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The Newsletter is published for the members of the New York – New Jersey Chapter of the Medical Library Association.

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## From the Chair

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### Collaborations, Partnerships & Solutions -

There is not an epithet more appropriate to describe my experience as your Chair. This theme has carried us through this past year of activities that culminated in the QuintEssential Conference. The executive board, committee chairs, members, and liaisons have collaborated and worked together in a joint intellectual effort to move forward the goals and objectives identified for the year. We have partnered with colleague library groups such as METRO, SLA, and the New York Technical Services Library Group on projects to promote our profession and its growth. We worked together in many ways to find solutions such as identifying a new home for our archives, and developing a strategy to move our directory to online - a project that will carry into the coming year. We agreed that a new Chapter Banner be commissioned to emphasize our presence at meetings, conferences, and celebrations. Many, many members gave much of their time, intellect, and physical energy to coordinate the highly successful, and much remarked over, five chapter, Quint Meeting - **The QuintEssential Conference: Collaborations, Partnerships & Solutions** held in Philadelphia in October.

### Turning Over The Gavel

It is my sincere privilege to turn over the gavel to the incoming Chair, Robb T. Mackes. You must have every confidence, as I have, that he will become one of our finest chairs yet.

**Congratulations  
and welcome  
to Robb!**



## ***The Medical Library Center of New York 1960-2003***

By: **Erich Meyerhoff**

*Director Emeritus*

*The Medical Library Center of New York*

### ▷ ***A Death in the Family***

***The Medical Library Center of New York (MLCNY)*** was founded in 1959 by the medical schools and health research institutions in the New York metropolitan area as an independent, educational non-profit organization to serve as a "library for libraries." It does not serve the public directly but rather assists libraries needing health science information either from its own extensive retrospective journal collection or the collection of other health science libraries. In the face of the changing library and economic environments, The MLCNY Board of Trustees determined that it was no longer feasible for MLCNY to continue as a freestanding organization and voted to end operations in July 2003 and close its doors by August 31, 2003. What follows is a brief remembrance of MLCNY by **Erich Meyerhoff**, its founding Director (1961-1967) and director emeritus. I was pleased to learn that Mr. Meyerhoff's memories of the founding and early days of MLCNY will be preserved as part of The Medical Library Association's Oral History Project: Voices of the Past.

***William Self, MLCNY Director (2001-2003)***

With the decision of its Board of Trustees, The Medical Library Center of New York (MLCNY) will end its existence in August 2003. No deficiency in its operation, financial mismanagement, or questionable conduct of its personnel is alleged as the cause of The Center's demise. On the contrary, The Center has always been a superb operation and each of its Directors provided leadership in cooperative solutions for the coordination of resources.

The early Board consisted of leaders in medical education among them **Houston Merritt**, Dean of Columbia University-College of Physicians and Surgeons; **Marcus Kogel**, Dean at Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Yeshiva University; **Frank Horsfall, Jr.**, President of Rockefeller University; **John Deitrick**, Dean at Cornell University College of Medicine; **George James**, Dean of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine; and **Howard Craig**, Director of the New York Academy of Medicine. Its Directors were prominent librarians: **Jacqueline Felter** (1967-1974), the creator of the Union Catalog of Medical Periodicals, co-editor of the third edition of the *Handbook of Medical Librarianship* and President of the Medical Library Association; **Jean Miller** (1974-1978), President of the Medical Library Association; and **William D. Walker** (1979-1989) now Senior Vice President and Mellon Director of the Research Libraries, The New York Public Library. Many who worked at The Center moved to important positions in the field including **Spencer Marsh**, **John Patruno**, **Wayne Peay**, and **Stephen van Houten**.

## A Death in the Family

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Among MLCNY's achievements are the various editions of the *Union Catalog of Medical Periodicals (UCMP)*, a computer aided listing of the periodical holdings of some 68 health related libraries in our area, including the American Museum of Natural History and the New York Botanical Garden, that eventually grew to reflect the holdings of over 600 libraries in the Northeast and regularly updated with on line access. In addition, MLCNY provided a van delivery service to its membership to provide speedy delivery of interlibrary transactions; a storage facility for members, and, most of all, a site for a collection of less used journals in the health and allied health sciences with the aim to eliminate duplication. A superb staff maintained a practically flawless and courteous operation. With a collection size of over 450,000 items, it is a measure of its effectiveness that in 2001 MLCNY received 39,571 loan requests and filled 33,882; in 2002 it received 34,882 requests and filled 31,751.

With its dissolution, some of its holdings will go to the National Library of Medicine to become part of a program of scanning the journals indexed in the *Cumulative Index Medicus* as well as complete gaps in NLM's holdings. Some materials will be claimed by other academic, research, hospital and medical society libraries and MLCNY will be forced to dispose of the remainder.

A collaborative, cost-effective consolidation of materials held by libraries continues to be a necessity. Whether on paper, film or electronic media, the elimination of unnecessary duplication is an ecological necessity. The construction of warehouses in which the collections of different institutions sit in splendid isolation merely postpones the problem of retention as part of a national policy.

One feels abandoned when a useful institution dies. Sincere attempts to save it failed. MLCNY Board members, headed by its current President **Lynn Kasner Morgan** of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, along with **Lois Weinstein** (1990-2001) and **William Self**, the last and present directors of MLCNY, made attempts at rescue. In the end, The Medical Library Center of New York shares the fate of the School of Nursing of Cornell University and the School of Library Service of Columbia University among other distinguished institutions; without any support, fiscal or humane, they disappeared.

*I would like to thank William Self, Karen Brewer, Lynn Kasner Morgan and Tina Meyerhoff for their assistance in the preparation of this article.*

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### Note - For additional information on MLCNY and its programs and services:

- Craig, HR and Felter, JW. "Cooperation or Chaos: a Summary of the Problems Confronting the Medical Libraries of Greater New York." *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 46:381-388, July 1958.
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## Web Watch

Submitted by: **Patricia E. Gallagher, MLS, AHIP**  
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 New York Academy of Medicine Library

### ▷ **Pat's Picks**

**The rating system:** Web sites are rated by mice, from half a mouse to 5 mice, with 5 mice being the highest rating.



to



(half mouse)

(5 mice being the highest rating)

Please note: In a prior column, I recommended the TRIP database. As of July of this year, **TRIP** (<http://www.tripdatabase.com>) is only available by subscription.

#### **1. College of Physicians and Surgeons Obituary Database**

<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/library/archives/archdbs.html>

We all occasionally get a biographical question about an individual doctor who is NOT famous. Unfortunately, though many physicians' obituaries appear in the medical literature, that information is not indexed. Columbia University has simplified this type of question by mounting a database of over 5,700 death notices of graduates of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. You can browse the records, or search by name (first or last) or year of graduation from the school. My rating:



#### **2. Health Information in Chinese Uniting Patients, Physicians and the Public (HICUP)** <http://library.med.nyu.edu/patient/hicup/>

These health information sheets in pdf format (with bilingual content in Chinese and English) can fill a big gap for hospital and consumer health librarians. Easy to print out, topics include information on health insurance; nutrition (with a particular emphasis on Asian diets); and disease diagnosis, explanation, and treatment issues. There are currently about 60 topics available from the NYU Downtown Hospital. My rating:



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## Web Watch

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### 3. Introduction to Evidence-based Medicine

<http://www.hsl.unc.edu/lm/ebm/welcome.htm>

This tutorial, written by Connie Shardt of Duke University and Jill Mayer of University of North Carolina, provides an easy-to-follow and concise overview of EBM for the beginner. Whether you are interested in the subject for yourself or for your patrons, this is a worthwhile website to visit. A caveat: Search examples are written for OVID MEDLINE. My rating:



### 4. DNA Interactive

<http://www.dnai.org/index.html>

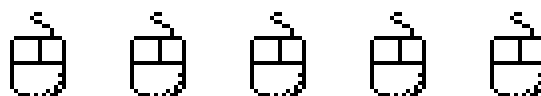
The Howard Hughes Medical Institute presents this *Flash* website that commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Watson and Crick's seminal article on the DNA Double Helix. Learn about the history of DNA research, how genetic coding works, the basics of genetic manipulation, and the Human Genome Project, as well as, the ethical implications of genetic research, past and future. My rating:



### 5. Your Genes, Your Health

<http://yourgenesyourhealth.org/>

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories produces this interactive guide to genetic disorders. It currently covers 15 conditions, including Alzheimer's Disease, Down Syndrome, and Cystic Fibrosis. Each condition examines causes, inheritance, diagnosis, treatment, etiology, and information resources. The content is written on a simple, but concise level. My rating:



And now for something completely different:

### 6. The Time 100

<http://www.time.com/time/time100/index.html>

Who were the most influential people of the 20th Century? *Time* Magazine has an online version of the listing that appeared in print. Web additions include .wav files with audio examples of many voices, and a *Shockwave* "Place the Face" game (that's harder than you might think!). My rating:





## News & Views

Submitted by: **Konstantina Matsoukas, MLIS**  
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### ▷ **Librarian as Hero - Our Profession Gets an Image Boost**

The term hero brings to mind all sorts of people – firefighters, policemen, baseball players – folks who conjure up images of daring, courage, bravery, honor, and selflessness; performers of deeds worthy of landing them a spot on “Charlie Rose” or other news shows. But “**Librarian** as Hero”? Let’s face it - it is not often that the heroic accomplishments of librarians, no matter how far-reaching, are featured in mass media headlines.

Well good *news* - the media tide might be changing and it couldn’t come at a better time for our profession. Just as the reality of low recruitment to librarianship and an aging workforce is weighing heavy on us, this past July, librarians managed to make some great image boosting headlines with their own special brand of “heroism”.

First, on July 27, 2003, a *New York Times* article by Shaila K. Dewan reported on “*Books Spirited to Safety Before Iraq Library Fire*”. The article described the heroic actions of Alia Muhammad Baker, Basra’s chief librarian of 14 years, who orchestrated the rescue of 70% of the books in her library’s collection. Although she had previously been refused by Basra’s governor for permission to move the books to safety, once the war began and the threat of possible looting and destruction became real, Ms. Baker decided to take matters into her own hands and act without his approval. With the aid of her library employees and friends, she was able to smuggle the books out of the library and into the hands of people that she trusted would protect them. Soon after she had removed about 70% of the books, the library building did in fact burn down. One thing is for sure - whatever books were saved, made it thanks to Ms. Baker’s foresight and courageous actions.

And speaking of action - earlier in the month, the *Seattle Times* reported on the creation of a new toy: the **action figure librarian** (*Jack Broom, July 10<sup>th</sup>*). The new doll was modeled after Nancy Pearl, Seattle City librarian, Executive Director of the Washington Center for the Book, and much-loved Seattle local personality. Pearl, described in the article as “an unabashed booster of her profession”, does a wonderful job of making the public aware of the important work of librarians - by being such a great one herself. She has authored three books, can be heard on public radio doing book reviews, and is a literacy advocate who won the 2003 Washington Humanities Award for her “if all Seattle read the same book” initiative. “The role of the librarian is to make sense of the world of information. If that’s not a qualification for *superhero-dom*, what is?” she is quoted asking. No objections here - she is definitely a fine candidate for hero and someone we should all try to emulate in our careers.

My hat goes off to both of these inspiring librarians. Let us take this opportunity to also salute the many unsung medical librarians whose achievements may not draw the same amount of media buzz, but who are none the less “librarian heroes”.

## Technology Review

Submitted by: **Nancy Glassman, MLS, AHIP**  
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 Albert Einstein College of Medicine

### ▷ The Sexy, Trendy Blog?

You may be asking yourself how a thing called a blog could possibly be sexy. Well, I can confirm that it is, because blogs rate a mention on page 18 of the August issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Now that I have your attention, let me give you a bit of blog background. Blogs evolved from Internet Newsgroups and personal web pages in the late 1990's and are an increasingly popular trend in Internet communication. Blog can be a noun (as in blog or blogger) or a verb (as in I blog, you blog, she blogs, etc.). **Blog** is simply web-speak for **web log**, a web-based journal or diary that is chronologically organized with a date and time stamp. Blogs can cover any topic from the mundane to the scholarly, such as random thoughts, news, pop culture reviews, technology updates, social and political commentary, or links to other web resources. Some blogs are updated several times a day, some are updated daily, others are updated on an irregular basis (whenever the blogger feels he/she has something to say).

Anyone who has access to the Internet can become a blogger. All you need is a topic or an opinion you'd like to share with the world on an ongoing basis. Blogs can have practical uses, too. For example they can be used as content management tools for web sites that are frequently updated, or to divide responsibility for keeping a website up to date among library staff members. If you are a web maven, you can create and host a blog on your own web site using your existing web server software. However, you can become a blogger even if you are not a webmaster. No knowledge of HTML or programming skills is required, just blogging software that automates the web publishing process. Your blog can be hosted on a local server or on a web log service. Some web log services are free, others charge for their software and services.

Some popular blog software and hosting sites are:

- **Blogger** (<http://www.blogger.com>) - free and fee-based blogging software and hosting.
- **Blogspot** (<http://www.blogspot.com>) - free and fee-based blog hosting for blogger.com.
- **Greymatter** (<http://www.noahgrey.com/greysoft/>) - open source blogging software to download and run on your own server. Free, but you can make a donation to noahgrey.com if you like it.
- **Live Journal** (<http://www.livejournal.com>) - free, open source blogging software and hosting. Software can also be downloaded and run on your own server.
- **Pitas Software** (<http://www.pitas.com>) - free blogging software and hosting.
- **Radio User land** (<http://www.userland.com>) - blogging software to download and run on your own server. Thirty day free trial available.

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## Technology Review

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Blogs can be useful research tools and information resources. There is a growing number of indexes and search engines to help you find blogs of interest to you. The rules of thumb for evaluating regular web sites also hold true for blogs. Universal access and lack of editorial review means *caveat emptor* - in this case, *reader beware*.

Here are a few useful indexes and search engines:

- **Blog Finder** (<http://www.blogfinder.com>) is an index and search engine. Some searches I ran pulled up a lot of advertisements and irrelevant sites.
- **Blonde** (<http://www.blogdex.com>) is part of a research project from MIT Media Laboratory to study how information travels around the web.
- **Daypop** (<http://www.daypop.com>) is a search engine for news and web logs.
- **Eatonweb** (<http://portal.eatonweb.com>) is an index and search engine.
- **Globe of Blogs** (<http://globeofblogs.com>) is the blog search engine that was highlighted in Cosmo.
- **Libdex** (<http://libdex.com/weblogs.html>) is a guide to library-related web logs and resources.

There are also a growing number of blogs by and for librarians:

- **DLNet** (<http://dlnet.blogspot.com>) - a UK health sciences library blog focusing on training.
- **FBI in Your Library** - American Library Association updates on the U.S. Patriot Act ([http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Intellectual\\_Freedom\\_Issues&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=21662](http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Intellectual_Freedom_Issues&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=21662))
- **Handheld Librarian** (<http://www.handheldlib.blogspot.com/>) - news and updates on the use of PDAs in libraries.
- **Laughing Librarian** (<http://laughinglibrarian.com>) - source for library/librarian-related humor.
- **Library Stuff** (<http://librarystuff.net>) - news and views for keeping up to date in the profession.
- **LIS News** (<http://www.LISnews.com>) - general library & information science news blog.
- **Open Directory Project - Library and Information Science Web Sites** (<http://dmoz.org/Reference>) - a "human edited" directory of news and web sites.
- **Peter Scott's Library Blog**. Formerly *Library News Daily* (<http://blog.xrefer.com>) - news and events of interest to librarians.

Keeping current with all the blogs you might want to follow can be a daunting task. Some blogs offer email update notifications, and there are other tools available to simplify the process even more. Aggregators act as a blog newswire. Using a technology known as **RSS** (rich site summaries) bloggers can make their blogs available to aggregators in XML format. You, the reader, can then log on to an aggregator, select the blogs you'd like to keep current with, and view them (or have them emailed to you) as one web page. Some aggregators require that software be installed, others are available online. **NewsIsFree** (<http://www.newsisfree.com>) is an online aggregator that offers both free and fee-based services. Create an account, select the blogs you would like to keep up with, customize the display (or email format), and you will be able to read your favorite blogs all at once.

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## Technology Review

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It is very easy to enter into the blogosphere. Check out the myriad of blogs out there, and if you don't find any that are to your liking, create a BLOG of your own!

### Further reading:

- Block, Marylaine, "Communicating Off the Page: Librarian-Created Web 'Zines and Weblogs," *Library Journal* 126, no. 15 (2002): 50-52.
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## RML Update

Submitted by: **Joanne Jahr, MLS**  
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### ▷ **NLM Library Services - Online**

We're all busy; that's a given. However, you might want to periodically steal a few minutes and browse through the **National Library of Medicine's Library Services** page at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/libserv.html>. On one handy portal, hyperlinks can be found to NLM's collections and catalog, databases, document delivery, extramural grants and contracts, publications, services, training and outreach, and the *National Network of Libraries of Medicine*.

The National Institutes of Health produces publications of interest not only for researchers but also for librarians and consumers. **The NIH Word on Health**, published twice yearly as a web-based newsletter, contains consumer health information based on research conducted either by NIH's own scientists or by its grantees at universities and medical schools around the country. The material is not copyrighted and may be used without permission. Links to the current and previous issues are available at <http://www.nih.gov/news/WordonHealth/woharch.htm>.

NLM's **Specialized Information Services (SIS)** <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/index.html> is responsible for information resources and services in toxicology and environmental health (including TOXNET), chemistry (ChemIDplus), HIV/AIDS, and specialized topics in minority health. They also have a new, easy-to-navigate, database of household products available at <http://hpd.nlm.nih.gov/>. This **Household Products Database** includes health and safety information on brand-name consumer household products.

Another portal with excellent hyperlinks belongs to the Department of Health and Human Services' **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** <http://www.ahrq.gov>. Formerly known as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, AHRQ provides evidence-based information on health care outcomes; quality; and cost, use, and access.

Finally, NLM just recently hatched **Cosmo**, a wise old owl. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Cosmo nests at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov> and is familiar with hundreds of FAQs. Type a question in the box and up pops an answer. Check out Cosmo's job description at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/vrep/job.html>.

If you subscribe to **MARL**, our **RML Listserv®**, you know that announcements and alerts about new NLM and NIH projects, including grants and other funding opportunities, are posted in a timely fashion. If you are not a MARL subscriber, may I once again take this opportunity to recommend that you sign-on. Instructions can be found at <http://nnlm.gov/mar/listserv.html>.

All of us at the RML look forward to meeting fellow Chapter members in Philadelphia at the **QuintEssential Conference**. It should be an excellent meeting. See you in October!

## **Advocacy Update**

*Submitted by:*     **Elaine Wells, MA, MLS, AHIP**  
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Chair, Advocacy Committee  
Director, Kohn Vision Science Library  
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### ▷ **SABO BILL Takes a New Look at Open-Access Publishing**

According to Representative Martin Olav Sabo, a Minnesota Democrat, U.S. residents pay twice for scientific research—once through tax dollars and again through subscription fees to scientific journals. That is why on June 26, 2003, Rep. Sabo introduced the **Public Access to Science Act** (PASA). This bill would require research paid for by the United States government to be given free of charge to the public.

Sabo's bill, supported by the new Public Library of Science ("a nonprofit organization of scientists and physicians committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature a public resource"), would amend U.S. copyright law so that protection would be provided for research that is "substantially funded" by the government. Still open to debate, of course, is exactly what level of investment would trigger the "substantially funded" exemption.

Not everyone is convinced that the solution is a good one. According to Jerome Reichman, a professor at Duke University School of Law, this bill is a "well-intentioned but perhaps overly simple solution to a very complex problem". He voices concern that scientists' control over their own published work may be eroded. Publishers say that copyright enables them to protect works from plagiarism, and that this bill would weaken the rights of scientist to be cited for their own work. There is also some concern that the lack of copyright protection would reduce the incentive to produce works that make science publicly accessible.

What everyone can agree upon, however, is that another salvo has been fired as the battle rages between those who believe scientific information is a RIGHT and those who believe it is a PRODUCT.

For more information, check out:

**The Scientist** at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20030716/04>  
and the **PLOS website** at <http://www.publiclibraryofscience.org/>.

Elaine Wells  
Library Director  
SUNY College of Optometry  
July 30, 2003

## ***In the Literature***

Submitted by: **Kathel Dunn, MSLS**  
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### ▷ ***The American Medical Informatics Association***

This issue of "In the Literature" takes a look at articles published by the **American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)**; either in its journal, the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA), or in the Proceedings of AMIA's annual meetings.

**Weeber M, Vos R, Klein H, De Jong-Van Den Berg LT, Aronson AR, Molema G. Generating hypotheses by discovering implicit associations in the literature: a case report of a search for new potential therapeutic uses for thalidomide. *J Am Med Inform Assoc.* 2003 May-Jun;10(3):252-9. Epub 2003 Jan 28.**

**Weeber M, Klein H, Aronson AR, Mork JG, de Jong-van den Berg LT, Vos R. Text-based discovery in biomedicine: the architecture of the DAD-system. *Proc AMIA Symp.* 2000;903-7.**

Weeber et al. have developed a "discovery tool" for use with the medical literature based on the work of a mathematician-turned-library science professor, Don Swanson. Swanson developed theories about "undiscovered public knowledge" and "disjoint science literatures". Broadly speaking, Swanson theorized that because scientists work in increasingly specialized areas, with an increasingly voluminous literature in each area, it is possible that relevant literatures could lie side-by-side ("adjoining but complementary"), unknown and unnoticed. His theory was that if A influences B and B influences C, then it can be inferred that A influences C. The trick then comes in finding the links in the literature between A and C. For example, Swanson found in the literature a link between fish oil and Raynaud's syndrome that was later borne out in clinical studies.

Weeber et al. describe their discovery tool (*Proc AMIA Symp 2000*) and then validate the discovery tool by working with an expert in pharmacology/immunology to identify the most reasonable hypotheses from the literature (JAMIA May-Jun 2003). They chose thalidomide as a drug that might have new potential; in fact, it had already seen new potential in use with leprosy and wasting associated with HIV.

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## *In the Literature*

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Thalidomide's properties were associated with immunologic factors because of the immunologic properties of the drug. They used NLM's natural language processing and UMLS concepts to search the literature: where (A) thalidomide interacted with (B) an immunologic factor; then where (B) the immunologic factor interacted with (C) the disease or syndrome. Then they looked for associations in the literature between (A) thalidomide and (C) the disease or syndrome. After discarding obvious – and potentially already known associations – and discarding very weak associations, they identified a short list of twelve diseases for which they postulate that thalidomide may be used therapeutically. These included acute pancreatitis, myasthenia gravis, and chickenpox.

**Van Der Meijden MJ, Tange HJ, Troost J, Hasman A. Determinants of success of inpatient clinical information systems: a literature review. *J Am Med Inform Assoc.* 2003 May-Jun;10(3):235-43. Epub 2003 Jan 28. Review.**

The authors reviewed a decade's worth (for a total of 33 studies fitting the criteria) of evaluation research in patient care information systems where health professionals did the data entry. They reviewed the evaluation studies with the intent of placing the determinants of success in a framework. The six categories in the framework were: 1) system quality, 2) information quality, 3) usage, 4) user satisfaction, 5) individual impact, and 6) organizational impact. Though the assessment of attributes of success was interesting, by far the more tantalizing aspect of the paper was the studies of failures. Organizational culture/practice was not an attribute studied as an element of success but it proved to be a key factor in an information system's failure! The authors suggest that future evaluations should include both qualitative and quantitative data, to triangulate the data and strengthen the results.

**Liederman EM, Morefield CS. Web messaging: a new tool for patient-physician communication. *J Am Med Inform Assoc.* 2003 May-Jun;10(3):260-70. Epub 2003 Jan 28.**

Liederman et al. report on a successful implementation of a web messaging system at a UC Davis community Primary Care Network (PCN) clinic. The authors first reviewed the literature to date on email communication between physician and patient. They found that while there's a strong interest on the part of patients to be able to communicate with their physicians via email, physicians are less interested in it. Physicians were concerned about being overwhelmed with email messages as well as the lack of a financial incentive (no reimbursement) in communicating this way. The system piloted at the PCN clinic was a RelayHealth system. At the end of a 16-month period, during which 826 patients messaged with 5 physicians, there was a high degree of patient satisfaction (61.2% were very satisfied) and a moderate degree of physician satisfaction (62.5 were satisfied). The survey found a slightly higher productivity rate during the pilot test of the messaging system compared to a similar, earlier time. The authors conclude that web messaging may be a more secure system for communication than email and that for "low-level" requests, such as medication refills or some conditions, a web messaging system reduces the need for an in-person or on-the-phone consult.



## ***Hospital Library Notes***

*Submitted by:*      **George A. Wahlert, MSLS, AHIP**  
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*Director, Morgan Health Sciences Library*  
*Long Island College Hospital*

### ▷ ***The Sky is Falling, the Sky is Falling!***

Aw, shut up Chicken Little. That pessimistic chick must have been the president of the "doom and gloom club". If she had attended library school, then that little bit o' fluff might have said instead that the Internet is diminishing the importance of libraries and the future of librarians. Ok, to be blunt, per Chicken Little, "the sky is falling and the Internet is killing libraries and librarians". She didn't knock me over with that idea.

My monthly library statistics may look like library usage is down, but Internet usage is UP. Yes, medical students are sitting at computers trying to find the best hotels in Cancun, but a warm body is a warm body, and it is an opportunity to play Foxy Woxy and lure users and abusers into the library kingdom and hopefully create generations of happy library campers.

It bothers me when library users complain about my colleagues at other institutions. I have always felt that the library biz is customer-service related. That means you have got to go OUT THERE and make people aware of your library and its services. We must convey to all concerned the importance of a health sciences library that includes a professional health sciences/medical librarian. When I stepped into the medical library world over 20 years ago, my former supervisor sent me flowers with a card that said "Go out there and knock 'em dead". I'm still trying – very trying!

We must sometimes step out of our "library box" and take a good look at the sky above and beyond. There is a difference between marketing and advertising, and you have to choose your brand of chicken feed wisely to maintain both personal and professional identity within your institution. If you catalog yourself as a librarian, then you must do what you can to preserve your career, even though you do not always have control within your library and the institution.

As many of us reach our silver years, almost ready to cash in on those Social Security funds we have worked so hard for, we really have to think about using our survival skills. Librarians are intuitive and innovative, but our institutions may not always be as concerned as we are with our quest to provide quality healthcare information in a variety of forms. Librarians are intelligent enough to initiate self-preservation. Personal power can lead to professional power.

You've got to get up every morning with a smile on your face...and take that umbrella as Chicken Little did so no acorns fall on you. However, friends, from little acorns grow mighty trees. Bloom where you are planted!

## Chapter Member News

### *In Memorium*

The NY-NJ MLA Chapter mourns the passing of **Joan Neumann-Boyer**, former director of METRO, who died on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003 from complications of cancer.

### ***Wishing the following Chapter members well in their new endeavors:***

- ▷ **Elizabeth Franck**  
Director, Health Sciences Library  
New York Methodist Hospital (Brooklyn)

On July 18, 2003, Elizabeth resigned from her position as Director of the Health Sciences Library at New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn to join the staff of the Hunterdon County Library in Flemington, NJ.

- ▷ **Joan A. Napolitano**  
Manager Health Sciences Libraries  
St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers

On July 3, 2003, Joan retired from her position as Manager of Health Sciences Libraries at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers in New York.

- ▷ **Elizabeth LaRue**  
Head of Reference, Health Sciences Library  
Columbia University

On August 15, 2003, Elizabeth resigned from her position as Head of Reference at Columbia University's Health Sciences Library in order to pursue doctoral studies in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. In January, she will become a part-time PhD student and begin working full-time as the Assistant Director of Technology and Education at Rush University Medical Center Library in Chicago.

### **To all Chapter Members:**

We would like to acknowledge all Chapter Member contributions.  
Please submit your news & accomplishments to:

**Dorice Vieira**, Chair, Professional Recognition Committee

[Dorice.Vieira@library.med.nyu.edu](mailto:Dorice.Vieira@library.med.nyu.edu)

## ***For Your Information***

### ***The Pleasures Of Publication***

The practice of hospital librarianship requires innovation, advancement and cost effective solutions to problems. Learning about best practices and new ideas at other institutions isn't easy, and one of the best methods for promulgating efficient problem solving is through publication.

The **Journal of the Medical Library Association** offers a variety of venues to hospital librarians. Full-length feature articles up to 5,000 words, brief communications up to 1,250 words, comments/opinions on timely topics and reviews are all options for hospital-related topics.

Complete guidelines and instructions for submissions can be found on **MLANET** at <http://www.mlanet.org/publications/jmla/bmlainfo.html>.

Presentations and posters from local, regional or national meetings are a good place to start from when preparing a manuscript. The importance of the germinating idea is already established, and some of the background literature has been consulted. Other sources for publishable material are new programs instituted at your organization, surveys performed to evaluate services, cost-benefit reviews or creative approaches to issues.

Publication offers many spin off benefits. Recognition from your superiors and peers, offers to speak or collaborate and the sense of making a contribution to your profession may result. Via the cross fertilization of spreading information, good ideas can take root.

Patients and healthcare professionals need information, and hospitals impact people on a daily basis. Lives are changed, saved and lost by what we do. We know that; now we need to tell others. Find a voice in JMLA.

Michele Klein Fedyshin  
Associate Editor for Hospital Libraries, JMLA  
T. Scott Plutchak  
Editor, JMLA

## ***For Your Information***

### ▷ ***Lois Ann Colaianne Award***

#### **Lois Ann Colaianne Award for Excellence and Achievement in Hospital Librarianship Available**

**Application Deadline: November 1, 2003**

Do YOU know a hospital librarian with these attributes?

- Outstanding service in hospital librarianship;
- A dynamic and exceptional librarian;
- A visionary!

Nominate and apply now for the Lois Colaianne Award.

For further information and an application visit,

<http://www.mlanet.org/awards/honors/index.html>,

or contact Lisa C. Fried, Coordinator, Credentialing, Professional Recognition and Careers at [mlapd2@mlahq.org](mailto:mlapd2@mlahq.org), or 312.419.9094 x 28.

### ▷ ***MLA Mentor Database***



#### **New Mentor Database Debuts**

MLA announces newly created mentor Web pages that are part of the career section of MLANET.

- Sign up online to serve as a mentor to your peers, as a provisional mentor, or as a mentor to students interested in learning about the profession.
- Search the database to find a mentor.
- Link to mentor tip sheets and guidelines.
- Access Web resources to help you in your mentoring role.

The success of the mentor database depends on the number of members who sign up. Go to [www.mlanet.org/mentor/](http://www.mlanet.org/mentor/) to explore the possibilities.

## ***For Your Information***

### ***MLA Continuing Education Grant***

Each year the Medical library Association awards a grant to one or more of its members to provide them with the opportunity to increase their competence in the theoretical, administrative, or technical aspects of librarianship. This grant may be used to attend an MLA course or other CE activity and may range from \$100 - \$500.

Candidates for the CE Grant must: (1) hold a graduate degree in Library Science; (2) be a practicing medical librarian with at least two years of professional experience; (3) be an individual member of MLA; and (4) be a US or Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

For more information about this grant and the application visit MLA's Website at:

<http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/index.html>

Applications should be submitted to Lisa C. Fried at MLA Headquarters.

### **Deadline for application is December 1.**

For additional information, contact:

Lisa C. Fried  
mlapd2@mlahq.org  
Phone: 312.419.9094  
Fax: 312.419.8950  
Medical Library Association  
65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1900  
Chicago, IL 60602-4805

Submitted by Hanna Kwasik  
Chair of the MLA Continuing Education Grant Jury



## ***For Your Information***

### **▷ *MLA Research, Development and Demonstration Project Grants***

#### **Apply now for 2004 MLA Research, Development and Demonstration Project Grants**

If you need support for research, development and demonstration projects that help promote excellence in the field of health sciences librarianship and information science, apply for this award. These grants will not be given to an activity that is operational in nature or has only local usefulness. Grants range from \$100 to \$1000.

A completed application form must be submitted by **November 1, 2003**.

For further information on eligibility and an application form, please visit, <http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/index.html>, or contact Lisa C. Fried, Coordinator, Credentialing, Professional Recognition and Careers, MLA Headquarters at [malpd2@mlahq.org](mailto:malpd2@mlahq.org), or 312.419.9094 x28.

### **▷ *The Frank Bradway Rogers Award***

#### **Recognize Health Science Information Innovation- the Frank Bradway Rogers Award**

MLA recognizes that there are many innovators in our profession, inventing new information services and using technology in creative ways. Maybe you are one of them? Or maybe you work with or know someone who is? We encourage you to take a moment to think about what your colleagues are contributing and nominate their innovations for the ISI/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award.

The award is presented annually by the **Medical Library Association** and sponsored by the Institute for Scientific Information. It recognizes an outstanding MLA member OR members contributions for/to:

1. The application of technology to the delivery of health science information,
2. The science of information, or
3. The facilitation of the delivery of health science information.

Award winners will be given a prize of \$500 and will be formally recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, May 21-26, 2004 in Washington, DC.

For more information on the award and past winners go to:

<http://mlanet.org/awards/honors/rogers.html>.

For a copy of the nomination form, eligibility information, and instructions click here: [http://mlanet.org/pdf/awards/rogers\\_nom\\_200304.pdf](http://mlanet.org/pdf/awards/rogers_nom_200304.pdf)

All nominations are due by **November 1, 2003**.

## ***Save the Date***

### **Collaborations, Partnerships, and Solutions:**

### ***The QuintEssential Conference***



October 26-28, 2003

Sheraton Society Hill Hotel  
Philadelphia PA

<http://www.quintmeeting.org>

*Join your colleagues at the  
Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia  
this fall for*

### ***Collaborations, Partnerships, and Solutions: The QuintEssential Conference,***

*a joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic, New York-New Jersey,  
Philadelphia Regional, and Pittsburgh Regional Chapters of  
MLA and the Philadelphia Chapter of SLA.*

Detailed meeting and registration  
information can be found in  
the meeting brochure,  
available at:

[http://www.quintmeeting.org/quint\\_meeting\\_final.pdf](http://www.quintmeeting.org/quint_meeting_final.pdf)

***Don't miss the Quintessential Conference!***

## ▷ **MLA NY-NJ Chapter Newsletter Submission Guidelines**

The Chapter welcomes contributions from its members to the Newsletter.

The newsletter is published quarterly: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. Deadlines for submissions will be announced via the Chapter Listserv.

Please forward all contributions (articles, news items, photos, calendar events, etc.), preferably in electronic format [ASCII text], along with suggestions for content to:

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*Opinions expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent the official position of the Chapter.*