

MDMLG NEWS

Spring 2008



www.mdmlg.org

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President's Corner with Marilyn Kostrzewski

Many of our hospitals have acquired or are developing Magnet Nursing Status. The journey to this recognition involves training nurses in data collection and decision-making in patient care delivery by educating them in research based nursing practice. Searching the nursing literature and evaluating best practices is a fairly new idea in the nursing profession. Medical librarians are the logical choices to provide this education, however, very few guidelines are available to define this practice and many of the nursing resources are very different than those used for Evidence Based Medicine. What better way to obtain knowledge and useful teaching skills than to capitalize on our colleagues who have successfully integrated library education into Evidence Based Nursing and/or Magnet Nursing Status.



It may be of interest to others:

- How the library got involved with the project
- What are the outlined objectives
- What type of resources used
- What does a typical class look like

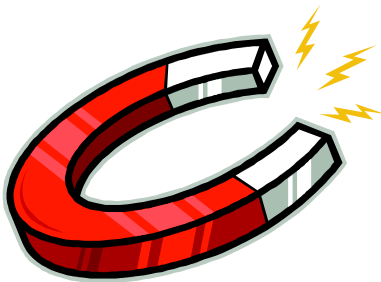
Rather than a CE program, discussion of Magnet nursing/EBP may be the perfect topic for a lunch and learn, or just an informal gathering, such as a single roundtable, in place of a general meeting program.

I know we often struggle to find quality, interesting programs for our general meetings. We may want to consider, occasionally, utilizing our organization's human resources and share the expertise that we have at hand.

The leadership is always open to suggestions that can be incorporated into future planning.

October 2008 Conference:

Planning for the Midwest MLA/MHSLA Conference, October 17-21 is well underway. See <http://midwestmla2008.blogspot.com/> for the most current information. If you are interested in being involved contact Sandra Martin and Ellen O'Donnell, the Local Arrangements Co-chairs for the event.



Second Life...Or Get a First Life?

During the educational portion of our spring meeting on March 19th, Evette Atkin from the MLC will give a presentation about Second Life. For those unfamiliar with Second Life, here is a brief explanation. Second Life describes itself as “a 3D virtual world where users can socialize, connect, and create using voice and text chat.” A user’s online persona is called an avatar. Users create and design their avatars to have the physical characteristics of their choosing. Within Second Life, people, via their avatars, can do just about everything that they can in real life: shop, go to a museum, or conduct business. So, these people/avatars must have information needs. Many libraries have taken advantage of this relatively new craze and have established a presence in Second Life in order to provide information services to its residents.

I admit that when I initially began reading about Second Life, I just didn’t get it. To be completely honest, for the most part, I still don’t. When I proposed this topic for the educational portion of our meeting, I had an ulterior motive. I wanted to understand all of the hype regarding Second Life and why many public libraries were so hot to establish a presence there. I was hoping that the presenter would clue me in. Since this article was written prior to the meeting, I don’t have my answer yet. What I didn’t get, and still don’t, is why someone would spend hours of his or her life “living” in a virtual world. There are many versions of these virtual worlds. World of Warcraft and RuneScape are two. These I understand. They are games with defined objectives. There are quests that need to be completed, levels that need to be conquered, and treasure that needs to be won; things that I cannot do in my real life. In Second Life, so far as I can determine, there is no objective. Some may argue and say that the objective is to meet people and socialize; however, I can do that by walking out of my front door. Plus, I get the added benefit of fresh air and a little bit of exercise. In fact, when educating myself about Second Life, I came across a satirical website that makes just that point. It is called “[Get a First Life](#)”. The website describes “First Life” as an “analog 3-D world where server lag does not exist”. The site is quite humorous. Although my opinion of Second Life has altered somewhat with the additional information I have gathered while researching this article, I remain perplexed; why have a virtual world that simulates real life?



Example of a Second Life avatar

Whatever the motivation to participate in Second Life, reality is that it is wildly successful. Second Life has millions of online members globally and is still growing. As librarians, we are frequently urged to go where our users are. This charge has been implemented within Second Life’s [Health Info Island](#), where a Medical Library and a Consumer Health Library have been built (or “rezzed” for those of you “down” with the lingo) for the inhabitants of Second Life. Additionally, there are a few prominent non-profits that have a Second Life presence. The CDC has an agency outpost that is promoting public health via this medium. The American Cancer Society not only has a presence and peer support groups within Second Life, they also hold their annual [Relay For Life](#) here. This event site alone has risen over \$118,000. I am sure no one would dispute the worthiness of this cause, but I still have to laugh at the irony of avatars “walking” for the cause while their real life personas sit at their computers.

Although I still do not understand the draw of Second Life for the average person, I can see the possibilities for use in certain situations such as education. There are many [universities and colleges](#) around the world that are holding distance / online education classes within Second Life. The Art Institute of Pittsburgh’s Second Life campus hosts a Business Communications course; Clemson University’s campus has a Business Writing

course; Harvard is offering a course in law; and the University of Edinburgh holds classes for their MSc in E-Learning degree within Second Life. Other institutions of higher learning have taken a different avenue and are offering courses on the software itself. MIT, Georgia Tech, Penn State University, and many others are offering both seminars and classes on maximizing the potential of Second Life. San Jose State University Library Science Program offers a course on "living" within Second Life. [Medical schools](#) are even utilizing Second Life. Cornell, Thomas Jefferson, Idaho State, and the University of Nottingham are using this virtual world for treatment scenarios for psychiatric and psychological responses to stressors like combat and for triaging and disaster planning.

With the growth of educational opportunities within Second Life, some organizations will experience problems. The first being lack of institutional access. Many hospitals block this site. Additionally, Second Life requires large amounts of bandwidth, memory, and speed. Many older computers are not up to the task of running this program. This lack of access will make it impossible to support students trying to access required classes and consumers wishing to attend workshops or support groups. Also, there has been talk about, and research into, holding CME opportunities and medical conferences within Second Life. Without web access and adequate computers, our institutions' physicians will not be able to take advantage of these opportunities, at least via the library. Presently, the wide spread lack of institutional access is probably, for the most part, not an issue. However, if virtual education continues to grow, in the future, libraries may be pressed to provide access or risk alienating their users. It will be interesting to see what lies ahead for Second Life and to monitor its developments and future educational uses.

by: [Jill Turner](#)
Botsford General Hospital



The NLM Drug Information Portal

<http://druginfo.nlm.nih.gov>



The newly released NLM Drug Information Portal is a free and reliable drug resource for both the professional and the consumer. This new website has information on over 12,000 drugs first used in clinical trials, to those now available in the pharmacy.

The homepage of the website is a clean, uncluttered search screen and offers an easy-to-use search box. The search retrieves a summary of the drug's action and offers a host of resources for additional information. This simple search can be conducted across a whole myriad of resources including, MedlinePlus, Pubmed and the Gateway, ClinicalTrials.gov, LactMed, ToxNet, to name just a few. It is also possible to search for categories of drugs.

The site has helpful hover boxes with explanations of retrieved resources and a spell checker. Truncation of a drug can be conducted by using an asterisk (*) for example, *cillin*.

One of the interesting NLM Research Resources included is RxNorm, a uniform UMLS language developed to standardize clinical drug description and dosing. This language is needed to ensure quality and safety in the electronic medical record.

by: [Barbara LeTarte](#)
Sladen Library, Henry Ford Hospital

OSTMED.DR: A Resource for Osteopathic Medicine

<http://www.ostmed-dr.com>

This month marked the official transition of OSTMED to [OSTMED.DR](http://www.ostmed-dr.com). The Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth and the A.T Still Memorial Library at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine created OSTMED, a bibliographic index of osteopathic medicine literature, in 1997. In 2003, OSTMED lost its funding and stopped indexing. The Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) and VLTS, Inc. began work on OSTMED.DR in 2006. OSTMED.DR strives to continue and build upon the work of OSTMED.

OSTMED.DR currently features all citations from OSTMED and some PDF full-text articles, mainly from issues of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. Full-text articles can be displayed or downloaded. At the time of this article's submission, OSTMED.DR listed 30,907 total records under the 'Content' section but showed 35,041 records under the repository's 'Show All' section. Although it is possible to see what content has been added over the last day, week, or month, it is unclear how or what future additions are planned. The description on OSTMED.DR's homepage indicates that books, historical documents, other journals, videos, and images will eventually be included. The free trial period of OSTMED.DR has continued into 2008, but a personal or institutional subscription will eventually be required. Currently, there is no pricing information available through OSTMED.DR's website.

There are several ways to search OSTMED.DR. A keyword search box is displayed in the left column at all times. The advanced search screen allows users to combine up to three keywords/phrases, titles, creators/authors, subjects, citations, and identifiers with Boolean operators. Limiting by year, full-text, and issues of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* from six different decade collections are currently the only options. There is also an 'Expert Search' feature, although it is unclear what methodology this search uses or when it should be utilized. In general, searching OSTMED.DR is somewhat clunky and limited. Results can be sorted by title, creator/author, full-text, or citation (alphabetically by source), but not by date. There is no search history feature or place to combine searches. Multiple records can be temporarily stored in a 'Quick Collection', but only from the search results screen, not from individual detailed records. Users can save or email record citations in plain text, HTML, and EndNote formats from both the 'Quick Collection' and individual detailed records. Despite some search limitations, OSTMED.DR provides comprehensive coverage of the osteopathic medicine literature. For example, a keyword search for the phrase "manipulative medicine" in OSTMED.DR retrieved 424 results (294 full-text documents) while PubMed only retrieved 73 results.

OSTMED.DR has several interesting features. This resource is available in fifteen languages, including three versions of English. Individuals may browse OSTMED.DR alphabetically by title, author, full-text articles/documents, or subject. A different record from the digital library is featured each day in a 'Work of the Day' section. There is also a 'Highlights' section, which allows users to view the most accessed articles and authors, recent additions, and author highlights. While writing this review, however, I was unable to view the most accessed articles and authors sections. Some records without full-text show a URI OpenURL icon, but no information about link resolvers is available anywhere in the digital library. Although OSTMED.DR is fairly simple to use, support is very minimal for those who need assistance. The help section only gives a few basic searching tips. Similarly, throughout the database, descriptions and explanations of the digital library's sections and features are too brief or completely absent.

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Because OSTMED.DR is the only significant index or database available for osteopathic medicine, it is recommended that academic libraries of institutions with an osteopathic medical school and hospital libraries that support the information needs of osteopathic medical students, residents, faculty, physicians or researchers, try this free version of OSTMED.DR. A powerful and sophisticated electronic resource specific to osteopathic medicine is very much needed. Unfortunately, OSTMED.DR falls a bit short at this point in time. With additional search options, full-text content, special features, and descriptions and support, OSTMED.DR could be a wonderful research tool for the osteopathic medicine community. It will be interesting to see what content and searching improvements have been implemented when paid subscriptions are required. For more information about OSTMED.DR, visit <http://www.ostmed-dr.com> or e-mail Elaine Powers at epowers@vcom.vt.edu.

by: [Heidi Schroeder](#)
Health Sciences Library, Michigan State University



NLM Gateway: A Brief Overview of the Latest Version

<http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov>

On March 10, 2008, the latest version of the NLM Gateway became available. The revised interface offers a very clean, Google-like homepage. In the red bar across the top of the page that is referred to as the Features Bar, you will find links for a Term Finder and Limits/Settings, as well as an About link, a Help link and a FAQ link. The Term Finder searches for terms using MeSH and the Unified Medical Language System Metathesaurus. Click on the Limits/Settings link and you are presented with an array of options that are offered in a tabular format: Search Limits, Results Settings, Select Fields, and Download/Display. For example, under the Search Limits tab, you can limit searches to English only, limit by subset (AIDS, Bioethics, History of Medicine, Space Life Sciences), or by date. In the Features Bar across the top of the page, more options appear after clicking on Limits/Settings: Search Details, History and My Locker. My Locker allows you to save settings and search results. The Features Bar is present on each Gateway page.

I chose to test the interface by doing a search on colon cancer. The NLM Gateway searches 22 collections including: Bookshelf, ClinicalTrials.gov, HSDB: Hazardous Substances Data Bank, Profiles in Science, PubMed, and TOXLINE Subset. Overall, 66,073 records were found. The results were organized into three columns: Bibliographic Resources, Consumer Health Resources, and Other Information Resources. On the left side of each Gateway results page was a vertical blue bar that contained the name of each collection along with the results. At the top and bottom of each Gateway page was the option to email results, download results, or store the results in My Locker. Also on each Gateway page is the search box. All in all, the improvements to the NLM Gateway make for a more efficient searching experience.

by: [Gina Hug](#)
Sladen Library, Henry Ford Hospital

Key Updates on the 2008 Midwest Chapter MLA / MHSLA Joint Conference



Conference Date & Location Information

The conference is scheduled for October 17-21, 2008 at the Troy Marriott in Troy, Michigan. The conference hotel is located approximately 12 miles north of Detroit, just a 1/4 mile from the freeway. The conference is sponsored by MHSLA, the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association. Local arrangements are provided by MDMLG, the Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group. The Conference Planning Committee has been working diligently to finalize speakers and program offerings.

Featured Keynote Speakers

Come and learn about the FISH! Leadership Philosophy at the opening and keynote address when Deena Ebbert, FISH! Philosopher and motivational speaker, presents an event that is vibrant, compelling, insightful and provocative. Fire your imagination, expand your perspective, and invite powerful communication in the workplace. Don't miss this entertaining and inspiring experience!



Eugenie Prime, former Manager of the Corporate Libraries at Hewlett-Packard, will inspire us with her insightful and thought provoking plenary session. Prior to joining HP in 1987, Eugenie was President of the CINAHL Corporation. She speaks extensively in the areas of Information Management, Digital Libraries, Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management. Join us for a captivating and educational lecture when Eugenie shares her thoughts on maintaining a vibrant and healthy library!

Check Your Vital Signs by Choosing from the Following CE Opportunities:

Pulse

- Adult Learning – 6 hours
- Advanced PubMed – 4 hours
- Patient Safety: Librarians on the Front Lines – 4 hours
- Systems Thinking and Risk Management – 4 hours

Respiration

- Community Assessment – 3 hours
- Consumer Health/Health Disparity – 4 hours
- Creating Web Tutorials – 8 hours
- Web Survey Design and Tools for the Busy Library – 4 hours

Blood Pressure

- Information Mastery - 8 hours
- Overcoming Overwhelm – 4 hours
- Technology Forum: Wiki's, Widgets, and Whatchamacallits – No CE's offered for this session

Concurrent sessions will also be available on the following topics:

Pulse

- Competency-Based Medical Education
- Health Literacy

Respiration

- Education Commons: More Breathing Room
- Presenting with a Passion

Blood Pressure

- Mass Digitization
- Project Management

Call for Papers!

Deadline May 31, 2008

The Program Committee of the Midwest Chapter / MLA invites proposals for contributed papers relating to the conference theme of "Vital Signs: Keeping you and your library vibrant and healthy". Topics may be informational or research-oriented and should fall into one of four "vital signs":

Pulse

Respiration

Blood Pressure

Temperature

A written paper is not required. If accepted, applicants should be prepared to speak for approximately 15 to 30 minutes depending on the number of papers being presented.

Submission Requirements:

All applications include the following:

- *Structured abstract (see the MLA Research Section web page (http://research.mlanet.org/structured_abstract.html) for guidance on writing a structured abstract). *The abstract must include the "objective" and "methods" sections of the structured abstract and not exceed 350 words, and should not contain tables, figures or bibliographic references. *Title, author(s) and affiliation(s). *Times New Roman, 10-point font, and Symbol font for symbols are the recommended fonts. *.doc or .rtf are the recommended document format.
- *Any special equipment requirements.

Submit applications to Alexia Estabrook at alexia.estabrook@providence-stjohnhealth.org

Access to the Conference Wiki and Blog

A Conference Wiki is available for use by attendees. If you need a roommate, want restaurant recommendations, transportation information, or suggestions on places to visit locally, please feel free to use the wiki. It is open to everyone, and registration is not necessary to post information on the wiki. The wiki can be accessed via <http://midwest2008conference.wikispaces.com/>

To access the Conference Blog, visit <http://midwestmla2008.blogspot.com/>

Finally, you may want to consider subscribing to the RSS feed for this web site. You will then be notified when new items are added, such as the tentative program or the registration information.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact any of the following individuals:

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Upcoming Dates To Remember:

- Apr 13-19** ALA Celebrates "National Library Week"
- Apr 15** CE Course – Introduction to EndNote & Fundamentals of Instructional Design
- Apr 17** CE Course – Beginning & Advanced QuickDoc
- May 1** MDMLG Executive Board Meeting
- May 16-21** MLA 2008 Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Chicago, IL
- Jun 12** GMR Class "[Measuring Your Impact: Using Evaluation for Library Advocacy](#)", Traverse City, MI



Newsletter Committee 2007-2008

MDMLG News is under direction of the Newsletter Committee and is published four times a year. Please send comments, suggestions, or article ideas to JoAnn Krzeminski at jkrzemi1@sladen.hfhs.org. The members of the Committee are:

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