

# MHSLA

## NEWS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

## President's Column

*This is the second entry in President Blauet's diary to the MHSLA membership.*

Well Diary, we've had two more Board meetings since my last entry. Luckily for all concerned, the weather cooperated and none of the meetings had to be rescheduled. Again we met at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing. The only real drawback to this is that we can see the aerobics class in the next room—this really makes me tired!

At the first meeting we got an overview of the program for the October conference at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI. The theme is "Soaring to New Heights: Weaving Tradition and Technology." The program will include Native American healing, and transcultural and spiritual aspects of healing. At the second meeting, the program was filled in and the CE classes confirmed. There will be a class on licensing, consumer health, and (my favorite!) "Using the Basic Tool of the Information Age—The Brain".

*The theme of the October conference is "Soaring to New Heights: Weaving Tradition and Technology." Topics will include Native American healing, and transcultural and spiritual aspects of healing.*

One part of the conference I'm excited about is the inclusion of a memorial lecture. In memory of two of our recently departed members, we will sponsor a "Barbara Coe Johnson and Jeanne Brennan Memorial Lecture". This year it will deal with consumer health resources.

The conference will also have sessions on Web-Crossing software, a GMR update, disaster planning, and PalmPilots. It sounds like a lot to pack into a couple of days and still leave time for us to "network" with colleagues (and the slots), but I'm sure we'll manage. Just a thought—if this program doesn't fit your specific needs, this would be a good time to think about volunteering to serve on this committee next year. That way, YOU would be able to choose just what courses YOU would

like to attend. Sort of a put-up-or-shut-up proposition.

Anyway, Harvey Brenneise gave us updates at both meetings on the AMECHII and ATLAS projects. The AMECHII project wasn't funded by the state, but is looking into other sources of money. We also had a good discussion about starting a digitizing project on the state level for historical medical resources.

We also discussed membership. There is a net loss of members again this year. Changes in the definition of institutional membership were debated. These changes will be discussed at the annual conference.

Arlene Weismantel from the Publications Committee researched and provided us with a selection of new logos for the organization. The Board voted to accept the new logo, so look for it to show up on all our official stuff.

Reports from the local groups ranged from "we met and did lunch" to "we're starting to plan for next conference" from the Detroit group.

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## President's Column

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Also, the West group is having a class on PubMed, MDMLG is having a CAM conference in October, and everyone else is just busy.

Well, Diary, as you can see, we fill up the meetings pretty well. But as always, they are well worth the time. Thanks again Leslie for the good cookies!!!

That's all for now,  
Doris

## MHSLA's New Logo: The Compass

*By Arlene Weismantel*

**O**ur new logo, the compass, was approved by the MHSLA Board at the April meeting. The compass signifies the expertise of medical librarians in navigating through the increasingly complex world of information, both traditional and electronic. The compass is also significant in that MHSLA serves a state surrounded by water with a great maritime tradition.

Our new logo was designed by Theresa Moore, Graphic Artist, Michigan State University Libraries, in consultation with the MHSLA Publications Committee.

Look forward to seeing our new logo on all MHSLA publications including conference souvenirs! Reproducible versions of the logo and new MHSLA stationery

will eventually be available from the MHSLA Web site at [www.mhsla.org](http://www.mhsla.org).



## Call for Posters!

**I**t's that time of year again! We are looking for poster presentations for the MHSLA Conference, October 10-12 at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Please submit ideas to me no later than August 24, 2001. Poster presentations will be held on Thursday, October 11. Thank you for your continued support. Let's Soar to New Heights, Weaving Technology and Traditions!

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## Key Programs Within the GMR

*By Stephanie Weldon*

*The National Library of Medicine recently announced that the University of Illinois at Chicago Library of the Health Sciences was awarded the five-year contract to continue to serve as the Regional Medical Library for the Greater Midwest Region. Stephanie Weldon takes this opportunity to discuss key programs included in this next contract.*

**T**he GMR Program is built around the guiding principles of decentralization, collaboration, needs assessment and evaluation. Using data obtained through regional assessments, member input, and staff efforts, and working through a system of sub-contracts and partnerships, UIC LHS will develop programs to meet the following national network goals:

- To develop collaborations with NN/LM libraries to improve access to and sharing of biomedical information resources throughout the nation;

- To promote awareness of and access to biomedical information resources for health professionals and the public; and
- To develop, promote, and improve access to electronic health information resources by network member libraries, health professionals, and organizations providing health information to the public.

Specific goals for the GMR are:

- To work with libraries in the network to establish connections with health professionals in rural and inner city locations who still do not have adequate access to health information;
- To work with the NN/LM and other organizations to increase public awareness of and access to health information via the Internet, with particular focus on senior citizens, minority populations, and persons of low socioeconomic status; and
- To strengthen network capabilities through collaborations and by working with national support centers in key areas of need, such as outreach evaluation, training and distance education.

The priorities for the Region during the next five years focus on information access through resource sharing, information management and technology, and outreach to health professionals and health consumers.

For more information see: <http://nlnm.gov/gmr/summary/>.

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# Information Professionals and PDAs

By Stephanie John, Director, Information Resources, Saginaw Cooperative Hospitals, johnste@pilot.msu.edu.

I'm going to be giving a PDA seminar at the fall MHSLA meeting. I am a firm believer that we're ALL going to be using something very similar within three years. Just like cell phones took off and the cost of the individual phone became inconsequential, the same will be true of PDA-type devices. If you want to be seen as technologically knowledgeable, and to understand where the Web and books are going--everywhere, and on smaller screens, you need to be a regular PDA user NOW. Ask a resident to let you write on theirs and have them show you how it works. They'll be delighted and you will be too.

I thought I'd give you a little warm-up now to get you excited. Personally, I use a Handspring Visor Deluxe. But since I've purchased it, I've become presbyopic and have a hard time seeing the screen. At least, that's my excuse for when I bite the bullet and get a color PDA. Hope I'll be able to afford a wireless one...maybe one that's a phone too! Our library will be purchasing six PDAs this summer (probably two color Palms, 2 color clones like Handera, and two Windows CE devices). Rationale? Load them with Epocrates, 5 Minute Clinical Consult, other truly great apps and circulate them to the attendings. If they get screwed up, they get popped into the cradle when returned and restored. If they get lost or broken, that's part of business.



We've all lost books worth as much! The result of this project: the physicians become more comfortable with technology, are more comfortable with the electronic library, and see us as experts in electronic information dissemination.

Here's our library's PDA Web page. It's very basic, but will get you going: <http://www.schi.org/shsl/pda.html>. Like all Web authors, we know it needs to be updated...!

My favorite game is Wordlet. A 15-day shareware version is available at <http://www.oopdreams.com/wordlet/>. It's addictive. It's like a word hunt, but you can go backwards, forwards, sideways, zigzag. To buy it is \$15.00.

My favorite general app is WordCompleter. Yup, that's its name! If you feel Graffiti is too slow for you, download this as a demo and spend the \$24 bucks once you realize it's fantastic! This utility helps to speed text entry time and accuracy by offering a pop-up pick list of words once you have entered a few letters. To complete your word entry, just tap on the word you want, and it is automatically entered. WordCompleter's dictionary provides a quick and easy way to check the spelling

of a word and can be customized so that frequently used words appear at the top of the pop-up list.

My favorite free medical app is Epocrates (now called qRx). It's like a combo PDR and AHFS red book that's updated constantly. It's used by over 150,000 medical professionals. It's compact, it's reviewed by a medical board, and it's easy to use.

Please send me your tips and comments or things you'd like to see or hear about at the PDA session at the annual meeting.

## List of MHSLA Journal Holdings

The MHSLA Collection Development Committee needs your help. We are in the process of developing a comprehensive list of MHSLA journal holdings. To greatly facilitate this process, please make sure your SERHOLD list is current and up-to-date. This would also make DOCLINE transactions easier with less false hits, especially for titles which have been dropped. If you are considering dropping any titles, please give me a call at Hackley. I will check and verify that the title is not a significant holding. Thank you for your assistance.

Betty Marshall, Collection Development Chair  
Phone: 231-728-4766

## MHSLA Consortial Pricing, Ariel Grants

By Harvey Brenneise, Technology Committee Chairperson

At its May 15 meeting, the MHSLA Board authorized the Technology Committee to actively pursue submission of two grant proposals to the Library of Michigan for the current cycle of LSTA grants (proposals due by the end of June).

One proposal will be to install Ariel workstations in hospital libraries. Current estimates are that this will cost about \$5,000 per workstation and will include a dedicated microcomputer, digital scanner and the current version of the Ariel software. This will enable health libraries in Michigan to more fully collaborate not only with other health libraries, but other types of libraries as the state library community moves toward more complete models of resource sharing (the ATLAS project, particularly).

Ariel, a product of the Research Libraries Group, makes it possible to create a high-quality digital image (TIFF) and send it to another library, where it can either be printed or converted to a .pdf file for delivery to the user electronically. In the past, barriers for many hospital libraries have included the cost of installation and firewall issues. Ariel version 2 allows for e-mail transmission of documents between Ariel workstations (rather than ftp), and as long as the e-mail account has sufficient memory, this appears to be a satisfactory method for those libraries that cannot get their IT departments to open certain ports

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# Consortial Pricing, Ariel Grants

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on the firewall.

Interested libraries should contact Harvey Brenneise (hbrenne@mphi.org) as soon as possible. A widely representative sample of hospital libraries will be sought.

The other authorized proposal will be to take the first steps toward the development of a Michigan health library consortium/statewide digital health library. The evidence is strong that considerable savings can be made if libraries pool their financial resources and purchase them as a group. Initial products of interest are Stat!Ref and Ovid databases.

The AMECHII (Access Michigan Electronic Community Health Library) working group has for several years been working on implementing the vision of greater access to health information by all types of libraries. Development of a business plan and finding funding sources has to date limited what this group has been able to accomplish.

In this proposal, MHSLA and the AMECHII working group will collaborate in implementing one or two health digital resources where libraries are invited to participate, the resources are aggregated, and additional libraries which have a real but more limited interest in them are also invited to join as well. In addition, some of the grant money can be used to determine just how much demand there is for this information in non-hospital libraries. Exploration will also be made of using an external experienced bargaining agent such as MiCTA to help write the contracts, as staff time to do this has been a serious limiting factor for Michigan health sciences libraries in the past.

There are many unanswered questions about how this might work in reality, and a grant-funded project would assist MHSLA in developing more projects, possibly in collaboration with AccessMichigan and the Library of Michigan, that will benefit many Michigan libraries large and small, and of all types, and help to close the "digital divide" between libraries.

## Conference Hotel Reservations

Some MHSLA members had questions about the note on the conference postcard that said hotel reservations must be faxed or mailed. You need not worry about this until after you have received your conference registration packet, but the Soaring Eagle will not accept conference hotel reservations by phone.

## Correction

The last issue of MHSLA News erroneously listed Patricia Redman as working on the Education Committee. PATRICIA MARTIN was, in fact, on the Education Committee. Sincere apologies to Patricia Martin.

# MHSLA NEWS

MHSLA News is published three times each year by the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association, [www.mhsla.org](http://www.mhsla.org).

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## Member News

**Carole M. Gilbert**, Director of the Helen L. DeRoy Medical Library at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, Southfield, MI, is this year's recipient of MLA's Lois Ann Colaianni Award for Excellence and Achievement in Hospital Librarianship. This award honors MLA members who have "made significant contributions to the profession through overall distinction or leadership in hospital library administration or service, production of a definitive publication related to hospital librarianship, teaching, research, advocacy, or the development or application of innovative technology to hospital librarianship." (Medical Library Association: Colaianni Award. <http://mlanet.org/awards/honors/colaianni.html>. Retrieved April 16, 2001)

According to an MLA press release, Carole received the award "for her achievements in the areas of library development, leadership, and editing." Her accomplishments include overseeing the design and construction of a new library facility and computer lab, creating Internet searching classes for residents, and increasing library usage twenty-eight-fold. (Medical Library Association. What's New, April 2001. <http://mlanet.org/press/2001/april01.html>. Retrieved April 16, 2001).

The award will be presented at the MLA Awards Luncheon during this year's annual meeting.

**Carole M. Gilbert** was also awarded a National Library of Medicine Medical Informatics Fellowship. Carole will be attending a medical informatics survey course this October sponsored by NLM and the Marine Biology Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.

**Michael Simmons** is the new Library Manager at Sparrow Health System Medical Library in Lansing.

**Steve Kalis** has recently started working for the Sparrow Health System Medical Library.