

NEWSLETTER

NEW YORK
NEW JERSEY
CHAPTER, INC.



MEDICAL
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

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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 Editors

We hope you are enjoying the summer and keeping cool. In this, our last issue as editors of the newsletter, we'd like to thank all of you for your contributions. Special thanks to Pat Gallagher, who was always on time and also provided us with several Spring Dinner photos.

Some highlights in this issue include a message from the Chapter Chair, Marie Ascher. Tim Roberts gives us a preview of the 'Annual Meeting' this Fall. Shelly Warwick updates us on her and Mahnaz Tehrani's library advocacy activities in Albany. Mary Doherty writes about CINAHL and PubMed for Occupational Therapy research. Kate Oliver shares RML news.

The Chapter provided funds for four members -- Evelyn Behar, Keydi Boss O'Hagan, Aileen McCrillis, and Jovy-Ann Rosario -- to attend 'Chapter Sharing Roundtables' at MLA in Washington, D.C. this year. Their reports are presented in this issue.

We have been editing the newsletter for the last 3 years and we look forward to help the new editors get started. It has been great fun; we did some of our work through 'cloud computing' and remote 'screen sharing' and also through good old fashioned 'face to face' collaboration. Have a wonderful, safe summer and ...

Happy Reading!

The Editors



From the Chair

Submitted by: **Marie T. Ascher, MS, AHIP**
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I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It's hard to believe how fast the time has gone the last few months. It was great seeing many of you at MLA in Washington in May, and wonderful to spend some time with you at the Spring Dinner in June. The Spring Dinner was very well attended and judging by all of the positive comments I received was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks again to Trina Keith for organizing a lovely evening.

The Lunch & Learn webinar sessions have gotten underway and have been well received so far. We'll be continuing these. If you would be willing to present and share with your colleagues, please get in touch with CE Chairs, Rich McGowan and Jamie Graham and let them know. We've been asking members what they are interested in and the hot topics appear to be technology, and web 2.0, but there is also a high level of interest in innovative service and evidence based librarianship and research.

We also hosted an advocacy webinar in April which was organized by Mahnaz Tehrani and presented by Robert Schmidt from METRO. On a related topic, many members from the Chapter participated in MLA's Capitol Hill Day in Washington on May 25. I would like to personally thank those

members here: Juliette Ratner, Keydi O'Hagan, Cathy Boss, Mary Lou Glazer, Christina Rivera, Pat Regenber, Diana Cunningham, Marie Saimbert, and Mahnaz Tehrani. Thank you so much for taking time out of a very busy conference to talk to your representatives about the importance of library funding.

The Annual Meeting is not that far away and Tim Roberts and his committee have pulled together an exceptional program with Betsy Humphries from NLM lined up as the keynote speaker and an afternoon of interactive sharing planned. You can read more about it in this newsletter issue. It promises to be a great day of professional networking and education.

I hope to see ALL of you there!

Changing Currents

Submitted by: **Tim Roberts, MLS, AHIP**
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 Hospital for Special Surgery

NY/NJ Chapter Meeting

You cannot step into the same river twice, for fresh waters are ever flowing in upon you - Heraclitus

Join your colleagues at the Annual Meeting of our MLA Chapter at the Yonkers Public Library on the banks of the Hudson River on Wednesday, October 6, 2010.



The Program Committee has planned a special day based around the theme Changing Currents, and we hope that participant's walk away empowered to embrace the fluidity of our times.

Betsy Humphreys, the Deputy Director of the National Library of Medicine has accepted our invitation to present the keynote address. Ms. Humphreys is recipient of a number of awards, including the Marcia C. Noyes Award, which is the Medical Library Association's highest honor, the first Cornerstone Award conferred by the

Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, and the Morris F. Collen Award of Excellence from the American College of Medical Informatics, which is considered the highest honor in the field of medical informatics. She has also published widely on a variety of topics including what will happen to medical libraries in the post-Google world.

One of the biggest changes you will see in this years meeting is that most of our programming is based on **you**. Our entire afternoon program will consist of you, the attendees participating in small group discussions and sharing your collective wisdom. We selected topics (listed below) from issues identified in the chapter survey. This will be similar to the Sharing Roundtables at MLA, except for another important change. We will come back together as a group and each group will share the collective wisdom that you brought to the table.

Changing Roles: *How are librarians embracing new roles within their institution and reinventing their models of service?*

Changing Stewardship: *What can different generations of librarians teach each other?*

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Changing Economic Issues: *How are librarians doing more with less, creating innovating purchasing arrangements, finding new funding resources? Or how far can a librarian stretch a dollar?*

Changing Technology – Social Media: *How are librarians implementing Social Media?*

Changing Technology – Educational Media: *How are librarians implementing new, Educational Media?*

Changing Technology – Electronic Medical Record: *Are librarians a part of their institutions' Electronic Medical Record development and/or implementation?*

Changing Perceptions: *What are librarians doing within their institution to demonstrate their library's value and the institution's return on investment?*

Changing Spaces: *What does the library space look like now and what will it look like in the future?*

Another change this year is that we are introducing a discounted rate for Student Chapter members and for members who are currently in between positions. We are hoping this increases the turnout and the diversity of the group.

Please plan to join us. We have ordered delicious food. We've secured a comfortable space. We have set the stage for stimulating conversations. The only other thing we need...is **you**.

Register at

<http://www.nynjmla.org/blog/annual-meetings/changing-currents/>



MLA 2010: Roundtables

Submitted by: **Evelyn W. Behar, MSLS**
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NYU Health Sciences Library

Report on Copyright

Providing for the information needs of users, while complying with the copyright laws, is a challenge facing librarians. The Copyright Roundtable held an animated discussion on this complex topic at the recent MLA conference. Issues discussed included management of electronic reserves, educating staff and faculty, sources for reusable images and licensing terms. Participants in the discussion represented diverse regions of the country and included a website administrator and librarians from academic institutions and hospitals.

Items covered in the discussion on the management of electronic reserves included terms of licensing agreements and the application of fair use.

Educating staff and faculty on providing appropriate access to documents in PDF and other formats, while complying with copyright laws, was acknowledged as a need by all present. Among the resources to consult are the websites of the [Association of College & Research Libraries](#) and the [Association of Research Libraries](#).

Potential sources for reusable images that were discussed included Flickr, Googleimages, and Search by Creative Commons, on the Creative Commons website.

Licensing terms for electronic resources is a serious concern. Items requiring clarification when negotiating a contract include using the material for interlibrary loans and creating course packs. One source of guidance is the [Information Gateway for Campus Libraries](#) on the website of the California Digital Library which includes a checklist in the Licensing Toolkit.

During the last part of the session, the participants got a different perspective when the permissions liaison from one of the nursing organizations joined the group and explained some of the issues a small non-profit publisher faces.

The participants of this roundtable feel that next year's MLA conference should include a session on copyright given by an expert in the subject.

MLA 2010: Roundtables

Submitted by: **Keydi Boss O'Hagan, MLS, AHIP**
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Holy Name Medical Center

Report on Evidence-Based Nursing

The Evidence-Based Nursing (EBN) roundtable discussed five main key areas that included the library's role in achieving/maintaining magnet status; the library's involvement in instruction to support EBN; library outreach for EBN; collecting statistics to support the library's role in the institution; and database products.

Here are some examples of how the librarian can help with EBN.

One librarian at the table created a roaming reference cart. She then took the cart around to various floors and spent time on each floor, making herself available for 'drop in' business. The nursing staff has been very receptive to this outreach effort as it easily accommodates their work schedule.

An alternative to the old paper form for literature requests is the creation of an "Ask Us" button on the library homepage.

Some hospitals are stressing that the nurses start their research by creating a PICO (Patient problem, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome) question. Librarians can use the PICO question format to help teach users how best to search a

particular database. The PICO question format can be used to create practice exercises for the student.

Willingness to have a librarian on the floor for drop-in instruction during the night shifts buys a bunch of goodwill.

If a librarian helps with a literature search for a paper to be published by the nursing staff that highlights changes in practice, ask to be acknowledged in the article or listed as an author.

With so many products available, it is important to determine what is best and most appropriate for your clientele.

Make a point to emphasize that sometimes one cannot find the evidence on the first attempt. Often a search strategy needs to be modified and executed again.

The best point of the discussion of EBP was that '*Librarians are the tour guides for information*'.

MLA 2010: Roundtables

Submitted by: **Aileen McCrillis, MLIS**
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New York University, Health Sciences Library

Report: Research for Librarians

For many health sciences librarians, conducting primary research is of professional interest and, in some cases, a job requirement. At the Chapter Sharing Roundtables, I attended a session on the topic: 'Research for Librarians'. Participants shared their experiences conducting research, their research interests, and obstacles in performing research.

Although not all participants in the discussion had experience conducting research, all had an interest in research and were aware of the challenges involved. Examples of challenges that were discussed included: a lack of knowledge of research methodology and statistics; working with the Institutional Review Board (IRB); obtaining funding; balancing time for research with day-to-day workload, and lack of support from supervisor or institution.

To address these challenges, librarians shared resources they found helpful, such as the MLA Research section Newsletter, *Hypothesis*, and resources at their individual institutions, such as the IRB office website. It was also suggested that librarians may

gain research experience by collaborating with other departments within their institution or with other librarians with research experience. The MLA Research Section was recommended as a good way to identify other librarians for potential collaborations.

At the conclusion of the roundtable session, participants discussed potential ways MLA could improve librarians' ability to conduct research. The most popular idea was the creation of an online course or seminar series which would cover issues relevant to research and tailored specifically to librarians. Modules of varying lengths could include topics such as: an overview of research methods; the basics of statistics; identifying funding opportunities and grant writing; navigating IRBs; writing scientific articles and selecting journals to publish in (including publishing in journals outside the library literature).

MLA 2010: Roundtables

*Submitted by: **Jovy-Anne Rosario, MLIS**
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Report: Using New Technologies and Instructional Design for Teaching

After everyone stated their reasons for joining this particular roundtable topic, the discussion began in earnest when one librarian asked "Is a video tutorial better than a handout?" Two approaches emerged from this question. A situation-dependent approach would be based on what the particular format is being used for while a learner-dependent approach would provide a variety of formats, recognizing that people have different learning styles.

One librarian stated that in order to provide effective digital content for teaching purposes, one must have three components. The first component is technology. Librarians must be familiar with multiple technologies and multiple software applications. Some of the new technologies mentioned were Jing and Captivate (for screencasting), GoToMeeting and Adobe Connect Pro (for webinars), Yuuguu and LiveHelp (for screensharing).

The second and third components are content and educational media theory. Too often, one gets caught up in using a new technology without thinking about the relevance of the content and the educational objectives. Throughout the

session, the importance of measuring learning outcomes and integrating library classes into the curriculum were repeatedly mentioned.

We also discussed best practices in creating online tutorials. Some suggestions included breaking up a tutorial into bite-sized pieces, providing a clear exit strategy for the viewer, and the inclusion of a table of contents. The viewer must also be able to pick up where they left off. In creating online tutorials, it is also important to remember that face-to-face instruction is very different from online instruction.

MLA 2010

Submitted by: **Nighat Ispahany, MLS**
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 Columbia University

I attended a "Section Programs" session at MLA on May 25, 2010, titled: "Beyond PubMed: Next Generation Literature Searching" by Carrie L. Iwema and Ansuman Chattopadhyay.

At this session I learned about a number of freely available (primarily Medline) literature mining tools. These innovative software interfaces have been developed to help users to:

Conduct a bibliometric analysis and display (in charts, bar graphs, etc.) the most prolific authors, countries, cities, journals, and publication trends. To learn more, explore: GoPubMed, <http://www.gopubmed.org>.

Mine the literature from Medline, PubMed Central, etc. to find grant information. Users can also save searches and create publication alerts. To learn more, explore: Novoseek, <http://www.novoseek.com>.

Browse the literature and retrieve full text in PDF. To learn more, explore: Pubget, <http://www.pubget.com>.

Find experts in a specific field or journals in a particular specialty. To learn more, explore: eTBLAST, <http://www.etblast.org>.

Rule out plagiarism. This resource highlights the plagiarized portions of text within an article. To learn more, explore: Dejavu, <http://dejavu.vbi.vt.edu/dejavu/>. Dejavu is also available as a link within <http://www.etblast.org>.

A summary of these "third-party search engines" appears in the Technology section of *MLA News*, April, 2010 v. 50(4):p.21. "Next Generation Literature Mining: Third-party Search Engines Based on MEDLINE" by C. Iwema.



LATEST ISSUES customize...

Cell	Jul 23
Current Biology	Jul 27
JAMA The Journal of the American Medical Association	Jul 28
Nature	Jul 20
New England Journal of Medicine	Jul 20
PLoS Biology <small>new</small>	Jul 27
PLoS Medicine <small>new</small>	Jul 27

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Pubget

Membership

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

Membership:

The New York-New Jersey Chapter currently has 206 members. Unfortunately 24 people chose not to renew this year (we know that two moved out of the area, and 2 are no longer in the medical librarianship field). We do have 13 new members; please join us in welcoming several new members:

Marion F. Lipshutz
Tamar Raum
Neil Romanosky
Cynthia Greenan
Helen Tannenbaum
Rachel Frank
Susan Robins
Matthew Stein
Manning Shawn
Jovy-Anne Rosario
Rachel Lurie
Sheryl Ramer
Paula A. Buchak

The Membership Committee will begin production of the 2010 Membership Directory shortly. We hope to have it in your mailboxes before the Annual Meeting in October. Please let us know of any changes to your information ASAP.

Finally, the renewal process for 2011 will begin in December. Please watch your mailbox for your renewal letter. We hope that we will be able to reinstate payment by Paypal for those of you who wish to charge your renewal.

The [membership renewal form](#) is available on the Chapter web site.

In Memoriam:

With deepest regret we announce the passing of Rita Maier on July 12, 2010. She was a former director of the Health Education Library at the New York Hospital in Queens. Rita was employed by the medical center from February 1979 until her retirement in 2009.

Kudos

Submitted by: **Robin Wright, M.S**
robinwright78@hotmail.com

Congratulations to fellow Chapter Members!

Carolyn Anne Reid, MA, AHIP
Weill Cornell Medical Library

Laura P. Barrett, MLS, AHIP
University of Medicine & Dentistry of
New Jersey

Congratulations and warm wishes to both Carolyn and Laura on their retirements.

Diana Delgado, MLS, AHIP
Weill Cornell Medical Library

Congratulations to Diana and her family on the birth of their second son.

Colleen M. Kenefick, MLS, AHIP
Stony Brook University Health
Sciences Library's Center for
Healthcare Informatics Education

Congratulations to Colleen on being awarded Stony Brook University's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship.

New Jersey Hospital Association
Library

Congratulations to the staff on being honored by the Health Sciences Library

Association of New Jersey (HSLANJ) at their dinner on April 20, 2010.

Michelle Volesko Brewer, MLS
New Jersey Hospital Association
Library

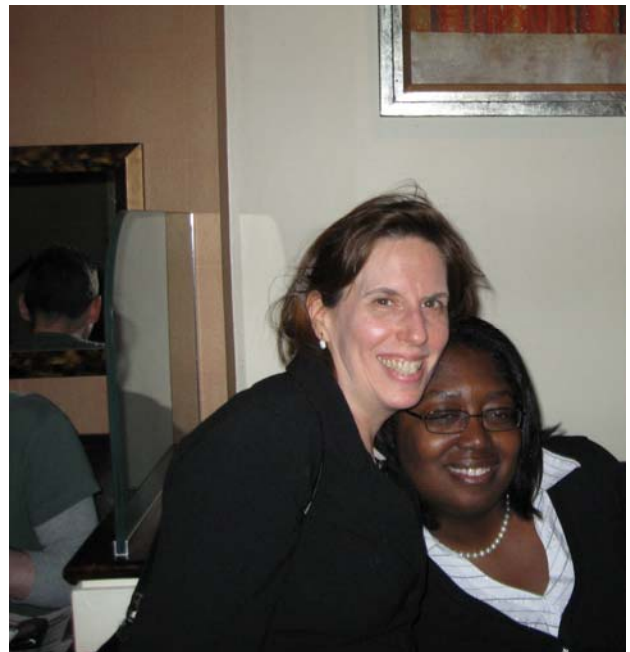
Congratulations to Michelle on being recognized by the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey (HSLANJ) for her dedication and long-standing service.

Michelle started a new position in April as Competitive Intelligence Manager for Wolters Kluwer Health Medical Research, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Ovid Technologies. She can be contacted at michelle.brewer@wolterskluwer.com, or by phone at 646-674-6471. Michelle encourages all of her Chapter colleagues to stay in touch and say hello.

Colleen Cuddy, MLS, MA
NYU Health Sciences Library and
NN/LM – Middle Atlantic Region

Congratulations to Colleen on her appointment as Director of the Weill Cornell Medical Library. She will begin at Cornell on September 1, 2010.

Chapter Spring Dinner East of Eighth -- June 15, 2010



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RML Update

Submitted by: **Kate Oliver, MLIS**
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New York University, Health Sciences Library

NN/LM MAR Update Summer 2010

Value Study

MAR invites members to participate in the Value of Library and Information Services in Patient Care study,

<http://nmlm.gov/mar/about/value.html>.

Only institutions that provide patient care are eligible to participate. Using a web-based survey and interviews, the study will investigate 1) the use and value of the print and electronic resources provided by the library and 2) the information services provided by the librarian that aid in the clinical decision-making. Participating sites will be asked to identify an institutional champion who will help promote the importance of the study, and to send a survey invitation and reminders to physicians, residents, and nurses in their institution. If you are interested in participating, please complete the Study Participation Interest Form [<http://nmlm.gov/mar/about/valueinterest.html>] by July 31, 2010.

All members who express interest will be contacted regarding their eligibility for participation. The study team will make the final selection of participants so that a range of types and sizes of institutions in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania are included. Note that only

institutions that provide patient care are eligible to participate. Please contact MAR Network Services Coordinator Neil Romanosky, neil.romanosky@med.nyu.edu, with questions about the study.

MAR-Delivery

MAR will soon be launching MARdelivery, a new service that will enable DOCLINE libraries to send and receive ILL articles via a secure link in an email, rather than as email attachments. More information about MARdelivery will be announced soon. Please contact MAR Network Services Coordinator Neil Romanosky, neil.romanosky@med.nyu.edu, if you have questions about MARdelivery.

Nursing Home Health Professionals Needs Identified

In May 2010 the NN/LM MAR completed a needs assessment of unaffiliated health professionals working in nursing homes in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. This needs assessment sought to determine the health information needs of these health professionals and to learn if there are barriers to getting the information they need in a rapid and useful manner. The

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tools for this needs assessment included a detailed letter explaining the purpose of the assessment and a questionnaire. The response rate to the questionnaire was 47% (41 respondents; n=88). A full report of the needs assessment results will be available on the MAR website.

MAR's technology committee began hosting a series of web-based roundtables. The first roundtable discussion, titled "Power to the People: Providing Electricity to Library Users," took place on July 29th at noon. If you have ideas for future roundtable discussions you can let your ideas be heard by taking our short survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GTY6ZYS>.

MAR Funding Opportunities

MAR is offering funding opportunities in outreach to health professionals serving seniors, technology, and for small projects. Please see <http://nmlm.gov/mar/funding/> for more details.

MAR has also put out a call for **Technology Improvement Award** applications for members to upgrade or purchase new technology for their library. Deadline for applications is August 16, 2010. For more information see the award description <http://nmlm.gov/mar/funding/technology.html>.

NN/LM MAR Exhibits

MAR will be exhibiting at the National Diversity in Libraries Conference in Princeton, NJ on July 15 and 16.

MAR Training

MAR is beginning to plan our class offerings for the fall and we are also hosting NCBI training on October 18 & 19. More details to follow. Please contact Helen Tannenbaum for more information and to suggest topics of interest: helen.tannenbaum@med.nyu.edu.

New Staff

Two new staff members joined Sue, Gregg, Abigail and Kate at the RML: Helen Tannenbaum, MSLIS, MBA, Outreach and Communication Coordinator, and Neil Romanosky, Network Services Coordinator.



Helen previously worked as a research librarian for a small non-profit multi-faith organization in New York City and is a former officer of the SLA (Special Libraries Association) Solo Librarians' Division.

Most recently, Neil was the Interlibrary Loan and Delivery Services Librarian at Columbia University. Prior to working in libraries, he held editorial positions at publishers such as Wiley, Facts On File, and IEEE. He received an MSLIS degree from Pratt Institute in 2007, an MCIS degree in communications from Rutgers University in 2000, and a BA degree in English from Rider University in 1996.

Advocacy

Submitted by: **Shelly Warwick, Ph.D.**
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Touro-Harlem Medical Library

The 2010 Library Advocacy Day in Albany

Every year NYLA (New York Library Association) sponsors a library advocacy day in Albany, providing an opportunity to convey to legislators the many services that libraries provide to their communities and users and why it is so important to fund them. This year Mahnaz Tehrani and I went to Albany to represent the NY/NJ chapter of MLA.

It was a long and exciting day. Mahnaz traveled on a bus chartered by LILRC (Long Island Library Resource Council) which left at 6:00 am, while I took the train from Penn Station at 7:15 am. We both arrived too late for the legislative breakfast, which began at 8:00 am – but were there for the briefing on NYLA's legislative agenda and to hear legislators speak in support of libraries.

An examination of the legislative committee meetings scheduled for that day showed that a committee on health care was scheduled to meet in the early afternoon. Mahnaz and I strolled outside the meeting room and conversed with the staffers, who were on their way to the meeting, to remind them that medical libraries are essential to health care and that medical librarians play

a vital role in educating health professionals and patients. We conveyed the message that any efforts to improve health care must include adequate funding for hospital libraries.

The main thrust of the day was to meet with individual legislators who represent the district where we live and/or work. It is recommended that appointments for these meetings be made well in advance. However, some legislators aren't always available or limit the number of groups they meet with. Since I live in Greenwich Village in Manhattan, we visited Deborah Glick's office. Ms. Glick, unfortunately, was out for the day with a minor illness. Making the best of the situation we talked to the staffer responsible for education issues and left the information packet distributed by NYLA.

On impulse we decided to visit Brian Kavanagh who represents the 74th Assembly District in which many major hospitals are located, including Bellevue and NYU Medical Center. Mentioning the name of a mutual friend gained us access to a meeting without a previous appointment. It provided an opportunity to explain that while hospital libraries are not directly funded on a separate budget line by the legislature, funding of the New York State Library and its various databases are very important to all libraries including

medical libraries. We also put in a good word for public libraries as an important source for locating reliable health information.

Next we joined a meeting of the representatives of the Deer Park public library of Deer Park, L.I. with Andrew Raia. Mahnaz lives in Deer Park and uses that library. Toward the end of the meeting we were able to mention the importance of medical libraries and how we benefited from the funding of New York State Library and its various initiatives, as well as the 3R (Reference and Research Library Resources) groups throughout the state.

When that meeting finished it was late in the day. Time for Mahnaz to find her bus and for me to head to the rail station. The only regret was that more meetings couldn't be scheduled and that there wasn't a larger group from various districts to provide a better excuse to meet with more legislators. Well, there is always next year.

And now for something completely different ...

Libraries in Film, Submitted by Nancy Glassman

The library of Alexandria, Egypt, founded during the fourth century B.C., was said to have contained the world's cumulative knowledge. It was one of the first libraries open to all scholars, and not just a private collection belonging to royalty. The main library housed about 490,000 scrolls. (Casson 2001) No one knows for sure exactly how, when, or why the library was destroyed, but everyone agrees it was a huge tragedy. We all have our own ideas of what the library was like. Close your eyes and you can probably picture the stacks. It is always interesting to see such a legendary place through someone else's imagination. The library is brought back to life in *Agora*, a recent film by Alejandro Amenábar and starring Rachel Weisz as the scholar Hypatia. The film is set in Alexandria during the fourth century A.D. *Agora* chronicles the political and religious strife in the city. The library and its destruction is the cornerstone of this historical drama. Early scenes depict scholars studying in the library. The scene of the library's destruction is sure to bring a tear to every librarian's eye. If you're like me, you will feel the urge to jump in to the movie and help save as many scrolls as possible from the flames.

Casson, Lionel. 2001. *Libraries in the ancient world*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Nursing and Allied Health

Submitted by: **Mary Doherty, MLS, AHIP**
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 SUNY Downstate

How PubMed and CINAHL complement each other in an Occupational Therapy search

While assisting Allied Health students and practitioners, particularly those in Occupational Therapy, we encourage the use of multiple databases, starting with PubMed and CINAHL.

To see how these databases complement each other I did a simple occupational therapy search and looked at the results in each database.

Here is a summary of what I found.

Topic: Occupational therapy in Alzheimer's disease

CINAHL

Result: 74

Strengths:

- a. Covers many specialized Occupational Therapy journals such as: Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics, OT Practice, and others.
- b. Includes dissertations and book chapters
- c. Provides a good representation of gerontology journals

PubMed

Result: 61 (most relevant)

Strengths:

- a. Covers clinical disease research topics, i.e., current Alzheimer's disease research
- b. Coverage includes Psychology and Psychiatry related journals

Weakness :

- a. Covers fewer OT journals.

CONCLUSION:

The results indicate that searching both databases will provide an overview of occupational therapy literature and a background of psychosocial and research literature.

Web Watch

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

Pat's Picks:

The rating system:



(5 being the highest rating)

1. HEALTHY CHILDREN

<http://www.healthychildren.org>

With the demise of Medem as a consumer health resource, the individual associations that were contributing to the website are unveiling their own consumer health websites. The American Academy of Pediatrics has moved much of what was on Medem here, and has greatly expanded the information available. Healthy Children covers not only pediatric health, but also prenatal information as well. It includes a "Find a Pediatrician" section, as well as areas to ask a question or comment on an article (you must register with the website – registration is free). An excellent resource for anyone looking for information on all aspects of child care and child rearing, it is currently only available in English.

My rating:



2. THE GLOBAL HEALTH CHRONICLE

<http://globalhealthchronicles.org/>

Currently providing overviews of smallpox, guinea worm, and malaria, this website (a partnership by Emory University, the CDC, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Google) examines the history of the international work to eradicate disease. Photographs, oral histories, government documents, and presentations help the reader understand the history and progress towards eradication for each of these devastating illnesses. This website is a work in progress, with new information being added regularly.

My rating:



3. WOLFRAM-ALPHA

<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>

When Michelle Kraft, in her column *The Krafty Librarian* (<http://kraftylibrarian.com/?s=wolfram+alpha>) said that this computation search engine sounded like "an evil computer created by the equally evil law firm [Wolfram & Hart](#)" I almost hurt myself

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laughing. Because that was my first thought when I heard about Wolfram-Alpha. This search engine is NOT the next Google. It aims to compile data, and then analyze the intersections among the information it has. Want to know the gross national product of Brazil? It's there. Currently, it is not very useful for medical information (see Michelle's excellent review for more information).

My rating:



4. NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE HEALTH BULLETINS

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/pub/pub.shtml?y=alert>

As part of the ongoing Take Care New York campaign, the NYC DoHaMH regularly publishes health bulletins to support the 10 priority issues of the campaign. These consumer health brochures cover a variety of topics, and are available in several languages (most are available in Spanish and Chinese; some are also available in Urdu, Creole, Russian, Bengali, Hindi, Italian, and French). Covering topics like GLBT health, contraception, weight control, AIDS/HIV, and diabetes, these can be used by anyone, not just citizens of The City.

My rating:



5. MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MedLibrAssoc>

MLA has currently mounted 12 videos (with more to come) on a variety of topics, including a few from the 2010 Annual Meeting in DC (and anyone is welcome to watch me being silly at this year's Section Shuffle). You can subscribe to the feed (and be notified when new videos are mounted); you can imbed the videos into your blog or website.

My rating:



And now for something completely different:

6. Ravelry

<http://www.ravelry.com>

I've made no secret of my passion for knitting. And now I've found a home. Ravelry is an all inclusive website for those who love to knit or crochet. Want to create a searchable catalog of your books, pamphlets, and magazines? Interested in showing off your own work? How about seeing what other people have created with the same pattern? It's all here, and then some. Registration is required, but it is free. It is a bit tricky to find friends (unless you know their "handle;" however it does eliminate the spamming one finds on other websites); otherwise, this is a wonderful resource, and more valuable to me each day.

My rating:



Technology Review

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Twitter as a Current Awareness Tool

So you decided to join the rest of the world and get your own account on the popular social-networking site, Twitter. Now what are you going to do with it?

Twitter is a free service that can be accessed from its web site, <http://www.twitter.com>, or from apps on mobile devices. Twitter users post brief messages (a.k.a. tweets) which can be on any topic imaginable. The only restriction is that the messages contain fewer than 140 characters. These messages can be read by other Twitter users (a.k.a. followers) who have signed up to receive them.

If you are not sure you have much to *tweet* about just yet, and are interested in more than the musings of famous Twitter users as Justin Bieber, Ashton Kutcher, or Conan O'Brien, try using Twitter to keep up with news and developments in your field of interest. By following people, organizations, or corporations on Twitter you can get all your news headlines in one place. It is a bit like scanning headlines in a newspaper, or having all of your RSS feeds integrated into one stream. Although tweets are very brief, they often contain links to more detailed information.

It is easy to find people, places, and things to follow. Many websites have "follow us on Twitter" links. See who your friends and colleagues are following. You can also search Twitter directly. If you reach information overload, just stop following a few people by clicking the unfollow button.

Here are a few suggestions to get started (Twitter names are in *italics*):

Technology

For library technology, check out: American Library Association's *ALA_TechSource* and OCLC's *WebJunction*

National Public Radio's All Things Considered Technology blog, *nrapalltech*, highlights technology in the news. *WebMonkey* from Wired highlights what's new in web design.

For perspective on technology's impact on society, follow *ImagineInternet* from Elon University, or Lee Rainie, *Irainie*, Director of the Pew Internet Project (and speaker at last October's 3byteSea meeting).

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Medicine and Public Health

The National Library of Medicine, *Medlineplus4you*, shares the latest information on health and medicine. Updates on health resources for women are available from the US DHHS Office of Women's Health, *womenshealth*.

Local Organizations

tweetMETRO
NNLMMAR

Libraries

nypl
Queens_Library
NYU_HSL
wcmclibrary
EinsteinLibrary

Follow your parent organization

Hobbies (or your hunger)

astorwines
schnitzeltruck
UnSqGreenmarket

Follow an event that you are attending, or wish you were attending. Many events use hash tags to make it easy to follow what's going on. For example the MLA meeting in DC used the hash tag *#mla2010*. Anyone wanting to share information with other attendees via Twitter could add *#mla2010* to their tweets. Those wanting to receive updates and observations on the meeting could set their Twitter accounts to receive messages including the tag.

twitter

