

directing council



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XIX Meeting

regional committee

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

XXI Meeting



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REGIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

General Orientation of Activities

The Regional Library of Medicine, still in an active stage of organization, is already moving toward the accomplishment of its goal, namely, to facilitate progress in biomedical research and to help improve the teaching and practice of medicine, public health administration, hospital administration and other health-related sciences in South America through immediate and convenient access to what is published in scientific centers throughout the world, especially in the periodic literature. Ultimately, it is hoped to have a sufficiently comprehensive collection of publications so that the Region can be self-sufficient.

In the last year the Regional Library's staff and collections of periodicals and books have been greatly enlarged. The numbers of subscriptions to biomedical journals has increased from 350 to about 1,200, and the monographs collection now has 3,800 volumes. A free-of-charge photocopying service for scientific articles has been put into operation.

Services to biomedical institutions elsewhere in Brazil were started on a regular basis on February 1, 1969, and were rapidly increased so that by the end of May more than 1,500 requests for scientific articles had been received, thus doubling the amount of requests since the first quarter. Up to the present this Library copied about 67 per cent of the requests (Table 1). Those requests that cannot be filled from the Regional Library's own collection or with the help of other libraries in the Sao Paulo area are referred to the U. S. National Library of Medicine. During this time about 30,000 photocopied pages of scientific articles were forwarded.

The Regional Library is encouraging the development of cooperative efforts, including the preparation of union periodicals lists at the regional and national levels, among library subcenters in major Brazilian

cities; in each case a principal local medical library will serve the others within its area. Seven cities have been selected to function as subcenters: Fortaleza (Ceara), Recife (Pernambuco), Salvador (Bahia), Brasilia (D.F.), Rio de Janeiro (Guanabara), Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais) and Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul). When these subcenters are in full operation requests will be sent to the Regional Library in Sao Paulo only when they cannot be filled locally.

This experience is considered essential and will be carefully evaluated before extending services to the rest of South America. When an expertise in handling interlibrary loan requests has been developed - that is to say, when 75 per cent of the interlibrary loan requests in Brazil are being taken care of, and this level is maintained for several months - then the Regional Library will be ready to act as the primary source of interlibrary loans for all of South America.

When properly staffed, the Regional Library will become also a demonstration and training center for librarians and for professionals in the future. In addition to specialized instruction in biomedical librarianship, training in the use of bibliographic resources will be offered to medical students, physicians, scientists, and personnel in the allied health sciences to provide them with a sound knowledge of the modern systems used for collecting and retrieving scientific information, of the reference tools available, and, in general, of the means to find the data they need for their studies and research projects.

Current Developments

Since the middle of last January, the work of the newly-appointed Director has been aimed toward implementing the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee and of the consultant directors sent by the Pan American Health Organization to help organize the Library's services. An over-all program and plan of action for the 1969-70 biennium has been prepared.

Interinstitutional relations have been emphasized. Continuous attention is being given to strengthening the Library's ties with the administration, faculty, and research staff of the "Escola Paulista de Medicina"; to maintaining relations, through the PAHO Zone V Office, with the pertinent authorities in the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Health of Brazil; to securing the cooperation, and eventually the support, of the Government of the State of Sao Paulo, through its Department of Health; and to establishing contact with potential users throughout Brazil. In connection with this last-mentioned effort, a one-day meeting with 16 Brazilian leaders was held on May 26.

In particular, the following accomplishments can be cited:

The periodicals collection now includes more than 1,200 titles from the Index Medicus, covering basic and medical sciences, medical

specialties, odontology, and nursing. PAHO pays for all the subscriptions ordered by the Library, including 350 titles previously subscribed to by the "Escola Paulista de Medicina". Concentrated efforts have been made to record any existing gaps, and the missing numbers are being obtained with the help of the United States Book Exchange. In accordance with a recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee, airmail subscriptions to several weekly journals were entered in January 1969. In addition, 130 journals are acquired by exchange or donation. In all, the Library now has over 21,500 volumes, representing some 1,500 serial titles.

A listing of periodicals collection, by subject and by country of origin, was prepared and made available in December 1968 to the Associate Director of the Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools for circulation among the membership.

The monographs collection has been increased by the donation of 850 books by the U. S. National Library of Medicine, bringing the total to 3,800 volumes. About one third of these are recent editions; another 500 volumes will be the nucleus of an historical collection.

Special attention is being given to the improvement of binding operations.

Models 720 and 914 Xerox machines provide photocopies to facilitate use of the Library's materials. Since January 1968 this service has been used to provide copies to other centers in the Sao Paulo area. In the first six months, 1,009 articles were reproduced, and the service has been increased steadily; the current output is over 500 articles a month.

Steps have been taken to install a TWX service that will permit direct communications between the Regional Library and major biomedical libraries in Brazil, the Pan American Health Organization and the U. S. National Library of Medicine. The installation, at the "Escola Paulista de Medicina", of a radio-telegraph communication equipment by the Brazilian Ministry of Education and Culture, was obtained and inaugurated on May 19, 1969. This will link RLM with the network of biomedical libraries of Federal Universities in Brazil.

Modifications in the Library's physical layout have been made to the extent that financial resources permitted. As soon as the 1969 funds for construction allotted by the Brazilian Government to the "Escola Paulista de Medicina" become available, additional changes will be made in the arrangement of the reading room and in the distribution of office space. Basic equipment, such as typewriters, clocks, desks and a ten-unit intercom system have been purchased.

Personnel and Consultants

Before the appointment of the Director of the Library in January of this year, PAHO arranged for the services of two consultant directors, one from November 7 to December 21, 1968, and the other from December 20, 1968 to January 20, 1969. Both consultants presented reports and recommendations at the end of their terms, which were studied and considered for implementation.

In December 1968, prior to assumption of his duties, the Director of the Regional Library visited the U. S. National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, where he was briefed by the Director, the Special Assistant to the Director for International Programs, and by various section heads.

A general analysis and reorganization of the Regional Library's personnel resources was found necessary in order to improve the efficiency of the Library's operations. It was also considered necessary to contract a consultant librarian to speed up and finish recording the periodicals collection, catalog a number of the books, and to advise the Director on the Library's technical services.

The administration of the Library was improved with the appointment of an Assistant Administrator. Of the four posts recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee, two have been authorized by the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, starting July 1, 1969: Head of Intramural Reader Services, and Head of Regional Services. The search for a competent Brazilian librarian is being carried out by the Director, and various contacts have been made.

In-service training of the existing staff is encouraged, and personnel are devoting their efforts in particular to the continuation of formal studies in the sciences and in foreign languages. This is a step in the direction of the training program envisaged as one of the Library's main activities in the future.

TABLE 1

INTERLIBRARY LOAN REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM BIOMEDICAL LIBRARIES OF BRAZIL FROM JANUARY TO MAY 1969
AND CAPACITY FOR FULFILLING THEM

Period 1969	Scientific Articles in Periodicals : Years of Publications									GRAND TOTAL	
	1900 - 1960			1961 - 1963			1964 - 1968				
	Total	number fulfilled*	%	Total	number fulfilled*	%	Total	number fulfilled*	%	number requests	% fulfilled
Jan. - March	138	132	95.6	49	45	91.8	145	120	82.7	332	89.4
April	279	199	71.0	90	66	73.3	242	168	69.4	611	70.8
May	333	147	44.1	100	57	57.0	217	142	65.4	650	53.2
										1,593	67.5

(*) Requests fulfilled using RLM resources and those of some biomedical libraries in the Sao Paulo area.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Proposed Budget for 1970 - 1974

Organization	Source of Funds					
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Ministry of Education and Culture	50,000	50,000 ^{1/}	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Ministry of Health	30,000	30,000 ^{1/}	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
The Commonwealth Fund	35,000	50,000 ^{2/}	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Pan American Health Organization	25,000	44,700 ^{3/}	68,987 ^{3/}	101,711	105,584	110,000
National Library of Medicine	45,028	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	<u>185,028</u> =====	<u>174,700</u> =====	<u>198,987</u> =====	<u>231,711</u> =====	<u>235,584</u> =====	<u>240,000</u> =====

^{1/} Agreement in process.

^{2/} Requested from the Commonwealth Fund.

^{3/} Included in the Proposed Budget of PAHO for 1970 and 1971.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

B U D G E T

Elements	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
I. International Personnel	<u>53,178</u>	<u>84,247</u>	<u>97,838</u>	<u>101,711</u>	<u>105,584</u>	<u>109,457</u>
P.5 Director	24,000	25,216	26,240	27,264	28,288	29,312
P.4 Chief Librarian	20,800	21,287	22,208	23,129	24,050	24,971
P.3 Chief of Regional Services	-	7,238	17,730	18,504	19,278	20,052
P.2 Chief of Technical Services	4,189	15,253	15,830	16,407	16,984	17,561
P.2 Chief of Reference Services	4,189	15,253	15,830	16,407	16,984	17,561
II. Local Personnel	28,463	32,000	35,000	41,437	45,581	47,000
III. Duty Travel	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
IV. Consultants and Advisors	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
V. Fellowships	-	2,800	4,189	11,750	14,700	7,143
VI. Supplies and Equipment	14,000	6,933	8,000	10,000	10,000	12,000
VII. Publications	73,537	32,870	38,110	50,963	43,869	48,000
VIII. Contractual and Common Services	7,450	7,450	7,450	7,450	7,450	8,000
Total:	<u>185,028</u> =====	<u>174,700</u> =====	<u>198,987</u> =====	<u>231,711</u> =====	<u>235,584</u> =====	<u>240,000</u> =====