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# Library Services at Broughton Hospital

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Since it first opened in 1883, Broughton Hospital, a large mental hospital in Morganton, has stressed the need for books in its total program. This need has led to the development of two distinct and separate library programs, one to meet the informational and recreational needs of patients and the other for the varied needs of the staff.

## The Patient Library

The patient library was begun with the purchase of a small number of books by the hospital and the donation of newspapers from some of the communities served by the hospital. At first, the library grew in a more or less haphazard fashion, primarily through donations. The bulk of these donations came either from individuals (including patients) or from the local public library in Morganton.

In addition to helping with book donations, the staff at the Morganton Public Library taught the Occupational Therapist (then working in the library on a part-time basis) the basic skills involved in the processing and cataloging of books.

The Director of Occupational Therapy (OT) had the responsibility for the overall library program, while the day-to-day library routines were performed by interested patients. These patients also provided book cart services for the wards containing patients who were not permitted to visit the library.

In 1966, the patient library received a LSCA Title I grant through the North Carolina State Library and began to develop its collection in a purposeful manner. In 1970, the old donated books were weeded from the collection and with the guidance of the Institutional Consultant from the State Library, the library moved into new quarters and set up new policies and procedures governing its operation. The OT aide managing the library was reclassified as a Library Assistant and relieved of all duties except those related to

the library. Programs—including book talks and audiovisual story hours—were set up for groups, and individuals used the library for recreational purposes. Through additional State Library funding, other materials, including large print, for the partially sighted, and picture books for the less educated, were added to the collection.

Today, the patient library holds approximately 5,000 books including large print, picture books and paperbacks, has subscriptions to 26 general interest magazines, and also has a number of newspaper subscriptions representing those communities served by the hospital.

In addition to the simple circulation of printed materials, the library also offers other services. The librarian works with retarded patients in the library and helps hospital technicians to secure materials to use with these patients in their learning labs. Adolescent patients use the patient library as well as a library of their own. This adolescent library, however, is made up largely of books that are shared from the patient library. All geriatric patients—bedfast and ambulatory—have the opportunity either to use the talking book service of the Special Services Section of the State Library or to read large print books such as the large print Reader's Digest.

## Staff Library

The staff may borrow books from the patient library, and those going to school have found the material there useful in research. In addition, the staff is also provided with professional book collections in their work areas as well as with a fully equipped staff library. This library holds approximately 3,000 reference books, 100 journal titles and 2,000 pieces of audiovisual material. The staff library carries current journals found to be of interest to the majority of the staff and maintains a core collection of medical and psychiatric books. It supplements its holdings through inter-library loan arrangements with medical schools and MEDLINE (Medlars, BRS etc.) services through the Unifour Consortium of NW Area Health Education Center based in Hickory, N.C.

The scope of the North Carolina AHEC program is extensive: it provides information about

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continuing education services to physicians located throughout the state, provides field placement for interns and residents from the medical schools and provides easy access to needed reference materials through the creation of a system of conveniently located base libraries throughout North Carolina. This state-wide network is accessible by any member hospital or institution and offers a cost effective method of supplementing local reference holdings thus ensuring that all physicians will have access to the literature through their local AHEC representative. Broughton, as a member of the Unifour Consortium, can access for its staff as well as for clients from outside the hospital the holdings of the medical school libraries. Book loans, journal reprints and audiovisual materials are secured without undue loss of time or any expense to the client. The State

Library is also useful in providing materials on management, recreation, crafts, industrial arts, sociology, etc. (materials not always accessible through medical school libraries). The majority of the staff needs for materials not housed on campus are met through AHEC and the medical school libraries; however, if a need arises for specialized reference materials, the resources of the State Library, North Carolina public libraries, out-of-state public and medical libraries and the National Library of Medicine are also available.

Broughton Hospital is one of only four mental hospitals in North Carolina and one of the few mental institutions in the state; therefore, to supplement what is available from medical school collections, the staff library at Broughton serves the entire state as a resource for reprints from psychiatric and psychological journals.



**FOUR PRESIDENTS.** The Executive Board of the North Carolina Library Association met at Davidson College, Davidson, NC on July 19th. For the first time in recent memory there were four presidents on that board. Those attending included (left to right): Dr. Leland M. Park, President, 1983-1985 (Director, Davidson College Library, Davidson); Mrs. Mertys W. Bell, Past President, 1981-83 (Dean Emeritus of Learning Resources, Guilford Technical Community College, Greensboro); Ms. Patsy J. Hansel, President-elect, 1987-89 (Assistant Director, Cumberland County Public Library); and Mrs. Pauline F. Myrick, President-elect, 1985-87 (Director of Instruction and Educational Media, Moore County Schools, Carthage).