

MDMLG NEWS

Spring 2019

President's Message from Juliet Mullenmeister



Metropolitan
Detroit
Medical
Library
Group

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Spring News

In line with the decisions made last year to combine both a General Business Meeting with a CE Speaker/Event, we are happy to have such a program available for the spring meeting on **April 18, 2019**. The Program and Professional Development Committees cordially invite you to attend our Spring General Meeting and Spring CE Opportunity on Thursday, April 18 from 10:30am - 4:00pm at Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak.

The meeting schedule will be:

10:30am-11:30am: General Business Meeting

11:30am-12:00pm: Networking Lunch

12:00pm-4:00pm: (4CE) Continuing Education Course

"Chemicals and Drugs in PubMed and Toxnet" presented by Chana Kraus – Friedberg, PhD, Health Sciences Librarian at Michigan State University.

We are planning to continue doing this as the response that we are receiving is overwhelmingly positive to these combined programs. As Angela discussed in the newsletter last year, we are doing our best to make the best use of our membership's time. We are all busy, and we all have to make choices about just how much we can accommodate. The time frame for this particular meeting in April is a long one, but that's to allow for both the meeting and the CE course.

I am also working on another evening MDMLG Social event for late April/early May. The participants who were able to attend the last one were positive about the experience, and there were a number of people who would have liked to attend, but that busy schedule problem has claws in every one of us. I'm hoping to be able to continue doing these a few times a year to allow people to attend more events for "in-person" networking time. More information to come

Our Nominating Committee has a slate to present for the elected positions for 2019-2020. They were able to get just enough candidates to fill the positions, so there will not be voting on candidates. This will be presented to the membership as a whole by the Nominating Committee, as the bylaws dictate that others can self-nominate according to proscribed processes as indicated in the by-laws. If this does not happen, the slate stands and will be approved by the Membership.

The 2019-2020 slate is:

Bethany Figg / President-Elect
Brianna Andre / Secretary
Elizabeth Bucciarelli / Outreach – Public Relations
Katherine Akers / Nominating Committee
Melanie Bednarski / Nominating Committee
Orien Duda / Nominating Committee

Thanks to everyone who agreed to take a position. I'm looking forward to working with all of you.

Juliet Mullenmeister, MILS, AHIP
MDMLG President 2018-2019
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ELECTRONIC RESOURCES & LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

by Brianna Andre

The [Electronic Resources and Libraries conference](#) is a once-a-year event with the sole focus on "improving the way we collect, manage, maintain and make accessible electronic resources in an ever-changing environment." The conference takes place in-person in Austin, Texas and virtually, with most sessions either streamed live or available to view later on demand. I attended the online conference through the Technical Services section of MLA.

Libraries continue to balance user needs with limited budgets. A few speakers detailed their experiences with unique purchasing models, such as evidence-based acquisitions for e-books. In this model a discounted, per-book rate is negotiated on a select pool of titles, with an initial deposit.

At the end of the predetermined duration, usage is examined, and it is decided what titles to keep. This model can be successful if one chooses a publisher with relevant content, has a large package of titles for users to choose from, and knows what constitutes good usage for their institution before trial.

Another library had a good experience with pay-per-view article purchasing, as a way to augment interlibrary loan for cancelled titles. They mediated access through their ILL form in order to prevent excessive use, and were able to quickly provide users with urgent article needs.

Collection analysis was a popular theme of the sessions, and librarians are experimenting with how to look at the abundance of data available in order to make informed decisions. I learned that there are lots of charts that can be made and algorithms that can be run, if you have statistical experience or a data analysis team in place. As for the rest of us, knowing our pricing and use history, content coverage and uniqueness, and comparable costs can help make the hard decisions a little bit easier.

Lastly, it all comes down to negotiation. Arm yourself with information, know that the stated price isn't the real price, and if you don't ask, the answer is always no. I highly recommend the Electronic Resources and Libraries conference, as it is chock-full of useful and practical information, and hope to attend again in the future.

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PICK YOUR POISON

by Barbara Maynarich

The CE topic for the upcoming MDMLG meeting is "Chemicals and Drugs in PubMed and Toxnet". In light of this, I thought I would highlight an interesting exhibit that the NIH is offering titled, Pick Your Poison: Intoxicating Pleasures & Medical Prescriptions.



This exhibit emphasizes that many addictive medications were once thought harmless and used in general treatment of common ailments. Items such as Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup are highlighted. This syrup which contained morphine was advertised for the relief of teething pain in babies in the 1880's. Another so-called harmless remedy was Cocaine Toothache Drops which were marketed in 1885. Vin Mariani was very popular with professional men in the 1890's and contained a mixture of cocaine and wine (coca wine).

Details on how to request the traveling exhibit for your location can be found at <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/about/exhibition/pickyourpoison-bookinfo.html> .

Additional information on the products mentioned in this article can be found at <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/pickyourpoison/exhibition-cocaine.html> .

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BOOK REVIEW : Dreyer's English / by Benjamin Dreyer

If you think a book about proper language usage sounds boring, this book might not be for you. However, if the title caught your attention, then [Dreyer's English : An utterly correct guide to clarity and style/](#) is for you. The author is the copy chief of Random House and has copyedited many well known books. I'd become familiar with his wit from Twitter where he can be found as [@BCDreyer](#) *

This book isn't a style guide, but does have chapters titled The Confusables and Peeves and Crotchets that can serve as a reference source. It can be read as a series of essays that had me literally (used correctly) LOLing (no apostrophe).

Everyone writes and I think that's how I'm going to justify adding it to the collection of our health sciences library.

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BUSINESS MEETING & CE

Thursday April 18, 2019

10:30 am – 4:00 pm

William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak
3601 W. Thirteen Mile Rd
Lower Level Classroom 1, Administration Building West,
Royal Oak, MI 48073)

[Beaumont campus map here](#)

The Program and Professional Development Committees cordially invite you to attend our combined Spring General Meeting and Spring CE opportunity! The day will include the business meeting, networking lunch, and four-hour CE, "Chemicals and Drugs in PubMed and Toxnet" presented by Chana Kraus-Friedberg, PhD, Health Sciences Librarian at MSU Libraries. Earn 4 MLA CE credits.

To Register: Please complete the online registration form no later than Friday, April 12:

https://oakland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JS1cz1zmkDo3iJ

For questions regarding lunch, please contact: Katherine Akers, katherine.akers@wayne.edu, 313-577-9593.

For questions regarding the CE, please contact: Bethany Figg, bethany.figg@cmich.edu, 989-746-7675.



WEIRD SCIENCE (Science is Weird)

by Jill Turner

I decided the upcoming spring CE program *Chemicals and Drugs in PubMed and Toxnet* provided the perfect motivation to renew my acquaintance with the Toxnet databases, particularly the [Hazardous Substances Data Bank](#) (HSDB) and the [Household Products database](#). I used personal experiences and pop culture references as vignettes on which to base sample searches. While I did not uncover any mind-blowing insights, I did stumble upon a few mildly interesting bits of information. For example, isn't it strange (and occasionally unsettling) how chemicals have such diverse uses?

Take [hydrogen peroxide](#) for instance. Not only is it used in wastewater treatment and rocket propulsion, but hydrogen peroxide is also used in winemaking, for seed disinfection, and on harvested crops to control bacteria and fungi. I am not sure I like thinking about treating wastewater and making wine in the same string of thought.

My first sample search involved the Pop Rocks and soda scandal that supposedly killed "Mikey" circa 1979. While Mikey's stomach did not really explode from eating a combination of Pop Rocks and soda, I did wonder what made [Pop Rocks pop](#) and if the substance was listed in the HSDB. It turns out gasified carbon dioxide is responsible for giving the candy its zing. After the candy dissolves, the carbon dioxide is released in bubbles that crack and fizz. CO₂ was an interesting and unexpected candy ingredient but a rather disappointing substance to use as a sample Toxnet search. Nevertheless, I kept going. [CO₂](#) is another substance that can be used in a variety of ways, including as a pesticide and a rodenticide. It is rather bizarre to me that a substance that can be used to kill mice, rats, and bugs can also be used as an ingredient to spice up penny candy. After discovering that it was carbon

dioxide that gave Pop Rocks their magical pop, I wondered if it was possible to consume carbon dioxide in sufficient quantities as to be toxic. As a gas, in sufficient amounts, carbon dioxide is an asphyxiant. The summary did not include results for liquid CO₂ toxicity. According to the toxicity summary, as a solid (i.e. dry ice), direct contact with CO₂ may cause burns. It did not include information on consumption. I don't have an answer to my question, but I left the search at that point. Having an answer to this hypothetical scenario was not worth spending any more time than I had already spent.

For my next sample search, I used sodium erythorbate. Let me explain. When I was in middle school, I was informed by a friend that sodium erythorbate was a standard ingredient in hot dogs (and indeed it is). She went on to tell me that sodium erythorbate comes from earthworms. Hot dog makers could not very well list earthworms as an ingredient, so they called them sodium erythorbate. Consequently, I didn't eat hot dogs for the next twenty years. Toxnet informed me that sodium erythorbate is a synthetic antioxidant used in cosmetics and to "reduce ozone damage to Thompson seedless grapes" (rather specific – does it not work on other grapes?). The good news is that Toxnet didn't list "earthworm" in their Synonyms and Identifiers section, just a bunch of chemical names I didn't recognize. The bad news is that Toxnet did not rule out earthworms as the source of sodium erythorbate either.

Do you remember being told not to swallow toothpaste? My grandmother used to tell us kids that all the time. What was in toothpaste that was ok to put in your mouth but was dangerous to swallow? The Household Products Database came in useful for looking at [toothpaste ingredients](#). There were a

few ingredients that I could focus on, but I remembered some bad press that triclosan received a while ago; it was linked to cancer. This search would be a good opportunity to refresh my memory on the outcome of the cancer controversy. [Triclosan](#) is used as a fungicide and bactericide in personal care products (e.g. soap, deodorant, etc.) as well as toothpaste, and it is highly active against staphylococci. My search revealed that triclosan “is not likely to be carcinogenic in humans based on available animal data. (SRC)”. However, the Evidence for Carcinogenicity lists the cancer classification as “not yet determined”. Not all toothpastes contain triclosan so it might behoove consumers to pick a dentifrice that does not. [Sodium fluoride](#) is the likely culprit behind the “don’t swallow” warning. According to the HSDB, fluoride causes the chelation of calcium and magnesium in the stomach which could lead to massive cardiovascular woes. However, for me, the most interesting take away from this search was the “1” that Colgate Total rated on the Flammability Rating scale. Colgate Total is slightly combustible. Who knew that toothpaste is even the slightest bit flammable? I am skeptical; I may need to confirm this finding when the weather improves.

“Put some Windex [on it]” is Gus Portokalos’s (Michael Constantine) cure for all ailments in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. When Aunt Voula complains about her rash, Gus sprays her with Windex and tells her, “Voula, this works! Last night, my toe was as big as my face.” Later in the movie, before their wedding, Toula (Nia Vardalos) tells Ian (John Corbett) that she woke up with a zit on her face. Ian responds that he too had a zit on his face but now it’s gone. Toula asks why, and Ian tells her, “I put some Windex on it”. Here’s what Toxnet had to say about two of the cleaning ingredients in [Windex](#). [Isopropanolamine](#) causes local tissue irritation resulting in swelling and inflammation and can lead to upper respiratory symptoms such as cough, bronchospasm, and rhinorrhea. [Ammonium Hydroxide](#) “may cause liquefaction necrosis ... In

gastrointestinal tissue an initial inflammatory phase may be followed by tissue necrosis (sometimes resulting in perforation)”. Okay, wow... liquefaction necrosis. Even if you don’t know exactly what that is, I bet you can guess, that’s not good. The obvious answer is Windex should not be used as a pharmaceutical intervention.

For my last sample search, I recalled an event from my past that I decided to utilize even though it was not suitable for Toxnet. I figured since I was just messing around, I would see what results, if any, I would get for [sucrose](#). Here’s what happened that prompted that search. When my brother was a preschooler, he accidentally swallowed a Life Saver whole, and it lodged in his throat. The only reason he was able to breathe was due to the little hole in the center of the aptly-named candy. (In reality, [Clarence Crane](#), the candy’s inventor, named them after life preservers). He was able to swallow the Life Saver completely within a few minutes and was fine. Remembering this event made me curious about sucrose toxicity; is there such a thing as a fatal dose of sugar (in non-compromised people)?

According to Toxnet, sucrose is rated a “1” - practically non-toxic. The research study they referenced listed a probable oral lethal dose of more than 1 quart for a 150 lb person. As someone with a sweet tooth, that doesn’t seem outrageous. What was humorous to me was Truven Health Analytics’ (product utilized by Toxnet) standard example for substances unlikely to cause toxicity except in extreme doses. They state, “For example, ballpoint pen cartridges, even if sucked completely dry by a child, do not contain enough toxic materials to cause illness”. I am flabbergasted by the thought that children go back for seconds of ink after the initial suck often enough that Truven Health would use that circumstance as a measure for a substance’s non-toxicity.

I enjoyed my recent tour through Toxnet. I learned a few things, had a few raised eyebrow moments, and a small laugh at some of the results. These databases provide a wealth of information, so check them out. It is worth the time to re-familiarize yourself with the contents

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NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE MDMLG HEALTH SCIENCES AWARD

We are now accepting applications for the MDMLG Health Sciences Award! Applicants must be enrolled in either Wayne State University's School of Library and Information Science or the University of Michigan's School of Information. The recipient will be awarded \$200.00 and a one year membership to MDMLG. The award certificate will be presented at the MDMLG Summer Luncheon and if the winner is a WSU student, he or she will also be acknowledged at the Annual SLIS Recognition Ceremony.

Applications are available at <http://www.mdmlg.org/award.htm> and can be submitted online. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact MDMLG President Juliet Mullenmeister at jmullen2@hfhs.org. **The deadline to apply for the award is Tuesday, April 30, 2019.**

If you know of any current Wayne State University SLIS or University of Michigan SI students with an interest in health sciences librarianship, please pass along information about the award.

Courtney Mandarino
MDMLG Outreach Chair
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NEWS

All of Us

The NIH is leading this research project that intends to “gather data from one million or more people.... By taking into account individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biology, researchers will uncover paths toward delivering precision medicine.”

Wayne State Shiffman Medical Library is a national education partner for the program. Working with the Henry Ford Health System All of Us Research Program, and the Detroit Public Library they will be hosting two exciting community events, a [Town Hall on May 18th](#) at 1 Ford Place, and an informational session accompanied by the All of Us traveling, interactive mobile exhibit the [Journey on June 29th at the Detroit Public Library Main branch.](#)

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