

MHSLA

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

President's Corner

by Jennifer Bowen

When I volunteered to run for the office of President of MHSLA, I was feeling like the new girl – geez, who'd vote for me?! I've never been President of any organization before! It obviously helped that I ran unopposed, but I still had some anxious thoughts that I was stepping into unknown territory and wouldn't know how to be Presidential.

Then as my oldest son entered high school this past September, I once again had anxious thoughts about stepping into new territory. I was the mom of a high schooler now (I imagine the feeling of being the newbie was even stronger in my son) and the looming world of drivers training, homecoming dances, SAT testing, and college applications, was new territory as a parent. However I toned down my anxious thoughts by telling myself: "yes, it is new territory, but that's life, a stream of new experiences!" I also reassured myself by acknowledging that I'll continually have new experiences both professionally and personally. It's a good thing too, otherwise I'd get burned out and bored.

Plus are the experiences really that novel? I reminded myself that I can build upon prior experiences from my professional past to make the current role as President more familiar. For example, in the past I volunteered to run as the MHSLA Secretary, was elected (unopposed) and attended two years of board meetings, so I do know how to be "Presidential" by participating in the running of the board meetings and observing my presidential predecessors. I also had to remind myself that I really am not the "new girl" anymore. I'm in the middle of my career. I've been a member of MHSLA for 14 years, and it was high time that I take on another role for the organization.



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So, long story short, this is my pitch for newbies or not so newbies that have been lurking in the background to get involved in MHSLA. If someone asks you to join a committee or run for office, say yes! Gradual involvement with committee tasks are a great way to gain new experiences, and make the unfamiliar more familiar. And the members of MHSLA and the MHSLA board are helpful (librarians, remember?) and want you and the organization as a whole to succeed. As I was presiding over my first board meeting as president, I received a text message from the past president “Ur doin a great job!” A nice example of the support and encouragement that MHSLA members give each other, even if I’m not really “the new girl” anymore. As for the role of parenting a high schooler, I survived and even enjoyed the whole homecoming dance experience, but that drivers training is still coming up way too fast!

Jennifer Bowen
2016-17 MHSLA President

MHSLA Newsletter: Results from the 2016 MHSLA Member Survey **by Iris Kovar-Gough, MHSLA Membership Chair**

The 2016 MHSLA Membership Survey was conducted online from August 15 2016 to October 4 2016. The purpose was to gain insights into how MHSLA can better serve its members and increase participation in organizational events and initiatives.

Participant Demographics

A total of 47 members responded (from a total pool of 129 members) giving a response rate of 36.4%. The survey participants were divided almost equally between library directors, managers, or coordinators and librarians with 61% employed at hospital libraries and 31% at academic libraries. 40% of participants had worked in health sciences librarianship for 20 years or more and the majority of respondents had been a member of MHSLA for 5-20 years.

The Value of Belonging to a Local Group

The MHSLA Board was interested in how respondents interacted with their local/regional health sciences group. In particular, we were hoping to gain insight into what the local group do well that could translate to MHSLA at the state level. 91% of participants had been or were currently members of a local group and of those who were not members most cited that they were new to the field as the reason why they had not joined. 27 participants (41%) indicated that they were members of MDMLG and the reasons participants stated they valued their local group reflects the robust programming that MDMLG puts on but also demonstrates the more informal but informational nature of several other groups too.

Areas of improvement were ranked on a scale of 1-8, with 1 being the most important and 8 being the least important. Members ranked the 8 areas of improvement as:

1. Educational offerings outside of the annual conference
2. More opportunities for networking
3. Better communication with members
4. Increased focus on sharing member accomplishments
5. Increased advocacy for health sciences librarianship curriculum at local library schools
6. Reduced conference fee
7. More opportunities for networking
8. Reduced membership fee

Additional suggestions for improving MHSLA value to members were more group purchasing opportunities and some members expressed that they had a difficult time seeing a big value in a MHSLA membership.

Future Opportunities

MHSLA as an organization needs to learn from the successes of the local groups and demonstrate its value to members. While it was heartening to see so many participants noting networking and friendships as a core value for their membership we need to also think about what programming, resource sharing, and educational offerings will sustain us overtime and be meaningful experiences for all the stakeholders in our organization – hospital, academic, and solo health sciences librarians. The survey provided valuable food for thought about what MHSLA members would like to see improve in our organization. Thank you to everyone who participated and I hope to work with the MHSLA Board, and any interested members, to make MHSLA the best it can be for all our members.

MHSLA Scholarship Winners Conference Reports

First Time Attendee Scholarship Recipient

Sarah Benitez, MLIS, AHIP

Munson Healthcare

I was so excited to receive the news that I was awarded the First Time Attendee Scholarship for the 2016 conference held in Novi, MI. The scholarship description boasted covering the cost of CE courses, meetings, workshops, lodging, and conference meals. It turned out to be all of that and more. It truly was an all-around great conference. The food and lodging exceeded my expectations. The special events were well thought out and very enjoyable!

I expected that the conference would provide me with some great opportunities for professional growth through CEs and it did. What I did not expect, was the sense of community I would gain through networking. I am a relatively new librarian and I have only worked in the field of health sciences librarianship for a little over a year. Until attending the MHSLA conference, I hadn't had the opportunity to meet many health sciences librarians outside of my own organization. It was so inspiring to hear about all the exciting things others are doing in their libraries. MHSLA really is made up of an amazing group of professionals and I am proud to be part of that group.

I look forward to growing my career and I am grateful to have MHSLA to help support my professional development. After attending the conference, I feel certain that I am in the right field of librarianship. Thank you so much for the wonderful experience!

Member Scholarship Recipient
Lynne Frederickson
Taubman Health Sciences Library

I am grateful to have attended MHSLA16 as the recipient of the MHSLA member scholarship. As a new librarian, I appreciated both the educational opportunities and the opportunity to connect with colleagues.

All 3 CE sessions I attended were very worthwhile:

- Translational Bioinformatics, Diane Rein (notes and impressions captured in Storify)
- Planning, Conducting, and Publishing Research, Nancy Allee (notes and impressions captured in Storify)
- Data Visualization, Jean Song and Marci Brandenburg (notes and impressions captured in Storify)

I also enjoyed both keynote sessions – economist Tom Buchmueller shared his research on the early outcomes of the Affordable Care Act, and Sally Gore gave us all food for thought in her talk about using our interests as a springboard to developing our professional identities.

It was good to hear about the various projects other librarians are working on at the poster and lightning talk sessions. I gave a talk on the various sources of health science data available for research.

Thank you to MHSLA for the opportunity to attend this conference!

Student Scholarship Recipient

Crystal Thomas

Wayne State University

One of the goals I wanted to accomplish as a library information science student was to go to a conference. I was saddened to believe that reaching that goal would be impossible due to high costs. My desire grew to the point that I was searching for scholarship possibilities. I was thrilled to find out that Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association (MHSLA) was offering a scholarship opportunity for library students who are interested in health information profession. Winning the 2016 MHSLA Annual Conference Student Scholarship helped me to accomplish the goal of attending a library information science related conference.

The conference took place in Novi, Michigan from October 12-14th. This year's theme was: Think Outside the Book. How I interpreted the name was that libraries are more than "just books." Many libraries are now utilizing modern information technology to promote intellectual freedom to the community. There were several continuing education courses that were offer at the conference that proves the validity of that theory. For instance, I took Translational Bioinformatics with Dr. Rein. I have learned that bioinformatics "is the interdisciplinary, scientific field that studies and pursues the effective uses of biomedical data, information, and knowledge for scientific inquiry, problem solving, and decision making motivated by efforts to improve human health.....across the spectrum from molecules to populations" (American Medical Informatics Association, 2016). While I was originally not knowledgeable about the bioinformatics field itself, it was nice that some of the material that Dr. Rein discussed, such as phenotypes and genotypes, were a review for me due to my background in biology (I have a B.S. in Biology). It made it easier for me to understand what bioinformatics was about. After learning about bioinformatics, I have come to realization that health science librarians can use their information and technology skills to work in bioinformatics field. Another course I have chosen to take that portrays how versatile librarians are was Information Visualization by two Informationists from University of Michigan: Jean Song and Marci Brandenburg. Even though I have taken an information visualization course at WSU, I still felt that it was a great way to review how essential information visualization is for people to interpret information. Since librarians are known to be information experts, it would be vital for them to become familiar with this concept so that patrons can easily comprehend complex information, especially if it is health and science related. Both courses show that librarianship is not a one-dimensional profession. They are the epitome of innovation. They are willing to find creative ways of assisting patrons to find sources that fulfills their information need.

I have met wonderful health science librarians throughout this conference. They have been great mentors for me throughout this whole trip. Also, activities in the conference (such as raffle, special event at Toasted Oak restaurant, dinner and music at the hotel, etc.), show that librarians know how to have a good time. This has been a remarkable experience as a first-timer.

I will be looking forward to attend next year's conference.

Work Cited:

American Medical Informatics Association. (2016). Biomedical informatics core competencies. Retrieved from: <https://www.amia.org/biomedical-informatics-core-competencies>

An Overview of the 2016 Joint Meeting of the Midwest and Midcontinental Chapters of MLA

by Bradley A. Long, Medical Librarian, Central Michigan University

I was able to attend my first Midwest Chapter meeting this year. And as a bonus, this was a joint meeting with the Midcontinent Chapter, which brought the number of states represented to 16. The meeting was held from October 21-24 in Des Moines, IA. I am going to provide an overview of the meeting from my own perspective.

On the first day of the meeting, there were 6 different Continuing Education course offerings, and I chose to attend the one most relevant to my position at Central Michigan University, Building Partnerships with Faculty, Clinicians and Other Stakeholders. The instructors were Gwen Wilson from Washburn University in Topeka, KS, and Kristen DeSanto from the University of Colorado, in Aurora, CO. This was a very interactive course, which included several small group breakout sessions. Therefore, the participants were able to spend a lot of time discussing their particular issues, while providing feedback to one another. The top gems that I felt were most useful are:

- When dealing with administrators, find out what their current workplace concerns are. Then reach out to them to ask how you can help them address these concerns.
- Make sure you have a customizable elevator speech ready. Make sure that you can tweak it based on the situation. The American Library Association has a template that be used: <http://www.ala.org/everyday-advocacy/speak-out/write-elevator-speech>
- Take your already existing partnerships to the next level. Ask to be involved with committees and SIGs outside of your normal purview. Even ask to join research teams. Then use your professional strengths to contribute ideas to the team.
- Create visualizations of your statistical data to help make your point. Make sure to show data that is important to the stakeholders.

The keynote speaker was Roger Altizer, from Entertainment Arts and Engineering (EAE). His talk was titled Playing with Innovation and Scholarship, a Gamer's Approach to Scholarship. He focused his discussion on gaming in education, covering the partnership between EAE and

Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah. This resulted in the establishment of an entity called the GApp Lab, which both tests new academic games and archives of off-the-market video games. He also covered the “production-as-research” process for developing academic games. This is a different process than traditional academic research, but he felt that it a very worthwhile process to embrace.

There was also a keynote panel of faculty from Iowa State University who discussed genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The speakers were Ruth MacDonald, RD, PhD, discussing the consumer perceptions of food biotechnology, Micheal Owen, PhD, discussing the environmental impact of GMOs, and Carmen Bain, PhD, discussing societal perceptions, attitudes, and purchasing behaviors related to GMOs. My two biggest takeaways from the panel discussions were that panel was extremely confident that GMOs are not harmful, while the marketing of GMO-free foods is a very profitable enterprise.

From both the MLA and NLM updates, it was obvious that we should see NLM moving in new and exciting directions. The new Director, Dr. Patricia Flatley Brennan, has a number of fresh ideas that she would like to build on. This was further reinforced with the joint RML update indicating that we should expect to see almost all future RML taught continuing education courses being offered online, with instructors being drawn from all of the RMLs across the country.

As with any library conference, there were plenty of high quality poster and paper presentations. For with too many simultaneous options to take in everything that I wanted to see. Luckily, the Midwest Chapter has made the slides for each of the paper presentations available online: <http://midwestmla.org/conference2016/wordpress/program/post-conference-presentation-materials/>.

I was very pleased to attend this great conference in the beautiful city of Des Moines. I was able to take away a lot of useful tips and trick to further professional development. As a result, I am very much looking forward to attending the MHLSA/Midwest Chapter joint meeting in the Fall of 2017.

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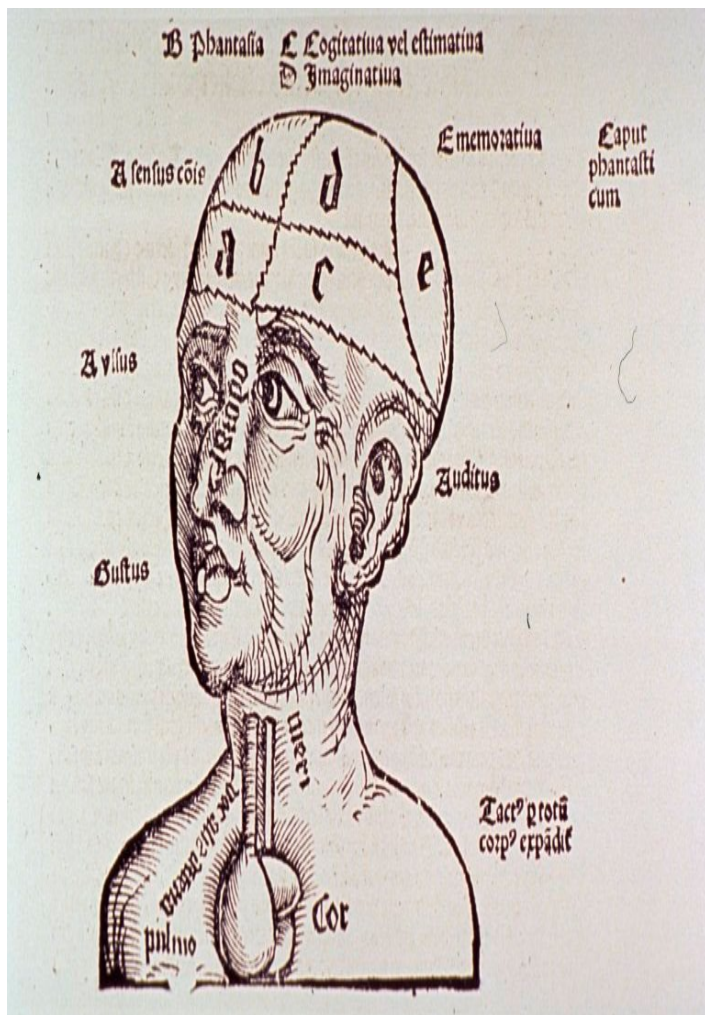
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