

# MDMLG News

Summer 2011



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## Message from the President

It has been an honor serving as MDMLG President for 2010-2011. I would like to thank the Board Members, Committee Chairs, and the General Membership for your support this year. It has been a fabulous year of opportunities for all of us to network, take in great continuing education opportunities, meeting programs, contribute through committees, mentor our fellow colleagues and provide support to one another.

As a member if you are asked to serve on a committee next year please say yes. Say yes to your association, say yes to your fellow members, say yes to yourself for you will find that you be the recipient of as much or more than your contributions. I know that for me that has been true and more. Those connections in committee work and in supporting our executive board and committee members often lead me to answers to questions and insights I didn't have before.

As many of you know MDMLG is the host to the upcoming MHSLA 2012 conference. In the coming months the co-chairs will be putting together there committees and subcommittees. We will need your support and help to make this a truly successful conference.

Here's to celebrating our accomplishments this year on June 16 at our MDMLG Summer Luncheon and Education Program. We will be recognizing our Executive Board and their committee members, celebrating a year of opportunity for all us through our activities and awarding our MDMLG WSU student scholarship. Hope to see all of you there!

Thanks for the pleasure of serving you this year as your President.

*Toni Janik*

## One Student's Journey to Becoming a Librarian

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*One night I accompanied a friend to a party hosted by the medical school, and this is where luck started to kick in.*

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One of the most common things I get asked is “how did you decide to become a librarian?” Usually this is asked, after learning about my educational background and current profession, with a sense of surprise and confusion. I am not sure what the best answer is, except “I was in the right place at the right time”. I never set out to become a librarian, and other than listening to some family members insisting I should become one because of how much I like to read, I never even really considered it as a career. But when I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in molecular biology and the knowledge that I did not want to spend the rest of my life in a laboratory, I really did not know what I was going to do when I grew up.

Shortly after receiving my BS in 2004 I was lucky to find a position as a research assistant at Wayne State University. I spent a few years taking assorted anthropology and philosophy classes but not really finding any real direction to go in.

One night I accompanied a friend to a party hosted by the medical school, and this is where luck started to kick in. I was fortunate to start talking with the wife of one of the doctors who was a librarian and got to hear how much she loved her job and how it was so much more than the stereotype of shelving and checking books out. She was also a Wayne State alumna so I decided to look more into their program. It turned out that not only is Wayne State's program accredited by the American Library Association, but it was ranked as one of the [top 20 programs](#) in the country as well as the highest ranking master's only program. They were also offering a meeting for prospective students in the next few weeks, so I quickly signed up. It was here, after meeting different faculty members and students and learning that librarians with special backgrounds (such as science) are in high demand, that I started to feel this was the career I was meant to have.

So I excitedly applied and upon being accepted into the program in 2007 eagerly signed up for my first classes and promptly found out my grant funding would be running out soon, along with a stable income and money to pay for my classes. What followed were long months of worry, fear, endless job applications and interviews, and very little thought of going back to school. But I did eventually find steady income and a year after being accepted into the program began my first class in library and information science in the summer of 2008. **[continued on page 10]**

## Metro Detroit Medical Librarians will Celebrate Summer Luncheon & Education Program at Detroit Landmark

The Whitney mansion stands as one of the remaining historical gems in the city of Detroit. The home was built by millionaire lumbar baron David Whitney Jr. at the corner of Woodward Ave and Canfield between the years 1890-1894. At the turn of the century, Woodward Ave was home to some of the wealthiest and most prominent families in the city of Detroit. Whitney's 22,000 square foot mansion, constructed at a cost of around \$400,000, was originally comprised of 52 rooms, including 10 bathrooms and 20 fireplaces. Grandeur is evident throughout the details of the home - from the South Dakota pink jasper exterior to the Tiffany stained-glass windows and the hand-carved woodwork inside.

When David Whitney died in 1900 he was the wealthiest man in Detroit with a fortune estimated at \$15 million. Members of the Whitney family occupied the mansion for some years after his death. In 1941 it was given to the Wayne County Medical Society. In 1957, the medical society sold the mansion to the Visiting Nurses Association who occupied it until the late 1970's. In 1986, The Whitney was opened to the public as a restaurant affording all Detroiters and visitors an inside look at this architectural treasure.



*The Whitney Mansion was built by millionaire lumbar baron David Whitney Jr. between the years 1890-1894*

The MDMLG Program Committee is pleased to host the 2011 Summer Luncheon & Education Program at The Whitney. We have planned a special afternoon for all attendees as we dine on blackened swordfish, orange-glazed chicken, and vegetarian risotto fabulously prepared by the Whitney chefs. The education program will feature Carol Kocan from Dale Carnegie Training. Ms. Kocan will present "Making Your Net Work: Communicating for Collaboration" which will focus on how librarians can network and communicate their services effectively with physicians and medical staff in order to become an invaluable part of the patient care experience. Definitely sounds like tips we can all use in our workplace!

The afternoon will also feature the MDMLG business meeting and annual recognition ceremony. We will recognize hardworking members of the MDMLG committees and outgoing president Toni Janik. Special recognition will also be given to the winner of this year's MDMLG student scholarship award, Andrea Kepsel, and this year's retiree, former MDMLG president and longtime contributor Marilyn Kostrzewski.

We look forward to seeing everyone that has registered on Thursday, June 16 at the Summer Luncheon & Education Program at The Whitney as we start the summer off in style!

JoAnn Krzeminski  
MDMLG Program Committee



*One of twenty fireplaces at the Whitney*



## COMING SOON! FUN! & EDUCATION!

The ERSHLA Conference Planning Committee is busy preparing for the 2011 Annual Conference. Get your game face ready as the fun activities begin with testing your skills at a “Putt-Putt Golf Tournament and Arcade Challenges. Tokens will be provided at registration. Extra tokens can be gained by bringing in mittens or gloves that will be given to a local school as a community outreach project for the group.

The education committee is busy working on bringing a quality program with an opportunity for earning up to 24 CE’s over the course of 3 days. Some of the classes offered are: The “Agile Librarian’s Guide to Thriving in Any Institution”, “M-Powering Medicine” and “Health Issues in the Headlines”. Thursday we bring you the Black Belt Librarian, Warren Graham, along with an opportunity to visit with your favorite vendors. The conference closes on Friday with a sharing of ideas with Lightning Rounds, formerly known as Pecha Kucha.

The Education committee is looking for members who want to share their ideas through either a 6 minute PowerPoint presentation or a poster. Think about your library, the fun things you are doing and consider sharing with your colleagues. **Join us in “Little Bavaria” Frankenmuth on September 21-23, 2011.**

**Registration details will be provided at a later date on the [MHSLA website](#).**

## Conference Scholarships for Members

MHSLA is pleased to announce two member scholarships for the Fall Education Conference being held at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth on September 21-23, 2011.

The first scholarship is for a member who has never attended the MHSLA Fall conference. This scholarship includes: 3 day Conference Registration, 3 nights at the conference hotel, all meals, and mileage to and from the conference. This scholarship winner is **required** to work at the hospitality table/registration table during the conference as well as write a small article on the conference experience to be published in the MHSLA newsletter.

The second conference scholarship is for any member who may need support in order to attend the conference. Mileage and meals are NOT included. This scholarship is for **one** of the two following items:

1. 3 day conference registration
2. 3 nights at the conference hotel (Tues-Thurs).

The winner of the second scholarship is required to do **one** of the following:

1. Volunteer to serve on a MHSLA committee for the year following the conference
2. Present at the conference to which they attend on scholarship.
  - a. Present a Poster
  - b. Present a paper
  - c. Present a Power Point Lightening Round

Both scholarship applications will be available on the MHSLA website. Application dates are June 1, 2011 through June 31, 2011. Applications received after the closing date will **NOT** be considered. The winners of the scholarships will be notified by July 15, 2011.

Look for the scholarship application forms on the [MHSLA website](#).

by Mary Fitzpatrick  
McLaren Medical Library  
MHSLA Education Chair

## There's an App for That – Library & University Edition

In my last article for the MDMLG newsletter, I wrote about the need for medical librarians to embrace mobile technology and facilitate the accessibility of medical mobile applications for our patrons. In the final installment on this subject, I want to encourage libraries to offer institution-specific apps for their users or, at the very least, become more mobile device conscious and offer mobile views for their websites. It will be money well spent in order to keep pace with the next generation of library users or maybe even attract new users.

According to a study done by the University of Central Florida: **Millennial Medical Students and Mobile Learning: The University of Central Florida Health Sciences Library Mobile Learning Project**, published in the MLA News <sup>1</sup>, “79.5% of M2 students owned a mobile device or smart phone ... and while the overwhelming majority of all students reported that they do not use their mobile devices to access library resources, 77.0% of M2 students and 89.1% of M1 students responded that if the library made more resources available for their mobile device, they would access library resources more often.” Many studies document the fact that a vast majority of the population is going mobile. At the risk of repeating the concept ad nauseum, libraries need to stay current if they want to be a viable resource to their communities and this means adopting and facilitating mobile technology.

Curious as to what libraries and universities had to offer in the way of mobile device applications, I did a very un-scientific study on the subject. I surfed the web and found that many of the major universities have mobile device apps available for download through iTunes or Android Market. The university apps have similar features. Most offer university news, bus/shuttle schedules, and campus maps to help locate classes, event notices, athletics schedules, faculty contact information, and dining facility menus. Through the University of Saskatchewan's app, iUsask, students can check their grades, search for books in the library catalog, and view their library accounts. The University of Saskatchewan is not alone in including the library within their University app, several other universities have library information and resources encompassed within their general university apps as well.

A few university apps, however, offer unique services and information. Northwestern University's app allows students to stream lectures via video. My alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh, offers, in my opinion, the best service of all for resident students; Pitt's app allows students to check the availability of washers and dryers in campus laundry facilities. I could have used that info back in the day as I climbed five flights of stairs to the laundry room. On a more studious note, students are also able to check the availability of computers in the labs throughout campus.

Ellyssa Kroski wrote a 3-part posting on her blog iLibrarian that listed the [Top 30 Library iPhone apps](#). These apps offered users ways to perform the following functions:

- search the library catalog
- view library locations
- track requests
- bookmark search results
- text Ask-A-Librarian
- place items on hold
- find library hours
- manage library accounts
- renew materials
- take a video library tour
- receive SMS notification services
- receive new materials announcements



The library apps allow users to utilize the library on-the-go, unfettered by the need for a desktop computer.

We all know that budgets are tight. Many libraries may feel unable to afford the expense of developing their own mobile applications. But, can they really afford not to? As library holdings and services become increasingly more virtual in nature, it does not make sense for the library itself not to be mobile device configured. (To assist libraries who may want to develop their own apps, the District of Columbia Public Library is sharing [their app coding](#) under a Creative Commons Attribution- Noncommercial-Share Alike license.) If our goal is to reach as many students/employees as possible and bring them into the library, either in person or virtually, then offering library access via smart phone or other mobile device will vastly expand our potential to accomplish this objective. We need to make library usage as easy and convenient as possible, because frankly, if it is not, people will go elsewhere to use resources that are convenient.

1 Ballinger B, Dexter N, Gardner M, Garner M, Gillum S, Moody L, Schafer F, Walton D.  
**Millennial Medical Students and Mobile Learning: The University of Central Florida Health Sciences Library Mobile Learning Project.** [Internet]. ; 2011. 13 p

Jill Turner  
University of Detroit Mercy  
School of Dentistry Library

## Medical and Biotechnology Patents

Patents in medicine and biotechnology have often provoked controversy. As intellectual property, they encourage innovation. In the medical field, this has led to many life-saving technologies, but in some cases has sparked heated ethical debate. Basically, patents allow inventors to develop a business around selling their invention, by giving them the right to exclude others from the same activity. In medicine this can sometimes work against scientific freedom in the lab, or pit perceptions of altruism against profit.

Some inventions are simple improvements to make life easier and safer for patients and staff. For example, several patents exist for the retractable needle syringe, which would serve to prevent accidental needle sticks. There are also many patents which improve on basic wheelchair design, enabling handicapped people to have greater function, comfort and mobility. These are just a few examples of thousands that can be found in the USPTO database.

Other medical patents have been quite dramatic. Robert Jarvik responded to the shortage of transplantable organs by developing the Jarvik-7 artificial heart, patented in 1979. It was used in 1982 to keep retired dentist Barney Clark alive for 112 days. Dr. Jarvik later founded Jarvik Heart, Inc., and worked to create the Jarvik 2000, a lifetime ventricular assist device. He patented a heart pump in 1992, and spent his entire career in medical engineering.

Pharmaceutical companies have created controversy by patenting new medications, then charging high prices for them. The companies argue that the cost of developing a new drug is extremely high. A compound must first be patented before clinical trials, which diminishes the time that a drug can be on the market with patent protection. A normal patent lasts 20 years from the date of application, and clinical trials can take several years. Critics of this practice state that most of the basic research is done in university laboratories with government grants, and that most of the money spent is actually on advertising and marketing.

More controversial still, are patents on life forms and human genes. Plant patents have been granted since 1930 to protect new plants that were developed asexually. Before 1980, living things could not be covered by a utility patent. A long court case, *Diamond vs. Chakrabarty* changed everything. Ananda Chakrabarty had developed a genetically engineered bacterium capable of breaking down crude oil. He and his employer eventually won the case, opening the door to an explosion of biotechnology patents.

As the science of gene isolation and identification has exploded, so has their patentability. Over 20% of human genes are under patent protection. This means that scientists who want to study a gene further have to pay licensing fees and royalties to the patent holders. A huge controversy developed with Myriad Genetics, a company who developed a test for the presence of the



BRCA1 and BRCA2 breast cancer genes. They not only hold the patent for the gene test, but for the actual genes. Many breast cancer survivors and other medical professionals were upset at this situation. A lawsuit was filed by the ACLU and PUBPAT (Public Patent Foundation) against Myriad Genetics and the USPTO, arguing that genes shouldn't receive patents because they are "products of nature". In March 2010, a federal judge ruled the patents for the BRCA1 and 2 genes to be invalid. This is now being appealed.

One can expect the appeals in this case to go to the highest courts. A ruling against gene patents would affect those who profit from research and treatments of many diseases such as Alzheimer's, various cancers, muscular dystrophy and asthma.

Patents are considered necessary to stimulate innovation. In medicine, innovation is not always profit driven, as altruism can be a motivating factor. Can we ever be sure if a new treatment is developed to make money or to help humanity?

Mary Kordyban

Patent Librarian and Assistant Manager, Business, Science and Technology Department and  
Catherine Phillips,  
Head of Technical Services, Lawrence Technological University

## Becoming a librarian, from page 2

I saw quite a few changes take place during my time as a student, and they definitely kept life interesting. Shortly after I began classes the [LIS program at Wayne State became its own autonomous school](#). In order to meet the goals of this new school many of the standard courses were changed or reorganized, and for awhile it seemed like we were all in a constant state of flux. In 2010 the school was granted [renewal of its ALA accreditation](#) and some new class requirements were put in place to meet these goals as well. I also saw the establishment in 2008 of a [fully-online MLIS option](#) and the offering of an increased number of online classes in order to accommodate these students. Beyond school I was watching as the economy continued its nosedive and [unemployment rates continued to rise](#).

Even with the continued evolution taking place in the LIS program and the scary reality of the job market, I truly enjoyed my time spent earning my MLIS. I was fortunate to take some wonderful classes and met some great people, both students and professors. I took advantage of discounted student memberships to many library organizations, along with numerous educational opportunities they offered. I had fantastic practicum and volunteer experiences and learned more from them than any class could have ever taught me. And most of all I realized that this is the career I belong in.

Now that I have my MLIS I am taking part in the overwhelming process of finding my first job as a librarian. It is both scary and exciting, but as part of the preparation for my interviews I have been able to come up with an answer to why I wanted to become a librarian. I became a librarian because it is an exciting field that allows me to play many different roles at once. I get to be a detective as I search for information, a teacher as I show others how to find answers to their questions, and often a therapist as I deal with many people throughout the course of the day. I also get to work with some of the friendliest people I have met, people who truly enjoy what they do and will struggle to sustain a profession that they believe in. And finally, I became a librarian because while the field may continue to change there will always be a need for it. I am sure that twenty years from now the profession will be quite different from what it is today. Some may find this scary but I look at it as an opportunity, and I look forward to where I will go in my new career.

by Andrea Kepsel

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