

THE

# PITTSBURGH PULSE



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

## From the Chair...Reflections and Transformation

Reflecting back on 2005 it has indeed been a year of transformation for our Chapter. Quoting MLA President M.J. Tooley,

Transformation is a great word. It is a word about change. It is a word that implies growth and movement from a place where you are, to a place that promises to be better. It is a comforting, positive change word because it is a safe word. It implies a change that doesn't totally leave the past behind but builds on something that was, and makes it better, taking it to a higher place... My tripartite focus for this year is on the transformation of ourselves, our profession, and our association.

The Pittsburgh Regional Chapter has taken M.J.'s "tripartite focus" and begun a gentle transformation, remembering and embracing our past and moving forward towards a higher place!

In 2005, Chapter transformation occurred through our programs, activities, and commitment by our members. 2005 highlights include:

- Four CE programs offered to our members in January, March, April, and October
- Andrea Ketchum, program chair, coordinated the fall CE program with the help of the program's host, Marcy Brown
- Chapter bylaws revised under the leadership of Alice Kuller and committee members, Renae Barger, David Brennan, Barbara Folb, and Nancy Spears
- An ad hoc committee was appointed to address Katrina relief and is chaired by Barbara Folb and committee members, Susan Walko and Chris Dietrick
- Ellen Detlefsen is chairing a revitalized scholarship and awards committee with new committee members, Jan Petrak, Ammon Ripple, Cindy Robertson, and Bill Suvak
- Carrie Everstine, archivist, provided the Board with a comprehensive review of chapter minutes and documents on the history of the Laurabelle Eakin Scholarship Fund and chapter awards

- Linda Hartman was appointed to be our chapter representative and provides strong chapter representation at the national level
- Heidi Marshall is our new chapter council alternate and has provided the Board with new insights and perspectives
- David Brennan, membership committee chair, is reinstating a membership level for retired members having a strong commitment to the chapter
- David Nolfi continues to provide outstanding editorial commitment to the chapter's newsletter, *The Pittsburgh Pulse*, with great support from column editors: Marilyn Daniels, David Brennan, and Marcy Brown

Let's continue transforming ourselves, our profession, and our association in 2006:

### *Learn more!*

Andrea Ketchum is organizing our spring CE program and business meeting. It is too early to tell you these plans but we are hoping for a great program and an invited speaker from MLA.

### *Get AHIP!*

Linda Hartman, our credentialing liaison, provides support to chapter members in AHIP matters. So take advantage of Linda's expertise and get credentialed in 2006!

### *Be involved!*

If you are interested in helping on a committee talk to a Board member or committee chair (see page 7). The work

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# From the Chair...Reflections and Transformation

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of our committees is vital and virtual. Most meetings can take place via email and conference calls. So traveling long distances for meetings is not an issue. For instance, Andrea Ketchum, program chair, would love to have your assistance in planning a program or social event for the chapter, or serving on a program committee.

### ***Run for office!***

Chris Dietrick, nominating committee chair, is looking for candidates to complete the slate for chapter elections in 2006-2007. If you are interested in serving on the Chapter's Board, send Chris an email at [cdietrick@comcast.net](mailto:cdietrick@comcast.net)

### ***Get a scholarship!***

Look for CE and scholarship award opportunities from our scholarship and awards committee. Maybe you will qualify for an award in 2006!

### ***Renew your membership!***

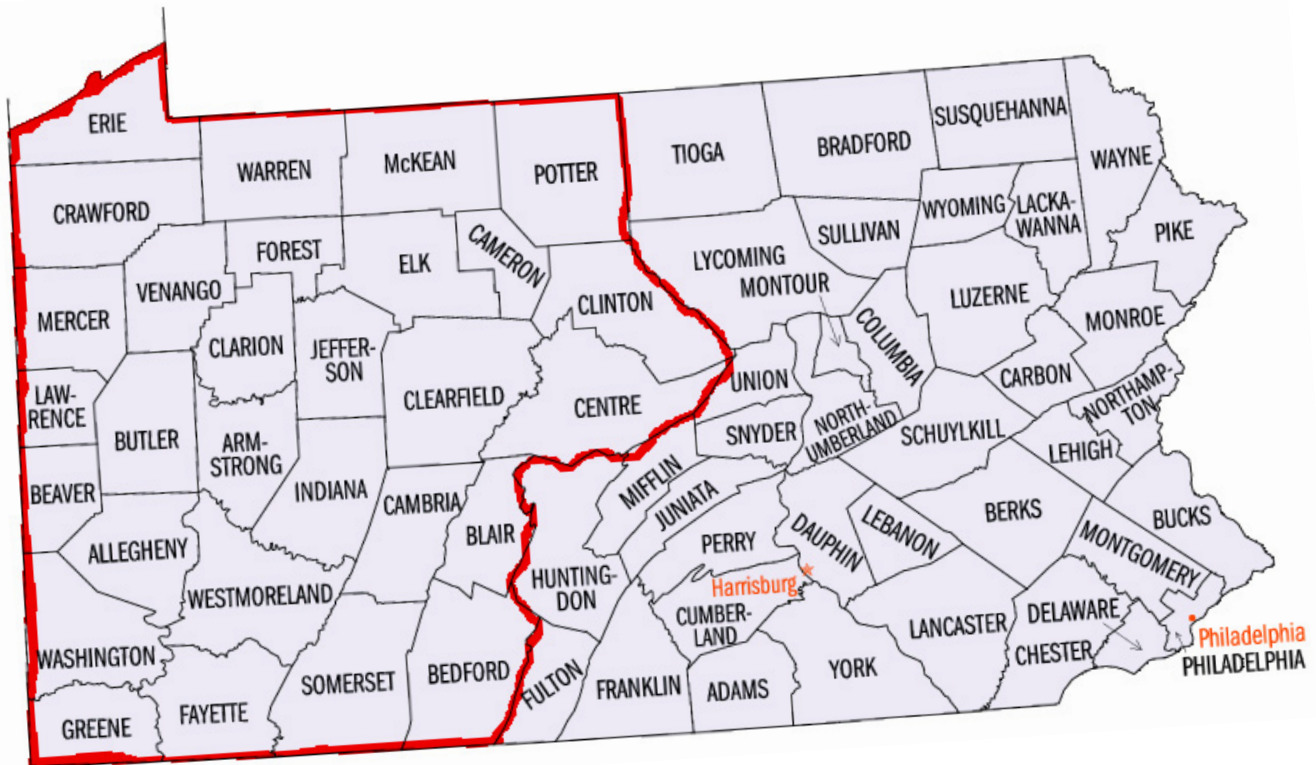
Don't forget that Chapter membership is based on the calendar year. Please renew your membership in January 2006. We need you.

### ***Tell a colleague about our chapter!***

Our Chapter serves the western geographic section of Pennsylvania. If you know a colleague in a library in any of these counties, tell him or her about our Chapter (see the Pittsburgh Chapter map below).

### ***Have a happy, transforming new year!***

**Charlie Wessel, Chair  
Pittsburgh Regional Chapter**



**Boundaries of the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter, Medical Library Association**

## Vital Signs: Andrea Ketchum

By Marcy Brown, West Penn Hospital – Forbes Regional Campus



Andrea Ketchum

When Andrea Ketchum was a little girl, she was delighted to receive a teacher doll as a present. The doll, which came with a desk and blackboard, represented the profession this Mansfield, Ohio, native most admired as a youngster. Although she never became a K-12 teacher as she once imagined she might, Andrea certainly serves as an educator in her role as a health sciences librarian both at the University of Pittsburgh's Falk Library and at Children's Hospital.

Andrea is the 2005-2006 Program Chair for the Pittsburgh chapter, an impressive undertaking for a librarian relatively new to the health sciences. Andrea was awarded her MLIS from Pitt in 2000, and in August 2001 began a year-long NLM Traineeship in Biomedical Informatics and Librarianship at Falk. Although she entered library school with a decided interest in consumer health, her passions didn't always run to the sciences. Andrea's bachelor's degree is in art history, and her musical talents extend to both the piano and the violin! She's also recently rediscovered knitting, a craft that allows her to express her artistic side. Her interest in the visual translates to an enjoyment of working with digital images and their representation in databases.

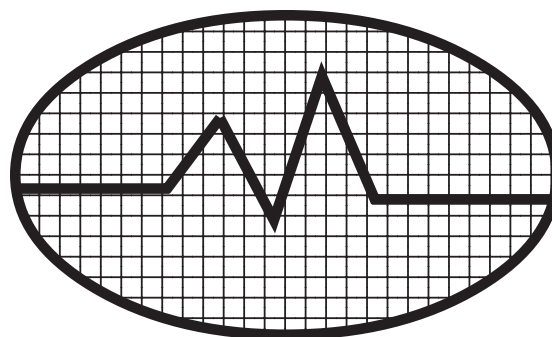
Andrea's oldest son was diagnosed with a genetic disorder 17 years ago. She became acutely aware of how hard it was to find good consumer health information (CHI). She uses her experience as a CHI end user in her work with the children, families, and health professional students she serves at both Falk and Children's. Recently Andrea worked with a School of Nursing group to develop a secure online community for the families of children with a specific type of cancer. The site provides links to CHI, as well as a way to contact Andrea directly for professional search services. Healthcare professionals providing care to these families can also use the site and Andrea's search services. After a year of activity, the team will analyze usage logs to determine the types of questions asked, among other things.

Andrea enjoys her work but tries to maintain a balance with outside interests and family time. She loves to read, and would recommend *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer. She's also currently working through Elizabeth Kostova's *The Historian*. Andrea's musical preferences are varied – due in no small part to “lots of input” from college aged sons – but include both old and new influences like Ben Folds Five, Wilco, Wallflowers, Nirvana, the Beatles, Bob Dylan, and James Taylor. She also enjoys Gregorian chant, baroque chamber music, Philip Glass, and the Kronos Quartet.

Andrea is filled with ideas and enthusiasm for new roles for medical librarians. In five years, she sees herself helping to develop and implement electronic medical records. She feels strongly that universal health care is needed in the States and wants to work toward that goal. She's also interested in more opportunities for international librarian exchanges.

The chapter offers a belated welcome to Andrea and wishes her continued success in her chapter leadership role.

*Editor's Note: We hope this new column helps members of the Pittsburgh Chapter learn more about each other's professional and personal lives. Don't be surprised if Marcy contacts you next!*



## Stethoscoop

By Marilyn Daniels, Latrobe Area Hospital, part of Excelsa Health

◆ When disaster hits someone we know, it has an effect on all of us. The outpouring of support chapter members showed one of our colleagues when Hurricane Ivan wound its way through the region in 2004 was certainly evidence of that fact. That is why it is delightful to report that our colleague, **CINDY ROBERTSON KOVAL**, Manager of Library Services/CME for Heritage Valley Health System, Beaver and Sewickley, married long-time beau, John Koval, President/CEO of Tri-State Electronics, Weirton, WV. The couple was married in a small ceremony at Williams Country Club in Weirton, WV, on Saturday, October 22, 2005, with close family present. Cindy's own words say it best: We are "moving forward with our lives now that the flood of 2004 is behind us. Thanks again to the chapter members for their generosity and support during that difficult time. We will never forget the impact those kindnesses made on our lives and how touched we continue to be by the caring spirits of our friends and colleagues. We're not back to where we were pre-Ivan, but we are on our feet and looking ahead to our future together." Cindy and John are now living at 117 Scenery Court, Weirton, WV 26062. We hope that their future together will be as perfectly picturesque as their address.



*John & Cindy Robertson Koval*

◆ As an up-and-coming actor, Harrison Ford supported himself in a very different way. He worked as a carpenter. Ford has nothing on two of our chapter members, current president **CHARLIE WESSEL**, Coordinator of Affiliated Hospital Services, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh, and Duquesne University Access Services Librarian **BRUCE JOHNSTON**. Charlie and Bruce are renovating a Tudor Revival House in Edgewood, where they moved in May 2005. The original and only owner had nine children, and Charlie and Bruce purchased their new home from the last surviving child, a daughter, who had lived there for 96 years. Built in 1906, the house has a large front porch, which leads to a foyer, a living room, a big dining room, a pantry, and a kitchen. With four bedrooms on the second floor and two bedrooms on the third floor, it also has two large fireplaces and a very unusual stained glass window in the stairway—selling points for sure. That leaves them with a house that is in *very* original condition. All ten rooms have wallpaper so Charlie is in the process of removing it so that the original plaster can be primed and painted. When they first moved in, Charlie found himself cooking on a 1956 Maytag gas range that had to be lighted with large wooden matches, but since then they have purchased all new appliances for the kitchen. However, as any homeowner will tell you, there are always more plans than money in the bank so don't expect Charlie or Bruce to quit their day jobs any time soon.



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### Share Your News with the Chapter via Stethoscoop!

Here's How - Contact Marilyn Daniels, Stethoscoop Editor via:

Email: [mdaniels@excelsahealth.org](mailto:mdaniels@excelsahealth.org)

Phone: 724-537-1275

Fax: 724-537-1890

Marilyn Daniels, Manager  
Health Sciences Library  
Latrobe Area Hospital, part of Excelsa Health  
121 West Second Avenue  
Latrobe, PA 15650-1096

Please include your news item, name, business address, and phone number.

## Stethoscoop

*Continued from Page 4*

- ◆ Heartfelt condolences go to former chapter member, **BARBARA PALSO**, who began her career as a medical librarian at South Hills Health System, now Jefferson Regional Medical Center, and later took a Uniontown Hospital position, which ended in 2002. Barbara lost her mother, Barbara Ann Getsey, who was 88, on September 25, 2005. A long-time resident of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, she was confined to a Pittsburgh nursing home at the time of her death. The middle child, Barbara shares her grief with her sister Susan, also a New Jersey resident, and her brother Michael from Virginia. Proud that Barbara was a medical librarian, Barbara's mother enjoyed the times she visited her daughter at work. Those wishing to contact Barbara can send a card to 120 Cassia Drive, Jefferson Hills, PA 15025-3403, where she lives with her husband Terence, a retired City of Pittsburgh English teacher. She can also be reached at 412-655-8281 or at [bpaloff@yahoo.com](mailto:bpaloff@yahoo.com). Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to Barbara, her husband, and her two sons, Nicholas and Daniel, at this difficult time.
- ◆ The Pittsburgh Regional Chapter may be small in numbers compared with other Medical Library Association chapters, but that does not mean our members do not play a mighty role when it comes to participation on many fronts. Both **BARB FOLB**, Public Health Librarian, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh, and **MARCY BROWN**, Medical Librarian, West Penn Hospital – Forbes Regional Campus, were among the 28 individuals selected to participate in a late August train-the-trainer workshop sponsored by the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) on behalf of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Made up of equal numbers of health educators/communicators and health sciences librarians, the group learned to use CDCynergy, software originally developed by the CDC in 2001 to help health communications planning. With it, local or regional public health departments, primary care clinics, prevention groups, and other organizations can create a communications plan. At each stage in the step-by-step process, users receive text-, multimedia-, and Web-based resources as examples, worksheets, etc. Without a doubt, this is just one more example of what makes our chapter such a gem—our members!
- ◆ Also keeping **BARB FOLB** busy these days is another project, the Public Health Information Alliance (PHIA). Through PHIA, the University of Pittsburgh makes the resources and services of the Health Sciences Library System (HSLS) available to the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). Launched in 2003 with funding from the National Library of Medicine, the collaboration has continued past the original grant period with other funding mechanisms. ACHD employees can borrow circulating items, request document delivery, have a search done by Barb as the project librarian, and attend various classes on searching for public health information. All of the PHIA services are readily available from any of the ACHD offices. In 2005, the university launched an adjunct offering, the PHIA liaison program. Through this program, Barb provided twenty-one ACHD employees intensive training in information seeking skills so that they can now provide their colleagues with assistance in using PHIA and finding information. The liaisons raise the visibility of the program in the workplace and promote its optimal use. The bottom line is that PHIA provides high quality information resources and services to public health workers in a cost-effective way. That is certainly the kind of result we all hope to achieve with any project. What a tremendous partnership and an outstanding job on Barb's part! For more details, just check out the URL of the project website: <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/phia>.



*Barb Folb*

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## UPMC Shadyside Libraries Celebrating 5 Years of Success

By Michele Klein Fedyshin and Michelle Burda  
Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh  
UPMC Shadyside

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2000, the dedication of UPMC Shadyside's Hopwood Library: A Health Resource Center for Patients and Families celebrated the opening of this special facility and the simultaneous rededication of the adjoining James Fraser Hillman Health Sciences Library.

It has been a busy five years. The renovation and affiliation with the Health Sciences Library System greatly expanded the capabilities of the libraries. As part of HSLs, the two physically contiguous libraries are actively involved in cardiac and diabetes patient education, library instruction for the Shadyside School of Nursing, resident education, and medical staff support. An article in press in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* discusses the impact of one of the library's initiatives in patient education.

In recognition of the facility's unique design, the 2003 edition of *Consumer Health Information Sourcebook*<sup>1</sup> profiled it as one of 12 "excellent examples" of consumer health libraries in the United States and Canada. A report from the American Association for the Advancement of Science<sup>2</sup> on the challenge of providing consumer health information services lists the Hopwood Library as one of 17 "Model Consumer Health Libraries" in the country.

More than 3,090 patients and 3,000 health care professionals have requested information during the past five years. The librarians participate in the Patient Education Committee, Research Council, Evidence-Based Practice Workshops for the hospital, and are frequently invited to lecture to various hospital groups.

To recognize five years of service, the libraries held an open house on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Invited guests and hospital staff helped to commemorate this special anniversary. As an integral part of the health care team, the libraries' dedicated staff looks forward to continuing to serve the information needs of UPMC Shadyside clinicians and patients.

1. Alan M. Rees, editor, *Consumer Health Information Sourcebook* (Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 2003).

2. Mary Casella Chobot, *The challenge of providing consumer health information services in public libraries* (Washington, DC: American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2002).

## Stethoscope

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◆ Wedding bells were also in the air for **JACKIE WIRE BATEMAN**, Library Assistant, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, where she has worked for three years. Jackie married



Michael &  
Jackie Wire Bateman

Michael Bateman on August 20, 2005, in a ceremony at St. Sylvester Catholic Church in Whitehall, PA. In attendance were chapter members, David Brennan (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary), Carrie Everstine (Magee), and Ann Ferrari (Jefferson Regional Medical Center). Jackie and her new husband Mike, who works as a computer programmer for WESCO, are living in Castle Shannon. Jackie formerly worked at St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie. Our warmest wishes go out to these newlyweds, too.

◆ Saying good-bye to an old friend is never easy, but when she is leaving to pursue a new career that she so obviously loves, you cannot help but be happy for her. **NANCY SPEARS**, Director, The Children's Institute,



Nancy Spears

has tendered her resignation to follow her interest in interior design. The qualities that made her such a valuable asset to The Institute and to the chapter will certainly come in handy in her new role. Nancy could always be counted on for her expertise, innovation, and work ethic—traits that will serve her well in her role as the owner of an Interiors by Decorating Den franchise. Although we will no longer see her at local meetings, those of us who know her well fully expect to see her work in publications unique to her new field. Nancy has asked **ROB**



Rob Neumeier

**NEUMEYER**, Coordinator, Pittsburgh Mercy Health System Libraries, to provide temporary coverage until a part-time librarian can be hired.

They say that the best is yet to come, and that is exactly what we wish for Nancy as she embarks on such a challenging enterprise.

## Secretary's Corner: Bylaws OR Policies & Procedures

By Deb Downey, Chapter Secretary, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh, UPMC Shadyside Hospital

In light of the recent vote to revise our bylaws, members should be aware that our chapter rests on the structure provided by our bylaws. Bylaws Committee Chair Alice Kuller provides the following information:

The recently drafted revisions to the Bylaws of the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter were sent to the membership for a vote and have been approved. The amended bylaws comply with the Medical Library Association's 2005 Model Bylaws for Chapters and also accurately reflect the structure and governance of our chapter. A significant change to the bylaws is the transfer of most procedural matters to the Chapter's Policy and Procedures Manual, making the bylaws more "streamlined."

The committee consisted of Alice Kuller, chair, and members, Renae Barger, David Brennan, Barbara Folb, and Nancy Spears. The committee, with input from the membership, worked diligently to complete this revision.

Ballots were mailed to eligible voting members of the chapter in October and were due by November 30, 2005. This vote was the last mail ballot due to a change in "Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws," which addresses issues related to notifications of bylaws changes, chapter meeting considerations, as well as voting and effective dates. "Section 3, Voting" no longer includes the requirement "by mail ballot." This change allows future electronic votes on any properly proposed and considered amendments.

While Article XI represents our final bylaw, the topics covered by the first ten articles include: I. Name and Boundaries; II. Purpose; III. Membership; IV. Officers; V. Meetings; VI. Executive Board; VII. Committees; VIII. Dissolution defined; IX. Parliamentary Authority; and X. Archives.

If the bylaws are the structure upon which our chapter rests, the nuts and bolts operation of the chapter are governed by the Policy and Procedures Manual. Duties and terms of each chapter officer are given in detail as well as appointed positions and the functions of committees and committee chairpersons. This 17 page document includes a table of contents to direct the reader to sections which detail proper format for meetings, Executive Board operation, general membership, and continuing education. The Policy & Procedures Manual is a fluid document and is revised on a yearly basis under the leadership of the Past-Chair and selected committee members. The updated manual is presented at the June Executive Board meeting, which includes both the incoming and outgoing board members.

I invite all chapter members to visit these documents, take a fresh look with a curious eye, and do some thoughtful reading. After reading, please provide comments and suggestions to our listserv or directly to the relevant officer or chairperson. Thank you for taking time to keep our organization vibrant and committed to members' needs.

Both the Chapter Bylaws and Policy and Procedure Manual can be found on the chapter website (<http://pmhslibraries.org/pghmla/>) under "About the Chapter."

### Pittsburgh Regional Chapter Officers

Charlie Wessel	Chair	412-648-8730	cbw+@pitt.edu
Andrea Ketchum	Chair-Elect/Program Chair	412-648-9757	ketchum@pitt.edu
Deborah Downey	Secretary	412-623-2441	downeydj@upmc.edu
David Brennan	Treasurer/Membership	412-441-3304 (x2256)	dbrennan@pts.edu
Linda Hartman	Chapter Council Representative	412-648-1479	lhartman@pitt.edu
Heidi Marshall	Chapter Council Alternate	724-223-3854	hmarshall@washingtonhospital.org
Christine Dietrick	Past Chair	412-820-0591	cdietrick@comcast.net
Carrie Everstine	Archives Chair	412-641-4288	ceverstine@mail.magee.edu
Alice Kuller	Bylaws Chair	412-648-1971	abk1@pitt.edu
David Nolfi	Newsletter Editor	412-396-4931	nolfi@library.duq.edu
Ellen Detlefsen	Scholarship and Awards Chair	412-624-9444	ellen@mail.sis.pitt.edu

## TechLine: The Chapter's Electronic Resources Explained!

By David Brennan, Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

The Pittsburgh Chapter has a number of electronic resources available to its current and prospective members:

- A website ([www.pmhslibraries.org/pghmla](http://www.pmhslibraries.org/pghmla))
- A newsletter archive, reachable through the website and also at [www.library.duq.edu/pulse](http://www.library.duq.edu/pulse)
- A listserv that also has data hosting capabilities (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pghmla>)

Additionally, the “back office” functions of the chapter – membership and finances – are handled by a Microsoft Access database.

The website and newsletter archive are publicly available, while the listserv is only available to paid members. In the remainder of this article, I'll provide pertinent technical and administrative details for these resources.

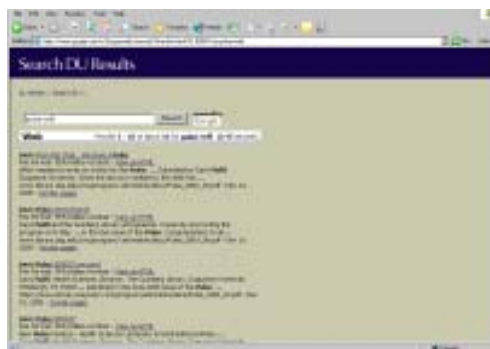
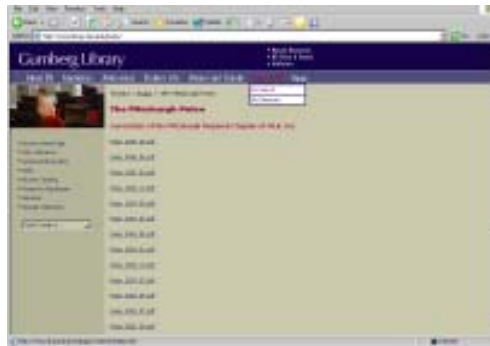
### First, the administrative...

I maintain the website and listserv. The website has been hosted since 2001 at Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and was previously hosted at St. Francis. The listserv is hosted by Yahoo! Groups. The newsletter archive is maintained by our ever-patient editor at Duquesne University. The membership/financial database is the responsibility of the Membership Chair/Treasurer, which will be me until spring 2006.

The simplest of the resources is the website, which maintains access to working documents such as the policy/procedure manual, meeting minutes, board/committee information, and the newsletter. Links are also provided to important MLA resources, and as needed, to registration forms for CE offerings.



Next up is the newsletter archive, which provides access to current and past issues. This archive is searchable using site-wide search capabilities. Simply make sure “Pulse” or “Pittsburgh Pulse” is one of your search terms, and you will get decent results.



Finally, the listserv. This is a complex site, and it has been reviewed before.<sup>1</sup> Basically, the Yahoo! Groups list is a hybrid, which not only has basic listserv functions, but access to documents, links, and chat. The advantage to using the list for these functions is that the “site” can easily be limited to paid chapter members in a way that the web and newsletter archives cannot. We really do not take very good advantage of the additional functions of the list site. The majority of questions about the list concern three things: (1) membership, and inclusion in the list; (2) access to message archives and personal list settings; (3) a membership directory.

1. Brennan D. (2004, December). TechLine: The chapter listserv. *The Pittsburgh Pulse*, 18(5):2-3.

## TechLine: The Chapter's Electronic Resources Explained!

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A few administrative details: membership is on a calendar-year basis, according to the bylaws, from January to January, and is not pro-rated. In actual practice, there is a bit of leeway. For example, at the last CE, those who paid the nonmember rate were added as members for 2006, even though the call for general membership renewals has not gone out yet. Generally, that is standard practice this close to the end of the year. Those memberships are not added to the list until the general list maintenance is performed at the end of January. At that time, three things happen: the actual list is purged of nonmembers, new members are added, and the directory database is updated. Then, during the middle portion of the year, as members pay, they are added to the list. I have not been updating the directory with these late additions, because it is somewhat involved (setting up the appropriate query in Access, exporting it to a properly formatted file, then uploading it to Yahoo!). I need to get a better procedure so that I can do it more easily and also provide for the next Treasurer/Membership Chair to get me the data to update the list.

When a membership is processed, the information is entered into the database. Next the preferred email is added to the list by the "moderator" – that's me. An automated invitation then goes to the new member who accepts it. That is enough to allow for delivery of list messages to a given address. In order to access list archives and to set your personal list preferences, you need a Yahoo! ID that must then be

linked with the email address in the list. Members need to do that on their own. Doing so also allows access to the other list site contents, such as the membership directory (which is located under "Databases"), the calendar, files, photos, links, and chat, none of which we currently use. In addition, I can also give members the right to add content to any of these locations. In the past, we have tried out the "poll" function for voting, which can be revisited now that the bylaws allow electronic balloting. We also have used the directory/database function, and I have suggested the "chat" function as a possibility for conducting journal clubs. There are, of course, other possibilities.



As a chapter, we have access to a significant number of electronic resources that we are able to use to conduct our business, promote ourselves to new members, and facilitate contact among our current members. I am always open to suggestions for improving our use of these resources.

**Don't Forget...**  
Renew your Pittsburgh Chapter membership by January 31, 2006! You can find the application at: <http://pmhslibraries.org/pghmla/applic.htm>

## In Memory of Laurabelle Eakin

By June Bandemer, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh

Laurabelle Eakin, Director of Falk Library, University of Pittsburgh, from 1975-1985, passed away on September 23, 2005. She received an A.B. Degree from Grove City College in 1938 and a B.S. Degree in Library Science from Western Reserve University in 1946. After library positions at Verona High School, Verona, Pa., and East Deer Twp High School, Creighton, Pa., she served as Chief Librarian at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Pittsburgh from 1950-1957.

In 1958 Laurabelle began at Falk Library as Head of Reference and Circulation and later became Head of Readers' Services and Assistant Director. Laurabelle was widely respected for her reference expertise and strong commitment to service. From 1969-1970 she attended a six-month course on Indexing and MEDLARS training at the National Library of Medicine. She introduced MEDLARS searching (the predecessor of MEDLINE) to the University of Pittsburgh.

For many years she taught a course in medical literature at Pitt's Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences. Many medical librarians in western Pennsylvania received their training in Laurabelle's class. She was dedicated to helping medical librarians grow in the profession.

Laurabelle was active in the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Medical Library Association. The Chapter established the Laurabelle Eakin Scholarship Award in 1985 to honor Laurabelle's dedication to medical librarianship. At Falk Library we have a book of photographs of Pittsburgh Chapter members taken at Laurabelle's retirement dinner in 1985.

Laurabelle and her sister Henrietta, who passed away in 1991, loved to travel including trips to Europe, Australia, and New Zealand and some winter months in Florida. They were regular subscribers to the Pittsburgh Symphony concerts. Laurabelle was a long time member of Shadyside Presbyterian Church. She and Henrietta often sewed items to be sold at the church's Christmas Bazaar.

Laurabelle had many good years of active life in her retirement. Retired librarians, Sue Gabany,

Mercy Hospital, Nancy Dunn, Children's Hospital, Bianca Hesz, Presbyterian Hospital, Madlynne Harris, Falk Library, and I met with Laurabelle for lunch and to renew friendships once a year for many years. After surgery in the fall of 2004, she moved to an apartment at Canterbury Place, a retirement center affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She adapted to life there, made friends, and played bridge.

In August 2005, Sue Gabany and I had dinner with Laurabelle at Canterbury Place. It was one of the special dinners that the home holds each year. We had dinner on the patio with flowers and a strolling violinist. It was a festive evening. It was a wonderful way to remember her.

In her final weeks the Pittsburgh Chapter sent flowers to Laurabelle. She appreciated them as well as cards from friends. She had many long time friendships, including Paul and Audrey Parobeck and their three sons. Laurabelle and Henrietta spent Christmas with this family for more than thirty years. They made all the arrangements for her care and visited her regularly. All were present at her funeral which was a meaningful service at Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

In my long association with Laurabelle as a colleague and friend, two qualities come to mind – steadfastness and loyalty. One could count on Laurabelle. She was always loyal in support of her colleagues and friends.



Laurabelle Eakin, June Bandemer, and Sue Gabany at Laurabelle's Retirement Party in 1985

## Looking for Extra CE credits? Save the Date!

By Andrea Ketchum, CE / Program Chair  
Health Sciences Library System  
University of Pittsburgh

MLA's Web-based Independent Reading Program (IRP) is a quick and easy way to earn CE hours. Simply read a selected *JMLA* article available full-text from MLA's IRP website ([www.mlanet.org/education/irp/index.html](http://www.mlanet.org/education/irp/index.html)) and complete the online structured review and application form. Upon approval of the application and review and receipt of a \$15 fee, MLA will issue a CE Certificate for one contact hour. For more details, visit the IRP site.

Currently eligible *JMLA* articles include, among others:

- Systematic Reviews Need Systematic Searchers (January 2005)
- Information-seeking Behavior of Nursing Students and Clinical Nurses: Implications for Health Sciences Librarians (April 2005)
- Zero-based Print Journal Collection Development in a Community Teaching Hospital Library: Planning for the Future (October 2005)

The IRP is also a great way to help focus on an issue of interest!

**Open Access Publishing:  
Whose Research Is It Anyway?  
April 5, 2006, 12:30–4:30 PM**

**Fisher Conference Center, Duquesne University**

What is the potential impact of open access publishing in research, scholarly publications, and communication? Gumberg Library at Duquesne University invites Pittsburgh MLA Chapter members to join us for an afternoon of discussion on the importance of moving forward to a new model of academic publishing.

### Featured Speaker:

- ▶ Ms. Julia C. Blixrud, Assistant Executive Director, External Relations, Association of Research Libraries, Assistant Director, Public Programs, SPARC

### Additional Speakers:

- ▶ Dr. Rush Miller, Director, University Libraries, University of Pittsburgh
- ▶ Dr. Ellen Detlefsen, Associate Professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
- ▶ Ms. Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Director, Duquesne University Press
- ▶ Dr. Jeffrey Evanseck, Professor and Fr. Joseph Lauritis, C.S.Sp., Endowed Chair in Teaching and Technology, Duquesne University

Watch for additional details via the chapter listserv!

## Employment Opportunity

Part time position available for an individual who enjoys working with all ages and is committed to exploring creative ways to expand/maintain library services in a specialty pediatric environment. The position includes supporting the library information needs across the clinician-patient-family-staff continuum. M.S. in LIS w/current AHIP certification required. **Must** be proficient in medical information and have strong computer skills, especially in using online databases. Send resume to I/S Director, CI, 1405 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15217-1350. No phone calls please.

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