

(c) Reference assistance and computerized bibliographic searches are performed upon request from individuals and institutions in this country and abroad.

(d) The library publishes Index Medicus, a monthly bibliographic record of current published literature in medicine and related sciences, analyzed and arranged by subject matter to facilitate use by health science workers throughout the world. Index Medicus goes to over 5,700 users at the present time.

(e) Beginning in January 1966, the library will also publish the National Library of Medicine Current Catalog, a computer-produced biweekly publication notifying the biomedical libraries of the Nation of the literature which has arrived and been cataloged at NLM during the previous 2-week period, thus enabling them to use the NLM as a central source for information on recently published literature and also as a central cataloging service.

(f) The Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-291) authorized a greatly expanded program of assistance to the Nation's biomedical libraries and health information work force. Under this new legislation the NLM will award grants or contracts for (1) construction and renovation of medical libraries, (2) research and development in the field of library and information science, (3) training of medical librarians and related science information specialists, (4) compilation and dissemination of important biomedical information by scholars, (5) improving the basic resources of biomedical libraries, particularly their literature collections, (6) developing regional libraries, adequately equipped to supplement library resources and services throughout the country, and (7) supporting the preparation and publication of biomedical publications.

3. History

The National Library of Medicine had its origin in 1836 as the Library of the Surgeon General's Office (U.S. Army) and developed as a national resource under the leadership of John Shaw Billings, Librarian from 1865 to 1895. Named Army Medical Library in 1922 and Armed Forces Medical Library in 1952, it became the National Library of Medicine and was transferred to the Public Health Service, DHEW, in 1956.

4. Level of operations. (See table 1.)

Program: National Library of Medicine.

Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Public Health Service.