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Medical Library Association President
1997/98**

Dan Richards was an extraordinary person! His imposing physical presence was combined with a sharp wit, a clear intellect, limitless curiosity, strong opinions, a gentle heart, boundless loyalty, and a tremendous zest for food, wine, and fun. He made a powerful impression on those who came into contact with him. For the many among us who were privileged to work with him in libraries or in the Medical Library Association (MLA), that impression survives long beyond Dan's all too brief life.

Dan had a passionate commitment to health sciences librarianship and, especially, to developing effective and strong collections of information resources focused on meeting the needs of library users. Dan's expertise and skill were instrumental in shaping the four major health sciences libraries in which he worked—University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Columbia University, National Library of Medicine (NLM), and Dartmouth. Dozens more benefited from his formal evaluations and consultations. Through speeches, publications, and mentoring, Dan shared his experience and broadcast his knowledge widely. He sensitized us to important issues, generously mentored colleagues, and championed our profession ardently. Dan's interests were many and eclectic. However, foremost among his passions were: high standards of professionalism, collection development, encouragement of promising librarians, good food, and camaraderie.

In December 1995 Dan Richards died, three days short of his fiftieth birthday. He was then also in the third year of his term on MLA's Board of Directors, the proud culmination of many years of varied and distinguished service to the association. This cookbook has been compiled and distributed by colleagues and friends to remember him in a way that would be consonant with his often light-hearted and iconoclastic manner.

This cookbook attempts to represent Dan's interests and to celebrate his life and career. Included are recipes as well as background stories that Dan might have recounted to acquaint his wide and diverse circle of friends with one another. MLA will use proceeds from cookbook sales to support continuing education in collection development for health sciences librarians. And, as Dan would have said, "Bon appetit!"