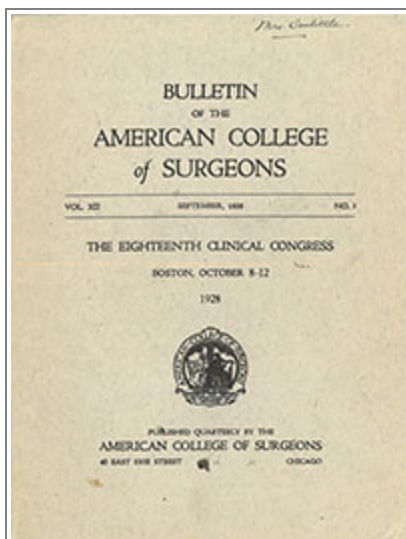


Celebrating 90 Years of AHIMA Conventions

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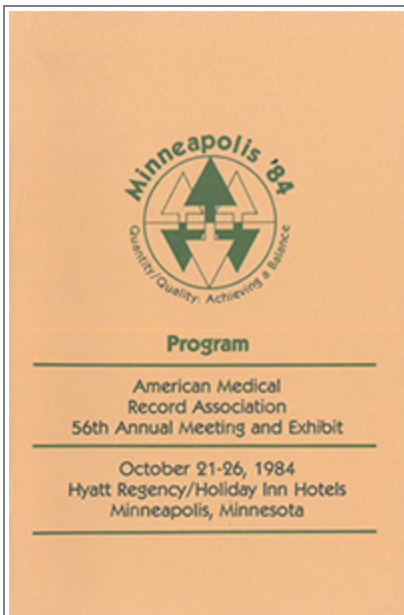
From its founding era to present day, AHIMA's signature event has been its annual convention and exhibit. The event has consistently drawn the most talented health information management (HIM) professionals for educational sessions and keynote speakers, sporting backgrounds in everything from medicine to space travel. Convention memorabilia helps tell the story of the profession—convention guides highlight the hot topics of their day and convention “swag” is often worthy of time capsule inclusion. Presented here are some convention-related items pulled from AHIMA's archive to mark the association's 90th event—taking place September 22 to September 26 in Miami, FL.



In 1928, a group of medical librarians, including AHIMA founder Grace Whiting Myers, were urged to attend the American College of Surgeon's (ACOS) Clinical Congress in Boston. It was during this event that Myers and her colleagues officially organized as the Association of Record Librarians of North America (ARLNA), which was then part of the ACOS. The founding members of ARLNA heeded the advice of Matthew Foley, editor of Hospital Management Journal, who put out a statement to the librarians saying, “If you do not organize now, perhaps you never will.” ARLNA held their own convention for the first time the following year.



The 6th Annual Conference of the Association of Record Librarians of North America was held in Boston, MA at the Hotel Kenmore. On the first day, attendees were taken on tours of hospital records rooms as well as organized sightseeing tours of the host city. One activity involved viewing a “motion picture of the first administration of Ether,” according to the program. “Honorary President” and organization founder Grace Whiting Myers delivered a presentation on the convention's second day.



During a General Session presentation at the 1984 convention, keynote speaker Robert L. Blum, MD, PhD, described advances that could be made possible by artificial intelligence in the future. “We will explore the medical information systems aboard the Starship Enterprise in the year 2009,” the program states. “Our 25-year mission is to boldly go where no man (or woman) has gone before.”



This photo was taken in 1960 at the opening session of the American Association of Medical Records Librarians annual convention.



In 2015, General Session attendees raised a commemorative glass and toasted the successful implementation of ICD-10-CM/PCS after several years of delays.

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