

the *Chronicle*

Philadelphia Regional Chapter
Medical Library Association, Inc.
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In Memoriam: Diane M. Farny

On December 8, 2001 we lost a good friend and colleague, Diane Farny of the Graduate Hospital Health Sciences Library. She was the Staff Librarian at Graduate from 1977 until her death. I first came to know Diane when I joined the Philadelphia Chapter of the Medical Library Association in 1981. She was the President of the Chapter at that time, and she asked me if I would like to take on the position of Membership Chair for the Chapter. When I later became the Librarian at Abington Memorial Hospital, we continued our working relationship as members of DEVIC and Chapter committees.

Diane contributed so much to our Chapter. It was under her presidential leadership that the Chapter worked to clarify its geographical boundaries, particularly with regard to delineating the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh chapters. It was also during her tenure as Vice-President and President that the Chapter's financial situation became more secure, with the implementation of self-supporting programs and continuing education classes, and the ability to offer scholarships and awards.

Diane was co-founder of the Newsletter Task Force and co-editor (both with Sara Richardson) of the inaugural issue of the *Chronicle* in 1982. She continued to co-edit the *Chronicle* with Sara, and later with Marion Shaner. For these activities she received the Chapter Appreciation Award in 1988. In 1999 Diane was awarded the Chapter's highest award, the Chapter Achievement Award, in recognition of her outstanding dedication and commitment to the Chapter. She was a member of AHIP, at the "Distinguished" level.

On January 16, 2002 I attended, along with many Chapter members, a memorial service in honor of Diane that was held at Graduate Hospital. Many people, from the Graduate CEO to numerous childhood friends, spoke kind and gentle words about Diane. It was clear that Diane was a mentor to many people throughout her life, just as she was to me some 20 years ago.

I especially enjoyed the words spoken at the service by the Reverend Christine Holcomb, Staff Chaplain at Graduate. I think they convey a real sense of what Diane was all about. Here is an excerpted version of what she said:

"...we ... celebrate the life of our vibrant friend who was librarian here at Graduate Hospital from 1977 until December 2001. To Diane's mother, Mrs. Farny, and Diane's sisters, Jean and Betsy, I should say, I liked Diane. She had a shrewd and artful sense of humor that never missed a beat or was fooled. But it was not directed at persons, only situations.

One of the first things I observed about Diane was that she held a great passion for knowledge- whatever the profession of the person requesting her help in the library. After ... having Diane show such interest in the theological journals and research I did for teaching, I looked at librarians with new eyes.

She conveyed a sense of one who was a dedicated and interested servant of civilization and things civilized. To this day I see librarians as organizing and cataloging all of mankind's efforts, viewpoints, opinions, research [and] knowledge. She [was] interested in how we could access knowledge for the betterment of others, for

learning here at the hospital, and the success of future generations of doctors, nurses and chaplains.

[There is] one thing about Di that I valued deeply. [She] lived out professionally [a] respect for all life's pieces as eminently important and worth documenting...In this hospital and in the world, every person, each department, [was] vital. All of us- from Escort Services to the Cath Lab- [were] important and necessary.

Diane walked on a good path in life. May she rest in peace..."

Diane Farny was a rare and wonderful person, and an exceptional librarian. She is already greatly missed. §

Marion Chayes
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Volunteering at the AIDS Library: A Library Science Student's Perspective

Volunteering is an excellent way to help others and gain valuable skills. As a library science student at Drexel University, I developed an interest in medical librarianship. However, my prior and current library experience has been in business libraries. In order to pursue my interest in medical libraries, I began volunteering at the AIDS Library with a desire to participate in public or reference services.

Founded in 1987, the AIDS Library was the nation's first public lending library dedicated to HIV/AIDS information. It contains a comprehensive multimedia, multilingual collection of monographs, serials, vertical files, audio, and videocassettes relating to HIV/AIDS. In 1995, resources expanded to include a website for HIV/AIDS information and services referral. The Library provides eight computers with internet access during the 30 hours a week it is open to the public. There is also computer training for those who require such help. The library serves between 300 and 500 people a month, either in person, via email or on the phone. The AIDS Library is now a program of Philadelphia FIGHT, a comprehensive AIDS service organization providing HIV primary care, consumer education, advocacy, and research on potential treatments and vaccines started in 1990 as the first Philadelphia-based community research site. The acronym stands for Field Initiating Group for HIV Trials. The goal of Philadelphia FIGHT is to end the epidemic in the lifetime of people living with HIV today.

My hours at the library involve assisting patrons with reference questions, providing computer assistance and working on other projects as needed. Computer assistance often involves helping with email accounts provided by the Critical Path AIDS Project, another program of Philadelphia FIGHT. The Critical Path AIDS Project acts as an Internet Service Provider and provides free email and Internet access to those with HIV/AIDS and AIDS service organizations in the Philadelphia Metropolitan area. The AIDS Library is an integral part of this service as it manages all the email accounts. The library staff also provides help desk support for those using this service.

Additionally, patrons come into the library and need help signing up for an account or using their currently existing email accounts. As part of my duties, I assist patrons in filling out the on-line form to sign up for their accounts. Once created, some patrons need help entering their user names and passwords correctly and I aid patrons who need such help. The entire library staff and I also provide patrons with direction in using Microsoft Word and the Internet. The patrons of the AIDS Library have varied levels of computer expertise; some patrons may be quite skilled while others may need basic instruction on the computer.

In addition to gaining reference and technical experience, I work on assorted projects. My most recent project involves updating the Library's guide to HIV clinics in the Philadelphia area. This project has acquainted me with the resources available to patients and has helped to make an important source more useful.

Tasks that are varied and interesting, from providing help desk support to answering involved reference questions, create a wonderful and extremely educational experience for me. I have learned a great deal about medical reference as well as the collection development issues involved in a small medical library. The staff and even the patrons have increased my knowledge about AIDS and medical librarianship, proving it fascinating and important work.

Not all those who volunteer at the AIDS Library are librarians. Librarian Marge McAna has been a Library volunteer the longest, since 1989. Marge uses her skills in collection development and cataloging of videos. Another librarian, Gina Kaiser, comes in once a week and spends her hours cataloging serials and books so that they are accessible in the AIDS Library's online catalog.

The staff at the AIDS Library provides critical knowledge to its patrons. Being part of that effort has been a rewarding experience for me. Though I provide reference in my current position in a business library, the work I do at the AIDS Library is more meaningful and enjoyable. The Library's motto is "Information for Life." As a volunteer at the AIDS Library, I am finding that phrase is more than just a slogan.

For more information about the Library or to volunteer, please contact Jenny Pierce, Director, at 215-985-4448 or via email at library@aidslibrary.org. §

Kathleen Dreyer
dreyerk@earthlink.net

Letter from the Chair

As you all know, this year represents the 50th anniversary of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter of MLA! The kick-off to our celebratory year began with last year's Annual Meeting and Dinner, and the celebration will culminate during this year's Annual Meeting. We hope you can be with us to join in the festivities!

I feel somewhat fated to be Chair this year, because on November 16th, 1951, one of my predecessors from the University of Pennsylvania's Dental School Library, Miss Margaret Gayley Palmer, was elected to be the first Chair of our Chapter. Although Miss Palmer is no longer with us, I did enjoy the privilege of meeting her not long after I became Penn's Dental School Librarian. At that time Miss Palmer was living in Dunwoody Village, Newtown Square. Already in her mid 80's, Miss Palmer was bright, personable, cheerful, and sharp as could be. She regaled me with stories of her travels, and anecdotes about her 30 years as Head of Penn's Dental School Library. Miss Palmer was still reading the newspapers daily, and keeping up with her many friends and colleagues from Penn and from the library world. I would like to dedicate this year's anniversary celebration to the memory of Miss Palmer along with her many medical librarian colleagues who had the vision, wisdom, and dedication to initiate our Chapter of MLA.

This year's Annual Meeting is being held at the College of Physicians, which is the same location where the first official meeting of our Chapter was held. The illustrious Miss Janet Doe was the guest speaker that year. While Miss Palmer was elected Chair, Mr. Elliott Morse was elected Vice-Chairman, Miss Lucy Finkel, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Minerva Dunning and Miss Astrid Hansell, members of the Executive Committee.

This year we are looking forward to MLA National's President, Carol G. Jenkins, AHIP, as our guest speaker. Ms. Jenkins plans to address a variety of relevant and timely topics. We hope to share a toast, some history, birthday cake, and cheerful camaraderie with you all. So please do plan to join us, on Tuesday, April 16, for our 50th anniversary celebration! §

Pat Heller, Chair
Philadelphia Regional Chapter/MLA
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From the Editors

Our Chapter has certainly been busy of late, with programs and continuing education opportunities of outstanding quality. Some of these are chronicled in this issue. Special thanks to all involved in these events, particularly Ruthanne Spatafore and her Continuing Education Committee and Eric Delozier and the Program Committee.

On a very sad note, this issue pays tribute to Diane Farny, Graduate Hospital Librarian, who passed away in December. Diane was President of our Chapter in 1981, and figured prominently in the inauguration of the *Chronicle* as our Chapter newsletter. Thanks to Marion Chayes for contributing this memorial article.

We've got a new *Chronicle* column to tell you about, which makes its debut in this issue. Entitled "Meet Your Fellow Chapter Members," it consists of brief interviews with

Chapter members. We hope these pieces will be interesting and helpful in terms of getting to know one another. If you would like to be profiled in an upcoming issue, or would like to suggest someone else, please let me know.

As always, we would appreciate feedback concerning the *Chronicle*, especially “letters to the editor”; we would be delighted to publish these if you’ll write them! §

Linda M.G. Katz
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Karen M. Albert
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Nancy Calabretta
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Informationist Symposium In Print

Our Chapter is in print!! Many of you have received the January 2002 issue of the newly named *Journal of the Medical Library Association* which features a symposium edited and written by members of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter. Entitled "Patient-centered Librarianship: the Informationist and Beyond: a Symposium to Honor the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association," the symposium is a wonderful tribute to the talented members of our Chapter. Congratulations! As an added bonus, special reprints have been ordered with the *JMLA* cover and all attendees at the annual business and dinner meeting in April will receive a copy. §

Anne Seymour
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Member & Library News

Jo-Ann Babish, Director of the Library, Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton, wrote “CHI Services: Consumer Health Library Consortia – A Growing Trend.” It was published in the October 2001 issue of *National Network*, the newsletter of the Hospital Libraries Section, MLA.

Barbara Henry, Community Health Librarian, Community Health Library, Eugene du Pont Preventive Medicine and Rehabilitation Institute, Wilmington, has been elected Section Council Representative-Elect for the Hospital Libraries Section, MLA.

Sheryl Panka-Bryman, Research Librarian, Library of the Polisher Research Institute, Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life, Jenkintown, was profiled and photographed in the Winter 2001-2002 issue of the Institute's newsletter, *Research Highlights*, in conjunction with an article about the Library's receipt of an automation grant.

Linda M.G. Katz, Library Coordinator, Hahnemann Library, MCP Hahnemann University, is co-author, with A.K. Sachdeva, M.D., of a review of a new journal, *Operative Techniques in General Surgery*, published in the November 28, 2001 issue of *JAMA*.

Diane Wolf, Associate Director, Wilmington Hospital Library, Christiana Care Health Services, will be a panelist at the MLA Informationist Conference, an invitational event, to be held at the National Library of Medicine, April 4-5.

At the November 2001 meeting of the Association of Academic Health Science Libraries in Washington D.C., **Mignon Adams**, Director of Library & Information Services, Joseph W. England Library, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, spoke about her involvement in a mentoring program which is aimed at new college library directors; it pairs new directors with more experienced ones. She is responsible for a three-day seminar for new directors, held each year at the mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association.

Staff Changes:

Gretchen Kuntz began February 6 as Clinical Liaison Librarian at the University of Pennsylvania's Biomedical Library. She spent the last twenty years as a social worker in a variety of health care settings in both Philadelphia and, most recently, southern Florida. She received her Master of Science in Information Studies from Florida State University in December 2001.

Ben Jenson joined the staff at Penn's Biomedical Library on February 11 as Head of Document Delivery. He received his MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in December. While in school, he held the full-time job of managing the Hillman Library's interlibrary loan office in the evening and on weekends.

Mary Chimato will be joining the staff of the Moore Library, MCP Hahnemann University, as Reference Librarian on March 18. She will receive her graduate degree from Drexel University's College of Information Science & Technology in March. While in graduate school, she was Reserve Room Supervisor at Drexel's Hagerty Library. §

Linda M.G. Katz
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Meet Your Fellow Chapter Members:

Profile #1: Anne K. Seymour



Current Position in Chapter: Chair of the Nominating Committee and Past-Chair of the Chapter.

Present Professional Position: Since January of 1997 I've been at the Biomedical Library, University of Pennsylvania as the Associate Director for Information Services. This position oversees public services at the Biomedical Library, including reference/research services, education, access services (circulation, reserves, stacks), and systems support for the health sciences libraries at Penn.

Previous Experience: Before coming to Penn I worked at the Dahlgren Memorial Library -- Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC. For close to seven years I held the position of Assistant Director of the Biomedical Academic Computing Center. My other previous professional position was at the Franklin Mint in Franklin Center, PA as an information specialist in the library. Prior to that I was attending Drexel University's College of Information Studies (now College of Information Science and Technology), graduating in June of 1988. While at Drexel I held a part-time job at Hahnemann University's library. Before moving to Philadelphia for graduate school I held paraprofessional positions at two libraries in the Twin Cities (Minnesota): St. Paul's College of St. Catherine Library and the Children's Literature Collection Library at the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. My undergraduate degree is in Fine Art from Brown University.

What do you find most interesting about your work? I really enjoy my colleagues both at Penn and in the region as well as former colleagues and friends from MLA all over the country. I meet at least one new person every day and am able to expand my "people" network. Working in a medical library is wonderful for not only the new people I meet but also the new knowledge I gain every day. Knowing that I am helping people with cutting edge research to eradicate disease and save lives is constantly inspiring.

What qualities or traits do you find most helpful in your work? In my work I find certain qualities most important in maintaining a high level of service: good humor, openness, and flexibility. Without being able to laugh regularly and creatively bend the

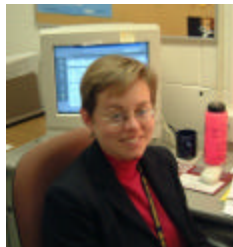
rules, you may burn out and your patrons will not get the service they need. I think you need to be a people person in my job and enjoy interacting with a diverse group.

What do you enjoy doing “for fun”? I absolutely love to travel and would love to be on my way somewhere else right now! Half the fun is in the planning, and having all sorts of information readily available on the web has been great for my travel planning. I’m one of the few people who likes hearing about other people’s trips, and I even like seeing travel pictures and slides. Besides travel, I like food, wine, and entertaining - cooking is fun, but I mostly like sharing good meals and good wine with loved ones! Of course, I like reading and regularly visiting my branch of the Free Library. And lastly, I knit - sweaters, blankets, scarves, and I’d like to try knitting some other accessories like pillows and purses.

Is there anything about you that others might be surprised to know? I was a cheerleader in high school.

Why would you encourage members to become actively involved in the Philadelphia Regional Chapter? Membership and involvement with the Chapter are beneficial for personal and professional reasons. It is a terrific way to meet people and establish professional contacts. You never know when you’ll need the help of a colleague across the city. And it’s an opportunity to make friendships that will enrich your life.

Profile #2: Ann Silverberg



Current Position in Chapter: Member of the Continuing Education Committee.

Present Professional Position: I recently joined the staff of the Hahnemann Library, MCP Hahnemann University, as Reference Librarian. This entails the usual literature searching, instruction, one-on-one reference work, and some web and collection development. MCP Hahnemann offers programs ranging from medicine, nursing and allied health to art and music therapy.

Previous Experience: I have a B.S. in biology from Siena College in Albany, New York, and an M.L.S. from the State University of New York at Albany. I was the Science Reference Librarian at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York for several years, then moved to the Philadelphia area and became Director of Consumer Health at the Delaware Academy of Medicine. I joined the staff at Hahnemann this past September.

What do you find most interesting about your work? I get to work with many different kinds of people, and get to have so much fascinating information at my fingertips. I particularly enjoy working with clinicians and students on their individual research questions. I enjoy the process of formulating searches and helping library patrons extract the most relevant information for their needs from the many resources available.

What qualities or traits do you find most helpful in your work? Curiosity and patience with people. And a sense of humor!

What do you enjoy doing “for fun”? I particularly enjoy spending time outdoors with my husband and our two beagles. I also enjoy rowing on the Schuylkill, cooking, and reading.

Why would you encourage members to become actively involved in the Philadelphia Regional Chapter? Because Chapter involvement, whether through serving on committees or through attending Chapter workshops and activities, is a great way to get to know your colleagues in the area and learn from them. §

Edited by Linda M.G. Katz
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Real-Time Virtual Reference Program

On Thursday, January 10th, 30 Chapter members attended a presentation and discussion on Real-Time Virtual Reference at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. The speakers were Sam Stormont, Reference Librarian at Temple University, an early provider of live digital reference service; Peter Bromberg, Program Development Coordinator of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative (SJRLC); and Cynthia McClellan, Public Services Librarian at the Health Sciences Library at Stratford, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Peter and Cynthia are both involved with Q & A NJ, a cooperative effort of public and academic libraries throughout the state of New Jersey.

Referred to as virtual reference, live reference, or digital reference, these services are defined by the Virtual Reference Desk Project as “Internet-based question-and-answer services that connect users with experts and subject expertise. Digital reference services use the Internet to connect people with people who can answer questions and support the development of skills.”

The advantages of providing this type of reference service are that the librarian can conduct online reference interviews and “show” the patron the website instead of just telling them about it, there is a faster response time than traditional email or phone reference, and the library stays competitive and cutting-edge. Some of the challenges that faced the speakers are staffing, marketing and promotion, technical expertise, copyright compliance, funding, and determining the effectiveness of the service.

If you would like more information on digital reference, check out the following websites:

Q AND A NJ: <http://www.QandANJ.org>

Virtual Reference Desk Project: <http://www.vrd.org> - website that provides great information on various aspects of virtual reference and which also includes a link to Sam Stormont's presentation given at the VRD annual conference and at our Chapter meeting.
(<http://www.vrd.org/conferences/VRD2001/proceedings/stormont.shtml>)

LSSI: <http://www.lssi.com> - website of Library Systems and Services, the producer of the most commonly used software for digital reference. They also provide a great demo site showing how virtual reference works:
<http://www.virtualreference.net/virtual/>

Thanks to all who made this an enjoyable and informative program and special thanks to Gina Kaiser and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia for hosting the program. §

Deb Lovett
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Cunningham Fellow Visits Philadelphia Area Medical Libraries

MLA's 2002 recipient of the Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship Cunningham Fellow will be visiting the Delaware Valley March 10-24, 2002. Yuan Lin, (her family name is "Yuan" and "Lin" is her first name) who is from China, is an Associate Professor at one of the oldest and largest biomedical libraries in China - the Medical Library of Sichuan University. She is in charge of the management of the Information Systems network at her library. Lin will be residing with Andrea Kenyon, Director of Public Services, at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia during her two-week stay in Philadelphia. A message will be posted on the Chapter listserv providing some opportunities to meet Lin during her stay. Lin is already scheduled to visit a number of the medical libraries in the area including: the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University, Temple Health Sciences Center Library, MCP Hahnemann University, and Christiana Care Health System.

The Cunningham fellowship is a four-month fellowship for medical librarians from countries outside the U.S. and Canada, which provides for observation and supervised work in one of more health sciences libraries in the U.S. or Canada. The fellowship carries a \$6,000 stipend to cover living expenses during the four-month stay and up to a \$2,000 stipend for travel within the U.S. and Canada. Lin's schedule includes stops at the Arizona Health Sciences Library (AHSL), University of Arizona; the Medical Center Library, University of South Alabama; Lyman Stowe Library, University of Connecticut; Coastal AHEC, Wilmington, North Carolina; Himmelfarb Library, George Washington University Medical Center; Saginaw Cooperative Hospitals, Saginaw, Michigan; National Library of Medicine; and finally, the MLA Annual Meeting in Dallas.

The librarians at AHSL have created a website about Lin and her fellowship:
<http://www.ahsc.arizona.edu/cunningham/> . Included is an autobiography and information about her visits to U.S. libraries. §

Andrea Kenyon
kenyon@collphyphil.org

Annual Meeting Update

Believe it or not, our 50th anniversary is quickly coming to a close with the upcoming Annual Meeting. The Program Committee has worked hard to plan this special event and I am pleased to report that most meeting details are officially in place. We will be returning to the location where our Chapter officially organized.

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2002 in the Thomson Room at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The attendance costs are: \$40 (members), \$55 (nonmembers), and \$30 (students). The agenda calls for registration, open bar, and hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 to 6:15; business meeting and presentation of awards from 6:15 to 6:45; dinner and dessert from 6:45 to 7:45; and guest speaker from 7:45 to 8:30. Our guest speaker will be current MLA President, Carol Jenkins, who will discuss MLA's position on three key events and issues. These include the Hopkins case, bioterrorism's impact on health sciences libraries, and librarian recruitment.

For travel directions, parking, and public transportation information, please consult the College's Map/Directions Web page (<http://www.collphyphil.org/muttloct.htm>). Watch for your invitation, which is going via the USPS and email. We hope you will join us in celebrating this special occasion! §

Eric Delozier
Chair-Elect/Program Committee Chair
epd103@psu.edu

Sync or Swim: Managing the Flood of PDAs in Health Care

On February 6, a large group of Chapter members and guests assembled in Philadelphia at Thomas Jefferson University's Bluemle Hall to network and participate in the national MLA's live teleconference, "Sync or Swim: Managing the Flood of PDAs in Health Care."

Half of the attendees are already using PDAs. When asked how many were users two years ago, only three people raised their hands. This rapidly growing technology has been enthusiastically adopted by clinicians who use it to track patient and medication data, perform calculations for dosing and interpreting lab values, track clinical trial data and store phone numbers and schedules.

Academic medical centers are incorporating PDAs into instruction, presenting an opportunity for us to partner with faculty by developing delivery of information and data utilizing this technology. Related topics included how librarians can support multi-focused users by delivering resources, as well as authoring "how to" web pages on PDAs, creating PDA User Groups and making syncing stations available in the Library. Examples of current projects in both the hospital and academic setting were shared.

Our Chapter's question on the availability of MEDLINE-like resources for PDAs was submitted live to the nationally aired teleconference panelists. Presently, availability is limited, with some vendors in beta testing and others with products available as instructional modules.

For those of you who missed this CE event, you can purchase a video of the 1.5 hour broadcast for your institution for \$94.00. Please contact Kathleen Combs at 312-419-9094 ext. 29 or email her at mlapdl@mlahdq.org. Those who did attend can find the video ordering form on the last page of the course handout.

The event was partly supported by Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, and Franklin Electronic Publishers. A few door prizes were contributed by BMJ Publishing Group.

Many thanks to our Chapter members, Ann Silverberg, Dan Kipnis and Brad Long, who worked with Ruthanne Spatafore organizing the event. A big thank you goes to Scott Memorial Library and Thomas Jefferson University for providing facilities and technical expertise to host the satellite transmission. §

Ruthanne Spatafore
rcw@pobox.upenn.edu

MLA (NATIONAL) 2002/03 ELECTION RESULTS

The 2002/03 election ballots were counted at MLA headquarters on January 10, 2002. All of the 1,411 ballots returned were countable. The successful candidates, who will assume office at the conclusion of MLA '02 in Dallas, are:

President-Elect - Patricia L. Thibodeau, AHIP

Board of Directors

Michelynn McKnight, AHIP

Gerald (Jerry) Perry, AHIP

Neil Rambo

Nominating Committee

Patricia E. Gallagher, AHIP

Suzanne F. Grefsheim

Patricia A. Hammond, AHIP

Rosalind K. Lett, AHIP

Virginia A. Lingle, AHIP

Frances H. Lynch, AHIP

Kathryn (Katy) W. Nesbit, AHIP

Tovah Reis
Mary L. Riordan, AHIP

Norma F. Funkhouser, AHIP, was elected Section Council Liaison to the MLA Board of Directors at the MLA 2001 annual meeting. MLA appreciates the work of the Nominating Committee (Frieda O. Weise, AHIP, chair) in selecting the slate and the ad hoc Elections Task Force (Irene Wood, chair) for counting the ballots. §

"Quint" Meeting in the Planning Stages

Although the fall of 2003 seems far away, it is not too soon to be thinking about the joint chapters meeting planned for October 2003. Five chapters of MLA and SLA are beginning to organize the first ever Quint-Chapter meeting to be held in Philadelphia on October 19-21, 2003. Members of the Philadelphia chapters of MLA and SLA and the New York/New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and Mid-Atlantic chapters of MLA have met and begun preliminary planning. There are opportunities to get involved. So, turn your calendars ahead several months and save the dates of October 19-21 of 2003. Contact Anne Seymour at 215-898-4115 or by email for more information and to volunteer to help. §

Anne Seymour
seymoura@mail.med.upenn.edu

Nominating Committee Activities

The Nominating Committee (Anne Seymour, Marion Chayes, and Mary McCann) has been busy developing a slate of candidates to be voted on this spring. The following board positions are available: Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Chapter Council Representative, and Chapter Council Alternate. Expect to receive a ballot in the mail in late March. The results of the election will be announced at the annual business and dinner meeting in April. In addition to the board election results, the Nominating Committee will also be announcing the other Chapter awards, including the Chapter Achievement and Chapter Appreciation Awards. We're looking forward to honoring our fellow Chapter members. §

Anne Seymour
Chair, Nominating Committee
seymoura@mail.med.upenn.edu

28th National Library Legislative Days

This year's ALA sponsored Legislative Day events will begin Monday, May 6 with a briefing day at the Holiday Inn in Washington, DC on the hill. The all day session will prepare attendees for congressional visits the following day. National Library Legislative Day, May 7, starts with a short update in the morning, followed by visits with

Congressmen and Senators themselves, or their legislative aides. A reception will be held that evening on the hill (location TBA). Participants have an excellent opportunity to learn about important legislative issues like: electronic copyright; distance learning legislation; appropriations for the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, and libraries in general; internet filtering in libraries; government information on the web, etc. Face-to-face contact with the legislators and their aides is a very effective way to communicate the library profession's point of view, plus it's pretty exciting to walk the halls of Congress and meet with the country's top elected officials!

For more information, see the official Legislative Days website at:
<http://www.ala.org/washoff/legislateday.html>

Alternatively, contact the Pennsylvania state coordinators:

Barbara Casini
Radnor Memorial Library
Email: casini@hslc.org
phone: 610/687-1416, ext. 10

Debbie Malone
DeSales University
Email: dmo3@desales.edu
phone: 610/282-1100, ext. 1253 §

Karen Albert
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Membership Committee Report

As of early February, 140 members have renewed for 2002. There are approximately 50 people who were MLA Philadelphia Regional Chapter members in 2001 but have not renewed for 2002! We want you back!! If you are not sure if your renewal was sent in, please email me and I will check for you. If you have any new staff at your library or know of anyone who might want to be a member, let me know and I will send them information about the benefits of joining. So far, we have eight new members for 2002 - we would love to increase that number! In January, Gary Childs and Sue Couch presented information about our Chapter at a program at Drexel University to introduce students to professional library associations. Thanks to both of you for your efforts. So far, one student has joined as a result of that meeting and several others have asked for more information. §

Jo-Ann Babish
Chair, Membership Committee
jbabish@mth.org

New Members of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter

Stephanie Ferretti
Associate Director, Technical Services and Systems

Temple University Health Science Libraries
Temple University
3440 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140
Phone: 215-707-8936
Fax: 215-707-4502
Email: sferrett@temple.edu

P.J. Grier
Director, Library and Information Services
Lewis B. Flynn Library
Delaware Academy of Medicine
1925 Lovering Avenue
Wilmington DE 19806
Phone: 302-656-6398
Email: plg@delamed.org

Deborah Long
Library Assistant
Community Health Library
Christiana Care Health System
3506 Kennett Pike
Wilmington DE 19807
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The TechnoHumanist Corner

One of the things I love about the Olympics is the variety that we see. We see athletes from different nations, learn about some of their customs, and think of new sports we might consider trying. For example, we learn that “curling” is not about fixing your hair or pumping iron, but a serious sport much loved in Scotland, parts of Scandinavia, the upper cold regions of the American Midwest, and a passionate, national obsession in Canada. Think of it as a variation of bocce on ice except, instead of a ball, the player hurls a 42-pound teapot-shaped stone across the ice towards a line, while the other teammates sweep a path clear for the object. “Skeleton” is not a skinny person or a part of the anatomy, but a sport where a person jumps head first onto a sled and travels on an ice track at 80 miles per hour with his or her face only two inches above the ice track. The only way to stop the sled is to use one’s hands and feet or just fall off. Could *Citizen Kane* have been thinking of “skeleton” when he uttered that famous word – *Rosebud*?

All kidding aside, the beauty of the Olympics is that it exposes us to new ideas, i.e., sports, and sometimes inspires us to try them. Therefore, in keeping with the Olympic spirit, I present you with some web sites that hopefully will inspire you with new ideas. Try them!

In the general category of medicine, I recommend that you visit four sites:

MedicineNet.com <http://www.medicinenet.com/Script/Main/hp.asp>

Lab Tests Online <http://www.labtestsonline.org/>

Drug Digest <http://www.drugdigest.org/DD/Home>

TRIP Database <http://www.tripdatabase.com>.

The target audience of **MedicineNet.com** is the consumer. The medical information provided is mostly written by doctors and edited and reviewed by board-certified physicians. It represents current medical thinking and is updated when needed. Since the quality and caliber of the information provided is excellent, I would also recommend it to any health professional who is unfamiliar with a disease or condition. **MedicineNet.com** covers more than 500 topics under *Diseases and Conditions* that are organized into medical forums. It provides explanations for more than 90 *Procedures and Tests* and information on over 350 commonly prescribed and over-the-counter medications. Two nice features of **MedicineNet.com** are *Doctors’ Views & Updates* and *Doctor’s Responses*. *Doctors’ Views & Updates* are articles about your topic written by physicians, and *Doctor’s Responses* are answers to questions submitted by consumers. For example, search for information on “congestive heart failure (CHF)” on **MedicineNet.com**, click on the CHF link, then go to the Congestive Heart Failure Forum. There you will find: main articles about CHF, information about diseases and conditions such as high blood pressure that are related to CHF, and information about medications, procedures and tests for congestive heart failure. Under *Doctors’ Views & Updates*, you will find an article about the used of Cilostazol as a new claudication drug. Under *Doctor’s Responses*, there is a response to a consumer’s question about what causes abdominal pain in CHF patients. **MedicineNet.com** is an excellent information site that you can recommend with confidence.

If you are searching for more in-depth information about a specific test and cannot find it on your favorite medical site, go to **Lab Tests Online** <http://www.labtestsonline.org/>. This site was created by a collaboration of professional laboratory societies. Its goal is to provide patients, caregivers, and clinicians with information about laboratory tests and their interpretations. The site's main features of interest are: *Tests*, *Conditions*, and *Screening*. Information from any of these sections can be obtained from a topic listing on the home page or by using its search engine function.

Tests provides information on why a test may be given or recommended and explains how to interpret results. Links in the form of Tabs explain the kind of specimen or sample that is required to perform the test. An additional Tab provides answers to the questions most often asked about that test.

Conditions contains a listing of diseases and conditions. In this section, there is a brief overview of specific diseases/conditions and links to relevant tests.

Screening is collection of recommendations from a variety of organizations. Unfortunately, the recommendations collection is small because there is little consensus within the medical community on preventive screening. The site emphasizes that screening is a decision to make after discussions with your physician.

If you have any questions about drugs, then I recommend **Drug Digest** <http://www.drugdigest.org/DD/Home>. **Drug Digest** is a non-commercial site using the expertise of pharmacists and physicians from academic institutions to assess its content. Its main sections are: *Drug Library*, *Check Interactions*, *Compare Drugs*, and *Conditions & Treatments*. With the exception of *Compare Drugs*, information can be accessed by mousing-over a section and selecting a topic from a drop-down menu.

The *Drug Library* section presents a general overview of the drug, vitamin or herb. When you mouse-over the *Drug Library* label, a drop-down menu will appear displaying three options: *Drugs & Vitamins*, *Herbs & Supplements*, and *Taking Your Medication*. Selection of the first or second option will display an alphabetical listing of drugs and vitamins or herbs. Choose your topic from this listing. *Taking Your Medication* addresses the delivery method of the medication.

Check Interactions allows the patient/consumer to crosscheck medications and avoid potentially harmful drug interactions.

Compare Drugs, like the *Drug Library* section, has two options: *Drug Comparisons* and *Side Effects Comparisons*. The first option allows the user to compare drugs for the treatment of a particular condition. For instance, if a patient using Zocor wants information on medications similar to Zocor, then this is the option to use. If a patient wants to compare the side effects of Zocor and similar drugs, the second option - *Side Effects Comparisons* - can be selected.

Anyone searching for an overview of a disease/condition or treatment information should select the *Conditions & Treatments* section. Like the other sections of **Drug Digest**, *Conditions & Treatments* has two options: *Health Conditions* and *Treatment Options*.

Drug Digest is an excellent tool. However, compared to the huge number of drugs on the market, it is a small database.

The last medical site, the **TRIP Database**, deals with Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM). **TRIP** (<http://www.tripdatabase.com>) came into existence in 1997 as an evidence-based medicine database. At that time, the acronym stood for Turning Research Into Practice (**TRIP**). Its goal was, and still is, to give the user the best of all worlds – the Web and bibliographic databases. When you do a **TRIP** search, your query simultaneously retrieves bibliographic citations and web links. As far as I know, it is the only database that does this. Although **TRIP** has moved away from being a totally EBM database, evidence-based medicine does influence search results.

How does the database work? When a topic is searched, results appear in several categories: *Evidence-Based (Direct links)*, *Query-answering Services*, *Peer-reviewed Journals*, *Guidelines*, *eTextbooks*, and *Experimental Links to Clinical Queries on Pubmed*.

For instance, I did a search on myocardial infarction, retrieving 247 references. Of these references, 85 appeared in the *Evidence-Based (Direct links)* category. These are web links to documents from Evidence-based sources such as the *DARE* database. Most of the sites displayed in the *Evidence-Based (Direct links)* are from the “Netting the Evidence” site. <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~scharr/ir/netting.html>

Under *Query-answering Services*, I had five references. *Query-answering Services* are responses to questions received from physicians or purchasers of **TRIP** services. I would be careful with this category since **TRIP** cautions you about the uniformity and quality of the sources used to respond to the queries.

In the *Peer-reviewed Journals* category, I retrieved 124 records. These were bibliographic citations from *JAMA*, *BMJ*, and other peer-reviewed journals. However, the articles cited did not undergo the stringent process of systematic critical appraisal that evidence-based medicine requires. As usual, clicking on the article link takes you to the journal’s publisher web site. Of course, as it is common practice among e-journal publishers, they decide if they will provide full-text articles to non-subscribers of their journal.

The *Guidelines* section contained 16 guidelines. This information is drawn from sites such as the National Guideline Clearinghouse, whose main function is to produce or distribute guidelines.

eTextbooks retrieved 17 references. References found in this section may come from a variety of e-textbook sources. **TRIP** assumes no responsibility for the currency of these sources. My reference links were in the electronic textbook, *GPnotebook*. Medical professionals have been updating this textbook over the last 10 years. Access to it is free. All one has to do is read the licensing agreement and answer a short online survey, which does not require your name and email address.

The last section of **TRIP** is *Experimental Links to Clinical Queries on PubMed*. This is an interesting section because it executes your search in *PubMed* using the clinical query filters. For example, to execute the myocardial infarction search in *PubMed*, all I did was

select the therapy clinical filter option and presto - I was in *PubMed* viewing my search results!

Overall, the **TRIP Database** is an excellent starting point for a clinical research topic. It could do better with search tips and documentation of its sources, but it is still a fairly new resource and one that is constantly improving.

Please try these medical Olympians and let me know what you think. I'm going to look at my old sled and see if I can use it to do the skeleton. If I start practicing now, perhaps I can make an Olympic team for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Italy. Until next time, see you on the slopes!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the column, please contact me. §

Carlos Rodriguez
rodrigue@pobox.upenn.edu

CALENDAR

Date: March 13-15, 2002

Sponsor: Information Today, Inc.

Event: Computers in Libraries Annual Conference

Location: Hilton Hotel & Towers, Washington, DC

Information & Registration: <http://www.infotoday.com>

Date: March 13-17, 2002

Sponsor: SLA (Special Libraries Association)

Event: MLS Renewal for Special Librarians 2002

Location: Simmons College, Boston, MA

Cost: \$595.00 SLA Members; \$895.00 non-members

Information:

<http://www.sla.org/content/learn/withcolleagues/renewal/renewal02/index.cfm>

Date: March 15th-17, 2002

Sponsor: American Society for Information Science & Technology

Event: 3rd Annual Information Architecture Summit

Location: Marriott Baltimore Waterfront

Information: <http://www.asist-events.org/IASummit2002/>

Date: March 15-18, 2002

Event: Disruptive Technologies: Reinventing Academic Medicine

Sponsored by the AAMC Group on Information Resources and the IAIMS Consortium, in collaboration with the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC)

Location: Doubletree Hotel, Pasadena, CA

Information: <http://www.aamc.org/meetings/groups/gir02/start.htm>

Date: March 26, 2002

Sponsor: Phila. Chapter, SLA (Special Libraries Association)

Location: Radnor Library, PA

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Topic: Creativity & the Workplace (tentative)

Information: Jack Morris 610-701-3080

Date: April 3-6, 2002

Event: SCIP (Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals), 2002 Annual Conference

Theme: Real-World Strategies for Competitive Advantage

Location: Cincinnati, OH

Information: <http://www.scip.org/cincinnati/index.asp>

Date: April 10-11, 2002

Sponsor: New Jersey Library Association

Event: Thinking Outside the Box: Transforming You and Your Library

Location: Garden State Exhibit Center and Doubletree Hotel, Somerset.

Contact: NJLA, 609-394-8032; Email ptumulty@njla.org

<http://www.aclink.org/njla/2002/>

Date: April 12, 2002

Sponsor: CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service)

Event: STN Update

Location: Somerset Hills Hotel, Warren, NJ

Information: <http://www.cas.org/training/schedule.html> Phone: 1-800-848-6538, x3549

Date: April 14-16 2002

Sponsor: SLA, Pharmaceutical & Health Technology Division

Event: Pharmaceutical & Health Technology Spring Meeting: "The Evolution of the Information Professional: Adding Value to the 21st Century Organization"

Location: Princeton, NJ, Princeton Marriott Forrester Village

Cost: members, \$225.00; non-members, \$250.00

Information: <http://www.sla.org/division/dpht/spring02.htm>

Date: April 14-20, 2002

Sponsor: ALA (American Library Association)

Event: National Library Week

Theme: 2002 @ your library

Information: <http://www.ala.org/pio/nlw>

Date: April 16, 2002

Sponsor: Phila. Chapter, MLA

Event: Annual Dinner & Meeting

Location: College of Physicians of Philadelphia

Details to follow

Date: April 18, 2002

Event: Special Librarians Day

Theme: Leadership, Partnership, Membership: Expanding Global Knowledge Frontiers

Contact: Special Libraries Association, phone: 202-234-4700

Information: <http://www.sla.org/content/memberservice/communication/pr/isldweb/index.cfm>

Date: April 25, 2002

Sponsor: SLA (Special Libraries Association)

Event: Virtual Seminar (topic to be announced)

Time: 2:00-3:30

Information: <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/distance/virtsem2002/feb02virtsem.cfm>

Date: April 27, 2002

Sponsor: CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service)

Event: Structure Searching with STN Express (Structure/Express)

Location: Parsippany, New Jersey

Information: <http://www.cas.org/training/schedule.html>

Phone: 1-800-848-6538, extension 3549

Date: April 30-May 1, 2002

Event: Web Search University

Location: Stamford, CT

Information: <http://websearchu.com>

Date: May 5-6, 2002

Event: National Library Legislative Day

Contact: ALA Washington Office

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004

Telephone: 202-628-8410

Information: <http://www.ala.org/washoff/thankyou.html>

Date: May 14-16, 2002

Event: InfoToday 2002

(includes National Online 2002 • KnowledgeNets 2002 • E-Libraries 2002)

Location: New York Hilton & Towers

Information: <http://www.infotoday.com/it2002>

Date: May 17-23, 2002

Sponsor: MLA

Event: Annual Meeting 2002

Location: Dallas TX

Information: <http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2002/>

Date: May 20-22, 2002

Sponsor: AMIA (American Medical Informatics Association)

Event: Spring Congress

Location: Scottsdale, Arizona

Information: <http://www.amia.org/meetings/spring/fspring.html>

Date: May 23, 2002
Sponsor: Phila. Chapter, SLA
Event: SLA Annual Meeting & Banquet
Location: The Willows, Radnor PA
Information: Jack Morris 610-701-3080

Date: May 31, 2002
Sponsor: Phila. Chapter, MLA
Event: Advanced HTML: Cascading Stylesheets
Instructor: Frank Campbell
Location: University of Pennsylvania, Van Pelt Dietrich Library, Goldstein Training Lab
Information: Until 4/1, contact Frank Campbell, campbell@pobox.upenn.edu;
After 4/1, contact Ruthanne Spatafore, rcw@pobox.upenn.edu
Registration begins 4/21

Date: June 8-13, 2002
Sponsor: SLA (Special Libraries Association)
Event: Annual Meeting 2002
Location: Los Angeles, Ca.
Information: <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/2002annual/index.cfm>

Date: June 13-19, 2002.
Sponsor: ALA (American Library Association)
Event: Annual Meeting 2002
Location: Atlanta, Georgia
Information: <http://www.ala.org/events/annual2002/index.html>

NLM Classes:

Information & Registration: <http://nmlm.gov/mar/online/schedule.html>

Keeping Up with NLM's PubMed, the NLM Gateway and ClinicalTrials.gov

March 14, 2002 Baltimore, MD
March 20, 2002 Bethesda, MD
April 1, 2002 New York, NY
April 22, 2002 Bethesda, MD
June 3, 2002 New York, NY

Introduction to Web-Based Searching: Using PubMed, the NLM Gateway and ClinicalTrials.gov

NN/LM National Training Center & Clearinghouse
April 8-9, 2002 Bethesda, MD
June 3-4, 2002 Bethesda, MD
June 4-5, 2002 New York, NY

Toxnet on the Web

NN/LM National Training Center & Clearinghouse
April 10, 2002 Bethesda, MD

PALINET Workshops:

Information & Registration: <http://www.palinet.org/>

March 6 - Internet Search Services: Panning for Gold
March 15 - Disaster Can Strike: Writing Your Own Disaster Plan (held at Jenkins Law Library)
March 19 - CORC Searching & Navigation Basics
March 19 - CORC for Catalogers
March 20 - OCLC Product Services Web Site: Shared Resources for Effective Use: Part 2 – (Online course)
March 22 Business Resources on the Web (Online course)
March 26 Cataloging Advanced Editing Techniques Using OCLC Passport
April 9 - Evaluating Electronic Resources
April 10 - Genealogy Resources on the Internet - NJLA Pre-Conference/Somerset, NJ
April 16 -CORC Searching & Navigation Basics
April 16 -CORC for Catalogers
April 24 - Ariel Essentials
April 30 The Wired Gardener: Digging for Information on the World Wide Web (held at The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia)
May 20 - Document Delivery & Interlibrary Loan Options
May 21 - HTML Basics
May 22 - Live Virtual Reference
May 29 - Science Resources on the Web Online
May 30-31 PALINET OCLC Users Conference - more info to come
Holiday Inn/Grantville, Pa.
June 4 - HTML: Beyond the Basics

Drexel University – Continuing Professional Education, College of Information Science & Technology Spring Workshops:

Information & Registration:

http://www.cis.drexel.edu/grad/cpe/spring2002_schedule.asp

Contact: Avis A. Taylor, Coordinator, Continuing professional education
Drexel University, 3141 Chestnut St., Phila. PA 19104 215-895-1070

Cost: varies

Web Technology: Tools of the Trade

March 22 - Cascading Style Sheets;
April 5 - Creating Web Pages With Dreamweaver: Level I
April 12 - Creating Web Pages With Dreamweaver: Level II

Retooling for Professionals

March 19 - From Web Search to Research: Teaching Internet Research Skills
March 28 - The Hidden Web: Finding What Search Engines Miss
April 25 - The Hidden Web: Finding What Search Engines Miss
April 3 - Utilities for the Librarian's Toolbox: Tips, Tools and Ideas for Productivity Enhancement

Information Technology for Managers and Executives

March 26 - Object-Oriented Analysis & Design with UML
April 17 - Introduction to Information Security
April 22 - Introduction to SQL
April 29 - Data Warehousing for Managers and Executives

Treasurer's Report

The Philadelphia Regional Chapter/MLA Mellon/Citizen bank account, as of February 25, 2002, has a balance of \$11,196.28 with all transactions recorded in a Quicken database. §

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The next deadline is June 14, 2002