

JGH Medical library joins consortium

Arlene Greenberg, director of Medical Library Services, is pleased to announce the formation of a health sciences libraries consortium which will provide an extensive health information network to participating McGill University teaching and affiliated hospitals.



In the library computer room, front left to back: Arlene Greenberg, medical student Stephen Tepper, library staff Liz Breier and Paula Calestagne, Dr. Claudette Bardin, library staff Françoise Soubeyrand.

Although an informal cooperative network has been active for over 20 years, recent developments in health information management clearly require more formal structures and shared funding arrangements to strengthen access to information.

The consortium is designed to improve access and availability of health related information through the shared acquisition and use of new technologies and resources. This quick and easy access to clinical information will help improve patient care.

In the first phase of the project, participating hospital libraries will obtain a fax machine suitable for sending and receiving high quality copies of journal articles, a CD-ROM work station to provide low cost self-service access to the Medline database, a one year subscription to Medline on CD-ROM, and continued access to McGill's on-line Muse catalogue.

As funds become available, phases two and three will be implemented. Phase two will provide funding for the licensing to mount the current Medline database on the McGill mainframe computer, thus making it accessible and free through the hospital library and other dial-up centres throughout the hospital.

Phase three will examine the feasibility of adding hospital library catalogues to the Muse database on the McGill mainframe computer.

The JGH library already has access to the on-line Muse catalogue, and a fax machine for interlibrary loans has been available since mid November. The library expects to offer Medline by spring 1992, and public access work stations will be set up in the old reference room. Information on training sessions for CD-ROM will appear in the Consortium Newsletter, which will keep hospital staff informed of new developments. □