To create a vision and to make that vision a reality—this challenge was proposed to medical librarians in the second theme speech of the congress given by Dr. Nancy Lorenzi, “Medical Information Worldwide: The Challenge Continues.” The convening of the 5th International Congress on Medical Librarianship in Tokyo with approximately 600 medical information specialists, representing 63 countries—is a vision that became a reality! The congress theme “One World: Resources, Cooperation, and Services” is truly exemplified by the participation of so many.

Our first step toward attaining the congress theme is assemblage. This provided the opportunity to share knowledge, new ideas, and to create visions and challenges, such as: to establish a World-Net, equality of service for everyone (urban or rural), and WHO’s aim of HEALTH for all by the year 2000. These challenges and visions are consonant with the congress theme.

Although these visions represent futuristic thinking, they do provoke tremendous concern about the equality of achieving these visions, i.e., the capability to access the medical information via technology, and more importantly who will be able to afford the price to participate, because of the distinction between developed and developing countries. However, we librarians as information specialists possess the knowledge and skills to influence and to ensure equality of access to health information by all, if we assume a leadership role. Thus, we can determine the direction and transfer of medical information.

The most valuable aspect of this international congress was the opportunity to meet, interact, and exchange ideas with librarians from other countries in a formal and informal manner. This provided the opportunity to promote mutual understanding and international fellowship among medical librarians all over the world.

As a first time attendee of the International Congress on Medical Librarianship, my expecta-
tions of the congress were mixed. Although, I possessed the basic generic preconceived notions regarding the congress format: welcome, keynote address, concurrent papers, reception, etc...standard fare for most meetings. However, much to my prodigiousness the 5th ICML was one of the most well-organized conferences I have ever attended. The adherence to the congress program schedule and the punctuality of the sessions was impressive. The most memorable event for me was the Welcome Reception held at the Meiji Kinen Kan. Participants had a unique and rare opportunity to experience the richness of Japanese culture, which was exquisitely expressed through food, music, dance, and hospitality—a panache evening! The Japanese Organizing Committee, the Japan Medical Library Association, and the Team of Rapporteurs are to be commended for their efforts—a job well done! Hats off to all! (Liza S. Hamby: Biomedical Research Library, Rocky Mountain Laboratories, U. S. A.)

I have been asked to write about my impressions of the 5th ICML in Tokio, which I had the opportunity of attending as the official representative of the BMF (the Association of Finnish Medical Librarians). Having in my mind the experiences of two earlier congresses, the 2nd in Washington and the 4th in Belgrade, I was eagerly looking forward to the Tokyo event. It would again be a worldwide gathering, this time in a country almost entirely unknown to me.

Nihon University provided comfortable premises and modern technical facilities to the occasion. The central location of the building proved to be very convenient. The official program of the congress began punctually and was precisely adhered to in every occasion during the week. All necessary information was easily obtainable.

The theme of the Congress "Medical Libraries—One World: Resources, Cooperation, Services" was extremely interesting and extensive. It offered something to everybody emphasizing the role of medical libraries as providers of services. It was stressed that medical libraries are an important sector of health care. The role of medical libraries was seen to be twofold: they meet the information needs of both the medical practitioners and of the users of health services. Attention was also paid to the unequal position of developing countries as providers of library services. The target of the WHO, "Health for all by the year 2000" was noted in several occasions.

Of the organized library tours I chose the one to the National Diet Library. Even the size of it was impressive. I was very pleased to be invited to the Tokyo Kosei-Nenkin Hospital Library, which proved to be very modern, well-equipped and able to provide a great range of services.

The hospitality and friendliness I met in these libraries and during my whole stay in Japan was something I had not experienced before. The social program of the Congress had been planned with great care and contributed to its success. The Japanese are masters at the art of entertaining guests! Meiji Kinen Kan with its beautiful surroundings, Cha-no-yu, Ikebana, the "Sayonara" Party...
and delicious on plentiful food left an indelible impression on me. Small language problems were quickly solved with the help of a dictionary.

The most extraordinary experience of my stay in Japan was my first encounter with an earthquake while staying on the 19th floor of a hotel. The earthquake had been mentioned in the Finnish television news and my calling home to say that I was all right had been anxiously waited for.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Japan Medical Library Association and all those who had been working for this extremely successful congress. (Terttu Soini : Bibliothecarii medicinae fenniae, Finland)