

Department Spotlight:

The Jules Redish Memorial Medical Library

aka "Information Central"

Question: *What department is staffed and run by a single employee?*

Answer: *The Medical Library*

Established in 1958 by the late South Nassau cardiologist Jules Redish, M.D., the South Nassau Medical Library didn't hire its first salaried librarian, Claire Joseph, until 1980.

Located on the second floor of the F-Wing, the library subscribes to more than 100 medical and nursing journals and houses 1,000 medical and nursing textbooks.

The library is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday and open after-hours to physicians and nurses for study and research.

As the librarian and director of the medical library, Ms. Joseph searches the literature for journal articles and books on a range of medical topics and orders books and journals on such topics as orthopedics, family practice and gastroenterology.

"Most of the time I get requests for literature searches from doctors who ask

me to find the latest information on a therapy to treat a disease or condition in one of their patients," she explained.

While almost all published articles are indexed by PubMed, an online medical reference database from the National Library of Medicine, some are not. "It's real detective work tracking down published information on rare or unusual medical problems..." she said. "It requires extensive digging and sometimes I need to go back many, many years."

"99.9 percent of the time I can get any health sciences book or journal," she continued. "If the information is not accessible at South Nassau, I can acquire it through a nationwide medical library network."

And for the one-tenth of the time that she or other librarians can't locate the resource, she contacts the author directly and requests a manuscript.

"I'm not only locating resources and searching for information for physicians and nurses but also for Administration, Performance Improvement...everyone.



Claire Joseph, medical librarian and director of the library, began her career at South Nassau in 1980. She left in 1984 but returned in 1999 and has been with the hospital ever since. Ms. Joseph earned a master's degree in library science and is a senior member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals of the Medical Library Association.

That's why I call the library 'Information Central,'" she said.

For more information, call Ms. Joseph at extension 3452.

The library is open after-hours to only clinical staff; all other employees who wish to use the library for study or research need to obtain permission from their managers or supervisors.



The late Jules Redish, M.D., a cardiologist who founded the Medical Library in 1959. After its opening, the library was operated by an all-volunteer staff that was composed of several librarians.