

**University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian E-Science
Symposium**

March 2009

Institutions:

Sponsoring Institution

Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts Medical Center
Worcester, MA 01655

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University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian E-Science Symposium

1. Abstract

In an attempt to continue to enhance collaborative New England region libraries' support of e-science initiatives for their research institutions, the Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School is planning a regional symposium. This day-long symposium will serve as an educational and collaborative opportunity for science librarians to discuss e-science resources, in addition to future roles that libraries and librarians might take on to support their institutions. By submitting this proposal, the LSL intends to use any funds secured from the Express Outreach Award to finance the expenses incurred from organizing and hosting the symposium.

The targeted population includes science librarians affiliated with the University of Massachusetts, Boston Library Consortium, and regional resource libraries of NN/LM-NER (including large academic health science libraries throughout New England). The estimate is about 38 libraries, with about 80 librarians in attendance. The symposium will be held at the Hoagland-Pincus Center in Shrewsbury, MA.

The symposium will be divided into two sections: a morning keynote presentation and panel workshop demonstrating various biotools, followed by an afternoon facilitated break-out discussion for the librarians. The broad goal of this project is to increase awareness amongst New England area librarians of the importance of e-science and the role of the library in support for scientific research. Doing so entails education in the definition of e-science, in identifying and using biotool resources, and on the roles that librarians play to support Life Sciences Initiatives. The symposium is intended to ultimately develop a strategy for regional collaboration in the delivery of e-science resources and services. The outcome will be a written report with specific recommendations for area librarians to explore in supporting scientific research in their institutions.

2. Introduction and Background

This proposal is designed to encourage the awareness of New England area librarians with respect to the role librarians must play in the e-science arena. E-Science is defined as "the large scale science that will increasingly be carried out through distributed global collaborations enabled by the Internet. Typically, a feature of such collaborative scientific enterprises is that they will require access to vary large data collections, very large scale computing resources and high performance visualization back to the individual user scientist" (Taylor, 2008). For the purpose of this proposal, e-science also includes team science and networked science. Traditionally, librarians have been focused on retrieval and access to traditional book and journal literature. The e-science movement expands the role of the library into non-traditional formats.

In June 2008, when Governor Deval Patrick signed a \$1 billion Life Sciences Initiative for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the University of Massachusetts was highlighted as a partner to continue further developments in life science research. UMass established a Life Sciences Task Force, charged with "crafting a university-wide aspirant vision in the life sciences and promoting inter-campus collaboration" (The University of Massachusetts Life Sciences Task Force, 2008, p. 2).

The greater academic community, the academic health sciences libraries, and the Association of Research Libraries science library community within the Boston Library Consortium--all responded positively. Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Clark University have also expressed interest in a collaborative effort among Worcester-regional libraries, and the Boston Library Consortium is interested in e-science as a consortium-wide project.

The Association of Research Libraries has published a report emphasizing the important role for librarians to work together in the curation and preservation of research data sets, as they have with traditional research materials (books and journals). The Model Principles for Research Library Roles in E-Science developed by the ARL include: support for open access; interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration; equitable service and support; and

professional development for librarians. Librarians in the New England Region need to prepare themselves for the roles identified in this report.

Spurred on by the Governor's initiative and the ARL report, the five directors and nine science librarians from the UMass libraries have been investigating ways that the libraries may be included in the Commonwealth's LSTF's future funding allocations. A proposal was written and sent to the UMass President's Office, detailing two plans designed to enhance library resources and services.

In the meantime, the UMass libraries group will remain proactive and has identified alternative plans to support the life sciences initiative. With the focus on the life sciences, e-science, and increasingly collaborative research, the libraries believe a symposium about these topics would be a good opportunity to educate regional science librarians. In doing so, one goal is to generate stronger collaborative efforts among regional libraries and librarians.

On October 19, 2008, the NN/LM-NER held a meeting of its 16 Resource Library Directors. When asked about their interest in learning more about e-science and exploring ways they could collaborate in providing e-science initiatives to their researchers, all expressed the need to become aware of how the library can be positioned to be a player in the scientific research arena. When asked if they would participate in a regional symposium on this topic, they agreed to attend and invite their staff to attend, and instructed the UMass Lamar Soutter Library to take the lead.

The Express Outreach Award was identified as an opportunity for funding that would facilitate the development of a collaborative strategy for New England area librarians to support e-science. The group would use the funds for the UMass libraries to host a day-long e-science symposium that would serve as resource workshop and think-tank for regional academic, health sciences and sciences librarians. Specific details will be described further in this grant proposal.

3. Identification and Description of Target Population and Geographic Area Covered

This day-long meeting will be held at the Hoagland-Pincus Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 100 Maple Ave, Shrewsbury, MA. The target population is: science librarians affiliated with the University of Massachusetts, Boston Library Consortium, and regional resource libraries of NN/LM-NER (including large academic health science libraries throughout New England). The estimate is about 38 libraries, with about 80 librarians in attendance. A list of the libraries (with their corresponding geographic area) to be invited is attached.

4. Project Goals

The broad goal of this project is to increase awareness amongst New England area librarians of the importance of e-science and the role of the library in support for scientific research.

The proposed project has the following specific objectives:

- To educate regional librarians in the definition of e-science and their role in supporting Life Sciences Initiatives
- To educate regional librarians about Biotoools, including those provided by NCBI
- To begin engaging the New England area library community in the structured development of a strategy for regional collaboration to deliver e-sciences resources and services.

The outcome will be a written report with specific recommendations for area librarians to explore in supporting scientific research in their institutions.

5. Methodology/Approach

Beginning with notification of funding, the next four months will be devoted to preparatory work to plan the program. This includes identifying and securing speakers; reserving the space and ordering supplies, food, and promotional materials; advertising the event; and preparing materials for the day of the program. The University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian E-Science Symposium will be a day-long workshop and planning session. It will be organized in two parts:

Morning: The first half of the day will be a presentation and e-science resource workshop. There will be an introductory presentation from the keynote speaker about topics and issues related to e-science. Following the keynote presentation will be a panel of 3 speakers that will present various e-science (biotools) resources, including NCBI resources.

Afternoon: After lunch, attendees will break out into small group discussions. Each group will have a pre-determined e-science issue to discuss, and a prior-designated attendee will facilitate each group. After these discussions, the larger group will reconvene to engage in a conversation facilitated by Elaine Martin. This will be an opportunity for each group to present their recommendations of next steps for action that they identified. This discussion will consolidate the recommendations from the smaller groups as a collaborative effort towards a structured strategy for regional delivery of e-Science resources and services. This discussion will ultimately be reported as specific recommendations for area librarians to explore in the support of their institutional scientific research.

Following the symposium, the next two-three months will involve the compilation of the recommendations from the event into an e-science report. This report will be included along with the evaluations from the program attendees for submission as a final product to the NER. A poster will also be designed that will be presented at the NER, conferences such as NAHSL, in addition to other potentially relevant events.

6. Personnel

Elaine Martin, MSLS, DA and **Raquel Rivera, MLIS** will be the project administrator and coordinator, respectively, for this proposal. Both Dr. Martin and Ms. Rivera are extremely qualified to carry out a successful project such as the one proposed.

Dr. Martin is the director of the Lamar Soutter Library. She is responsible for a staff of 37 and an annual operating budget of \$5.5 million. The LSL also serves as the NN/LM-NER. As director of NER, Dr. Martin has extensive experience in the design of regional outreach programs. She has been the principle investigator on many successful NLM and CDC funded grants. For this project, Dr. Martin will oversee the project budget and direct supervision of project staff.

Raquel Rivera is Information Literacy Librarian at the Lamar Soutter Library. In this capacity Ms. Rivera serves as the liaison to many research departments within the UMass Academic Health Sciences Center. She also serves as the library's representative to the UMass Science Librarians E-Science Initiative Task Force. She is responsible for the publication of the library's first open access journal called *Neurological Bulletin*, in collaboration with the department of Neurology. Ms. Rivera will serve as the project coordinator for this proposal.

7. Schedule/Time

The following is a work plan for our project. It encompasses the work involved in meeting all objectives listed above. We believe it will take approximately 7 months from notification of funding to carry out all objectives for this project.

Month	Items
Month 1 (November)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify speakers • Schedule & Plan educational workshops • Generate list of speakers & CE opportunities • Contact instructors & speakers for availability & topics • Finalize a date • Reserve the space at the Hoagland-Pincus Center • Order Supplies
Month 2 (December)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize program schedule • Develop program brochure • Develop web page to advertise the event • Mail & e-mail invitations to potential attendees
Month 3 (January 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept & track registrations • Write & submit quarterly report to NER
Month 4 (February)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize food order • Finalize speaker arrangements & workshop plans • Prepare packets • Prepare evaluation materials
Month 5 (March)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host event • Record recommendations from participants
Month 6 (April)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile recommendations into e-science report • Post report on project website with link to NER website • Compile evaluations & include in final report to NER
Month 7 (May)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & produce poster for presentation at NER, NAHSL, & other events

8. Evaluation Plan

There will be a two-part evaluation. The first will consist of a traditional written evaluation form given to all attendees after the meeting. They will be asked to rate the quality of the program. The second evaluation will be more formative. In the afternoon, attendees will be asked to participate in a roundtable discussion regarding the role of libraries in e-science and identifying possible next steps in the New England region. If attendees can produce a strategy for collaboration that can be made into a written document with recommendations for the future, then the workshop will be deemed successful.

9. Budget

\$7000.00 is requested to fund this project. A budget justification and explanation follows:

	Item	Projected Expenses: Itemized	Projected Expenses: Total
Personnel	Contributed by Lamar Soutter Library	None	None
Rental or Purchase of Equipment	Projector & Computer	None- LSL will supply	None
Publicity & Exhibit Costs	Postcards • (250) at \$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00
	Flyers • (200)	\$345.00	\$345.00
	Final Poster	\$150.00	\$150.00
Speaker Honorarium	Keynote	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00
	Speakers • (3) Speakers/Trainers	\$500.00	
Travel Necessary to Support the Project	Travel Expenses • (4) Speakers at \$500.00 each	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
Costs for Promotional Materials	Sign • (1) 24x36 at \$6.00/Sq. Ft.	\$36.00	\$36.00
	Program Brochures • (80)	\$424.00	\$424.00
Facility Fees	Rental of Hoagland-Pincus Center Rooms	\$950.00	\$950.00
Other Costs	Office Supplies	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total			\$7,000.00

References

Taylor, J. (2008). Defining e-Science. Retrieved October 23, 2008, from

<http://www.nesc.ac.uk/nesc/define.html>

The University of Massachusetts Life Sciences Task Force. (2008). *A University-wide Plan to Strengthen the Life Sciences and Promote Inter-campus Collaboration Over the Next Five Years*. Boston: University of Massachusetts.

http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/chancellor/Health_Life_Sciences/UMass%20LSTF%20Final%20Report.pdf.

Appendix A: Invited Libraries

1. Amherst College
2. Assumption College
3. Baystate Medical Center
4. Boston College
5. Boston Public Library
6. Boston University
7. Brandeis University
8. Brown University
9. Clark University
10. College of the Holy Cross
11. Dartmouth College
12. Hartford Hospital
13. Harvard University
14. Lifespan Hospital
15. Maine Medical Center
16. Marine Biological Lab & Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
17. Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
18. Massachusetts General Hospital
19. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
20. National Network of Libraries of Medicine- New England Region
21. Northeastern University
22. Rhode Island Hospital
23. Simmons College
24. State Library of Massachusetts
25. Tufts University
26. University of Connecticut
27. University of Massachusetts- Amherst
28. University of Massachusetts- Boston
29. University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth
30. University of Massachusetts- Lowell
31. University of Massachusetts- Worcester
32. University of New Hampshire
33. University of Rhode Island
34. University of Vermont
35. Wellesley College
36. Williams College
37. Worcester Polytechnic Institute
38. Yale University

Appendix B: Tentative Symposium Schedule

University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian E-Science Symposium

March, 2009

Hoagland-Pincus Center

- 8:30-9:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:30-9:45 Introductions & Welcome
- 9:45-11:00 Keynote Presentation
- 11:00-12:30 Panel Workshop: Biotoools and NCBI Resources
- 12:30-1:45 Lunch
- 1:45-2:00 Instructions for the Afternoon
- 2:00-3:30 Small Group Discussion Session
- 3:30-5:00 Facilitated Large Group Discussion
- 5:00-5:15 Closing Remarks

Appendix C: Invited Speakers (Tentative)

Keynote: Clifford Lynch
Wendy Lougee
Neil Rambo
Linda Watson

Panel: David LaPointe
David Osterbur
Michelle Tennant