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## Incoming President's Speech

As I prepared to assume the role of the President of MHSLA, I spend time reviewing the bylaws. There I found stated the purpose of our organization. "...to further health sciences librarianship by demonstrating a positive impact on health care within the community through sharing library resources; providing educational opportunities for health science personnel; encouraging, coordinating, and conducting research in health science libraries; and providing a professional support system for Association members."

In this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, there are many achievements to celebrate. Our efforts have brought MISHULS, MEDLINE, and DOCLINE services to Michigan health care professionals. We have provided scores of continuing education opportunities for members and established a permanent committee to conduct original research to support the endeavors of health sciences librarians.

During these past few days, we have been reminded several times that the community is becoming global. Through PubMed and Internet Grateful Med, the National Library of Medicine has made their databases free to anyone in the world with access to the Internet. The Access Michigan program has provided residents of our state with individual health sciences library holding at any library where First Search is available. Millions of people are using these tools to access health sciences information - but access is not global. Our communities are discovering that access

is local. They are looking to their local health science library collections to provide documents. The average person does not perceive the difference between a public, academic, or hospital library.

These national and state initiatives have provided us with the opportunity to demonstrate to our communities the value of our local health sciences library collections and to assume an active role in disseminating health care information within our communities. As an association, we need to help each other find ways to remove barriers for local citizens to access information from our collections.

As non-revenue producers within in our institutions, our future survival may rely on community acknowledgment and demand for our services. If our communities perceive us to be a vital component of their local health care providers, so will our executive boards. As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we need to demonstrate that health sciences libraries provide an important, accessible service to all members of the local community in which they reside.

## Outgoing President's Speech

Kenneth R. Nelson

If asked.... Would I do this again?.....I'd say yes!

Although I had been asked earlier in my career.... I was a little doubtful that I was ready. I can now look back and reflect that I have done a fair job.

It's been an interesting position and interesting duty  
... a very proud honor to have served.

I have learned a deeper appreciation of what networking can do for the individual, the institution, and the association.

This is a position of service.... with an opportunity to voice a view,.... or opinion, and to work toward goals that strengthen the association, which in-turns strengthen the individuals and the service that you or I are able to provide back to the parent institution and the patrons we serve.

This opportunity is available to all - to all who care enough to get involved. Involvement does have a price... You do have to share a part of yourself and your time. You expose your beliefs to others... who may or may not agree with you.

But unless you get involved - you ready don't have a right to say the board or association doesn't serve the needs of the members.

We can serve you! - but you have to get involved directly - or indirectly since we will only be a better organization if more of us share our ideas and team together to resolve the new and old problems that we face.

Thank you... for allowing me the opportunity to serve you.

## Note from the President

Early in November the Research Committee's new survey will be mailed to all MHSLA hospital libraries. The data from this survey will be utilized to construct an instrument to provide hospital library managers with state statistics to support planning, benchmarking, and growth of Michigan hospital library programs. The results

will be compiled by the type and size of institutions to provide a tool to compare individual institution statistics with a state average for similar institutions. The Research Committee plans to conduct this survey on an annual basis. In the increasingly cost sensitive environment that pervades health care, it is essential that we have comparative statistics from within our state to support the continued development of hospital library programs. Our schedules are busy, but it is important that we take the time to respond to this survey when it arrives. The more libraries that participate in this endeavor, the more useful the information will be for all hospital library programs in Michigan .

## Conference Note

Vendor Committee Chair, Robin Alanen Mosher is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, contact her as soon as possible. Did people like the "Just for Fun" vendors? Should that be done again? If you have ideas for vendors, let Robin know.

## Scholarship Winner Report

As the scholarship winner attending the 1998 MHSLA Conference in Port Huron, I want to thank the organization for paying my way to the conference. Thanks especially to Alexander Lyubchansky and Sandy Swanson, the committee who selected me. What a wonderful way to welcome a new member!

I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. Everyone was so friendly and it was great to put faces to the voices I had been dealing with on the phone and reading their listserv notices. The pool party, barbecue, and line dancing were great fun and an excellent way to get acquainted.

My main reason for attending the conference was to learn more about alternative medicine -- the CEU class on Wednesday. Bonnie Snow was very informative and packed so much information into those 8 hours, that it will take me a long time to utilize it all.

The other meetings were great too. I especially received a lot of information I could use concerning low literacy materials for patient education and how to evaluate consumer information on the net.

The hotel facilities and food were excellent. I loved watching the ships traverse the river and the walking path along the river was great. Walking the Blue Water Bridge was a highlight!

As a public librarian for 28 years, being a medical librarian is very new to me. I have so much to learn, and the MHSLA members have been so gracious in helping me become acclimated and in filling my journal requests.

Thanks to all of you.  
Carol De Jong,

Zeeland Community Hospital

## October is Medical Librarians Month

by Nancy Manninen

Congress declared October National Medical Librarians Month for the first time in 1997. In a statement made in the House of Representatives, Major R. Owens (D-NY) saluted medical librarians and their specialized skill in obtaining the best information available. He also praised the long-standing partnership between health sciences librarians and the National Library of Medicine.<sup>1</sup>

This seems an appropriate time to celebrate not only the contributions of present librarians but those of the past who make information-gathering now so much easier. The most notable U.S. medical librarian was John Shaw

Billings, M.D. (1838-1913). All of us have benefitted directly or indirectly from his original concept that resulted in the National Library of Medicine and Medline.

Dr. Billings created the *Index-Catalogue of the library of the Surgeon-Generals Office, United States Army* presenting the first volume in 1879. This was the origin of the present *Index Medicus* and *Medline*. In an address in 1888, Dr. Billings described the process of finding medical information that led him to try and establish a complete medical library for American physicians and an accurate index. Problems he identified included the amount of time to search through thousands of volumes of medical books and journals on a particular subject in many different libraries noting that, "while there was nowhere in the world, a library that contained all the medical literature, there was not in the United States any fairly good library..."<sup>2</sup>. In eight years, Dr. Billings increased the Surgeon's General Library from 1,800 volumes to one of 50,000 volumes and pamphlets to help correct this situation. "If one wish to do good bibliographical work to verify the references given by European medical writers, or to make reasonably sure that one had before him all that had been seen or done by previous observers or experimenters on a given subject, he must go to Europe and visit, not merely one, but several of the great capital cities in order to accomplish his desire."<sup>3</sup> Dr. Billings' answer was the development of an accurate index to medical literature based on his collection in the Surgeon's General Library.

The publication of his *Index-Catalogue* marked the first time in a medical library catalog authors and subjects were included together in one alphabet along with titles of books and journals. While this is hard to imagine today even more difficult to conceive is that Dr. Billings manually created over 400,000 subject cards. This seems a greater accomplishment to us when one remembers that the majority of published medical literature at the time was written

in various foreign languages. Commenting on the *Index-Catalogue* in 1913, William Osler stated, "No undertaking in bibliography of the same magnitude dealing with a special subject has ever been issued, and its extraordinary value is at once appreciated all over the world."<sup>4</sup>

Today's health sciences librarians continue Billings' dedication to making quality information accessible. Medline and a complement databases is available in improved technological formats to a broader audience composed, not only of physicians but allied health personnel and the public. His original concepts have expanded to include DOCLINE, an electronic national interlibrary loan program through the National Library of Medicine and an entire compliment of bibliographic databases.

Think of the medical librarians behind the organization and provision of medical knowledge the next time you logon to one of the medical databases or receive an information search.

1. Congress recognizes national medical librarians month. Press Release Oct. 1997. Chicago: MLA  
<http://www.mlanet.org/press/nov97.html#cong>
2. Fulton, John F. The great Medical Bibliographers: a study in humanism. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1950. P.71
3. IBID. p.71
4. IBID. p. 74

## New Mailing List

In conjunction with the Centennial Distance Learning Program, Evidence-Based Health Care in Action, MLA has created EBHC listserv to allow those interested in EBHC to communicate with each other.

To subscribe send the message: subscribe mla-ebhc to majordomo@miahq.org

To send a message to others on the listserv send it to: mla-ebhc@miahq.org

You do not have to be a member of MLA to join the listserv. If you have any questions, contact:

Katy Nesbit  
Miner Library  
University of Rochester Medical Center  
knes@miner.rochester.edu

## Upcoming Conferences

**American Medical Informatics Association "Advancing Health Care Through Information Technology"**, Orlando, Florida, November 7-11, 1998.  
<http://www.amia.org/>

**Special Libraries Association Winter Meeting & Education Conference --** San Francisco, CA, January 21-26, 1999  
<http://www.SLA.org>

**American Libraries Association Mid Winter Meeting**, Philadelphia, PA, January 22-28, 1998.  
<http://www.ala.org/>

**ACRL 9th National Conference "Racing Toward Tomorrow"** April 8-11, 1999  
Detroit, MI  
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/preindex.html>

**Medical Library Association** May 14-20, 1999  
Chicago, IL  
<http://www.mlanet.org>

**A Bridge to the New Millennium** CHLA/ABSC 23rd Annual Conference May 25 to 29, 1999  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
<http://www.library.dal.ca/chla99/>

**Knowledge Leaders for the New Millennium: Creators of the Information Future** June 5-10, 1999  
Special Libraries Association  
Minneapolis, MN  
<http://WWW.SLA.ORG/conf/index.html>

## Online Peer Reviewed Journals on the Increase

by Deborah Porter

The list of publishers who are making electronic versions of their peer-reviewed journals available for searching on the Web is increasing. In some cases the journals are being offered for free and publishers are now incorporating features that make searching and viewing the articles less cumbersome. This is great news to share with health care professionals who may be relying on Journal Watch as the only way to stay current.

### WebMedLit

<http://www.webmedlit.com/>

WebMedLit is a medical headline service which provides efficient access to medical journals on the Web. It's a free service that scans the Web each evening for updates to 18 journals, including JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine, and Archives of Family Medicine. It provides a centralized resource for efficient access to quality medical information from literature sources on the Web.

### Medical Matrix—Guide to Internet Clinical Medicine Resources

[http://www.medmatrix.org/SPages/Major\\_Journals.asp](http://www.medmatrix.org/SPages/Major_Journals.asp)

This site offers a comprehensive listing of major online journals, including information on the availability of full text, archived articles, and which sites have search engines.

### Medial Journal List A to Z

<http://www.sciencekomm.at/journals/medicine/med-bio.html>

Comprehensive listing of urls for 2500 life science journals and 50 medical subject categories. Not all journals listed include full text but there is information on scope of each journal and abstracts of

published papers.

### Annals of Internal Medicine

<http://www.acponline.org/journals/annals/annaltoc.htm>

### JAMA

<http://www.ama-assn.org/public/journals/jama/jamahome.htm>

### Lancet

<http://www.thelancet.com/>

### New England Journal of Medicine

<http://www.nejm.org/content/index.asp>

## Personnel/Institutional News

Alexia Estabrook is the new librarian at **Aurora Healthcare, Inc.** in Detroit. The library will be staffed Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The new email address is [aurora@mlc.lib.mi.us](mailto:aurora@mlc.lib.mi.us). I continue to work at Providence Hospital on Thursdays.

### Botsford General Hospital Library

name has changed to "Library and Internet Services". Debbie Adams, Director, along with the Chief Information Officer, has been placed in charge of the development and implementation of the corporate Internet/Intranet Plan, the creation of a new corporate web site, the creation of the corporate Intranet, as well as the Internet/Intranet/Email Policy. Jamie Densmore, systems librarian, was promoted to Internet Coordinator and is the corporate webmaster.

### Borgess Health Information Library's

SilverPlatter databases are now accessible from workstations throughout the Medical Center, thanks to a bridge installed between the library LAN and the main hospital network. We are trying to make library resources more convenient for our busy clinicians. The next step in this effort will be to make the

library holdings catalog available house-wide. In other news, we are joining OCLC as full cataloging members.

The staff library at the **Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital** is currently unstaffed. Please do not send it any interlibrary loans. DOCLINE has been deactivated (LIBID 49001F). Future changes in the status of the library will be publicized when known.

Tracy Texter as resigned as Medical Library Technician at **Pennock Hospital**. She will be attending Western Michigan University and working part-time at Pennock in another capacity. Jackie Muma is the new Library Technician. She was most recently employed as a middle school librarian in Boyne City, Michigan.

Don Ziehmer is the new serials library assistant at **Saginaw Health Sciences Library**. Don comes from the Dow library system. He plans to get his M.L.S. His email is [ziehmer@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:ziehmer@pilot.msu.edu)

Sandra Studebaker has retired from the Medical Library at **St. Joseph's Mercy Macomb** (LIBID: 48043C). The Library is unable to respond to requests for information or ILLs at this time.