



MAHSLIN Network News

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President's Message

Sept. 8, 2005

Dear MAHSLIN Members:

Happy Fall! For many of us it is the start of the new academic year and busy times are ahead!

I want to commend the MAHSLIN Education Committee and its chairs, Alison Clapp and Nathan Norris, on the terrific educational offerings that are being offered this Fall. Participate in one of these sessions and share your feedback with Alison and Nathan. The Education Committee is tailoring their workshop/class offerings to meet the needs of our members.

Listed below are the MAHSLIN Officers and Committee Chairs for 2005-2006.

President	Anne Fladger
Vice President/President Elect	Margo Coletti
Past President	Kathy McCarthy
Secretary	Julia C. Whelan
Treasurer	Pat Vigorito

Archives Committee Chair	Melinda Saffer Marchand
ByLaws Committee Chair	Nancy Harger
Education Committee Co-Chairs	Alison Clapp, Nathan Norris
Membership Committee Chair	Cindy Hutchison
Nominating Committee Chair	Chris Fleuriel
Publicity Co-Chairs	

MAHSLIN Web Coordinator	VACANT
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MAHSLIN News Editor	Michelle Eberle
Resource Sharing /ILL Committee Chair	Jeanie M. Vander Pyl
Technology Liaison	Penny Glassman

We are in need of new MAHSLIN Web Coordinator. Amy Priftakis recently accepted a position in Arizona and has moved there. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please contact me.

There are a number of other projects that the Board is working on or completed, they include:

- Developing a scholarship for a library science student who is enrolled in medical librarianship
- Organizing and storing the MAHSLIN archives
- Margo Coletti is working on next Spring's annual meeting
- The MAHSLIN web site has been revised and updated – Take a look!
- Strategic planning session regarding the future of medical librarianship
- The Resource Sharing committee is looking at the feasibility of a electronic inter-library loan delivery group – similar to MASSFAX

Please contact any of us with questions and comments.

Anne Fladger
MAHSLIN President

Send Them To “The Hall”

The MAHSLIN Hall of Fame was established to recognize outstanding performance and leadership of members and/or supporters of the health science library community in Massachusetts.

Who or what group do you think has made a major contribution to the health sciences library community in Massachusetts? Now is your opportunity to nominate one of your colleagues or a special group to become part of the MAHSLIN Hall of Fame in 2006.

The process is easy. You need to provide the following information to Kathy McCarthy at kathy_mccarthy@sshosp.org: 1) nominees name, 2) nominees library and/or organization, 3) a brief statement of why you think they should be part of the MAHSLIN Hall of Fame. The MAHSLIN Board will consider all nominations.

The past MAHSLIN Hall of Fame inductees can be found at <http://www.mahslin.org/archives.html#fame>. Thank you for your participation!

By Kathy McCarthy

New Membership

Welcome to new MAHSLIN member Kathy Krathwohl, Library Assistant at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy!

MAHSLIN EDUCATION UPDATE

RECENT EVENTS

Friday, September 9, 2005
Introduction to Blogs and Feeds
Children’s Hospital, Boston

The Education Committee sponsored a program on weblogs and RSS feeds, and Jessica Baumgart, who works in the Office of News and Public Affairs at Harvard University, was the first speaker. She has had extensive experience with blogs and covered a wide range of topics related to blogging including: what is a weblog, how do people use them, how is this technology being used in health care/science, what are feeds and aggregators and finally a quick look at a couple of additional tools such as Pluck, Onfolio, Flickr and Furl. For those of you who were unable to attend this educational opportunity, Jessica’s presentation is available on j’s scratchpad (her blog), and there are many links in the presentation to examples and web pages with additional information: [http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/jkbaumga/stories/storyReader\\$3925](http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/jkbaumga/stories/storyReader$3925)

Garrett Eastman, who is a solo librarian at Harvard’s Rowland Institute, followed Jessica’s talk with more specific details as to how he is using a blog at the Institute to keep his faculty updated about new library, subject specialty and Harvard activities/resources which he feels are most pertinent to them. It was encouraging to hear about his success given his staffing level! He concentrated on various news feeds, which he uses to keep up with science news and which

provide him the content to keep his blog updated. Both speakers mentioned the distinct advantage of being able to better organize and search for information using a blog which means it can be a personal tool in addition to serving as another way to bring the library to our patrons. Jeannine Gluck decided that a blog would be the best way for her to organize and share information about advocacy for hospital libraries and the Hospital Library Advocacy blog is at <http://hosplib.blogspot.com/>.

Monday, September 12, 2005
Introduction to Blogs and Feeds Featuring Hands-on Blogging
UMass Medical Center, Worcester

A similar program to the one listed above covered much of the same content with the addition of a hands-on component. In addition to MAHSLIN & NAHSL, The 2 programs were also opened to SLA Boston and ACRL New England Chapter members, and a total of 54 people attended these two programs!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 20, 2005, 9:30 – 12:30
The Care and Feeding of Your PC: An Evidence-Based Approach and an Introduction to Foxfire
UMass Medical Center

If you are responsible for maintenance of your library's computers or would just like to know how to better maintain and update your own PC, this is the class for you!

Penny Glassman and Mary Piorun will cover:

- Anti/spyware software and avoiding spyware
- Virus scan software
- Microsoft Windows update
- Backing up your PC
- Defragging your hard drive
- Keeping up with software updates (i.e. Acrobat Reader, browsers) and deleting older versions
- Cookies/cache/browser settings
- Unzipping files
- Foxfire

Make sure to mark your calendars for this upcoming event and watch for the registration information on the MAHSLIN website and via the listserv.

Monday, November 21, 2005
MLA Satellite Conference Patient Safety
Boston and Worcester

Tentatively, MAHSLIN (in cooperation with NAHSL) will be sponsoring this satellite teleconference in two locations. We are looking for librarians who have had experience working with staff at their hospital on patient safety issues. Your involvement might include working on a committee, providing an Alert service or serving in some other capacity. Please let either Nathan Norris or Alison Clapp know how you have expanded your role into this area.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

1. MLA's Independent Reading Program. If you are looking for an easy way to earn additional MLA CE credits, you might want to participate in the Independent Reading Program. Check out the MLA website for additional information:
<http://www.mlanet.org/education/irp/index.html>
2. Evidence-based medicine and the medical librarian. This is an online 8-week course starting on September 19th, which is sponsored by the University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science. If you have trouble getting to programs during the day, this online course might be a perfect fit. You can check out the syllabus and course outline at http://sils.unc.edu/programs/continuing_ed/ebm.html

As always, the MAHSLIN Education Committee would like to hear from you!

Alison Clapp (Alison.clapp@childrens.harvard.edu)
Janet Dadoly (Janet.Dadoly@umassmed.edu)
Jonathan Hartman (Jonathan.Hartmann@bos.mcphs.edu)
Nathan Norris (nnorris@bidmc.harvard.edu)

3,2,1... Liftoff!

In May, Massachusetts joined Indiana, North Carolina and Missouri as one of four states providing its residents with information to local health services through the "Go Local" project of the National Library of Medicine. The goal of the project is to link the health topics found in MedlinePlus to related health services available to people in their local geographic regions. Go Local Massachusetts currently has contact information and/or web links to more than 2,000 services across the state with hopes of offering a comprehensive database by May of 2006.

An official "launch" of Go Local Massachusetts is planned for Tuesday, November 29, 2005 from 7:30-9:00 AM at the Lamar Soutter Library of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The event will include a presentation and overview of the site, remarks by state legislators and library and medical professionals, and hands-on opportunities to try out the new resource. Breakfast will be served and "Goody Bags" of promotional materials including training videos/DVDs, bookmarks and brochures will be available.

For more information about Go Local Massachusetts and this kickoff event, please contact Sally Gore, Project Librarian, Lamar Soutter Library, 508-856-1966, sally.gore@umassmed.edu.



People & Places

I attended the Medical Informatics MBL/NLM Course Fellow - Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. Sponsored by the National Library of Medicine. Certificate, SPRING Course, 2005 from May 29 - June 5 at Woods Hole. It was amazing.

April Silver

Agoos Medical Library
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

My former assistant, Kim Mitchell, left Dana-Farber in April to become the library director at St. Peter's health Care in Albany NY. She's a solo librarian there. Right away she was involved with planning new library space and is planning to introduce new technology as soon as possible. I hired James Lee to take her position; he is currently working on his MLS through Florida State.

Christine W. Fleuriel

Benacerraf Library
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



The Health Sciences Library was awarded the Saints Memorial Medical Center "Team Spirit Award" for the month of July. The Team Spirit Award has been given by one hospital department to another on a monthly basis since 2001. It comes with a framed citation and a large jar filled with chocolates!! It is awarded "for extraordinary commitment to the Team Spirit and outstanding performance in a group effort. This is the first time the Library has ever received this award.

Bette Bissonnette

Manager, Health Sciences Library
Saints Memorial Medical Center
Lowell, MA

I have been the Curator of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell since last September [www.nequiltmuseum.org]. I am almost finished my Masters degree in Textiles, Clothing, and Design through the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. I spent the winter 2005 semester there. I missed seeing Tommy Lee -- he was there in the Fall -- and I also missed that awful winter in Massachusetts. My "new life" is very hectic and never boring. Visit our web site to see what's coming up and let me know if you're coming so I can give you a tour.

Anita B. Loscalzo, Curator

New England Quilt Museum

18 Shattuck Street

Lowell, MA 01852

email: Curator@NEQuiltMuseum.org / telephone: 978-452-4207 Ext. 11

Embracing Diversity and Personal Transformation Reflections of MLA 2005

**By Peter Droese, Health Policy Librarian Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive
Office of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicaid**

Background

The Lamar Soutter players would call my personality tendencies extroverted. In my life I have found I need to be an active participant. This means helping in small projects (and sometimes larger undertakings), while keeping a balance among my faith, family, and work. My road into librarianship is due to the fact that I wanted to find the answers and also teach other people how to be empowered with high quality information. This conference was a way for me to celebrate as well. It was exactly five years ago that I presented at the 2000 Special Library Association Conference session titled: Serving the Disabled Patron - From Dependence to Independence, in which I described how libraries can empower a person with a disability to succeed. As medical librarians we are called to provide the best evidence to insure the delivery of quality patient centered care. Individuals can stay healthy, get better, live with disability or chronic illness, and be able to have dignity when coping with end of life issues.

When I started working at the State Medicaid program, I knew very little about Medicaid, health policy and multicultural health. However, as a good reference librarian, committed to life long learning, I knew how to find information and was open to learning from others. This idea of learning from others culminated in the journal article in the January 2004 issue of JMLA: *Selected, annotated list of materials that support the development of policies designed to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities*, by Joanne Dontello, Princeton University, Peter Droese, and Soo Kim of the United State Office of Minority Health Resource Center. This paper received the Daniel T. Richards Prize for Collection Development, which is humbling for us to be recognized. I encourage all members to write and be published, as it is a rewarding process.

Conference

Ever since I started working in medical librarianship I always wanted to attend a MLA conference. The 2005 conference theme, *Futuro Magnifico: Celebrating Our Diversity*, provided an enriching opportunity to learn from others while contributing to the knowledge base in medical librarianship. It was a rewarding experience to present a paper with Nancy Peterson on the utilization of the medical librarian in a state Medicaid program. This exchange of knowledge between a seasoned information professional and a new professional was a learning experience. I felt as though the

presentation was a success in raising awareness about the rising cost of providing health care, health care reform, the uninsured in America, the Medicaid program and the role of race in medicine - especially in light of the Food and Drug Administration's approval of NitroMed BiDil, the first drug specifically targeted to treat heart failure in African Americans.

There was much discussion on the role of the information specialist in context and how that role can be applied in any library setting. As medical librarians we are always called to justify our position. I wanted to learn more about how to apply principles of evidenced-based medicine (EBM) in my practice as a medical librarian. In attending the educational session on evidence-based librarianship (EBL), I was able to, not only gain review of the principles of EBM, but also how to apply these principles in creating new services and expanding my abilities. In this session we shared ideas for applying EBL and using Bibliometrics.

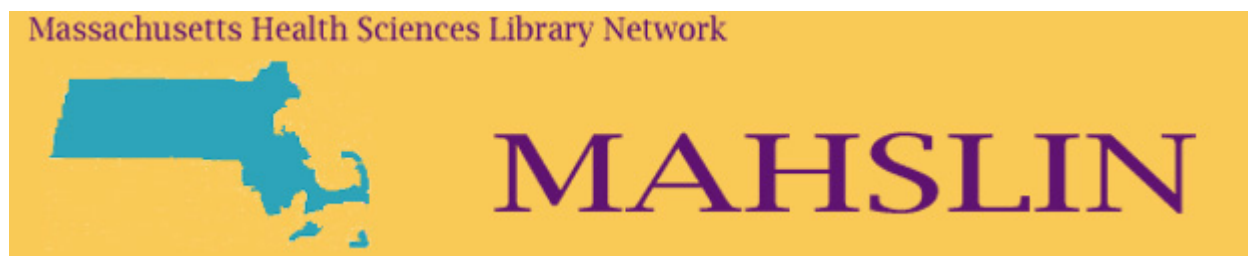
The Future

When I came back to the office, I felt energized and began putting the tools to work in my daily practice of librarianship. I am on a journey to provide high quality health information with the goal of improving health outcomes. As of this year we embraced our profession and clearly acknowledge the need to develop new professionals. This is where mentoring and teaching come in. Since the year 2000, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Frank Landry of UMass Memorial Health Care, and he has assisted me greatly in setting my career compass on track through the Academy of Health Information program. With luck I will hear back in December on the outcome of my application. Frank and I have had ups and down along the trail, taking time to celebrate our successes and seeking meaning from set backs and disappointments. I have embraced personal transformation both as an individual and a professional.

By looking back to the past, we can see where we have been, to reflect where we are now, and embrace the future that is yet to come.

May we all find reasons to celebrate our personal successes and seek ways to transform our lives as the role of the Medical Librarian evolves in our knowledge-rich society.

Thank You for your support.



MAHSLIN Network News
Send your news to *Michelle Eberle*, Newsletter Editor at: <mailto:michelle.eberle@umassmed.edu>