

MDMLG NEWS

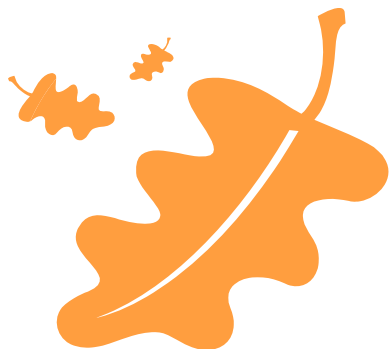
Fall 2008



www.mdmlg.org

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President's Corner with Cathy Eames

While listening to the speakers telling their stories at the Democratic National Convention last week, it brought to mind that MDMLG members have a significant collective story of medical libraries in Southeast Michigan over the last 20-30 years. Some members remember doing literature searches performed on 300 baud modem dumb terminals with thermofax paper, and there was no Internet. Some members remember Harper Hospital when it had a staff of 13. Who would have guessed back then that we would be doing searches on computers with speeds in the gigahertz range and that Harper Hospital would someday not have a library?

We all want to believe it can't happen to us. A few years ago we also wanted to believe that when the DMC closed 2 hospital libraries that it could only happen at the DMC. Some wanted to believe it was something that the librarians at those hospitals were or were not doing and it couldn't happen at their hospital. But more recently there have been staff reductions at a Wm. Beaumont Hospital, the Ascension Health hospitals and Children's Hospital of Michigan. Reductions make us all realize how fragile our jobs are, even when we try to do everything we can to promote and market our services, serve on committees, and become indispensable to the hospital. The problem is bigger than us or our libraries. It's a problem that relates to the economy of our state, the health care reimbursement crisis, and the strong competition for the health care market in Southeast Michigan. It's also a problem that we can't prove our worth to those who need to know.

Librarians instinctively know that libraries support an essential freedom. We know that information is power, and that hospital library services are important to high quality patient care, but others don't have the same instincts and marketing isn't the total answer. Hospital administrators, even those with a mother who is a librarian, as in one of the cases mentioned previously, still may come to the point where they have to make tough decisions. In this day of evidence based practice, where is the evidence that administrators should make decisions differently? Where is the body of knowledge that can change a person's mind or make them say that not having a library is detrimental to patients? We can only point to a couple of good research articles, one of them done by MDMLG members, showing a link to better patient care because a hospital has a library and librarians. There are only three studies listed in the MLA sponsored "The Value of Library and Information Services in Hospitals and Academic Health Sciences Centers" that relate to the

impact on clinical care. It is enough information to know there might be a link, but not enough to convince anyone.

I am putting out a call to anyone who would like to participate on a research committee that will focus on the impact of libraries or librarians on clinical care. Those of us who have been in medical libraries a long time, even though we're tired, don't have enough time, and are sometimes (only sometimes) crotchety, need to find the energy and time to help save what we know is good. Those who are younger need to find the time and energy in order to preserve the future. If you're interested let me know. My contact information: ceames@dmc.org or 313-745-5324.

by: Cathy Eames
Children's Hospital of Michigan



MDMLG September Business Meeting: Breakfast and Knowledge Café

When: Thursday, September 18, 2008

Where: Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center / Classroom 2

Directions: <http://www.mcrmc.org/body.cfm?id=14>

Agenda:

8:15-8:30am Registration

8:30-9:00am Breakfast

9:00-9:30am Meeting

9:30-10:30am
Knowledge Café

Parking: Parking structure – 2nd floor – turn into structure at the four way stop sign on Harrington. Free parking. Valet – \$2.00

Members should enter the building by following the canopy into the main entrance.

Follow the hallway straight back to the Lab and turn left. Follow this hallway to the 2nd bank of elevators and down to the Lower Level. Classroom 2 is the center room in back of the Medical Auditorium.

Time: 8:15am – 10:30am

Program: Knowledge Café A [knowledge café](#) is a type of business meeting or organizational workshop that aims to provide an open and creative conversation on a topic of mutual interest. Bring topics you would like to discuss with your colleagues, or choose from our list. We will pick a few by consensus so we can share solutions and opportunities that can be taken back to our institutions.

Menu: Coffee/Tea/Juice, Bagels, Donuts, Fruit

Questions or information:

Patty Scholl
schollp@trinity-health.org
248-858-3495

Cathy Eames
ceames@dmc.org
313-745-5324



My Experience at the Dartmouth College EBM Workshop

In July I had the opportunity to attend the inaugural session of [Supporting Clinical Care: An Institute in Evidence-Based Practice for Medical Librarians](#). It took place July 28-30, 2008 at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. It was excellent and reasonably priced. The cost was \$850 and included a room at one of the dorms and all meals. Also included was a \$24 meal card that could be used at any of the dorm cafeterias. The only requirement for attendees was to show up and bring a wireless enabled laptop computer.

The institute was for librarians and taught by librarians. Faculty was from Dartmouth, Yale, and Duke and included [Connie Schardt](#). Connie Schardt is the Associate Director of Education Services at Duke University Medical Center Library, the incoming president of MLA, and teaches the MLA course "EBM and the Medical Librarian". Many of the faculty took the 5 day EBM training course at Oxford University. There were only 24 attendees which made it easy to get to know one another.

The content covered included how to set up a clinical question using the Patient, Intervention, Outcome, and Comparison (PICO) format, a review of EBM resources, and how to critically appraise therapy articles, diagnosis articles, and systematic reviews/practice guidelines. There were large sessions and smaller group sessions that facilitated learning. On the first day we worked on PICO, searching EBM resources, search strategy development, and critical appraisal of a therapy article. On the second day we covered critical appraisal of a diagnosis article, critical appraisal of a systematic review and practice guideline, and concluded the day with EBM Jeopardy. The last day was a half day and we had to give a short presentation on what we learned in the small group session and talked about how we were going to put what we learned into practice in the large group session.

There is a math component to critical appraisal. My only criticism about the session is that we didn't spend enough time on the numbers such as number need to treat, absolute risk reduction and relative risk reduction but perhaps that is out of the scope of a 2 ½ day workshop. The plan is for the workshop to be taught annually. Next year the workshop has been extended to 4 days, August 4-7, 2009. I found this workshop extremely helpful and would recommend attendance.

by: [Gina Hug](#)

Sladen Library, Henry Ford Hospital



MedWorm and LibWorm

RSS feeds are one of the most popular and easy to use Web 2.0 tools. Two websites, [MedWorm](#) and [LibWorm](#), have taken RSS feeds a step further by collecting thousands of RSS feeds, indexing them, and making them searchable. Frankie Dolan, an IT developer in the UK, created these RSS providers/search engines, which are free to access and use. David Rothman, creator of the popular medical librarianship blog [davidrothman.net](#), is also a LibWorm developer. Both MedWorm and LibWorm are constantly growing. More detailed descriptions of these two powerful resources are provided below.

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[MedWorm](#)

MedWorm collects data from over 6,000 authoritative medical RSS feeds. Most of these feeds come from medical journals, government organizations, professional associations, and submissions from users. Users can search MedWorm by keyword or exact phrase, or browse by categories such as medical conditions, consumer health news, drugs, and more. Results can be sorted by date, relevancy, or filters (similar to categories). An exact phrase search for “wound care” retrieved over 500 results from journals, news, and organizations. By completing a quick and free registration, MedWorm users can submit their own feeds, discuss and comment on feeds, receive email updates of feeds, email results of interest to peers, and save their favorite MedWorm feeds or individual items. You do not need to register to subscribe to MedWorm RSS feeds (for a specific search or MedWorm News).

[LibWorm](#)

There are currently 1,500 library-related RSS feeds available in LibWorm. These feeds come from library and information science blogs, wikis, journals, and submissions from users. Like MedWorm, you can search by keyword or exact phrase, but in LibWorm, you have the option to browse not only by category, but also by subject or tags. Categories include medical libraries, medical librarianship, and more; subjects include medicine, copyright, Web 2.0 and more; and tags include technology, research, and more. An exact phrase search for “online tutorial” retrieved over 70 results from blogs, wikis, PubMed articles, and other sources. Unlike MedWorm, LibWorm does not feature date, relevancy, or filter tabs to sort results. Completing a free and quick LibWorm registration is available for users who want to submit their own RSS feeds, discuss or comment on feeds, or email/save their feeds, searches, or retrieved items. I would especially recommend subscribing to the medical librarianship or medical libraries category feeds.

Now that you know a bit about [MedWorm](#) and [LibWorm](#), go ahead and check them out! Trying different searches will give you a better feel of what these resources are capable of and if they will be of use for you or your library.

by: [Heidi Schroeder](#)

Health Sciences Librarian, Michigan State University Libraries



Humor in the Stacks

Last year while weeding I came across an item in our collection that had, in my opinion, a catchy title - *Kill as Few Patients as Possible*. I found the title bizarre enough to put the book aside, thinking that I would read it when I had the chance. As I was ruminating on a topic for this issue of the newsletter, my eye caught *Kill as Few Patients as Possible* still sitting on my office table. (I have yet to start reading it, but that is a topic for another newsletter.) I began to wonder what other medically-related books have been published with witty or conspicuous titles, and whether they would be entertaining enough to be worth my time to read. I have heard that one should not judge a book by its cover...or title, in this case, but that is exactly what I did.

I chose the following books from WorldCat first by their subject headings; they are all assigned the heading of either Medicine – Anecdotes or Medicine – Humor. I then picked out the titles that struck me as being the quirkiest. There were a few titles that looked promising, such as:

Insides out, being the saga of a drama critic who attended his own opening
The medical muse; or, what to do until the patient comes
That's incurable! : the doctor's guide to common complaints, rare diseases, and the meaning of life

However, these titles and a few others were discarded because either I could not find a synopsis, the titles were too old to be easily available, or the books were not that interesting to me when I learned what they were actually about. I chose this final list based on my favorite gauge, the Amazon customer review. All of these titles received either 4 ½ or 5 stars (out of 5) on the Amazon average customer review scale. (Although I actually find the 1 star, poor reviews more enlightening than the 4-5 star ones.) So if you are looking for a medically-related, non-educational read for a change of pace, how about one of these titles?

Kill as Few Patients as Possible: and 56 other essays on how to be the world's best doctor (Oscar London, 1987 / 2008)

Re-released in April 2008, Amazon's description states, "Dr. Oscar London muses on the challenges and joys of doctoring and imparts timeless truths, reality checks, and poignant insights gleaned from 30 years of practice". "Dr. London" is a pseudonym for an Internist from Berkley. The re-issue in April 2008 has one posted customer review which gave the book a scathing review and rated it with 1 star; the reviewer, a soon-to-be first year medical student was outraged by what she took to be the author's indignant comments regarding patient care.

From voodoo to viagra, the magic of medicine: 37 uplifting essays from a doctor's bag of tricks (Oscar London, 2001)

Another title from Dr. London makes the list. Dr. London "pokes fun at the serious and sometimes outrageous world of medicine, from the ability of doctors to work in the face of disagreeable smells, to the surgeon who uses a scalpel to excise fat from the "B" in his BLT."

I will need to break your other leg; tales of medical adventure and misadventure (Prasanna Gautam, 2008)

This book is a compilation of 24 patient stories. "Nearly every story involves a mystery or problem that the author - and the reader along with him - feels driven to solve. By applying a combination of the basic principles of medical practice and the skills of a detective, he arrives at conclusions that are often a very long way from what first appearances would have led anyone to believe". Each story takes the reader on a medical adventure where the case is not always as it seems and first appearances are deceptive.

An alarming history of famous and difficult patients: amusing medical anecdotes from Typhoid Mary to FDR (Richard Gordon, 1997)

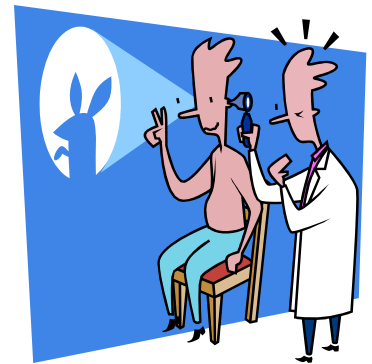
This book tells "impertinent anecdotes about the afflictions of 31 well-known people, real and fictional." According to the reviews, this book is like the "National Enquirer" of history, not for serious history buffs or for educational purposes. One reviewer was quite critical of the appropriateness of making "light of the pain of others".

Bedlam among the Bedpans; humor in nursing (Amy Y. Young, 2006)

This book, compiled by an academic librarian, offers over 100 stories and cartoons collected from online sources and journals dealing with situations experienced by real nurses.

The Placebo Chronicles: strange but true tales from the doctor's lounge (Douglas Farrago & Gordon W. Marshall, 2005)

This title "brings together some of the most ridiculous doctor jokes and real-life medical stories sent in by readers of [Dr. Farrago's] bi-weekly Placebo Journal." The synopsis



described this book as “vulgar but entertaining”, raunchy, and politically incorrect. A few reviewers were not happy with the tone of this book. They did not like physicians making fun of their patients’ complaints and by extension, their patients. If this type of humor bothers you, this is not the book to choose.

The Thackery T. Lambshead pocket guide to eccentric & discredited diseases (Mark Roberts and Jeff Vandermeer, 2005)

Written by fantasy / science fiction writers, this book is a “collection of short, fictional medical descriptions of such diseases as motile snarcoma and Inverted Drowning syndrome”. “Each disease receives a carefully laid out history, list of symptoms and a cure.” This book is described by one reviewer as the perfect bathroom book.

Doin’ the locum motion (Chris Rolton, 2000)

On the more serious side, this book chronicles the life of physician Chris Rolton, who left the urbanity of London and moved to Labrador to practice as a visiting physician in a remote location where “outsiders” are treated with suspicion. This title did not have any reviews listed on Amazon but sounded interesting nevertheless.

Happy reading!

by: [Jill Turner](#)
Botsford Hospital



“Go Green” at Your Library

Nowadays it seems like I can’t read a magazine, go shopping, or pretty much leave my house without being bombarded by messages urging me to “go green”. While the push to lead a more environmentally-conscious life can seem a bit overwhelming at times, frankly I don’t mind it. I believe our society has been irresponsible for too long, and it’s time to start making amends. Now, I’m not at the point of outfitting my entire apartment with solar panels, or running on a treadmill to generate enough power to watch an episode of *Project Runway*, but I feel like I’m at least trying to be part of the solution when I take small, easy steps such as using cloth shopping bags and recycling my paper, plastic, and glass.

Considering the amount of time we spend at work, in our offices and our libraries, they really are our second home. Because the majority of our workplaces operate within large institutional protocols, it may seem like our hands are tied when it comes to making environmentally-conscious decisions for our medical libraries. However, as you’ll see from the suggestions below, “going green” at work does not have to involve an elaborate or expensive overhaul of current practices. By making a few conscientious decisions, we may actually end up saving money and resources, all while lessening our library’s burden on the planet.

Paper

Even though most of our medical libraries are well vested in the “digital age”, we still use *a lot* of paper. Whether it applies to articles, emails, or handouts, the availability of online materials has not lessened our desire for print copies. While I don’t anticipate our use of paper ever really going away, here are a few tips on using how to use less and choose responsibly.

The process of “going green” usually involves making conscientious decisions and altering our old habits a little bit.

- 🌱 Having a paper recycling program in place is a great idea, but an even better way to help the environment is to *reduce* the amount of paper we use. Reduce your use of paper by making double-sided copies or previewing a document before printing. How many times have you printed out webpage only to have one line with the URL on the second page?
- 🌱 Consider using [GreenPrint](#). Greenprint is a freeware application for Windows that lets you identify and remove unnecessary pages, spaces, images, and banners from printouts before sending them to the printer. There is a similar extension for Firefox called [Aardvark](#).
- 🌱 Purchase recycled office paper with 30% or higher post-consumer waste.
- 🌱 Consider switching to unbleached paper. A lot of chlorine goes into the water supply so we can have bright white paper.
- 🌱 Limit the use of handouts at presentations, make documents available electronically instead. Honestly, how many of us read all the papers we pick up at meetings?

Office Space

Conserving paper is not the only way to go green at work. Also consider:

- 🌱 Save electricity by adjusting your computer settings to “hibernate” when not in use.
- 🌱 Turn off lights, printers, and scanners when not in use. Unplug less frequently used electronics like scanners and DVD players directly from the wall because even though they are turned off, they still draw energy.
- 🌱 Recycle your printer ink cartridges. Most companies make this easy by including a pre-paid postage stamp in the box.
- 🌱 Purchase office products with less packaging or buy refills when available.
- 🌱 Dine in style while saving the planet by eliminating the use of paper and Styrofoam cups and plates in your break room.
- 🌱 Literally go green by adding plants to your workspace to improve air quality.

To paraphrase Kermit the Frog, it's not always easy going green. The process usually involves making conscientious decisions and altering our old habits a little bit. Kudos to the MHSLA/Midwest MLA 2008 Planning Committee for encouraging recycling and requiring upcoming conference attendees bring their own bags. Simple steps like these prove that our profession can make a difference not only in the health of people, but also the health of our environment.

For more information check out:

Greening Your Library - <http://greeningyourlibrary.wordpress.com/>

NDRC Green Living Toolkit - <http://www.nrdc.org/greenliving/toolkit.asp>

by: [JoAnn Krzeminski](#)

Sladen Library, Henry Ford Hospital



Sladen Library Implements ILLiad

Sladen Library's Document Services Department will begin to implement ILLiad this month. Our interlibrary loan colleagues will soon notice an improvement in the service and quality of each document request.

OCLC's [ILLiad](#) is an interlibrary loan management system developed and supported by [Atlas Systems, Inc.](#) This software makes the borrowing and lending of both OCLC and Docline

requests easier to manage and track. Statistical reports, copyright reporting and billing functions can be customized to the unique needs of each library. Library users can order and check the status of requests in their account using their remote access ID and password.

At Sladen Library, this system will streamline and eliminate duplication of work processes. Best of all - it's paperless!

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



2008 Midwest Chapter MLA/MHSLA Joint Conference

Come join us for the 2008 Midwest MLA/MHSLA Conference, Vital Signs: Keeping You and Your Library Vibrant and Healthy on October 17th to 21st at the Troy Marriott in Troy, Michigan. The Early Bird registration date is quickly approaching (September 1st), so make sure you register soon to get the discounted registration rate! Obtain valuable information from our keynote speakers Deena Ebbert regarding the FISH! Leadership Philosophy and hear Eugenie Prime discuss ways to keep your library vibrant and healthy.

This conference has much to offer attendees from paper and poster presentations to unique continuing education courses, concurrent sessions, and a forum where emerging technologies will be highlighted.

Continuing Education classes will be available for those interested in topics such as: survey design, information mastery, screencasting, community assessment, patient safety, time management, adult learning, health disparities, and PubMed. For continuing education classes held off-site (Screencasting and PubMed), transportation will be provided for participants at no additional cost.

Want to dine out with your colleagues and try the local cuisine? The scheduled Dine-Arounds just might be the perfect option for you! Don't forget to check your email at the Internet Café, mingle with vendors, and network with colleagues, while attending the opening reception - a Motown Review. Another conference highlight will be dinner and a reception at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the featured conference Special Event.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2008 Midwest MLA/MHSLA Conference in October. To register, navigate to <http://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?459908>. Check out the conference blog at <http://midwestmla2008.blogspot.com/> for complete conference information.

We look forward to seeing you in the Motor City!

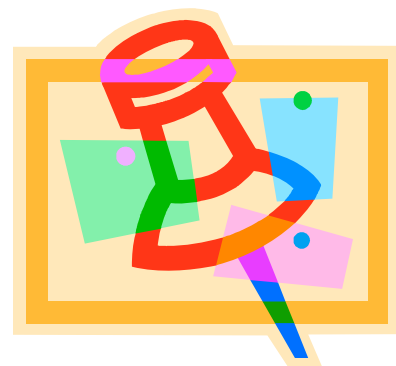
2008 MW/MHSLA Planning Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynda Baker, Marge Kars, and Feleta Wilson have co-edited a new book on health literacy entitled, *The Medical Library Association Guide to Health Literacy*. This unique book is the first to address the role librarians play in health literacy. The book is divided into four sections including:

- Part 1: Health Literacy – Understanding the Issues
- Part 2: Health Literacy Issues in Special Populations - The Influence of Culture, Ethnicity, Special Needs, and Age on Health
- Part 3: Health Literacy Issues in Public and Hospital Libraries – Providing Programs and Services to Help Consumers Understand Their Healthcare
- Part 4: The Future – Ways to Initiate and Become Involved with Health Literacy Programs

Kars, M., Baker, L., & Wilson, F. L. (2008). *The Medical Library Association guide to health literacy*. Medical Library Association guides. New York, NY: Neal-Schuman.



Abe Wheeler began work as a new Health Sciences Librarian at the Michigan State University Libraries on August 25th. Previously, he was a Reference and Instruction Librarian at the Linear Accelerator Center Library at Stanford University. Abe will be serving as the Library Liaison to MSU's new Program in Public Health, the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders. Heidi Schroeder will continue to serve as the Library Liaison to the College of Nursing.

Volunteers Needed For Midwest MLA / MHSLA Conference!

The combined Midwest MLA / MHSLA conference is right around the corner. Please consider volunteering a couple of hours of your time to help staff the Hospitality or Registration desk. Several MDMLG members have already signed up, but we need more friendly faces. The desks will be open during the following hours:

Friday, October 17: 11am - 1pm, 4pm - 7pm
 Saturday, October 18: 7am - 6:30pm
 Sunday, October 19: 7am - 5:30pm
 Monday, October 20: 7am - 5:30pm
 Tuesday, October 21: 7am - 9am

Please contact Jill Turner at 248-471-8517 or jturner@botsford.org to volunteer. Thank you!

Thanks to Sandra Martin and Deborah Charbonneau for sharing these websites on calculating your library's value:

Valuing Library Services Calculator

<http://nmlm.gov/mcr/evaluation/calculator.html>

Cost Benefit and ROI Calculator

<http://nmlm.gov/mcr/evaluation/roi.html>

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- Sep 18** MDMLG Business Meeting @ Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center
- Oct 17-21** Midwest Chapter MLA/MHSLA Conference
- Oct 22-24** Michigan Library Association Annual Conference
- Oct 23** MDMLG Executive Board Meeting



Newsletter Committee 2008-2009

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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