

# MHSLA NEWS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

## A Letter from MHSLA President, Keith Engwall

Dear MHSLA Members,

One of the challenges that we currently face, and will probably continue to face, is the maintenance and growth of our professional community. Medical librarians are constantly having to do more with less in our day-to-day work, leaving little time, energy or money for travel to meetings and conferences, particularly at the national and regional levels. While the annual MHSLA conference is an excellent opportunity for us to come together with far less impact on our time and budgets, how could we interact as a community the rest of the year?

Although there are opportunities at the local level to meet and interact, over time, these same pressures have brought about either the dissolution or consolidation of many of our local organizations in the state, such that for many of us, the term “local” no longer applies.

The danger of this trend is that we become fragmented, isolated, and disengaged from our profession. Having spent eight years in a small college library with an annually shrinking budget, completely isolated from others in my profession, I speak with experience on how devastating that can be, both emotionally and professionally. My profession became a job, I gradually lost most of the enthusiasm I once had, and I fell far behind in the developments in my field. Given the scarcity of resources faced by so many, and our seemingly constant fight to prove our relevance and value in the midst of shrinking institutional budgets, this is exactly the time we should be pulling together, providing support and inspiration, keeping each other up to date and engaged, and developing a collective voice to speak up for our value to those who do not fully



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understand our role.

But to do that, we need to find ways to become more engaged as a community, and I believe it is the role of professional organizations to provide opportunities to do so. Our annual conference is a great start, but I do not believe it is enough. Additional in-person meetings would be expensive, difficult to arrange and, at the state level, require travel, which would probably end up competing with the annual conference rather than supplementing it. Online workshops and webinars are a step in the right direction, but provide little opportunity for unstructured interaction. One tool that I think may hold some promise is our new membership service, detailed by Iris Kovar-Gough in this issue of the newsletter. In addition to its value for managing our member roster, it has some features that we will be investigating that might facilitate member-driven interaction, such as member groups and discussion forums. One member suggested that MHSLA establish Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and although it is difficult to imagine how the organization might support the formal establishment of this kind of entity, it might be feasible to make use of these kind of tools to provide an online home for such endeavors. In the meantime, we do still have a listserv and a newsletter, and of course, a call just went out recently for posters at our upcoming conference. Also, there is an open medical librarian Tweet Chat every Thursday night at 9pm Eastern (<http://medlibschat.blogspot.com/>).

So, I encourage all members to speak up. Ask questions. Make announcements. Let us know what you are doing, what is inspiring you, what is frustrating you. Let's find ways to build our community throughout the year. For my part, I will try to do the same and be a more active voice.

Sincerely,

Keith Engwall, MS LIS, AHIP  
President, MHSLA

## *MHSLA Adopts Wild Apricot software to manage membership*

**A**s of June 4th MHSLA transitioned from an Excel spreadsheet to an online, cloud-based membership software by a company called Wild Apricot. Wild Apricot has been in business for over 10 years, is used by a variety of organizations including MLA Midwest chapter, and offered an affordable but robust system that met our membership needs.

As membership grows, we need a database meets our organizational needs. Over time the current membership database has grown to include discrepancies, redundancies, and incorrect information in member records. The new membership database is a way to correct these errors. By using a membership database that allows members to update their own contact information I hope to have the most current information on file for every member.

We are currently using the membership database strictly to maintain an up-to-date members roll. The MHSLA list serv will still be used for general communications and dues paying will still be done using the current system of either PayPal or sending checks. If we decide to integrate payment into the Wild Apricot database we will inform you well in advance of renewal season. There is also the possibility of using the database for event registration. This is something we are still looking into and for the 2015 Conference we will be using the conference website and form for registration and payment.

A few notes on Wild Apricot:

1. You should be able to edit almost all the fields in your profile by logging in to your account and, after clicking your name above the main menu bar, clicking the “edit profile” button.
2. We may periodically send emails to specific groups of members via Wild Apricot. Please take a look at the groups and membership level you have been assigned (on your profile page) and update/change it as necessary.
3. Wild Apricot emails may be sent to your spam or quarantine folder, please add it as an approved sender.
4. When sending mail blasts via Wild Apricot the “FROM” field will be from the administrator who sent the email. This will usually be either me (Iris Kovar-Gough) with a mhslaorg@gmail.com email or Keith Engwall using his Oakland.edu email account. If you reply to the email you will be replying to either of us, not the list serv.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know! The database is very new and we are still working out the kinks, but know that I appreciate your patience as we make sure the database works effectively and efficiently.

Iris Kovar-Gough, MA, MLIS, AHIP  
Michigan State University Libraries  
Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association Membership Chair



## *National Library of Medicine Exhibition Headed to Traverse City*

**M**unson Healthcare's Community Health Library is scheduled to host a NLM History of Medicine traveling exhibition from October 26, 2015, through December 5, 2015. The exhibition, *Harry Potter's World: Renaissance, Science, Magic, and Medicine*, will be housed at the Denno Museum on the campus of Northwestern Michigan College.

The exhibit uses historical information to explore Harry Potter's world and its roots in Renaissance, Science, Magic, and Medicine. Although a fantasy story, the magic in the Harry Potter books is partially based on Renaissance traditions that played an important role in the development of Western science, including alchemy, astrology, and natural philosophy. Incorporating the work of several 15th and 16th century thinkers, the seven-part series examines important ethical topics such as the desire for knowledge, the effects of prejudice, and the responsibility that comes with power.

This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal Funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHSN276201100005C with the University of Illinois at Chicago.”



*Mark your Calendars!*

*MHSLA Annual Conference Sept. 24-25 in Flint.*

Registration is now open for the 2015 Annual Conference of the Michigan Health Sciences Library Association, meeting in Flint Michigan Sept. 24 and 25. A draft of the [“Conference at a Glance”](#) document is now available (PDF, 17k).

In addition to the usual business meeting, vendor exhibits, poster display and special event for socializing, the conference will offer the four following continuing education classes:

**Measuring What Matters to Stakeholders;** presenter: Beth Layton (Friday morning)

**Emerging Technologies for the Busy Librarian;** presenters: Gabriel Rios and Melissa DeSantis (Friday morning)

**Community Engagement 101: The Art of Building Community Partnerships;** presenter: Deborah Charbonneau (Friday afternoon)

**Instructional Design: Proven Principles and Practices for Librarians Who Teach;** presenter: Joey Nicholson (Friday afternoon)

For complete information, updated as the conference gets nearer, please go to the following URL:

<http://www.mhsla.org/home/2015/2015conference.htm>

### *Dates to remember for the 2015 MHSLA Annual Conference:*

**June 30, 2015:** Application deadline for MHSLA Scholarships (New Member Scholarship, Member Scholarship, Diane LeBar Scholarship) for the 2015 Annual Conference; Details of each award and application instructions can be found at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/BkWMEdErSn>

**July 15, 2015:** Deadline to submit poster abstracts. Poster abstracts (250 word maximum) must be sent via the [MHSLA Poster Abstract Submission Form](#) by 5 pm on the 15th. Questions may be submitted to the Education Committee Co-Chair, [Stephanie Swanberg \(swanberg@oakland.edu\)](mailto:Stephanie.Swanberg@oakland.edu).



## *Your content submissions sought for MHSLA Newsletter*

Any MHSLA member who would like to contribute content is welcome to submit it to the MHSLA Communications Chair (Mark Chaffee, [mchaffee@umich.edu](mailto:mchaffee@umich.edu)). All items pertaining to health sciences librarianship news that might be of interest to the MHSLA membership will be welcome, although all submissions will be subject to review for appropriateness. Please include "MHSLA Newsletter content" in the subject line of your email.

## *Scholarships available for MHSLA Annual Meeting*

The Michigan Health Science Libraries Association (MHSLA) is pleased to offer three scholarships for the annual conference:

- 1) **The New Member scholarship** is for a member of MHSLA who has never attended the MHSLA annual conference before.
- 2) **The Member scholarship** is for any MHSLA who needs support in order to attend the annual conference.
- 3) **The Diane LeBar Memorial Scholarship** is for any MHSLA member employed in a hospital library or equivalent.

Applicants must be current MHSLA members to receive a scholarship. The details of each award and instructions to apply can be found at <http://goo.gl/forms/BkWMEdErSn>.

The 2015 MHSLA annual conference will be held September 24-25, 2015 at the University of Michigan-Flint.

**The deadline to apply is June 30, 2015.** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Recipients will be notified within 4 weeks of the application deadline.

If you have any questions please contact Andrea Kepsel, 2015 Education Committee Co-Chair, at [akepsel@msu.edu](mailto:akepsel@msu.edu).

## *Submit your poster abstract for the 2015 Annual Conference*

Poster abstracts (maximum of 250 words) are due to the [online submission form](#) **no later than Wednesday, July 15 by 5:00pm**. There will be no lightning round talks at this year's conference so this is the best opportunity to share your latest projects with your colleagues!

Poster authors will be notified of acceptance no later than July 25, 2015. The poster session will take place on Thursday, September 24 from 3:45 -4:30pm and at least one author will be expected to stand by their posters and answer questions during that time. Easels will be provided for poster presenters.

# 2014-2015 MHSLA Board Members

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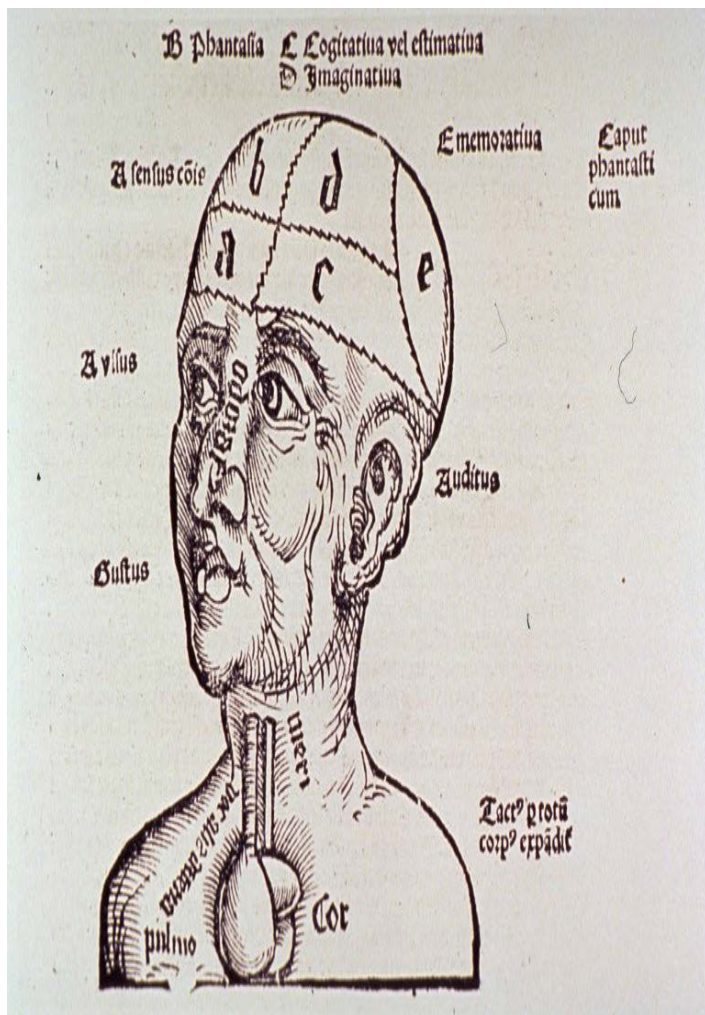
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# MHSLA NEWS

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