

MDMLG NEWS

Summer 2013

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President's Message from Barbara LeTarte

It has been many (many!) years since I covered the library for my boss, Shirley Summers at Wayne County Hospital so that she could attend MDMLG meetings downtown. It was the discussion the following day that gave me the opportunity to hear about the issues facing medical librarians. Copyright infringement and the Williams and Wilkins lawsuit and fair use were the hot topics of the day. And she always spoke glowingly about Dr. Ping's accomplishments at Shiffman Medical Library. It was because of her and the stories about her capable and dedicated colleagues at MDMLG that helped me make up my mind to be a medical librarian. So when the opportunity arose for me to serve as President of MDMLG, I jumped at the chance.

It has been a privilege and honor to lead MDMLG this year. Our group organized some great programming which dealt with many of the issues of our day including, reference managers, eBooks and Twitter. And we had the opportunity to attend educational workshops offering CE credits. Many thanks to Jill Turner, chair of our Programming Committee and Toni Janik the chair of Professional Development for their hard work in organizing those events.

Many issues today are so different than they were back when I started out, but the capability and dedication of my colleagues who provide such a great public service in their medical libraries has not changed a bit.

Once again, thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you. And thanks to all the members, Executive Board and Committees who dedicated their time and expertise to support this invaluable medical library group.

See you at the Summer Luncheon!

Best regards,

Barbara LeTarte
President

All Aboard! 2013 Summer Luncheon & Annual Meeting

Please join us on **Thursday, June 13, 2013** from **11:30 am to 3:30 pm** at the

Big Rock Chop House: site of Birmingham's Historic Grand Trunk Railroad Depot [Map](#)

Executive Chef Brian Henson was awarded Michigan's Chef de Cuisine Association's 2012 Chef of the year. (*Valet parking included*).

Agenda:

11:30 – 12:00pm: Registration

12:00 – 1:30 pm: Luncheon

1:30 – 2:30 pm: Featured speaker: [Jane Blumenthal](#) (MLA President, 2012/2013): "It Takes Two: The mentoring partnership"

2:30 – 2:45 pm: Break

2:45 – 3:30 pm: Business Meeting

Lunch entrees include a choice of one of the following:

FLAT IRON STEAK

CHARDONNAY CHICKEN

BLEU POLENTA CAKE (polenta with blue cheese, grilled Romaine, asparagus and pesto roasted tomato)

[Register online](#)

A print registration form is available on the [MDMLG website](#).

Cost: \$15 MDMLG Member \$35 Non-member [Pay with PayPal](#)

RSVP and payment must be received by **Tuesday, June 4th** (final date for refunds).

Please email, fax, or mail to:

Bridget Faricy
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MLA eConference –

by Jill Turner

I have never attended a Medical Library Association annual meeting / conference. I have never been to any national library conference. Frankly, due to the cost and hassle involved, I have not had any desire to attend. I only have so many professional development dollars to spend, and whether my institution picked up the cost or I was paying out of my own pocket, I did not want to shell out the funds for travel, hotel, food, and all of the other miscellaneous expenditures that come with travelling to a national conference. Additionally there is hassle of dealing with the crowds: crowded restaurants, crowded airports and train stations, crowded hotels. Ugh, who needs all of that turmoil? However, some of my colleagues here at the University of Detroit Mercy had been extolling the benefits of attending the occasional national organization conference. So this year, at the last minute, I decided to forgo an online CE course I had planned to enroll in and decided instead to attend a national conference ... lite. I decided to register for the MLA e-conference. I figured that the E-Conference package would be a nice way to sample a national conference without subjecting myself to the cost and hassle of attending in person.

Bottom line? I am glad I registered for the E-Conference. Due to previous commitments, I was unable to take advantage of any of the few synchronous segments of the conference. However, that is ok; I probably would not have added any earth shattering insights to the sessions anyway. I am only just getting started on viewing the meeting content. I have only accessed a few of the paper presentations and two of the plenary sessions, yet I can feel the energy that was present during the live conference. I am thinking that my E-Conference experience just might be the impetus that I need to get myself in gear to attend the MLA conference when it comes to Chicago next year.

One of the plenary sessions that I have viewed was the keynote McGovern Lecture. [McGovern Lecture](#) speakers “are significant national or international figures qualified to speak on a topic of importance to health sciences information professionals.” This year’s McGovern Lecture was given by Dr. Richard Besser, ABC News’s Chief Health and Medical Editor. Before assuming his present position with ABC News, Dr. Besser was the Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the H1N1 Influenza pandemic in 2009. Dr. Besser’s McGovern Lecture topic was about the power of communication in order to influence health and the need to have correct information when communicating. He first spoke about his experiences at the CDC during the H1N1 outbreak. He spoke to the role of the CDC and the CDC’s emergency response during the pandemic. When it

became apparent to CDC researchers that it was not going to be possible to stop H1N1 from entering the United States, Dr. Besser and his team decided it was in the public's best interests to be as transparent as possible with all of the information the CDC possessed, even when the answer was that they did not know. During the first few days of the outbreak, with much of the country on the verge of panic, many misconceptions regarding H1N1 were reported by various media sources. As a result, the CDC tried to combat this disinformation by being as forthcoming as possible, as often as possible, regarding all aspects of the outbreak.

After relating his H1N1 experiences, Dr. Besser moved on to speak about his time at ABC News. In his role as Chief Health and Medical Editor for ABC news, Dr. Besser is in the perfect position to use the power of communication to influence health. He went on to highlight a few examples of how he has done just that.

I am pleased with MLA's E-Conference experience. I have many more presentations to get through, and I am very much looking forward to viewing the Janet Doe Lecture. I am hoping it is as interesting as the one Mark Funk gave last year. I am sure that I would register for the E-Conference option again in the future. Now, if only MLA would make some of the CE courses available in an online option.

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Here's more information about the [MLA](#)
[eConference](#)

The Value of Professional Development

by Courtney Mandarin, MLIS

It's easy to come up with reasons why we can't make time for professional development. Requests keep pouring in, we don't have the room in our budgets, we don't think we will get much out of it—the list can be endless. However, in a profession that changes as rapidly as librarianship there is a need for regular professional development. As someone who is still in the early stages of my career, professional development opportunities have helped fill the gap between my education and work experience. Whether it will help us learn about new aspects of our profession or help us sharpen our skills, keeping abreast of what's going on in the library community is an important aspect of our jobs.

We're very fortunate in metro Detroit to have a number of opportunities to partake in events happening locally. An obvious place to start (which, if you're reading this, you already know about) is our MDMLG meetings. MDMLG regularly features excellent speakers on a diverse range of topics, all of which are likely relevant to medical library staff. It also offers us a chance to find out what's going on within the other medical libraries in our community and socialize with colleagues we may rarely see face to face.

Outside of MDMLG, there are a number of other library groups in Michigan and the Midwest that offer courses, webinars, and other presentations. While some of these groups may not be specific to medical libraries, that does not mean they cannot be a valuable resource for professional development. A few years ago, I attended an e-book seminar through the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS). Although it was mainly attended by public librarians, I learned a great deal about the different varieties of e-readers and the different ways e-books could be accessed. It's important to remember that many aspects of library services are similar, even amongst different types of library; information literacy, instruction, and delivery methods for different services can be applied to a variety of libraries. Learning about these from non-medical librarians has in some cases broadened my perspective on how things can be done here at my own library.

If local events can expand one's views on different areas of the field, national events can do so on an even larger scale. In April, I had the opportunity to attend the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) conference in Indianapolis. This was my first national conference, and I left feeling completely invigorated by the experience. While many of the presentations I attended pertained more to college libraries, the subjects covered were still very relevant to my work at a hospital library. Presentations and panel discussions on instruction, LibGuides, individuals' information seeking behaviors, and the future of librarianship were just some of the topics covered during the conference.

Getting to speak with librarians from all over the country gave me new ideas on what challenges are pervasive in the library community and how different libraries are handling them. On a more personal note, I was also able to see some librarian friends from other parts of the country and had a chance to explore a city I had never visited before.

Attending a national conference really made me see the value in professional development. Whether it's done through reading the literature and participating in list-serv discussions, joining local groups, or going to large events, professional developments adds real value to our everyday work. In a profession that's always changing, I think that the importance of "keeping up" cannot be understated. When librarians are repeatedly forced to prove their relevancy to an institution, following new trends and creating solutions makes relevancy less of a question. I know that simply staying on top of the day to day work can often be challenging, and it's easy to push professional development to the very bottom of our to do lists. However, I left the ACRL conference feeling completely recharged about the work I do and I think that anything that can make someone feel energized about his or her work should be made a priority.

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Looking for that First Job

back to school, changing careers

by Laura Bollman

I am nearing the conclusion of my MLIS program at Wayne State and inching my way into the workforce. Job searches are frustrating and time consuming. One thing that surprised me in job announcements is that employers are interested in the professional development and associations of applicants. Not once during my twenty years with my former employer was I ever asked about this in any of my performance reviews or interviews to obtain a different position with my employer. I would like to thank the membership of the MDMLG for granting me their 2012-13 scholarship that included a year's membership in the organization and for the opportunity to be a contributor to the newsletter. Your generosity and encouragement has guided me in a direction to demonstrate that I am committed to this new career and you have provided me opportunities to obtain 8 CEs before I've even completed my degree.

Employers are curious about past work experience and when it comes to library experience my history is rather weak. I have chosen to participate in a practicum this semester to obtain the final credits to meet the requirements for my MLIS. From discussions with information professionals, I've come to discover that they assume all library students are required to spend time out in the field.

At Wayne, a practicum is an elective course. Because my library experience is weak, I felt I needed this course to gain experience and perspective. I am interning at a community college and enjoying the experience. Primarily, I am covering the information desk, assisting with virtual reference, and involved with a collection management project that will take me from inventory to purchasing print and e-books for their nursing collection.

Even though I have yet to get that first interview, Linked In has confirmed that one potential employer has taken the time to check out my profile. That tidbit of knowledge boosted my self-esteem and calmed my nerves about how my lack of library experience can be compensated with skills from my former work. Returning to school has been a wonderful experience and I am looking forward to the challenges that will present at my first professional library position. If all goes well I will have to change the by-line of this column next time around.

Laura Bollman

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar of events

June 13

MDMLG Summer Luncheon
Big Rock

June 27 – July 2

[ALA](#) Chicago

Sep 5

MDMLG General Business Meeting
William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak
Topic: Role/Involvement of Librarians in Systematic
Reviews

October 16 – 18

[MHSLA Conference](#)
Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids

Scholarship Winner

Bethany Figg is our 2013 MDMLG Scholarship winner. Bethany is currently employed at CMU Healthcare in Saginaw and is an online student in the Library and Information Science Program at Wayne State University with an expected graduation date of 2014.

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