

THE **P**ITTSBURGH **P**ULSE

NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH REGIONAL CHAPTER, MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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JULY 2001

From the Chair...

It is the beginning of July as I write this article. For those of us in medical libraries, July begins a type of 'new year' with the changing of the hospital's house staff. There seems to be an increase in the 'hustle and bustle' not only in the hospital but also in the library where new interns and residents are trying to find their way. For me there are all types of 'new years.' I have two daughters who start a new school year each September, sometimes that seems to be the beginning of a 'new year' for me. Of course, there is the traditional New Year on January 1 that marks a new calendar year. This year adds another type of 'new year' for me as I assume the responsibility of Chapter Chair.

All new years start with some resolutions and I thought I'd share mine for the year.

- To enjoy my year as Chair.
- To learn something new this year, either through a CE course that the Chapter might offer or through a conversation with a colleague.
- To work with the executive board to make this a productive and enjoyable year for the Pittsburgh Chapter.

I would also like to begin this new year by expressing my thanks to my predecessor Linda Hartman. All of us are grateful for the time and energy she gave to the Chapter.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting this fall and until then, Happy New Year!

Nancy Tannery
Chair

Pittsburgh Participation in MLA 2001

Compiled by David Nolfi
Duquesne University

The Pittsburgh health sciences library community was well represented at this year's Medical Library Association Annual Meeting held May 25-30, in Orlando, Florida. As a Chapter, we should be proud of all the hard work, creativity, and professionalism that our colleagues exhibited in representing themselves, their institutions, and our Chapter.

I have listed below their names as well as their paper or poster titles. I encourage you to congratulate them for their contributions to our profession.

The University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System's **CHARLIE WESSEL** taught the six credit, CE Course, "Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Information Resources for Choices in Healing."

AMY GREGG, BARBARA EPSTEIN, CHARLIE WESSEL, and **JODY WOZAR** of the Pitt Health Sciences Library System (HSLs) presented their paper, "Designing a Curriculum on Internet Health Resources for Deaf High School Students" together with the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf's **LINDA BURLIK**.

The busy **MR. WESSEL** also introduced his paper, "Why is Complementary and Alternative Medicine an Information Oddity and Where are the Reliable Sources?"

Mercy Hospital's **LINDA HOGAN** discussed her paper, "The Effect of Metasite Selection on the Quality of Web Information: A Collection Development Approach to the Evaluation of Web-based Consumer Health Information."

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TECHLINE: Summer Tidbits

Submitted by David Brennan, St. Francis Medical Center

Reducing Office Waste

Several years back, I spoke about the immense quantity of waste created by computers and other office equipment and how in a small way we might contribute to lessening this waste. Increasingly, companies are becoming more environmentally conscious, and providing means for consumers to recycle.

The next time you replace your laser or photocopier toner, check the box – you may find a prepaid shipping label. We return all of our printer and copier cartridges for recycling. As a reminder, CD-ROMs and inkjet cartridges can also be recycled, and you can even make a few dollars on the inkjet cartridges. You can find information on recycling CD-ROM's at:

<www.ovid.com/support/recycle.cfm>.

Check <www.inkjet.com/got_empties.html> for information on sending in empty inkjet cartridges.

Editor's Note: proofreader Sandee Collins points out that prepaid mailers to return used cartridges for recycling are available at any U.S. Post Office.

"Private Care, Public Health: Health Care and the Green Challenge – How Hospitals are Developing Policies and Strategies to Deal with the Tons of Trash and Pollutants They Produce" is a nice article with links to other environmental issues related to healthcare. You can find it at HMS Beagle–BioMedNet

<news.bmn.com/hmsbeagle/106/notes/feature1>, which is free with registration. Thanks to Kristine M. Alpi (PHHA section, MLA) for this tip.

Timesaver for Creating Book Lists

Did you know that you can search the major online book vendors by ISBN? Of course our vendors such as Rittenhouse and Majors have done this for some time. The other day, we received a donation of about 35 books from a physician. He wanted a list of them to itemize charitable deductions. As is our policy, I had no problem giving him the list and letting him attach a value to the donation. We weren't planning to keep all of them, so cataloging them and running a report was not the way to go. Typing the list really wasn't much fun either. Then the thought occurred to me that Amazon.com ought to carry these titles and I should be able to just type the ISBN and then cut and paste the title to a blank document. Bingo – list done in 15 minutes instead of a half hour or 40 minutes worth of typing. Of course a fast typist

could have beaten my time... I've also checked Borders and Barnes & Noble, and they also support this feature. Barnes & Noble parses the UPC code to the book if entered into the ISBN field. Had I known that before I started, I could have shaved even more time off preparing my list by scanning the UPC codes!

Information Source Recommendations

In a bit of a departure (and since I didn't have anything in particular to put in here!), I thought I'd mention and recommend a couple of things I've been reading. These selections probably say more than I want to disclose about my reading habits, but I think that they're both quite fascinating, and related to how we look at the work we do and the resources we rely on to do it.

Standage, Tom. *The Victorian Internet: the Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth-Century Online Pioneers*. New York: Walker & Company, 1998. ISBN: 0965703797.

I'm not done reading this yet, but so far, it is an absorbing look at the development of the telegraph and, as the title suggests, there are an eerie number of parallels to the Internet. History does repeat itself!

Rampton, Sheldon and John Stauber. *Trust Us, We're Experts! How Industry Manipulates Science and Gambles with Your Future*. New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam, 2001. ISBN: 158542059X.

This one reads like a book version of *60 Minutes*, exposing some of the means by which corporations and industries spin their positions to the public and policymakers. Very pertinent to us is Chapter 8, "The Best Science Money Can Buy," which exposes some of the ways that even leading journals such as *JAMA*, *Lancet*, and *NEJM* have been used (and have allowed themselves to be used) to perpetrate bad science. This title was reviewed some time ago in the business section of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, which is where I heard about it.

FindArticles.com. <<http://www.findarticles.com>>.

A nice database with the following coverage: "FindArticles.com is a vast archive of published articles that you can search for free. Constantly updated, it contains articles dating back to 1998 from more than 300 magazines and journals. You will find articles on a range of topics, including business,

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Stethoscoop

Submitted by Cindy Robertson, Heritage Valley Health System

- ◆ **ROSEMARY PANICHELLA**, librarian, announces that the Joseph F. Bucci Library at Frick Hospital has been relocated to more spacious quarters in the main wing on the first floor of the hospital. The new location, which includes a physician lounge, will be the site of a Grand Opening in September. Rosemary and Peggy are enjoying their lovely new space.
- ◆ Our own chapter "tech source" is branching out to other lucky groups. **DAVID BRENNAN**, St. Francis Medical Center Health Sciences Library, is now a regular contributor to the *ALA TechSource* website <www.techsource.ala.org>. David has also submitted his first book review to Doody's Publishing. Congratulations to David – we look forward to seeing more of his work in these prestigious professional resources.
- ◆ **ROBERT NEUMEYER, MLIS**, is now managing the libraries and archives for the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS). He replaces **LINDA HOGAN, PHD**, who was recently promoted to Director, Medical Informatics. Both are adjusting to their new positions and are extremely grateful for the support they receive from the staff of the newly formed Medical Informatics Division, which includes the PMHS libraries, the Mercy Hospital archives, and the information services department.
- ◆ And another chapter member in the news – **TERRIE WHEELER** had an article published this spring in the *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*. Terrie and colleagues co-authored "Using Customer Feedback to Redesign a Corporate Web Site: The VA Experience," pages 111-117 in Volume 1/Issue 1 of this new professional journal. Our chapter is indeed fortunate to have so many renowned professionals as members and colleagues.

Four Easy Ways to Get Your Information into Next Issue's Stethoscoop:

Mail: Cindy Robertson Library/CME Manager Heritage Valley Health System 1000 Dutch Ridge Road Beaver, PA 15009	Phone: 724-773-1940 Fax: 724-728-7429 Email: crobertson@hvhs.org
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Be sure to include your name, business address, and telephone number.

TECHLINE (continued)

health, society, entertainment, sports and more. Unlike other online collections, each of the hundreds of thousands of articles in FindArticles can be read in its entirety and printed at no cost. FindArticles is a content-distribution partnership between LookSmart, which provides the search infrastructure, and the Gale Group, which provides the published editorial content."

Finally...

I've bitten the bullet and joined the PDA bandwagon with the purchase of a REX 5001 handheld. This is not a product recommendation by

any means – PDAs differ widely in their capabilities and functions. This one is simply a contact and schedule manager that happens to interface with Microsoft Outlook. I mention my purchase only to say that in the near future, as I learn more about these types of devices, you may expect to see a column or two devoted to the topic. They are becoming more popular and more visible within many institutions and users are expecting that content such as library databases will be available on them. More to come...

MLA Sister Library Initiative

As many of you know, the International Cooperation Section established a Sister Library Initiative with two libraries: The Medical Research Library of Latvia, in Riga, Latvia; and the Medical Library of Holberton Hospital in Saint John's, Antigua. The initiative is currently running a 14-month pilot project, scheduled to end in April 2002. In the past, individual members of the ICS have maintained sister library relationships, sending books and journals to our overseas colleagues, occasionally exchanging staff, and providing expert consultation. The Sister Library Initiative is designed to provide the two sister libraries mentioned above with collection support and state-of-the-art electronic information resources. To oversee the sister library projects, the ICS has set up two committees, one for each of the libraries in Latvia and Antigua.

In the first few months of this initiative there has been a generous outpouring of assistance from medical librarians and libraries in the U.S. and Canada. A group of Nordic librarians and libraries, which have in the past worked closely with libraries in the Baltic countries of the former Soviet Union, are also involved in the Latvian project.

The major accomplishments of the project to date include the following:

Latvia

- A member of the Latvian committee for this project traveled to the Medical Research Library of Latvia in August 2000, to review the library's current collection, facilities and electronic capabilities, assess the library's needs, provide training to Latvian librarians, and meet with Latvian government officials regarding this initiative.
- 23 libraries have donated the equivalent of 32 large boxes of books and journals to the Medical Research Library of Latvia. The Cleveland Branch of the American Latvian Society provided funds to ship the materials, which are due to arrive in Latvia in early May.
- The Latvian Physicians and Dentists group is in the process of raising additional funds for a series of shipments of books and journals to Latvia.
- The profile of the Medical Research Library of Latvia has been raised through communications regarding this initiative, with the Latvian President, the Latvian Ambassador in the US, and the American Ambassador in Latvia.

- The national Library of Medicine has arranged for the Medical Research Library of Latvia to have access to DOCLINE. NLM staff and a member of the ICS Latvian committee were involved in teaching the Latvian librarians to use the DOCLINE service.
- The Research Libraries Group graciously donated the Ariel software to the Medical Research Library of Latvia, which has greatly facilitated quick transmission of needed documents.
- STAT!Ref donated products containing 32 medical textbooks to the library in Latvia. Between March 7 and April 20, 118 health professionals in Latvia used STAT!Ref to view 13,516 documents.
- The Latvian subcommittee has worked closely with the American Latvian Association, who have published two detailed stories about the sister library initiative in its newspapers: *Laiks* (published in Latvian), and *Latvian Dimensions* (published in English). As a result, several Latvians living in the US have contacted the Latvian committee of the ICS to enthusiastically applaud the project and offer additional help.

Antigua

- Numerous libraries in the United States have donated medical books, journals, interlibrary loans, and library supplies to the library in Holberton Hospital in Antigua.
- A.B. Short of Medshare International has agreed to help ship library resources to Antigua when they send materials to this region of the world.
- The Permanent Mission of Antigua/Barbuda to the United Nations has also provided shipping assistance for library materials to Antigua.
- It is hoped that the continuing success of this pilot project will enable the International Cooperation Section and the Medical Library Association to extend the initiative and develop additional sister library relationships with medical libraries in other parts of the world.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project, or offer donations, please contact Sister Library Initiative Committee Chair: Vicki Croft (croft@wsu.edu).

Pittsburgh Participation (continued)

CATHERINE ARNOTT SMITH, from Pitt's Center for Biomedical Informatics, presented a paper titled, "Access to the Fringe: Evolving Concepts in Complementary and Alternative Medicine."

ELLEN DETLEFSEN, of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences, and CATHERINE ARNOTT SMITH presented a paper called, "The Pittsburgh Experience: An Exploration in Educating Medical Librarians for Informatics Careers."

PATRICIA FRIEDMAN of HSLS presented "FRIP, The Faculty Research Interests Project: Collaborative Work for Improved Collaboration" together with the prolific CATHERINE ARNOTT SMITH.

DEBORAH SILVERMAN of HSLS presented her paper, "If Books are Down: What is the Impact on Process and Staffing?" as part of the Collections and Technical Services Special Topics Roundtable.

HSLS's NANCY TANNERY, JILL FOUST, AMY GREGG, LINDA HARTMAN, ALICE KULLER, and PAUL WORONA of Pitt's Health Sciences Library System, together with ASHER TULSKY, MD, of the Pitt Medical School presented the paper, "Use of Web-Based Library Resources by Medical Students in Community and Ambulatory Settings."

MICHELE KLEIN-FEDYSHIN, CHARLIE WESSEL, AMY GREGG, PAUL WORONA, JODY WOZAR, and REED WILLIAMS from HSLS presented a poster called: "Reconceptualizing the Web Designing and Implementing a User-Oriented Consumer Health Information Website."

HSLS librarians REBECCA ABROMITIS, LINDA HARTMAN, and ALICE KULLER presented the poster, "A Model for Staff Development Planning in an Academic Health Sciences Library."

Editor's Note: I received word that other Pittsburgh health information professionals and Chapter members presented posters at MLA 2001. However, I only received reports for the above posters. If your participation is not listed, please send a brief description and I will include it in the next issue of the Pulse.

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Please send your comments, story suggestions, or questions to the Editor:

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