

THE

# PITTSBURGH PULSE



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

## From the Chair...

It is with pleasure that I begin my term as Chapter Chair. We have seen a re-invigoration of the Chapter over the past few years, which is a testament to the dedication of the board and the commitment of all of our members. My challenge is to maintain this momentum and continue to move the Chapter in a positive direction. As someone for whom medical librarianship was a second career, and who has transitioned to a non-traditional role in the health information field, I am acutely aware that our members come from varied backgrounds and work in diverse settings, performing numerous functions. My goal is for the Chapter to continue to serve the entire membership and promote the unique abilities of all members.

Continuing education will remain an important focus. This past spring, the Chapter sponsored a four-hour workshop, "Introduction to Information Ethics," held at the School of Information Sciences (SIS). The presenter was Dr. Toni Carbo, professor at SIS and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Eighteen members participated, and the Chapter subsidized the attendance of two SIS students. Dr. Carbo shared her expertise on the subject of information ethics and introduced a systematic process to look at all aspects of an ethical issue. The group had the opportunity to use the process to explore a timely ethical issue. As a follow-up, a journal club on ethical issues is being explored for this fall. Charlie Wessel, our new Program Chair, has exciting ideas for CE programs this year, and I urge you all to seriously consider the offer to participate in the Chapter by developing a CE proposal (see the adjacent column for information about this opportunity).

Also on tap this year is a revitalization of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, which has been inactive for some time. Ellen Detlefsen, having ably completed her term as Chapter Council Representative, has agreed to chair this committee. My hope is that it will be a mechanism to support as well as honor members. I'm looking forward to a full and productive year!

**Christine Dietrick, Chair  
Pittsburgh Chapter**

## Opportunity to Develop a CE Course By Charles Wessel Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Regional Chapter board would like to encourage the development of a locally produced and created MLA CE course to be offered at our 2005 spring meeting.

Our Chapter members are very talented and it will give you the opportunity to share your expertise and knowledge with regional and possibly national colleagues.

The course should be a "planned, organized learning experience designed to augment the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of those who work in health sciences libraries, to enhance library practice, education, administration, or research and to improve health care by improving health care information, access to it or utilization of it." An MLA "CE course is a planned learning experience with detailed learning objectives defined by the instructor(s)." (MLA, 2004)

As the Chapter's program chair, I would like to receive your CE proposal by Friday September 17, 2004. Your proposal should be a paragraph (150 word maximum) providing a brief summary of the major concepts and goals of the course. After this paragraph please state 4 or 5 of the course's

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## TechLine: Web Browsers – the War Isn't Over, Really.

By David Brennan, Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



Remember back in the 90s when the browser wars were going on? Netscape vs. Microsoft was big news. Well, to no one's great surprise, Microsoft buried Netscape, and Internet Explorer (IE) now accounts for about 75% of the browser marketplace (Morley, 2004).

Netscape doesn't even show up on the list.

However, that doesn't mean there is no reason to use a browser other than IE. In fact, the specific example of Netscape poses a compelling reason for librarians to dump IE – printing. We print articles all the time. We see articles with their right margins chopped off because IE doesn't resize the content to the printed page. That is one feature that Netscape has had for a long time. In 1999, Hewlett-Packard had a program (Web PrintSmart) that would resize web pages but it only worked on HP printers, and hasn't been available since. IE could resize pages in Mac versions 4 and 5 but not the Windows version. There may also be third-party utilities for this, but it is built into Netscape.

I'm not pushing only Netscape – other browsers have been designed to meet specific needs, particularly for people with vision problems. For a review of browsers and plug-ins for adaptive needs try <[www.w3.org/WAI/References/Browsing](http://www.w3.org/WAI/References/Browsing)>.

Another category includes browsers for different operating systems or hardware configurations. One of the reasons IE has not penetrated quite as deeply as you might think is that there a growing group of Linux/Unix users with browsers designed for that OS. At this point, most libraries have hardware capable of running a recent (some might say “bloated”) browser, but there are also browsers designed for limited hardware. There is even a graphical browser for DOS machines (Arachne Labs). Another reason many users switch browsers is to reduce exposure to the many well-documented security holes left in IE. (Schnoll, 2003)



Browsers are also available that can be extensively customized beyond the simple methods allowed by IE. There are several specialized

categories of browsers, such as those with integrated pop-up blockers and those with parental content controls.

Browsers can also be “branded” such as those distributed by AOL and other ISPs – essentially IE with customized toolbars and buttons. An emerging category of browsers are those designed for PDAs (Web browsers for PDAs, 2004).

The variety of available browsers impacts librarians as both users and website designers. As users, we can appreciate the need for a feature like the printing setup in Netscape. As webmasters, we have to be cognizant of the differences in browsers. While the vast majority use IE, there will be times when coding a site looks quite different on another browser, and some things may not function at all if they are set to use IE extensions rather than a plain HTML or Java standard (Browser chart, 2003).

You don't have to feel that IE is the only way to surf the web. If you have a specific problem to solve or a user population to serve, take a look at some alternative choices in Web browsers on CNET (go to <[www.download.com](http://www.download.com)> and search for browsers).




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Morley, S. (2004, June 4). *Web browser market share*. Retrieved June 15, 2004 from <http://www.safalra.com/website/browsermarket/>

*Arachne Labs: Post-corporate entity*. (n.d.). Retrieved June 15, 2004 from <http://arachne.cz/>

Schnoll, S. (2003, June 28). *Internet Explorer security center*. Retrieved June 15, 2004 from <http://www.nwnetworks.com/iesc.html>

*Web browsers for PDAs*. (2004, May 27). Retrieved June 15, 2004 from the Canadian Heritage Information Network Web site: [http://www.chin.gc.ca/English/Digital\\_Content/Tip\\_Sheets/Pda/](http://www.chin.gc.ca/English/Digital_Content/Tip_Sheets/Pda/)

*Browser chart: Microsoft Internet Explorer*. (2003). Retrieved June 15, 2004 from the Webmonkey Web site: [http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/reference/browser\\_chart/](http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/reference/browser_chart/)

## Stethoscoop

Submitted by **Cindy Robertson, Heritage Valley Health System**

- ◆ **WALTER SYLVANDER**, director of the library at Torrance State Hospital for the past fifteen years, retired on June 18, 2004. Walter is also an ordained minister and has had a varied career including librarianship in an academic setting and church ministries. He served as a representative for institutional librarians on the Access PA board. We wish Walter all the best and know that he will continue to do good works wherever he goes.
- ◆ Congratulations to **BARBARA A. EPSTEIN** on her recent appointment as director of the Health Sciences Library System at UPMC. Barbara has been serving as interim director of this system since September 2003, and from 1995 to 2003 she was the associate director of the HSLS. Barbara has served our chapter and national MLA in various leadership roles and we send our best wishes to her in her new and very important position.
- ◆ **DAVID NOLFI** received a \$50,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to study the impact of PDAs on pharmacy, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner students. LSTA grants are funded by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by

### Pittsburgh Chapter Officers

Chair	Christine Dietrick, Elsevier
Past Chair	Barbara Folb, Pitt-WPIC
Program Chair	Charlie Wessel, Pitt-Falk
Secretary	Deborah Downey, UPMC Shadyside
Treasurer/Membership	David Brennan, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Chapter Council	Terrie Wheeler, VA-Oakland
Council Alternate	Linda Hartman Pitt-Falk

Visit the Chapter website  
<[www.pmhslibraries.org/pghmla/mlabd.pdf](http://www.pmhslibraries.org/pghmla/mlabd.pdf)>  
for officers' terms and contact information or to see  
a list of the standing committee appointments.

### FOUR EASY WAYS TO GET YOUR INFORMATION INTO NEXT ISSUE'S STETHOSCOOP

**Mail:** Cindy Robertson, Manager  
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Be sure to include your name, business address, and telephone number with the news you are submitting

Commonwealth Libraries in Pennsylvania. The grant funds will be used to purchase and maintain PDAs and software as well as to support student training. Congratulations to David on his fine work and continued contributions to our profession.

- ◆ **BRUCE JOHNSTON** has accepted the position of access services librarian at Duquesne University's Gumberg Library. Bruce previously served as librarian for Eye and Ear Hospital in Pittsburgh and is currently the public services librarian for Robert Morris University's Pittsburgh Center campus. We send our congratulations and good wishes to Bruce as he joins the Gumberg Library team in early August 2004.
- ◆ More news from Duquesne University's Gumberg Library comes to us as our esteemed editor **DAVID NOLFI** was chosen to be the library's first representative on the University Outcomes Assessment Committee. This committee oversees the university-wide plan to ensure that all programs and schools meet their educational goals and outcomes. The committee gathers, interprets, and synthesizes assessment data to demonstrate successful outcomes and identify needs. It is nice to see librarians participating in institutional initiatives.

## Mark Your Calendars: Fall CE Program Announcement

By Charles Wessel, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Regional Chapter Fall CE program is "Running with Squirrels: Providing Library Services to Hospital Administrators" [6.0 contact hours]. The course instructor is Jeannine Gluck, and Gumberg Library at Duquesne University will host the program on Friday, October 29, 2004.

The course provides a discussion on the importance of providing services to administrators; follows the lifecycle of one strategic development initiative through the planning process, and looks at ways librarians can provide useful information at each step; looks at administrative positions, the general scope of each, and the resources that can be brought to bear on the problems each face.

Ms. Gluck is Director of the Medical Library, Manchester Memorial Hospital / Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN), in Manchester, Connecticut. Her experiences include: chairing a committee that developed "Standards for Hospital Libraries" and working to get those standards integrated into the state medical society CME accreditation process; MLA Liaison to the JCAHO; and providing extensive service to the administrators at ECHN, especially the Quality Improvement Council. She created and maintains the Hospital Library Advocacy weblog <<http://hosplib.blogspot.com>>.

In 2003, Jeannine received the MLA Hospital Libraries Section Achievement Award for Leadership and in 2002, the North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries Chapter Achievement Award. She has developed other MLA CE courses including "Concepts in Pulmonology," "Concepts in Cardiology," and "Concepts in Renal Medicine."

She has authored and coauthored many articles including:

Gluck, J.C. (in press). The contribution of hospital library services to continuing medical education. *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions*.

Zipperer, L., Gluck, J.C., & Anderson, S. (2002). Knowledge maps for patient safety. *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*, 2, 4:17-35.

Hospital Libraries Section Standards Committee. (2002). Standards for Hospital Libraries 2002. *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, 90, 465-72. Retrieved June 22, 2004, from <http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/picrender.fcgi?action=stream&blobtype=pdf&artid=128964>

Gluck, J.C., & Hassig, R.A. (2001). Raising the bar: The importance of hospital library standards in the CME accreditation process. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 89, 24-28. Retrieved June 22, 2004, from <http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/picrender.fcgi?action=stream&blobtype=pdf&artid=34560>

The Fall CE program will provide you and your library staff a unique opportunity to learn and network with one of MLA's leaders in hospital librarianship.

The exact program time and course fees are still being worked out. The complete program schedule and registration information will be available soon.

Please support the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter by attending this Fall CE program.

If you have any questions about this program or any continuing education questions, please contact Charlie Wessel, program chair at 412-648-8730 or [cbw@pitt.edu](mailto:cbw@pitt.edu).

**...Save the Date: Fall CE on Friday, October 29, 2004**

## SLA Event: An Invitation to Pittsburgh Regional Chapter Members

### *Alternative Careers for Librarians*

The student chapter of the Special Library Association and the Pittsburgh Chapter, Special Library Association <[www.sla.org/chapter/cpit/](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cpit/)> are co-sponsoring a Web seminar (replay) on *Alternative Careers for Librarians* <[www.sla.org/content/learn/learnmore/careerdevelopment/2004cds/04jul14cds.cfm](http://www.sla.org/content/learn/learnmore/careerdevelopment/2004cds/04jul14cds.cfm)>. It will be held Monday, July 19, 2004 at 6 pm at the School of Information Sciences (SIS), University of Pittsburgh.

The seminar will answer the following questions:

- How do I market my skills as a library information professional in new and unique ways?
- For what job titles and descriptions are my library information skills best suited?
- What are some examples of how other library information professionals are using a library degree?

- What steps should you take to guarantee success in order to take on a new role outside of the traditional library professional box?

Pittsburgh Regional Chapter members are invited to attend this timely conference and network with the students.

Susan Webreck Alman, PhD, Director, Distance Education Services, SIS, is organizing this event. She said “the teleconference is 90 minutes, but we can preview it and may show certain segments. I think it can be useful to begin with and have the hand-outs available, then we can use the time to talk together.” When asked how long the seminar will last she said on a summer evening we don’t want to go beyond 8:00 pm.

Since they are planning to have food, please RSVP to Susan Webreck Alman by Monday July 12, 2004 (412-624-5142 or [salman@mail.sis.pitt.edu](mailto:salman@mail.sis.pitt.edu)).

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## Opportunity to Develop a CE Course

### *Continued from page 1*

educational objectives. Educational objectives are measurable learning objectives in terms of what the participants will gain from the activity. Example: “Participants will use advanced search features for PubMed searches.”

The submitted proposals will be presented to the Pittsburgh board for review and selection. If your course is chosen for presentation at the spring meeting you will need to complete an Application for Approval of MLA Continuing Education Activity by December 1, 2004. This is an easy process and the program chair will provide assistance.

The Pittsburgh Regional chapter will pay the MLA CE application fee. The Pittsburgh Chapter will provide an honorarium of \$300.00 for presenting the course at the spring meeting.

After course approval by MLA, the course information is listed in the MLA Educational clearinghouse <<http://mlanet.org/education/cech/index.php3>>. This gives other MLA chapters and interested associations the opportunity to select your course for presentation at their meetings.

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity contact me by phone at 412-648-8730 or email: [cbw@pitt.edu](mailto:cbw@pitt.edu)

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*MLA continuing education program.* (2004, February 9). Retrieved June 15, 2004 from <http://mlanet.org/education/cech/cecriteria.html>

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# MLA 2004: A Capital Affair



The unofficial mascot of MLA '04



Rebecca Abromotis, Patricia Weiss Friedman & Alice Kuller tour the World War II Memorial



Laurie Davidson (Mayo Clinic), Charlie Wessel & Linda Hogan "The Mod Squad"



Hilton Washington (if you look carefully, you can see Karen Zundel at the poolside)



The U.S. Capitol at Nighttime



Bush-Nolfi '04????

**MLA '04**

## Pittsburgh Participation in MLA '04

Compiled by David Nolfi, Duquesne University

The Pittsburgh health sciences library community was well represented at this year's MLA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to all those who presented a paper or workshop!

- ★ **ELLEN DETLEFSEN** of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences co-presented at the Morning of Innovation "Seize the power of the next generation: Innovative ways to recruit young and diverse librarians."
- ★ Pittsburgh Mercy Health System's **ROB NEUMEYER** presented his paper, "Hospital medical libraries: 'To be or not to be.'"
- ★ The University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System's **MARY KLEM**, **ELLEN DETLEFSEN**, and **MARSHA MARCUS** of the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic presented "Women's use of the Internet for health information: The impact of selected demographic and health variables."
- ★ HSLs's **NANCY TANNERY**, **CHARLIE WESSEL**, and **BARBARA EPSTEIN** presented the paper "Using outcome measures to assess information-seeking behavior of clinicians after access to online resources: A longitudinal cohort study" together with **CYNTHIA GADD** of the Pitt Center for Biomedical Informatics.
- ★ **ANSUMAN CHATTOPADHYAY** of the HSLs discussed his paper "Selection of resources for the development of an information service program in molecular biology and genetics."
- ★ Together with **MICHELLE BURDA** and **MICHELE KLEIN-FEDYSHIN** of UPMC Shadyside, **DEBORAH SILVERMAN**, **BARBARA EPSTEIN**, **GRETCHEN MAXEINER MILLIS**, and **ESTER SAGHAFI** of HSLs presented "The Health Sciences Library System consumer collection: A public/academic partnership for consumer health information."
- ★ **LINDA HOGAN** of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and Catholic Health East presented her paper "Making both the business and quality case for clinical information innovation."

*If your participation in MLA 2004 is not listed, please send a brief description and I will include it in the next issue of the Pulse.*

### Publication Schedule Change

In order to better meet the needs of the Chapter and enable support of continuing education programs, the Board recommended changing the *Pulse's* publication dates. Starting with the next issue, the *Pulse* will be published according to the following schedule: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1.

Deadlines for each issue are typically two weeks before publication. You can always see the next issue's publication date and submission deadline in the newsletter nameplate, which appears adjacent to this article and is present in each issue of the *Pulse*.

I look forward to this new publishing schedule and hope to see new authors step forward this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, comments, or ideas regarding the *Pulse*.

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### THE PITTSBURGH PULSE

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