Luke's Regional Medical Center.

HIRC provides MEDLINE searches for all health professionals in Idaho, regardless of access to a medical library. The current charge is \$8.00 per subject request. The subsequent document delivery service is for those health professionals without direct access to a medical library or library manager. There is no charge for this service as it is subsidized by a small grant from the State Library non-general funds.

The journal collections of St. Luke's and St. Alphonsus, which provide most of the materials for document delivery for HIRC, are funded by Boise physicians through an annual library assessment fee.

These journal collections are also shared by all health professionals in the state. In 1980 an additional \$3000 was given to each hospital by the Ada County Medical Society to update the book collection.

Idaho Drug Information Service:

The Idaho Drug Information Service (IDIS) began in June of 1973 and is now located in the St. Anthony Community Hospital in Pocatello. IDIS is supported by and affiliated with the Idaho State University, College of Pharmacy. The IDIS is staffed by clinical pharmacists trained to selectively retrieve, evaluate, and communicate significant information to solve a specific drug problem. This is also the Idaho Regional Poison Center which handles calls from health professionals and the public on a statewide basis.

Idaho Health Information Association:

The Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA) is a sub-group of the Idaho Hospital Association with a current membership representing 23 health care facilities. The goals of IHIA include fostering increased knowledge and proficiency in library skills, closer cooperation among information providers, and dissemination of health information to the users in Idaho. The group, made up primarily of library managers from hospitals in Idaho and ISU librarians, meets at least two times a year. One of their principal tasks in the last year has been the development of this state plan.

Idaho State Library:

The Idaho State Library's mission is to foster and promote library service in the state. It has accepted the responsibility of encouraging the development of statewide health science information resources.

The State Library was authorized by the State Board of Education, in late 1975, to seek State legislative funding to continue the services of HIRC. At the same time, the Board of Education authorized the State Library to seek grant funds to

draw together the diverse elements of health information in Idaho for a more effective delivery of information. The Ida-Heal-Net was conceived as a response to the need for greater identification of health information resources and more cooperative sharing of that information. A follow-up grant to provide for the storage of backfiles of health science journals and the timely delivery of photocopied articles from these journals was submitted by the State Library and approved by the National Library of Medicine in September 1979.

Idaho Health Libraries Network:

The Idaho Health Information Network (Ida-Heal-Net) was established in 1977 with a 3 year Medical Library Resource Project grant funded by the National Library of Medicine. The network is designed to help plan and organize the development of hospital libraries, health information, and cooperative sharing agreements throughout Idaho. The Union List of Health Science Journals in Idaho is one of the products of this network. Other services include consulting with hospital staff for development of library service, training in basic library skills, workshops and continuing education programs, and assistance in preparing grant proposals.

The Network Coordinator is part of the staff of the Idaho State Library. Federal funding for the network ended mid-1980; however, the State Library has allocated funds to maintain the network coordinator in a half-time position. The other half of the coordinator's time is funded by the Idaho Health Libraries Service Facility grant.

Idaho Health Libraries Service Facility:

The Idaho Health Libraries Service Facility is a Medical Library Resource Project grant funded for three years by the National Library of Medicine (1979-1982). The grant provides for a half-time Service Facility Librarian to manage the project and a full-time clerk/courier. Large backfiles of health science journals have been collected from various sources (BSU, small hospitals, donations from physicians, and VA surplus journal lists). These have all been sorted, weeded, inventoried, and

moved to the basement of the State Library. (Weeded issues will be available to libraries for collection development or replacement of missing issues). All libraries in Idaho have equal access to this collection through interlibrary loan.

The project includes a courier service for filling of interlibrary loans and document delivery between the 5 Boise health science collections (BSU, St. Luke's, St. Alphonsus, VA, MSTI, and the State Library). The courier also fills interlibrary loan requests for material at the Service Facility.

Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium:

The Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium, established in 1979, consists of 21 hospitals and 1 college. The consortium was organized to provide a formal mechanism for sharing resources and to promote the exchange of materials and information which could improve the quality and quantity of services provided by the participating hospitals. A two year Consortium Grant from the National Library of Medicine funded the consortium coordinator and books and journals for the hospital members.

In order to cope efficiently with the large area that the consortium encompasses, 3 hospitals have been designated Area Resource Centers (ARCS). These are Idaho Falls Consolidated Hospitals in Idaho Falls, Bannock Memorial Hospital in Pocatello, and Magic Valley Memorial Hospital in Twin Falls. The ARCS provide guidance and reference help for the smaller hospitals within their area.

Boise Valley Health Sciences Libraries Consortium:

The Boise Valley Health Sciences Library Consortium is a group of librarians from the hospitals in Boise, Nampa, and Caldwell. The university in Boise (BSU) is also represented. The document of agreement states that the purpose of the group is to coordinate planning and development of collections and services, to promote

the exchange of information and to assist the libraries in meeting newly emerging demands for supporting health sciences continuing education. The Consortium meets bimonthly and is the Advisory Committee for the Idaho Health Libraries Service Facility project.

Hospital Libraries:

There are 51 hospitals in Idaho, of these, 36 have established library services. The hospital library managers have been the active force in seeking support to develop the health information network.

80% of the holdings of the union list of health science journals are part of hospital library collections throughout the state.

HEALTH INFORMATION RESOURCES OUTSIDE THE STATE OF IDAHO

Regional

The Regional Medical Library: Region X

The Pacific Northwest Regional Health Sciences Library (PNRHSL) at the University of Washington in Seattle is the Regional Medical Library (RML) for Idaho. The Regional Medical Library is under contract with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to provide document delivery, reference services, MEDLINE coordination, and outreach programs for hospital library development within the states of its region (Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Montana).

PNRHSL is used regularly for interlibrary loan of journal articles and other health information materials that are not available in Idaho. A reimbursement plan based on referrals from designated switching centers in Idaho (ISU, ISL, and HIRC) to PNRHSL allows funds from the RML to be used for collection development and other Network projects in Idaho. This reimbursement plan is a yearly subcontractual agreement between the RML and the State Library. The reimbursement may change or be eliminated in the future depending on the policies and budgets of the National Library of Medicine.

PNRHSL is also used for reference assistance after the resources of Idaho have been exhausted. The RML has also been active in hospital library development within the state through field visits and help with grant proposals.

The Network Coordinator is a member of the Regional Medical Library Task Force. A Boise physician is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Regional Medical Library.

Pacific Northwest Regional Group of the Medical Library Association:

The Pacific Northwest Regional Group (PNRG) is the official area group of the Medical Library Association. During its annual meeting MLA certified Continuing Education courses are given. This meeting also provides a forum for the PNRG

Regional Medical Library Liaison Committee. This committee consists of a medical librarian from each state. It meets with the RML Director to discuss current concerns before the entire group.

National:

National Library of Medicine:

The goal of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) is to collect, organize, and make available-as expeditiously as possible- published knowledge in the health sciences. Services of NLM that have benefited Idaho are document delivery for items not held within our Region, grants for hospital library development, coordination of the Regional Medical Library Program, and production of the online databases of MEDLINE and the printed indexes to health science literature.

NLM is also providing the leadership in developing the software for MEDLARS III which will provide new capabilities to help health science libraries create bibliographic records, retrieve bibliographic and text information, have access to national holdings and location information, and order documents on interlibrary loan.

Medical Library Association:

The Medical Library Association (MLA) is the national group that encompasses hospital and health science librarians. This association is organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes, and is dedicated to the support of health sciences research, education and patient care. To accomplish these ends, MLA is committed to foster the art and science of health science library service and promote cooperation and communication among its members.

MLA is one of the primary sources for formal Continuing Education courses in health science librarianship.

IDAHO STATE PLAN FOR HEALTH INFORMATION 1982-1986

GOAL : to fulfill the health information needs of the citizens of Idaho through the development of hospital libraries and coordination of health science information resources and library services.

- (1) OBJECTIVE: to cooperatively identify, inventory, and disseminate information concerning holdings and locations of health science journals, books, and audiovisuals in Idaho.

AGENT: hospital libraries
academic libraries
Idaho Health Libraries Network Coordinator
Intermountain Union List of Serials (IMULS)
Trinco, Inc.
Regional Medical Library (RML)

ACTIVITY: The holdings information for health science journals held in hospitals, academic libraries, and the State Library will be entered into the Intermountain Union List of Serials (IMULS) system and a special file, Biomedical Titles in Idaho, will be generated. Monthly checklists or updates of the database will be sent out to each participating library for current additions, deletions, or changes within a specific portion of the alphabet. A complete updated union list will be available on an annual basis. The Network Coordinator will work with the hospitals, the academic libraries, and IMULS to maintain this project. (The IMULS is one of the 21 serial databases that are being added to the National Library of Medicine's Biomedical Holdings Database as part of the MEDLARS III project.)

Health science audiovisuals will follow a similar process with each library responsible for initially providing the Network Coordinator with accurate and complete holdings information. The Network Coordinator will contract with an outside agency or compile in-house the appropriate catalog for dissemination of health science audiovisual programs and location information.

Hospital libraries are encouraged to use the MARCIVE service of TRINCO, Inc. for production of low-cost computer generated catalog cards. Bibliographic information on health science books in hospital libraries is then stored by TRINCO, Inc. in a unique database for future production of a union list.

Some of the academic and public libraries are adding their book holdings to the Washington Library Network (WLN) database. These libraries include: the Idaho State Library, Boise Public Library, Boise State University, College of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College, Northwest Nazarene, and the University of Idaho. Hospital libraries have access to the online database of WLN for location information through the State Library and Network Coordinator. They also have access to the Resource Directory (microfiche edition of the database) at the Regional Library System Headquarters in their area.

Idaho should cooperate with future projects that will produce regional union lists, especially for journals.

PRIORITY/TIMETABLE: The identification of health science journals, audiovisuals, and books has a high priority and will be an ongoing project.

The union list of health science journals was first automated in September of 1980 and will be updated on an annual basis.

A first edition of an audiovisual union list will be available in September 1981. Updates will be every two years or based on demand.

A catalog of books held by hospital libraries will be produced by the end of 1982.

RESOURCES: Resources and funding necessary to produce union lists will come from several sources.

The local hospitals and academic institutions will absorb staff costs of collecting and updating holdings information for their library. A charge for the various union lists will be established to recover the costs of printing and/or reproduction.

Initial costs of inputting data into existing databases, compiling lists, and

ordering catalog cards will be paid from the referral reimbursement subcontract with the Regional Medical Library (RML) through the Idaho Health Libraries Network. Alternative sources of funding (LSCA, NLM, Association of Western Hospitals, user fees, etc.) will be pursued as RML funding is phased out.

The Network Coordinator is a half-time staff member of the State Library.

CONSTRAINTS: Aside from the constraints of untrained hospital library staff and lack of adequate time to collect useful data, the main problem is that the database for the union list of health science journals is located outside our Region. This presents problems in interlibrary loan protocols for traffic in and out of the Region.

EVALUATION: Members of the Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA) will annually evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of the various union lists and the time frame for producing such lists.

- (2) OBJECTIVE: to develop libraries and/or information services within each health care facility and to increase the health information resources of journals, books, audiovisuals, and personnel within the State.

AGENT: hospital libraries
health care facilities
Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium
Boise Valley Health Sciences Libraries Consortium
Idaho Health Libraries Network Coordinator
Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA)
Regional Medical Library (RML)

ACTIVITY: Each health care facility should strive to assume responsibility for meeting the basic information needs of its own staff.

Assistance with the organization and management of a hospital library is available from the Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium, the Boise Valley Health Libraries Consortium, and the Network Coordinator.

Health care facilities which are not linked with the network will be identified and visited by the Network Coordinator at least once a year. Incentives for establishing library service will be provided through grants from the National Library of Medicine and the Network.

A core list of materials that each health care facility should maintain will be developed by the Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA).

Hospitals within consortia and local areas should coordinate their collection development process so that over-duplication is avoided and library funds are used as efficiently as possible.

The Network Coordinator will obtain data on journal titles requested from out of state libraries. Journals requested 5 or more times will be listed in the newsletter of IHIA. Hospital libraries will be encouraged to add these titles to their collections.

The Idaho Health Libraries Network Service Center will maintain a collection of health science journal backfiles that will be available to all citizens. This service will allow hospital libraries with space limitations to maintain current journal collections with continued access to older material. The Service Center also collects duplicate journals for filling in missing issues in hospital and academic libraries. This latter service may terminate with the end of the grant period (August 31, 1982).

PRIORITY/TIMETABLE: The development of libraries in hospitals and health care facilities and the strengthening of statewide health information resources is a high priority. This activity will be ongoing. As each hospital establishes a library at the basic level, efforts will be directed at continually improving the service. Currently there are 36 hospital libraries which provide library service to their staff. By 1986 it is expected that 50 hospitals or health care facilities will be able to offer information services. The union list of health science journals contains 1717 unique titles. By 1986 it is expected that the number of unique titles will increase by 17%.

RESOURCES: Local health care facilities should allocate funds and staffing for support of the library service. For a limited time grant funds are available from the Idaho Health Libraries Network for collection development in facilities without previous National Library of Medicine support. These funds are part of the

reimbursement subcontract with the Regional Medical Library and may be phased out. Additional grant support is available from NLM, the Association of Western Hospitals, etc.

Information on alternative sources of funding should be provided by the Network Coordinator.

CONSTRAINTS: The three main constraints hindering resource development are: 1) shrinking budgets and cost containment within health care facilities, 2) lack of awareness in administration of the use and value of information services, and 3) the great variance in levels of education and experience of hospital library managers.

EVALUATION: The Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA) will evaluate the progress of resource development by monitoring the number of hospitals active in the Network, the number of new journal titles added to the union list, and the titles of journals requested out of state.

(3) OBJECTIVE: to establish equitable and cooperative sharing protocols for health information resources among hospital, academic, and public libraries in Idaho and within the Region.

AGENT: hospital libraries
academic libraries
public libraries
Idaho Health Libraries Network Coordinator
Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium
Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU)
Regional Medical Library (RML)
Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center (PNBC)

ACTIVITY: Protocols for resource sharing have been established on the basis of geography and time, not necessarily on specific types of libraries. Using the union list of health science journals, hospital libraries are encouraged to first borrow from other hospital libraries within their area, then from other hospital libraries throughout the state. The academic libraries should serve as a secondary resource to the hospital libraries. However, individual hospital libraries may make special arrangements with local academic libraries for use of their collection as a

primary resource.

If the requested journal is not available in Idaho there are two resource libraries within Region X, subsidized by the National Library of Medicine, to help fill these requests: Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) and the Pacific Northwest Regional Health Sciences Library (PNRHSL) or Regional Medical Library (RML). Requests can be sent to OHSU if it is known to hold the journal requested. OHSU can also refer to NLM requests for journals not held at either OHSU or PNRHSL. Requests sent to PNRHSL are either filled at that library or referred to NLM.

Serial lists for OHSU and the University of Washington Health Sciences Library (site of PNRHSL) are available from the Network Coordinator.

The Regional Library System Headquarters have been provided with copies of the health sciences union list and can send journal article requests to the nearest holding library.

Location information for monographs can be obtained through the WLN network. Online access to the database is available through the Network Coordinator at the State Library. The Resource Directory (microfiche edition of the database) is available at each Regional Library System Headquarters. Hospital library managers should try to obtain WLN holdings information from one of these sources and send the book request directly to the appropriate library.

Requests for medical books not found in the database are sent to the RML. Non-medical book requests are sent to PNBC after checking the database.

The Network Coordinator and the Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium should train and educate hospital library managers in proper interlibrary loan procedures and borrowing protocols.

PRIORITY/TIMETABLE: Resource sharing is a high priority and an ongoing concern with particular emphasis on efficient and low cost service.

RESOURCES: The activity of resource sharing has been unrestricted with minimal charges among hospital, academic and public libraries within Idaho. Currently there is no charge for interlibrary loan from either OHSU or PNRHSL. The State Library is

paying for Idaho's use of PNBC, based on a unit charge for each request from Idaho.

User fees or increased library budgets may have to be established to recover costs of interlibrary loan services in the future.

CONSTRAINTS: Two problems inherent in this activity are disregard for established protocols and overuse of any one library.

The lack of a single regional union list for journals and monographs that includes both OHSU and PNRHSL collections, as well as hospital libraries, is also a serious constraint in resource sharing.

EVALUATION: The Idaho Health Information Association will evaluate the effectiveness of the protocols for resource sharing. This will be done by examining use patterns and obtaining feedback from library managers involved in interlibrary loan.

(4) OBJECTIVE: to provide statistical data and performance indicators that determine the progress and effectiveness of Network development and statewide planning activities.

AGENT: hospital libraries
Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium
Idaho Health Libraries Network Coordinator
Regional Medical Library (RML)

ACTIVITY: The Network Coordinator and the Southeast Idaho Health Information Consortium should train and educate hospital library managers to collect interlibrary loan statistics and prepare annual reports. Individual libraries should maintain their own borrowing records to comply with present copyright laws. The Network Coordinator will use this data to monitor self-sufficiency within Idaho and to monitor Network activities. Report summaries should be disseminated through the newsletter of IHIA.

IHIA and the Network Coordinator should develop performance indicators as a means of evaluating network activity.

The Regional Medical Library should provide additional data on titles requested from their collection.

PRIORITY/TIMETABLE: While this activity provides essential data for indicating the progress of Network development, it has not been, to date, a high priority. However new reporting forms will be available January 1982 and libraries should begin to provide reports on a regular basis. Performance indicators will be established at the same time as the reporting forms are revised.

RESOURCES: Funding and resources for this activity should be an integral function of the hospital library manager and Network Coordinator positions. The RML should provide data related to use of its programs by Idaho libraries.

CONSTRAINTS: Lack of cooperation among hospital library managers in supplying useful and consistent data is a problem. The current form needs to be revised and standardized. Many hospital library managers are not aware of the importance of keeping accurate statistics. Compilation of statewide data manually is extremely time consuming and cumbersome.

EVALUATION: IHIA will encourage and evaluate the gathering and compiling of relevant statistical data and develop performance indicators.

- (5) **OBJECTIVE:** To provide access to health related database searching services for all health professionals in Idaho, to encourage the establishment of new MEDLINE CENTERS, and to provide training and continuing education opportunities for search analysts.

AGENT: hospital administration
hospital libraries
academic libraries
Health Information Retrieval Center (HIRC)
Idaho Health Libraries Network Coordinator
Online Users Group
Regional Medical Library (RML)

ACTIVITY: Five hospitals, two universities, and the State Library have access to all the databases of the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The individual hospitals provide searches to their own staff. The academic libraries provide searches primarily for their students and faculty at a charge. Some will also provide searches for the general public at a charge. HIRC, the statewide MEDLINE

CENTER, is located in St. Luke's Regional Medical Center library. They will search the health related databases for anyone in the state at a set total cost recovery fee per request. The State Library offers searching services to their patrons, which include State employees and public library patrons. There is a charge for this service. Through this variety of sources, all citizens of Idaho have access to the health related databases.

Workshops and demonstrations will be scheduled to educate non-searchers and the health professionals on the capabilities of the system.

All health care facilities and academic institutions will be encouraged to establish MEDLINE CENTERS. However, these facilities should be able to secure adequate funding for equipment, staffing, and training for the service and the subsequent interlibrary loan activity.

Initial MEDLINE training can be provided by highly experienced MEDLINE search analysts in State. Advanced MEDLINE training should be provided in Idaho or within the Region by the RML staff. In addition, the RML Online Coordinator presents an annual MEDLINE UPDATE seminar in each state.

The Online Users Group is a statewide organization of all search analysts involved in database searching. They offer educational opportunities several times a year for the various systems available.

Search analysts are encouraged to attend additional training opportunities whenever possible.

PRIORITY/TIMETABLE: Access to the health related databases is a high priority and presently through the various MEDLINE CENTERS everyone is guaranteed that access. Academic institutions are gaining access to selected NLM databases through the commercial database vendors such as LOCKHEED and BRS.

The priority for establishing new MEDLINE CENTERS depends on the need for the service by the individual hospitals. Five of the twelve hospitals with 100 or more beds have their own terminals, two have informal contracts with HIRC to provide this service, one is a Federal hospital with access to MEDLINE through its own network,

and the other four hospitals presently are satisfied using HIRC on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The priority for training and continuing education for MEDLINE search analysts is ongoing. New MEDLINE CENTERS should receive in-state initial training within one month of receiving an NLM code. Formal advanced NLM training should occur within 6 months of initial training.

RESOURCES: Hospitals are expected to fund their own equipment and staffing for use of the MEDLINE system. The Idaho Health Libraries Network has available Continuing Education grants to assist potential search analysts in obtaining necessary initial or advanced training. Initial training can be done on site, while advanced training may be within the Region or at a central location within Idaho.

The Regional Medical Library should provide trained search analysts for the advanced workshops.

CONSTRAINTS: Aside from the funding problem of expensive equipment and staffing, a major constraint is lack of formal NLM online training courses available within the Region.

EVALUATION: The individual hospitals should provide internal evaluation of need and use of the MEDLINE service. The Online Users Group and the Idaho Health Information Association should encourage quality assurance in searching.

(6) OBJECTIVE: To provide training and continuing education opportunities for hospital library managers on a regular basis.

AGENT: Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA)
Idaho Health Libraries Network Coordinator
Regional Medical Library (RML)

ACTIVITY: The State Plan emphasizes the importance and need for continuing education of library staff in health care facilities.

The Network Coordinator should work with hospital library managers and IHIA to promote and provide statewide training consistent with the needs of individuals, consortia, the State, and the Region. Continuing education should not be limited

to library staff, but open to all health professionals interested in accessing health information. Personnel to present workshops and courses will be drawn from local hospitals, the State Library, the RML, and other appropriate agencies.

IHIA will develop a basic skills packet for new hospital library managers as an orientation tool.

Efforts will be made in the future to coordinate library activity with other health professionals' activities so that certain groups involved with hospital libraries are not excluded from participating because of conflicting schedules.

Hospital library managers are encouraged to join PNRG and MLA which provide additional continuing education opportunities and contacts with other librarians in the Pacific Northwest and nationwide.

Other Regions within the RML program that offer relevant workshops close to Idaho will also be considered as sources for continuing education programs.

PRIORITY/TIMETABLE: Continuing education is a very high priority and of an ongoing need and concern. Currently there are only 4 regularly scheduled educational opportunities for hospital library managers a year. By 1986 it is expected that this number will at least double. The Network Coordinator and IHIA will conduct an assessment of educational needs by the end of 1981.

RESOURCES: Participants and/or their institutions should have the primary responsibility for expenses involved in attending educational programs and meetings. Limited funds from the RML reimbursement subcontract are available for instructors, materials, and travel support for participants through the Network Coordinator.

CONSTRAINTS: The major constraint of this activity is the lack of highly qualified instructors in Idaho. Another problem is that due to the size of the state, programs offered in one location are not easily attended by all potential participants. Travel budgets are small for "non profit" departments within the hospital setting. We must rely on outside sources, such as the RML and PNRG, for many of our educational programs.

EVALUATION: IHIA and the Network Coordinator will evaluate the need and effectiveness

of programs offered.

- (7) OBJECTIVE: To explore and develop alternative plans for the continuation of the Idaho Health Libraries Network.

AGENT: hospital administration
hospital libraries
Idaho Health Libraries Network Coordinator
Idaho Health Information Association (IHIA)
Regional Medical Library (RML)

ACTIVITY: The hospital library managers, IHIA, and the Network Coordinator will keep key hospital administrative staff informed of the importance and value of the services offered through the Network. Health professionals who obtain information through the Network should also be kept aware of how this material is acquired.

User fees may have to be implemented to help recover costs of health information services, such as MEDLINE searches and interlibrary loan. The decision to implement user fees for library services may have to be based on individual institutional needs and budgets.

The Network Coordinator will identify additional and alternative sources of funding for special projects. The State Library has assumed support for the half time Network Coordinator at the Library.

PRIORITIES/TIMETABLE: The future of the Network is a very high priority and an ongoing concern. The referral reimbursement subcontract between Idaho and the RML is renewed annually based on the RML contract with NLM. This is presently our only source of funding for Network projects. This support may be phased out by the end of 1982. It is expected that before the end of 1982, alternative funding sources will be identified and pursued.

RESOURCES: The reimbursement subcontract with the RML provides limited funding for Network activities. Other resources must come from local hospital budgets, user fees for services, grants, and other library budgets.

CONSTRAINTS: The major constraints of this activity are cost containment programs within institutions and libraries, and the general economic situation of Idaho and

and the Nation.

EVALUATION: The evaluation of this activity will be made by IHIA and should be reflected in the maintenance and growth of programs within the Idaho Health Libraries Network.

The Idaho State Plan for Health Information 1982-1986 should serve as a framework for the continued development of health information resources and library services in Idaho. This document should not be considered a rigid set of rules that lock us into a narrow course. Rather it should remain flexible to accommodate changes in circumstances, situations, or protocols affecting the dissemination of health information.

In addition to providing direction to our statewide efforts, this plan will also become part of a Regional Plan involving Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (Region X of the Regional Medical Library Program). Under the guidance of the Regional Medical Library, these states are working together to ensure continued cooperation among themselves for the delivery of health information.

Development of this plan began at the annual Idaho Health Information Association meeting in 1979. During the last 2 years it has been revised, discussed, and edited by the Association and its Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a State Plan. This document represents the final draft of a five year plan.

Planning is a continual process and it is expected that this document and its outlined objectives will have to be reviewed annually. The Idaho Health Information Association accepts this responsibility and fully endorses this plan.

IHIA Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a State Plan

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