

MHSLA NEWS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

President's Corner

by *Judy Barnes*

O*MG!* Well, I'm here again. When I took office as President of MHSLA in 1993 this organization celebrated its 20th anniversary in Grand Rapids, and we faced the three plagues of Librarianship; Lack of space, lack of time, lack of money. Now some 15 years later we are an association with 35 years of progress and our libraries continue to face the same plagues.

Now the question of space concerns where to put computer terminals and the number of gigabytes or terabytes we need, instead of book and journal shelves and microforms or CDs.



*MHSLA President
Judy Barnes*

Our administrators seem to think our computing skills will lead to such time savings that our assistants are expendable. Sure, technology enables us to do things faster, including making mistakes, but there are still physical things to be done in a library. So many of us this past year have lost staff, not due to inefficiency, but do to "staff to bed ratios" and the like, that our departments can no longer provide all the services we once did.

But, getting our administrators to understand that everything is not on the Internet... yet, and that, if it is on the Internet, it isn't always free, - sometimes takes a metaphorical 2" x 4" to get their attention. We negotiate with vendors who don't understand the limitations of our budgets and sell their journals a-la-carte. And companies that sell "all or nothing" packages have minimally used titles.



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Ok, so times are tough all over. One way to help yourself, your institution, and MHSLA is to get involved with the Association. If nothing else, it's a feather in your cap, or another achievement on your resume. Run for office, join a committee, or even chair one. We need you!

Chairing a committee gets you on the Executive Board of MHSLA, just as holding office does. There you can network with colleagues, hear what's going on in the state and the region, and offer your suggestions. Board positions give you an experience that is satisfying and rewarding.

So, if you are asked to be a member of a committee, say "Yes!". If you are asked to Chair a committee, accept. AND, if you are asked to run for office, RUN. Having been a member of the board on and off for 20 years, though there are others who've been on it longer, I speak from experience.

A list of the Committee Chairs is included in this Newsletter. If you want to participate, and you have not been asked, contact me or the appropriate Chair and offer your time.

The Board met in November and there are lots of jobs to be done. The Committees already have their jobs cut out for them. The Audit Committee will be reviewing the Treasurer's records, not an easy job since MHSLA hosted the Midwest Chapter meeting in October. The Bylaws Committee will be re-writing some of the balloting requirements. Our next Conference will be in Holland and the Western Michigan group will host. Also, MMHSL will host the 2010 meeting in Lansing and are getting a head start on putting it together. If you haven't already received your membership update information from the Committee, contact Chair, John Coffey. When the Nominating Committee calls you give some thought to running for office.

(I know, nag, nag, nag.) Publications has changed its name to Communications – a step in the right direction for its purpose. Research will be looking at current information needs of consumers. Actually, that's not an old subject – what with Web based information having to be properly filtered to prevent fraud, abuse and quackery from taking advantage of our clients. Resource Sharing continues to look for ways to increase our holdings while decreasing our costs through group purchasing, and working with MLC, NN/LM, NLM, and others to help with the distribution of resources. A new Chair has just been appointed to Outreach and Advocacy, and the hope is that that Committee can aid us in communicating the advantages a properly staffed and budgeted library can bring to our institutions.

Just think of the history this organization has had. I may be dating myself, but having been working in medical libraries since my graduation from high school, I think I can speak from experience, when I say that MHSLA has been one of the most forward-looking, cohesive and productive of the many medical library groups in the U.S. I have been reading *John Adams* by David McCullough. While we certainly do not work under as extreme conditions as our "Founding Fathers" did, MHSLA was a pioneer in professional networking, union listing, resource sharing, education, DOCLINE, etc. I can still remember typing catalog cards and interlibrary loan forms on what was a brand new electric memory typewriter. (Wow! Now, that dates me.)

It looks as though librarians have never really had it easy. But it is the challenges that make us stronger and bring us together.

Here's wishing everyone a bright, happy, new year with lots of good fortune, peace, harmony, and a brighter economic outlook for all.

2008 MHSLA DOCLINE Group Survey Results

*By Heidi Schroeder,
Health Sciences Librarian, Michigan State
University Libraries*

As part of the MHSLA Resource Sharing Committee's charge to "collect...data pertinent to resource sharing activity", the committee developed a short survey designed to assess libraries' satisfaction and use of the MHSLA DOCLINE Group in the Summer of 2008. The survey was created using SurveyMonkey and contained 11 questions.

The MHSLA DOCLINE Group Survey was emailed to the sixty-nine contacts listed in the MHSLA DOCLINE Group on July 23rd, 2008. Some libraries had more than one contact listed in DOCLINE, so the survey invitation requested that the one person from each library who primarily dealt with DOCLINE requests to complete the survey. Twenty individuals completed the survey. A short summary of the major findings from this survey is provided below.

- The majority of respondents were from libraries in Michigan (14 responses).
- 18 out of the 20 respondents knew their library was part of the MHSLA DOCLINE Group, 2 did not.
- The most common way respondents learned about the MHSLA DOCLINE Group was from a Friend/Colleague (5 responses) or when they became a member (5 responses).*
- The major reason for joining the MHSLA DOCLINE Group was "To benefit from receiving and sharing free InterLibrary Loans" (15 responses). *

- 2 libraries have the MHSLA DOCLINE group in cell 1, 5 libraries have the group in cell 5, 1 library has the group in cell 6, 1 library has the group in cell 8, and 11 libraries selected the "don't know" option for what cell the group was in. **
- When asked if other institutions fulfilled the responding library's requests in a timely manner, *80% said "Always" (45%) or "Most of the Time" (35%). 20% selected "I don't know". **
- When asked to rate the overall quality of ILL items received from other libraries using the MHSLA DOCLINE group, 85% selected "Excellent" (50%) or "Good" (35%). 15% selected "I don't know". **
- When asked to rate the overall satisfaction with the MHSLA DOCLINE Group, 90% selected "Very Satisfied" (65%) or "Satisfied" (25%). 10% selected "I don't know". **

For a more detailed summary of results, please refer to the MHSLA Group Purchasing web page (<http://www.mhsla.org/purchasing.htm>).

Any questions about the MHSLA DOCLINE Group or Resource Sharing should be directed to Heidi Schroeder, Chair of the MHSLA Resource Sharing Committee.

**Questions allowed multiple answers*

***These questions should have included the option of selecting "library does not use MHSLA DOCLINE group". Because these questions did not include this option, it is assumed responders who would have selected the "do not use group" option selected "do not know". This assumption comes from one respondent's comments and the unavailability of another appropriate choice for wanting to respond, "do not use group".*

MHSLA Conference 2008: Vital Signs

By *Mary Fitzpatrick*

I want to take this time to thank MHSLA for giving me the privilege of attending the MHSLA conference 2008 as a student scholarship winner. As a long time member, I've attended conferences in the past, but never Midwest/MHSLA combined conference. It was a great surprise and honor to be awarded this scholarship in my final semester as an MLIS student at Wayne State. This scholarship offered me the opportunity to attend the full conference, which would not have been possible otherwise. This was a great opportunity for me to see what happens at conferences other than MHSLA.

One of the requirements of the scholarship is to help out at the registration desk. This is such a worthwhile activity for the scholarship winner. It gives them a chance to meet many of the members of the organization, what a wonderful networking opportunity.

It was a chance for me to renew acquaintances, put names with faces, and make new connections. I think that this being a combined conference was a great chance for me to meet and connect to the great staff at GMR. Even as a longtime MHSLA member, the fact that this conference was combined with Midwest gave me the chance to meet those at GMR who are on the other side of the emails and phone calls and programs that help us back at our individual institutions. I want to thank the dedicated MDMLG librarians who manned the table with me. I know that we had great discussions on programs, procedures, and policies at our

institutions. It was a great opportunity to share what we are doing at McLaren and to hear what is happening at your places. It was also an opportunity to connect with the other scholarship winners to discuss education, our jobs, and life in general.

Overcoming Overwhelm, what a concept! As I listened to the participants tell about the overwhelming things in our lives both personal and professional I found myself nodding my head in agreement. Alita Marlowe Bluford was a dynamic, energetic presenter, who right off the bat was offering positive ways to deal with overwhelm. To most in the class our emails seemed to be the most overwhelming part of day, consuming time, distracting us from task, Alita offered us easy ways to manage our email inbox. Much of what was discussed in this session; I then applied to class and group discussion for the



remainder of this semester... what an amazing session with very practical hints to take back to the workplace. I now try (operative word) to manage

my incoming emails better, not letting them disrupt my day. Dr. Slawson's using Patient-Oriented Evidence to Reduce Health Disparities was a lot of information in a short amount of time. He had more questions than time to answer them, which made for an intense but interesting session.

My hats off to the programming committee for a conference filled with great presentations, posters, keynote and plenary speakers. At some points it was hard to choose where to go and who to listen to. I enjoyed the opportunity to listen in on the presented papers to see what type of research is being done in our field. This was a first for me to watch and listen to research presentations. Listening to the presented papers gave me ideas for interesting research opportunities. The FISH talk was enlightening with great audience participation. I could have listened all day, and it gave me food for thought in terms of how I approach my daily work. A goal I took back with me was to enjoy my job and the people I meet every day...make the day fun. MJ Tooley as the plenary speaker had great things to say and I had the opportunity to visit with her during lunch as well.

I always find the MHSLA conference a great place to network, catch up with friends as well as kick back and enjoy and this conference was no exception. The dine arounds were a great way to enjoy the cuisine of Royal Oak and Troy while offering the conference attendees a choice of places to eat. The wide variety of choices and the ease of getting there was wonderful, the bus ride conversations were just preludes to dinner conversation. How nice to get dropped off and picked up at the door! I don't think that there are enough words to describe the two evening events: the Motown Reception and the night at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Both were opportunities to visit, talk about the day, unwind, and experience Detroit. Words can't describe the wonder of the art museum. The building itself a work of art, along with the priceless wonders throughout the rooms was a banquet for the eyes.

It would not be MHSLA conference without talk of the food. As always the committee outdid itself with the offerings for the palate. I have

to admit that purple potatoes were a risk worth taking! The station setup at the museum was a wonderful way for us to see the museum, enjoy some food along with delectable desserts and gaze at the art.

A round of applause to the Education and Local Arrangement Committees for all the hard work they invested into this conference, a conference well done. The hotel accommodations, conference rooms and food were exceptional. The programming was well structured to meet the needs of the varied members of the association. The evening activities were varied and showed the many cultures and histories of Detroit.

McLaren Medical Library News

McLaren Medical Library welcomes Thomas Doane as the newest member of the Library staff. Tom comes to McLaren after having worked for 7 years at Ingham Regional Medical Center's Chi Library. Tom brings to the job certification in Microsoft office as well as years of experience working with interlibrary loans.

Genesys Library Receives NLM Grant

by Doris Blauet

Shortly before Christmas, I got one of the most exciting presents I've ever received. Genesys Regional Medical Center's Health Sciences Library was awarded a grant from NLM to open a Consumer Health Information Library. Now you must understand....I only came up with this idea in the first place to have something to put in my goals for the coming year. I put it as a goal for about 3 years...one year we had budget cuts and it had to be put on hold. The next year I had surgery, so that had to be put on hold. Then last year I got a new boss—a real dynamo and even though we had more cuts here at Genesys, she persuaded me (pushed me) to try again.

This time, we did it the right way....we got pros to help write the grant proposal. As much as I thought I knew about this grants stuff....I was wrong (imagine that?). It was like they reached into my disorganized brain and pulled out just the things we needed to add to the proposal. For me, it was relatively painless...I'm not sure



about them. So, we got the money, roughly \$39,000. Now I actually have to do this. And I had foolishly said we could do it

by February 1. Not going to happen by that day, but it will before the end of the month.

So, here's the first progress report. First, the

space we had asked for and were told we could have (unofficially) has now been taken away from us. We're now going to locate the CHIL



in the main library. So, we are in the process of rearranging the library. Moving shelving and computers and desks and finally books and journals will keep us busy for the time being

Second, we're in the process of designing a website for the CHIL. We have a pro doing this too (see I learn).

Third, I've also been on a buying spree. I just love how much consumer information costs compared to the "real" medical books. We're trying to get at least half of the materials in multi-languages. We use EOSi for our OPAC and have contracted with them to create a second database for our CHIL collection. We've started adding the new books to it. The OPAC and the website (don't have a URL yet to give you) will also link to a number of local libraries. One of the main points of the grant proposal is that we would be part of a project our Community Health office has for Health Navigators. These are nurses in several physician offices who help their patients thru the system. They will also link directly to our OPAC and website for health information for this population.

My next job is to start working on marketing the new CHIL. I will contact our marketing department (go with the pros) and have them create materials for us. Then my trusty staff and I will be taking our show on the road. We will visit each of the Health Navigator sites teaching them the wonders of our collection and our staff.

Then, we'll do the same thing for the local libraries.

In the mean time, there are all those lovely reports to write for NLM. I don't know why they can't just give up the money.....like they did the banks! But I keep looking on this as a learning experience. It will be fun, it will be fun, it will be fun!



2008-2009 MHSLA

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Please send contributions or suggestions to:

MHSLA News Editor
Abraham Wheeler
Michigan State University Libraries
100 Library
East Lansing, MI 48824-1048

or

awheeler@msu.edu