

THE

PITTSBURGH PULSE



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

From the Chair...

Keep the Momentum Going!

The past year has flown by so fast that I can hardly catch my breath, and what a stretch it was! The chapter, through its board, committees, and members, is in a transformation momentum. This momentum celebrates the foundation of our profession and embraces the mortar that unites us all.

The board and committees continue to work on many rewarding projects. These projects include:

- Reinvigorating the Laurabelle Eakin-Ruth Shapiro Scholarship Fund
- Enhancing membership's participation in chapter committees
- Restructuring chapter membership categories/levels
- Offering great CE programs
- Responding to relief efforts of the Medical Library Association's Medical Library Disaster Fund
- Other projects just out of the starting gate include electronic voting and librarian achievement awards

I hope everyone will attend our annual business meeting and CE program at UPMC-McKeesport on March 31, 2006. Andrea Ketchum, Program Chair, has done an excellent job in coordinating this event. Karen Zundel, our host, will be showcasing a new conference center. We are honored that two leaders in our profession will participate in our program. M.J. Tooley, President, MLA, will be giving us an update on MLA initiatives and programs. Ann McKibbon, our CE instructor, will lead us in a discussion of nursing literature and evidence-based practice. At the business meeting, we will discuss the chapter's scholarship and awards initiative and introduce our new board members. I hope you plan to participate in the day's events. I'm sure you will find it a winning experience!

After this meeting, Andrea Ketchum will officially take the chapter reins as our new chair. Please support Andrea by participating at any level in chapter activities.

Come out of the paddock and keep our momentum going!

Charlie Wessel, Chair
Pittsburgh Regional Chapter

Spring CE Program & Meeting

By Andrea Ketchum, Program Chair
HSLs, University of Pittsburgh

Mark your calendars! Join your colleagues at the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter's Spring 2006 CE Program, scheduled for 8:30 – 4:00, Friday, March 31, 2006 at UPMC-McKeesport.

Our CE program will be "Understanding Nursing Literature: A Primer for Working with Evidence-Based Health Care Principles," presented by Ann McKibbon, PhD, MLS, Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. This 4-hour CE course describes various aspects of evidence-based medicine in nursing literature, and shows how each contributes to understanding the importance and applicability of the clinical content of a study. The CE points can be used toward MLA Area of Knowledge 7: Research, Analysis, and Interpretation.

This is a wonderful value for our members. Keep in mind that a similar class is also available at the MLA '06 Annual Meeting in May at a cost of \$210.00 per person. We are pleased to be able to offer the complete 4-hour CE class along with breakfast, lunch, and the camaraderie of your colleagues for a total cost of \$60.00 per person for members, and \$85.00 for nonmembers.

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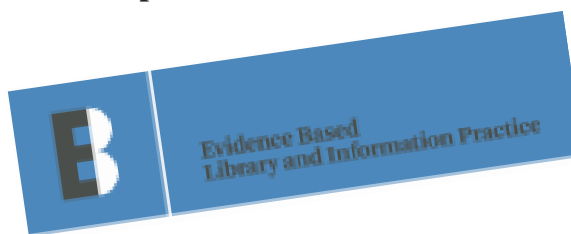
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New Open Access Library Journal

By Marcy Brown, West Penn Hospital – Forbes Regional Campus

It was perhaps inevitable that principles of evidence-based practice, which originated in health care, would be applied to professional librarianship. The evidence-based librarianship (EBL) movement encourages us to apply library and information science research to what we do on a daily basis. This spring, a new open access journal debuts with the goal of facilitating making professional decisions based on strong research evidence. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice* is a peer-reviewed publication to be published quarterly by Learning Services at Canada's University of Alberta.

The journal will contain three key components. First, it will publish original, peer-reviewed research studies. Submissions are sought in quantitative and qualitative research; research tools and data collection methods; studies from library schools; and research from other disciplines applicable to librarianship. The journal will also contain feature articles concerning management issues, using evidence to develop innovative sources and services, and future prospects for EBL. And finally, each issue of the journal will contain at least ten peer-



reviewed critical appraisals of existing library and information science studies. All three sections are reviewed by two members of the Editorial Advisory Board using double blinding.

While the chief editorial team is Canadian, the Advisory Board and the Evidence Summaries Team (of which Yours Truly is a member) are international. Several team members are from the United Kingdom and Australia, where evidence-based health care practice has a strong foothold and EBL can't be far behind. The journal hopes to encourage international collaboration and the dissemination of research findings across institutional and national boundaries.

The inaugural issue is due in March. For more information, please see the journal website at: <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/EBLIP/>

Spring CE Program & Meeting

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M.J. Tooley

We will also be honored to host current MLA President M.J. Tooley, who will give us an update on MLA initiatives.

The program will be hosted by Pittsburgh Chapter member Karen Zundel at UPMC-McKeesport in McKeesport, PA, and includes a continental breakfast and a buffet luncheon. The complete program

announcement and registration information is available on the chapter's website at <http://pmhslibraries.org/pghmla/>.

To avoid late registration fees, please make sure to have your registration and payment returned before March 17, 2006. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Andrea Ketchum, Program Chair, at 412-648-9757 or ketchum@pitt.edu.

Nancy Spears to be Honored

The Pittsburgh Chapter will honor long time member Nancy Spears for her years of service to the chapter and the profession. As part of the business meeting, the Board will thank Nancy for her many contributions. We hope that you can join us for this special moment.

Hospital-Public Library Partnership Delivers Books to Patients

By Joni Melnick, Torrance State Hospital

Providing library services for consumers in a state psychiatric hospital poses many challenges for librarians, not the least of which is developing a collection that is dynamic enough to meet the needs of a diverse inpatient population.

While contemporary mental health treatment has reduced the number of patients needing full-time psychiatric care in state facilities, Torrance State Hospital still maintains an average census of over 200 full-time residents whose length of stay can last more than seven months. Torrance, as well as the other seven Pennsylvania state hospitals, provides library services to both consumers and staff. The consumer library functions much like a public library, and contains both recreational and reference materials. The library is well used by consumers, whose literacy levels and interests reflect a vast array of needs—needs that can strain a library's resources.

Fortunately, the communities surrounding Torrance are served by Adams Memorial Library of Latrobe, a vibrant public library with an attractive, well-equipped bookmobile. When it was discovered that the bookmobile actually passed in front of the hospital every other week, Tracy Trotter, director, was contacted to see if the hospital could become a regular stop. Enthusiastically and without hesitation, she agreed to put the hospital on the schedule. "We recognized that the people who might come on board the bookmobile at Torrance needed us at least as much, if not more, than many of our other communities, and it was important to us to address that gap in our service," Trotter said. "The bookmobile allows us to do outreach in an area that wouldn't otherwise have adequate access to our resources, and we are so pleased to have the chance to be useful to these people."

For the first three months, bookmobile visits consisted of book drop-offs. In June 2005, after much

anticipation, patients were finally able to come on board and make their own selections from the bookmobile's collection, which includes bestsellers, easy reading materials, audio books, and videos. To ensure that selections are appropriate, patient check-outs are supervised by the hospital librarian. Patient confidentiality is maintained by checking out materials to the hospital, and, subsequently entering them into individuals' records on Torrance's circulation system. To date, approximately 15 to 20 persons, including staff members, visit the bookmobile during each one-hour stop.

Interaction with persons from outside the hospital provides patients with a unique opportunity for community integration. Patients look forward to the visits by the bookmobile librarians, who amiably chat with patients at the checkout desk. According to Edna McCutcheon, CEO of Torrance State Hospital, "The bookmobile brings the community to Torrance State Hospital. For some people receiving services at the hospital, the bookmobile is a way to stay connected with the community while in the hospital and for others it is a great stepping stone back towards community living during their journey towards recovery."



Getting ready for patients to board the bookmobile are (from left to right) Torrance State Hospital Librarian Joni Melnick, and Adams Memorial Library Bookmobile librarians Jennifer Nemcheck and John Shaw

Stethoscoop

By Marilyn Daniels, Latrobe Hospital, part of Excelsa Health

◆ Those of you who love a unique crime drama may find yourselves in front of the TV on Friday evenings watching the CBS hit *NUMB3RS*. Set in Los Angeles, *NUMB3RS* is a show about an FBI agent who recruits his mathematically gifted



Nancy Tannery & Charlie Wessel

sibling to help solve a wide range of challenging criminal cases from his distinctive point of view.

Not to be outdone by Hollywood, the Pittsburgh Chapter apparently has its own numbers experts.

Librarians **NANCY TANNERY** and **CHARLIE WESSEL**, HSLs, University of Pittsburgh, have designed a new CE course entitled "Number Number, Who's Got the Number? Or Who's Counting: Health Statistic Sources." Accredited for 4 MLA CE credit hours, their course will premier on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, for the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey (HSLANJ) (<http://www.hslanj.org/>) at the New Jersey Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton. It will provide participants with a framework for answering vital and health statistics reference requests in both hospital and academic health center libraries. In addition, they will offer it as a half-day session on Saturday, May 20, 2006, from 8:00 AM - noon at MLA '06 in Phoenix, AZ. A description of their course can be found at <http://mlanet.org/am/am2006/ce/304.html>. Sounds like a "CEmy" winner to me!

◆ Representing three medical and public health libraries in Vietnam, four librarians visited the Health Sciences Library System (HSLs) at the University of Pittsburgh on January 20, 2006, to learn more about academic health sciences libraries in the United States. The visitors were Nguyen Hai Ha (Hanoi School of Public Health Library), Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy and Nguyen Thi Diep (Central Institute for Medical Information, Hanoi), and Nguyen Huu Duc (University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City). Accompanying them from the National Center for Biotechnology Information was Chuong Huynh, who arranged their visit. Sponsored by the International Program of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), their two-week stay in the U.S. was spent primarily in Washington at NLM and the Library of Congress, where they learned about library technical services and electronic resources. They also found time to visit the Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the National Institutes of Health Library in Bethesda.

While at HSLs, the Vietnamese librarians toured Falk Library and the HSLs libraries at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. This gave them an opportunity to meet with a cross-section of HSLs librarians representing most HSLs departments. A highlight of the day was their presentation to HSLs staff about medical libraries in Vietnam and the prob-



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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

Phone: 724-537-1275

Fax: 724-537-1890

Marilyn Daniels
Manager, Library Services
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*

lems faced in building a national medical library infrastructure. The visit continued with a stop at the School of Information Sciences, where they learned about the school's distance education program. They also had a walking tour of the campus, which included the Cathedral of Learning and the nationality classrooms. *Adapted with permission from the article "Visitors from Vietnam" by Barbara Epstein, Director, HSLIS, University of Pittsburgh (HSLIS Update, 2006 Feb; 11(1):8).*

- ◆ Undoubtedly, you have heard of the Beardstown Professional Women's Investment Club of Beardstown, IL. Formed in October 1983, the grandmotherly group of investment gurus garnered worldwide attention in the mid-1990s when they purportedly outperformed the Wall Street experts on a consistent basis. Their savvy investor status was further enhanced when they released their first book, *The Beardstown Ladies Common-Sense Investment Guide*, which spent nearly three months on the New York Times bestseller list.

Not likely to have generated any income by their venture, librarian ALICE KULLER, HSLIS, University of Pittsburgh, and her husband Lew, have, nonetheless, been investing in the future in a quite different club these days—the "Cousin's Club." Alice and Lew (aka Nana Alice and Papa Lew) spent several days of Hanukkah and the New Year with five of their six granddaughters. Three of the girls, 9-year-old Helen, 8-year-old Grace,



Back row: Helen, Charlotte, Grace, Sophie, Eliza & Margot. Front Row: Eppi the boxer, age 3

and 6-year-old Sophie, live in Dallas. Their cousins, Charlotte, age 8 and her sister Eliza, age 5, reside a bit closer—in Camp Hill, PA. (Neither set of parents nor 20-month-old toddler, Margot Claire, received an invitation to the "Cousin's Club" reunion.) All reports indicate there was little down time during their visits. They celebrated Hanukkah with games, presents, potato pancakes, and beautiful menorahs, participated in the "First Night" activities on New Year's Eve in downtown Pittsburgh, went bowling, saw a movie, and decorated "Cousin Club" T-shirts. They even managed a bit of health care education when they included a visit to the site of the new Children's Hospital. There the girls learned that the patients would be children but that the doctors and nurses would still be adults. From the sound of it, my money is on this form of asset management any day!

- ◆ *The Pittsburgh Pulse* editor and Duquesne University librarian, DAVID NOLFI, will be co-presenting with two of his Gumberg Library colleagues, Carmel Yurochko and Tracie J. Ballock, at the *Electronic Resources & Libraries* conference to be held in Atlanta on March 23-25. Their presentation entitled "Creating an Organizational Structure and Process to Manage Electronic Serials Collections" will discuss how Gumberg Library built a team of technical services librarians, reference librarians, and information technology professionals in order to find a way to improve decision-making for their electronic resources budget, which now exceeds one million dollars. It will discuss some of the problems the library faced historically and how it attempted to address them by engaging faculty and vendors. Although our budgets may pale in comparison, anyone who has had to juggle decreasing dollars with increasing technology costs will certainly find David's topic timely and to the point.



Carmel Yurochko, Tracie Ballock & David Nolfi

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Donors to the Laurabelle Eakin/ Ruth Shapiro Scholarship Fund

The Pittsburgh Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association would like to thank the following members and friends for their generous donations to the Laurabelle Eakin / Ruth Shapiro Scholarship fund (as of February 2006):

2005

Marcy Brown
Margaret C. Brudon*
Paul F. Buehler*
Mr. & Mrs. A. Calega*
Judith Erlen*
Barb Folb
Deb Downey
Margaret Hoffman*
Bruce Johnston and Charlie Wessel*
Thomas Kavouras*
Freida Kavouras-Varlas*
Alice Kuller
Ms. Frieda Liem*
David Nolfi
Mr. Paul S. Parobeck*
Bette Rembert
Ester Saghafi
Mr. & Mrs. James Stillwagon*
*In Memory of Laurabelle Eakin

2006

Eleanor Campbell
Ellen Detlefsen
Carrie Everstine
Barb Folb
Linda Hartman
David Nolfi
Jan Petrak
Ester Saghafi
Bill Suvak
Charlie Wessel
Pittsburgh MLA Chapter (in Memory of Linda Hartman's father, Stephen F. Kralosky)

If you would like to donate, please send a check payable to "Pittsburgh Chapter / MLA" to the address below. Please note "Scholarship Fund" on the check.

David Brennan, Pittsburgh MLA Membership Chair
Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 North Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-2596

Stethoscope

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- ◆ Many libraries—medical and otherwise—have subscriptions to *USA TODAY*. Certainly, with its innovative use of color and graphics, the paper's success shows that many have grown to find it to be an informative and entertaining read. Founded by self-made millionaire Al Neuharth in 1982, the mid-market publication was not initially profitable. In one sense, however, *USA TODAY*'s "recent loss" is the chapter's gain!

KAREN LILJEQUIST, who replaced Nancy Sakino Spears as the librarian at The Children's Institute in December, worked in a variety of roles at this national newspaper for 18 years before deciding to obtain her MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences. With an undergraduate degree in political science and a minor in Russian, Karen most recently managed the advertising systems department at *USA TODAY*'s corporate headquarters in Northern Virginia. However, with The Institute's focus on pediatric patients, it is possible that Karen may find her mother Carolyn, a retired children's librarian from Long Island, can offer a tip or two from time to time.

In addition to providing her expertise at The Institute, Karen also was recently hired to work part-time at Western Pennsylvania Hospital. There she will be sharing the position of librarian with **MARY JO DORSEY**, who has cut back her hours to pursue her Ph.D. in library science, which she is hoping to complete in the spring of 2007. As if that does not keep Mary Jo busy enough, she also teaches the consumer health course at the school as well. Sounds as if both chapter members will not be letting much grass grow under their feet!



Mary Jo Dorsey

Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables

Plan to register and attend Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables on Sunday, May 21, 2006 from noon – 2 PM. The roundtables offer participants the opportunity to learn about and share knowledge with colleagues on specific topics. Also, participants have a chance to network with MLA members who are seasoned or new to the profession.

Attendees must register for the session by topic with their annual meeting registrations. Onsite registration for the roundtables is no longer possible due to the logistics of the event. Tickets are \$18 and include a boxed lunch. For the second year, MLA and Chapters will underwrite the cost of attendance for a limited number of new members (see box below). The free slots will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to new members who register online for MLA '06.

A survey of the membership resulted in the following list of table topics:

- Assessment & Evaluations
- Blogging
- Consumer Health
- Copyright Issues & E-journals
- Curriculum Integration
- EBM
- Expert Searching
- Federated Search Tools & Journal Linkouts
- Grants & Extramural Funding
- Grey Literature
- Health Information Literacy
- Integrated Service Desk
- Management/Leadership
- Management of E-resources
- Marketing & Public Relations
- Maximizing Your Workforce
- Open Access/Scholarly Publishing

- Outreach to Special Populations
- Planning for the New or Renovating the Old? Library Space Planning
- PubMed/NLM
- Repositories & Archives
- Retirement
- So You Want to Do Research?
- Stepping Out of the Library
- Technology/Survival Issues for Hospital Librarians
- Training Librarians for the Future
- Use of New Technologies for Teaching
- Virtual Library Services
- Web Design & Usability
- Working Together. Consortiums

Facilitators and recorders are needed for this event. You do not need to be an expert on the topic to be a facilitator or recorder. You simply need to have a keen interest in the topic. Facilitators initiate discussion and encourage participants to share their ideas, experiences, and concerns. Recorders take notes of the discussion which are eventually posted on the Chapter Council website. If you are interested in reading the roundtable reports from last year's event, visit <http://www.chaptercouncil.mlanet.org/roundtables/2005/index.html>. Facilitators and recorders earn one point toward membership in the Academy of Health Information Professionals. More information about the 2006 Roundtables as well as instructions for Facilitators and Recorders is available at: <http://www.chaptercouncil.mlanet.org/roundtables/index.html>. If you are interested in facilitating or recording for a topic please email: Jan LaBeause, AHIP, Medical Library, Mercer University School of Medicine, Macon, GA at labeause_j@mercer.edu or Marie Reidelbach, AHIP, McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE at mreidelb@unmc.edu.

Opportunity for New Members Attending MLA '06

The Executive Board of the Pittsburgh Chapter is once again offering to subsidize the attendance of 1-2 members at the "Chapter Council Sharing Roundtables" luncheon. You must be a national MLA member for less than five years and agree to write a short summary of the roundtable topic you choose for a future issue of the *Pulse*. Please contact David Brennan (dbrennan@pts.edu) to apply for this first-come, first-served opportunity!

TechLine: Electronic and Online Voting

By David Brennan, Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

As many of you know, the chapter has discussed electronic voting for several years, and MLA has already conducted two elections electronically. Until now, our bylaws were not structured to permit voting by means other than paper, but with the last update we are now able to investigate means to vote electronically (http://www.pmhslibraries.org/pghmla/draft_bylaws.pdf). Note that the upcoming election will still be conducted the old-fashioned way. But *next* time...

Distinguishing between “electronic” and “online” voting

Electronic voting is composed of a series of stand-alone devices that collect votes. The recorded data is then removed from the device and aggregated with other devices’ data and the entire data set is transmitted to a central server for processing. With so many points where the data is physically vulnerable, it is vital that the process be transparent and verifiable throughout. Electronic voting has developed a bad reputation over the past several years, but that is due mainly to the way in which the systems have been implemented, not in the concept itself. For more information, see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_voting.

Online voting, on the other hand, is an election conducted via the Internet. Data is no more vulnerable than any other online data – certainly there should be as much security as for any other sensitive transaction. If the service provider is trustworthy, the data is less vulnerable to physical tampering. For more information, see:

<http://lorrie.cranor.org/voting/hotlist.html>.

For either type of non-paper voting, there are several requirements:

1. The voter remains anonymous
2. An individual can only vote once
3. The vote must be verifiable

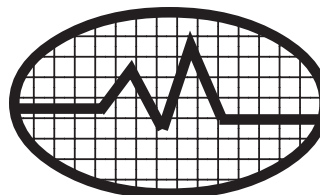
Benefits and risks of online voting

The benefits are that elections can be conducted without paper handling, either by regular mail or mail/faxback. This saves time and postage. Tallying is also automatic, saving processing time; and for some systems, results are disseminated automatically as well. The risk is that the election could be manipulated in some way. However, this risk is almost nonexistent given the tools now available (as well as the very low probability that anyone would even want to tamper with our tiny election).

A few years ago, the only way to conduct an online election was using anonymous remailers, or a simple Web feedback form, which left out means of controlling the number of times a person could vote. Now there are numerous options, including:

- The “polling” function of the chapter’s Yahoo! listserv
- Free and paid online “survey” sites (such as FreeOnlineSurveys and SurveyMonkey)
- Free online voting sites (such as BallotBin and Plebiscite)
- Paid online voting sites (such as VoteNet and ElectionsOnline, or Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS), which is used by MLA)

Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages and should be closely evaluated prior to conducting an election. It is likely that different methods may be used from year to year depending on need and based on experience. However, it is apparent we will use some sort of electronic voting in the future, and that the tools will become more robust as time goes on.



JCAHO and the Hospital Librarian

By Rosemary Panichella, Uniontown Hospital

It's a Thursday night in mid-December around 8:50 PM, and I'm bundled up in my afghan waiting for my favorite crime drama, *CSI*. The phone rings and it's my boss, the Director of Quality Management. She asks if I am willing to come in early the next day to research the physician surveyor who has written on quality improvement initiatives. JCAHO will be conducting a five-day site visit on Monday. I'm intrigued. I promptly boot my son off the computer and proceed to perform an author search on PubMed. Disappointment. The search yields older citations dealing with lung diseases in children. I "google" him and find one source. By this time my son is wailing so I log off.

The next morning with a 9:30 AM deadline approaching for the management forum meeting, I zero in on a citation in *Primary Care Reports*. Unfortunately, PubMed does not index this journal, so I go to the publisher website and do an author search to locate the complete citation. I find a Docline library, Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center in Oregon, who owns the title and call immediately. I explain my predicament and the librarian offers to fax it to me. I make the deadline, and my task is complete.

The following week I am stunned when the physician surveyor waltzes into the library. Several colleagues with recent JCAHO experience had informed me that the surveyor never sets foot in the library! The surveyor tells me that he noticed my schedule posted on the library door the prior day and made it a point to stop. When he asks if the library provides information to consumers, I tell him that I have had numerous occasions to assist patient family members, students, and the community. I take this opportunity to inform him that the library was without a librarian for a year and that I have begun to reinstitute old services and introduce new ones over the last two years. As the discussion continues, I show him the article he

published in 2001. He confides his most memorable experiences in medical school were "doing research and studying in the library." He is

also curious to learn that I "googled" him. I then demonstrate how I found his article. Now that the surveyor's "detour" is over, he informs me that his visit was "a breath of fresh air."

Afterwards I am told by the quality specialist who accompanied him to his next meeting with the CEO that his short visit to the library, "made his day." A week later my director reports that he made a very favorable comment about the library at the summation conference.

So...remember don't let your guard down when JCAHO comes around. You might be as amazed as I was to learn about the relevance of the hospital librarian.



Rosemary Panichella at the New York Public Library

Get Involved in MLA's Oral History Program!

All members of the Medical Library Association are encouraged to participate in the Oral History Program as interviewers, editors, or transcribers. If you are interested in any of these roles, contact Richard Nollan, Project Director, rnollan@utm.edu. This work is truly valuable and fascinating! If you attended Fred Roper's Janet Doe Lecture at the annual meeting in San Antonio, you heard clips from oral history interviews and know firsthand what gems they are. For more information about the program and its own history, names of those interviewed, and how to access available interviews, go to the oral history page at http://www.mlanet.org/about/history/oral_history.html.



Vital Signs: Bill Suvak

By Marcy Brown, West Penn Hospital – Forbes Regional Campus

Bill Suvak is an anomaly. A librarian of one sort or another for more than three decades, he loves being a librarian but thinks of doing something else “all the time.” His 30 years at Mayview State Hospital have been challenging, exhilarating, and frustrating. As any hospital librarian knows, funding has always been a struggle, but Bill feels that it has intensified over the last few years. Some battles are won and some are lost, but he worries that librarians are losing the war. Bill’s tenacity has been both a boon and a bane to his career as a medical librarian, but he would never change the fact that he is dedicated and works so hard.

Bill is a solo librarian and manages two libraries at Mayview, so his next career may be as a juggler! He oversees both patient and staff libraries, and is still learning enough on a daily basis to feel like a new librarian in many ways. He particularly enjoys networking with other librarians in Pennsylvania’s Departments of Public Welfare and Corrections. This year Bill helped organize a meeting for his colleagues in the state system. The conference, which included speakers from the Association for the Mentally Ill and a program on copyright, garnered great evaluations from attendees. Bill’s professional contributions are far-reaching, but perhaps his most important work was as a union representative for state librarians involved in the grievance process. For over six years he served in this role.

Bill has a grown son and daughter with whom he and his wife, Norma Lynn, still spend a great deal of time. A confirmed family man, he also likes to travel, golf, exercise, and occasionally ski. Recently he’s been reading a biography of Benjamin Franklin, whom he finds fascinating. He admits that he probably enjoys the book so much because he agrees with Franklin’s point of view on so many issues.

Bill states that the Pittsburgh Chapter of MLA is the best professional organization in which he’s been involved and has helped his career tremendously. Like many libraries themselves, the chapter has had a large impact with limited resources. Bill would like to see the chapter help its members convince adminis-

trators of the importance of libraries. Although he’s not sure how to go about that task, he asserts that the talented, dedicated, and selfless members of the chapter can and have accomplished amazing things.



Bill Suvak in Prague

The Pittsburgh Chapter has been lucky to count Bill among those talented and dedicated members, which is why he will be sorely missed. On April 1, 2007, Bill will retire from librarianship. “April Fool’s Day seems appropriate,” he quipped. In preparation for that milestone he’s been investing in real estate for the last few years and will continue to pursue similar opportunities. The chapter wishes Bill only the best for wherever the road leads after librarianship. We only hope that it will occasionally lead back to us.

Chapter Stalwarts Visit NY

The Washington Hospital's
HEIDI MARSHALL
 and Uniontown
 Hospital's
**ROSEMARY
 PANICHELLA**
 recently visited
 New York City
 and took time out
 to pose in front
 of the New York
 Public Library's
 famed lions.



Editor's Note: If you have a picture that would be of interest to your librarian colleagues, consider sending it for inclusion in future issues of the *Pulse*. Possibilities include, but are not limited to, pictures of yourself at notable libraries, historic sites, or interesting locations (and preferably proudly displaying the *Pulse*).

Secretary's Corner: V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R-!

By Deb Downey, Chapter Secretary, HSLs, University of Pittsburgh, UPMC Shadyside Hospital

As March and spring bring the earth to blossom, it's time to let the fresh air of the season renew our own commitment to our Pittsburgh Medical Library Association. This year Chris Dietrick's work as nomination chair proved fruitful with candidates nominated to both the Chapter Chair Elect / Program Chair and Treasurer / Membership Chair. Induction of our new officers will take place at our March 31 annual business meeting. While this year's election was not an electronic vote, plans are underway to move our chapter into the electronic mode by 2007. Now is not too early to consider whether next year may be your year to consider volunteering for offices to be vacated in 2007. If being available in person is a concern, keep in mind that select committee work has been done by email, and telephone conferencing even enabled an Executive Board member to participate in an Executive Board meeting.

While officers will not be elected again until next year, the chapter is in need of volunteers on committees such as scholarship, programming, or bylaws. Review the word VOLUNTEER with me and contemplate the possibilities for yourself and for our association.

V - Value

Each member's time spent on our group's work is valuable to self, and to present and future members.

O - Opportunity

The opportunities are limitless in discovering the workings of our organization and the part we play in the national MLA mission.

L - Learning

Whether choosing to serve as an elected officer or volunteer as a committee member, the chance to learn and uncover new skills may become a reality through working with librarian colleagues.

U - Utility

In every role the organization requires useful skills which can be applied to other projects, groups, personal, or professional use.

N - Needs

Whether it's meeting the needs of the person volunteering or meeting the needs of our organization, "needs met" represents an essential component of the decision to volunteer.

T - Teamwork

By volunteering you connect with other members as part of the local team which directs and guides our organization in the present and towards the future.

E - Experience

The experience you bring to your volunteer commitment resounds throughout our group, and provides fruitful experiences to all our members.

E - Excellence

By helping to plan programming and promoting the goals of our group as a volunteer, the effort pays off in excellence as both individuals and our chapter deliver and receive the fruits and treasures of hard work.

R - Rewards

Volunteer activity reaps rewards on personal, professional, institutional, and organizational levels which you may never have thought possible. Investment of one's self carries rewards which continue far beyond the term of volunteer commitment.

As you consider volunteering to provide service to our chapter, reflect upon the following quote by the president of the American Society of Safety Engineers, Gene Barfield, "The value of volunteering is much deeper, more fulfilling, and much more important in sustaining a healthy and vibrant community or organization than money can achieve. How can we put a monetary value on ordinary people doing extraordinary things?" (*Professional Safety*, May 2005, p.6)

If you have any questions about volunteering, you can reach me at downeydj@upmc.edu or check our homepage for the latest chapter activities.

Pittsburgh Chapter Members Presenting at MLA 2006

★ **REBECCA ABROMITIS** of the University of Pittsburgh's Health Sciences Library System is presenting the poster, "Direct-to-Consumer Advertising of Psychiatric Drugs in the Popular Print Media: Is This Really the Face of Mental Illness?"



★ Together with Ann McKibbon, **ELLEN DETLEFSEN** of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences, is teaching an 8-hour CE course entitled, "Introduction to Medical/Healthcare Informatics for Librarians." Ellen will also be hosting a SIS reunion, and hopes to see many of you in Phoenix.

★ **MARY JO DORSEY** of West Penn Hospital will be presenting a contributed paper titled "Web (non)Sense: Is LGBT Health Information Retrieval from the Internet at Your Local Hospital (or Public) Library?" will be presenting a contributed paper as part of the Relevant Issues session.

★ **MICHELE KLEIN-FEDYSHIN** of Pitt's Health Sciences Library System and UPMC Shadyside is presenting the poster, "Utilizing an Interdisciplinary Model to Promote Evidence-Based Practice in an Acute Care Hospital."

We hope you get a chance to see your colleagues' work at MLA '06. Please check the meeting program for dates, times, and locations.

Getting Credit for Non-MLA Continuing Education

Have you ever attended an excellent continuing education (CE) activity that does not have MLA CEUs and wished that you could use the experience toward your AHIP application? MLA's Individual Participant Request (Form IPR) makes it possible to obtain credit for non-MLA-approved CE courses.

Using Form IPR

The form is straightforward, but you must provide all the requested information. The portfolio reviewer will use this information to determine if the activity will be awarded points. The form will also ask you to provide evidence that you completed the entire CE activity. Evidence can take the form of a certificate, a letter from the instructor, or a letter from the activity's sponsoring organization.

More Information

Form IPR is available at <http://www.mlanet.org/academy/forms.html>. For more information on how to use the form, visit the academy website at: <http://www.mlanet.org/academy/iprhelp.html>.

Open Access Publishing: Whose Research Is It Anyway?

April 5, 2006, 12:30–4:30 PM

Fisher Conference Center, Duquesne University

Gumberg Library at Duquesne University invites Pittsburgh MLA Chapter members to join us for an afternoon of discussion on the future of academic publishing.

Speakers

- ▶ Ms. Julia C. Blixrud, Association of Research Libraries, SPARC
- ▶ Dr. Rush Miller, University Libraries, University of Pittsburgh
- ▶ Dr. Ellen Detlefsen, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
- ▶ Ms. Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Duquesne University Press
- ▶ Dr. Jeffrey Evanseck, Bayer School of Natural & Environmental Sciences, Duquesne University

If You Plan to Attend

Please register at <http://www.library.duq.edu/openaccess/> by March 15. More information about the program is available on the website.

Consider using this activity as an opportunity to try out Form IPR in order to earn MLA CEUs!

Leadership and Management Section: Growth and Dynamism

By Brian Bunnett, Chair, LMS Membership Committee

The Leadership and Management Section (LMS) is one of the largest and most active of the MLA's 23 sections. At its founding in 1948 the section was known as the Medical School Libraries Group. It was established to provide medical school librarians with more opportunities to discuss issues of common interest and concern.

The Group was not particularly active at first – its only regularly scheduled activity was a luncheon or dinner held during the MLA annual meeting. Some significant problems beset the Group at its inception, most notably a lack of visibility and focus. The interests of the Medical School Libraries Group did not seem significantly different from the interests of many of the MLA's other sections and SIGs or from the Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors (AAHSLD).

To address this overlap with other sections and to create a more unique focus the Group was renamed the Leadership and Membership Section in 2000. The LMS no longer draws its members only from medical school libraries. It also created a forum dedicated to discussing the challenges of leadership and management. Total membership grew to 369 by 2005, suggesting that this new direction has a broad appeal.

The growth of the LMS since 2000 is reflected in its membership increase as well as in the varied resources it makes available. Foremost among these is its fine newsletter, *The Leading Edge*, that provides readers with book reviews, short articles, case studies, and section news. The section's listserv allows its subscribers to share information and network in a more casual forum. The LMS also actively sponsors and contributes to grants designed to promote leadership and management. Educational programs offered at MLA annual meetings have always been the strength of the section. LMS conviviality and social activities, another strength of the section, allow members numerous opportunities for further networking.

The LMS is similarly rich in its projects and initiatives. Noteworthy in this area is its ambitious effort to advance the careers of middle managers. The Task Force on Professional Development for Current and Aspiring Middle Managers (PDCAMM) recently surveyed over 900 medical librarians, including 400 middle managers, in order to identify how to best prepare this group for positions in upper management.

The LMS has evolved into a mature, active, and dynamic section with a well defined focus that appeals to many MLA members. If you are interested in improving your management abilities and in advancing your career prospects then membership in the LMS will help you realize your professional aspirations.

More information about the LMS is available on its website at <http://www.lms.mlanet.org/>. An application form is available at: http://www.lms.mlanet.org/join_us_form.html.

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