

MDMLG NEWS

Spring 2012

President's Message from JoAnn Krzeminski



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We've made it to Spring, a time for renewal and growth. Amid preparing your homes and families for the new season, don't forget to take time out to refresh yourself personally and professionally. We all need some help keeping up with the rapid changes in the medical and library world. Consider taking a CE class to learn new skills or build upon existing ones. This year, the MDMLG Professional Development Committee has done a great job organizing some timely continuing education classes. I hope you had the chance to attend the "Information Anywhere" class on mobile technologies in March. The desire for mobile resources in the medical library is already strong, and it's only going to increase. As librarians, we will be expected to make mobile library resources available and provide support. Be proactive and gain the skills you'll need to integrate these new resources into your library! If you were not able to make it to the March CE, consider attending the MLA webcast April 18 also on this hot topic, "Leveraging Mobile Technologies for Health Sciences Libraries" at Wayne State University and other hosted locations throughout the area.

The April 19 MDMLG General Business Meeting at the Baldwin Public Library promises to offer more opportunities for learning. The program portion of the meeting will feature 6 of our colleagues giving lightning round presentations on projects in their workplaces. Sometimes we don't need to look far for inspiration; it can be gained from talking and sharing among each other. The annual Medical Library Association conference also takes place in May. For those lucky enough to attend, the conference provides excellent opportunities for learning on a national scale.

Of course, the promise of warmer seasons also seems to beckon us out of the four walls of the library. Planning a summer vacation, or even a stay-cation, can do wonders for our mental health. If people don't already say it they should - a rested librarian is a happy librarian. Don't forget to take some time out for yourself in the coming months.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming MDMLG events!

JoAnn Krzeminski
MDMLG President

MDMLG Spring General Meeting and Program

Thursday April 19, 2012

PROGRAM: How Do You What You Do?

Lightning Round Presentations

Pechakucha presentations featuring 20 slides in 6 minutes

Nancy Bulgarelli: Information Mastery Instruction in a New Medical School

Marisa Conte: Clinical and Translational Science at U of M

Gina Hug: Henry Ford Hospital Reference Services

Shawn McCann: Immersive Learning at WSU

Kate Saylor: U of M Community Outreach

Wendy Wu: Reinventing a Year-3 Orientation Program Using
Active Learning Techniques

LOCATION: [Baldwin Public Library](#)

300 West Merrill Street

Birmingham, MI 48009

Phone: 248.647.170

AGENDA: Refreshments and Desserts from Hermann's Bakery

12:30-1:00 pm – Registration

1:00-1:30 pm – Business Meeting

1:30-2:00 pm – Refreshments

2:00-3:30 pm – Program

MAP: See the [attached map](#) for parking locations.

NLM Exhibit at WSU Shiffman Library – Don't Miss It!

by Linda Draper

National Library of Medicine's *Binding Wounds Pushing Boundaries: African Americans in Civil War Medicine* exhibit has traveled to Wayne State University's Shiffman Medical Library for public display March 19-April 28, 2012. This is the first visit to Michigan for a 6-week stay of the panels. The Exhibit describes the contributions of African American surgeons and nurses during the Civil War. This narrow slice of fascinating medical history challenges accepted notions of race and gender during the 1860s, and also highlights the involvement of some of Michigan's African American population in the conflict.

Opening Reception

The Binding Wounds exhibit kicked off with an Opening Reception on March 21, featuring a presentation of flags by the Junior ROTC of the Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men, remarks from Dean Sandra Yee of the WSU Library System and Dean Valerie Parisi of the WSU School of Medicine. The event was emceed by Dr. De'Andrea Wiggins of the School of Medicine's Diversity and Inclusion Office, and included brief introductions to Civil War Medicine by Dr. Tom Roe and Honors History student Scott Jankowski. The display includes Civil War flags, larger-than-life images of soldiers in uniform, rosters that list local infantry members, dedicated Binding Wounds website www.lib.wayne.edu/bw walk-up computer stations, information on genealogical research and more. Eastern Michigan University and University of Michigan will also host the exhibit, May-June 2012 and July-August 2013 respectively. EMU and UM join WSU and 64 other U.S. sites during a 5-year period ending in 2015 to display one of two duplicate Binding Wounds exhibits. 2015 is the Sesquicentennial – 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War.

Exhibit Open to Public

Binding Wounds is a must-see for Civil War and Medicine history buffs, local genealogical researchers and the intellectually curious! Please check it out before the exhibit leaves April 28. Open to the public during Shiffman Library hours Monday-Thursday 7:30 am – midnight, Friday 7:30 am-8pm, Saturday-Sunday noon - 8pm.



Special Event April 14

A free educational community program is planned for Saturday, April 14, 1-3:30 pm at the WSU Margherio Family Conference Center in the Mazurek Medical Education Commons, 340 E. Canfield St. in Detroit. Sponsors of the event include Wayne State University Libraries, the WSU Department of History, the College of Nursing and the School of Medicine.

Jeff O'Den, historical documentary filmmaker, will explore the topic "Lest We Forget: Black Civil War Soldiers and Sailors." In keeping with the American Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration, O'Den will present a series of excerpts from his *Forgotten Glory* documentary. His television and film production background contributes to his unique style, part documentary and part Hollywood drama, or "docudrama." O'Den believes the Civil War is the single most important event in American history because it continues to define us all.

Also on the agenda are WSU faculty exploring a range of Civil War topics. The panel includes:

- De'Andrea Wiggins, Interim Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, WSU School of Medicine (moderator)
- Professor Marc Kruman, Department of History chair, (The Civil War)
- Assistant Professor Kidada Williams, Department of History (African Americans and the Civil War)
- Associate Professor Marsha Richmond, Department of History (Medicine in Detroit in the 1860s)
- Associate Professor Deborah Walker, College of Nursing (The Civil War and Nursing)

RSVP by April 7

Limited seating is available for the April 14 event. RSVP by April 7 to 313-577-6666 or shiffmanoutreach@wayne.edu and provide contact information and number attending.

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Back to the Future: a Retrospective look at Libraries of the Future

by Jill Turner

The theme for the programming portion of the upcoming MDMLG general business meeting is “How You Do What You Do”. This topic started me thinking about what librarians of yesteryear envisioned for the future of librarianship. During the dawn of the nursing profession, nurses were responsible for performing basic patient care, washing the laundry, preparing meals, and scrubbing the floors and walls. I do not think that those nurses of long ago would ever have fathomed that nurses of today would be responsible for intubating patients, starting IV lines, or inserting catheters. So, I wondered, what roles did librarians foresee for themselves? Four decades ago, what did librarians think the future would hold for the profession? And, perhaps more interestingly, did the prognostications come true?

As I researched this topic, my goal was to find a few articles published in the 1960's, 70's, or early 80's that offered the authors' thoughts on potential emerging roles for librarians or predictions for the future of librarianship itself. I was looking for articles that were published prior to the widespread availability of the internet, back when database was spelled using two words (data base) and the World Wide Web was a mere glimmer in the eye of Tim Berners-Lee. Most of the articles that offered predictions of the future were published in the late 1990's and the early 2000's, after the internet had already gained traction in everyday life. By then, it was apparent that the internet was going to profoundly affect the way libraries did business. However, there were a few authors in the 60's, 70's, and early 80's that offered hypotheses on where librarianship was likely headed.

Prediction #1: Libraries of the future will have to take **automation** into consideration, specifically the “economics of automation” (Pentelow, 1983). Gillian Pentelow, in 1983, pointed out that computer equipment and database access require a financial commitment. Libraries will have to devote ongoing monetary resources to maintain a basic level of automation. This was not an unreasonable presumption since computers were making their way into libraries. However, Pentelow goes on to state, “The availability of more information and its use for the benefit of students, research workers, clinicians, and, ultimately, the patient will eventually justify the cost”(p. 1533). And there it is ... the portion of this prediction that makes it entertaining today. Indeed, libraries do have to consider the rapidly increasing financial obligation involved with automation. Yet, as evidenced by the closing of multiple hospital libraries, not all administrators agree that the benefits of the availability of information justify its cost.

Prediction #2: Closely akin to progressive automation is the issue of **rapid technological advancement**. The fruits of technological advancement were predicted to effect libraries in several ways. In 1983, Pentelow concluded that technological progress would allow for the “exploitation ... of information available elsewhere and in non-print form” (p. 1532). She wrote, “Soon it will not matter that the library does not stock a certain journal: the text will be available on line and the library's or the individual's terminal will provide the relevant article immediately” (p. 1532). Pentelow (1983) went on to lament the probable loss of print material which, she writes, will limit the possibility of browsing for similar materials. In most respects, Gillian Pentelow was correct in her assumptions. Yet, as we all know, not everything is available electronically, and, even if it was, obtaining the relevant article is not always as simple as she envisioned.

In 1980, Lois Ann Colaianni predicted that as a result of rapid technological expansion, the general populace would be able to use computers to directly access information (p. 322). In the future, computers would not require a special language or controlled thesaurus; they would be utilized by employing natural language and word fragments (Colaianni, 1980).

In the future, computers would not require a special language or controlled thesaurus; they would be utilized by employing natural language and word fragments (Colaianni, 1980). Users would have direct access to information rather than using the librarian as a conduit. Furthermore, Colaianni foresaw computers accompanying people on airplanes. Colaianni then proceeded to pose a question many in the library profession were voicing, "what then will the librarian do other than collection maintenance?" (p. 323). She suggested that library staff may undertake a teaching role, educating patrons in the use of databases because librarians would no longer be able to stand between patrons and direct access in order to preserve the importance of the library profession. As Colaianni suspected, computers have certainly come a long way since 1980. People no longer need to know BASIC, Fortran, or COBOL to use a computer. Fortunately, the concern that librarians would be relegated to countless hours of collection maintenance, due to a lack of other meaningful responsibilities, has not been realized. I would hazard a guess that librarians today are as busy as ever.

Rapidly expanding technology would create a future of information overload. As a result of information overload, Pentelow (1983) predicts that there will be a need for a "specially trained intermediary", separate from the searcher and requester, who will evaluate the results of a search (Pentelow, 1983). Watkins (1968) predicted that librarians will need to specialize in order to keep up with the incredible flow of information (p. 38). He believed that the "general librarian", like a general practitioner, would become obsolete (Watkins, 1968). The future has brought information overload, of that there is no question. While it is true that librarians have become more specialized in order to better serve their patron base, general librarianship has not become obsolete any more than a general practitioner has. As for the role of specially trained intermediary, the medical librarian has assumed some of the responsibility for evaluating research, perhaps in an effort to relieve herself/himself from the tedium of continuous collection maintenance (wink).

Prediction #3: Several authors envisioned widespread **changes within the publishing industry**. Lois Ann Colaianni (1980) summarized a portion of Frederick Lancaster's *Toward paperless information systems*, written in 1978, "By the end of the 1980's, the majority of research journals in the sciences will be accessible on-line. The economics of publishing journals and major reference works will force publishers to convert them to an electronic format. The scenario continues that by 1995, print on paper will have virtually disappeared for all secondary publications and for much of the primary literature in the sciences and social sciences. The technology exists upstream to enable a user to search and obtain full text via a computer terminal" (p.321). As we are all aware, not all print has been eliminated in the libraries of today, but much of it has. In many medical libraries, electronic journal collections far surpass the print ones.

Prediction #4: There will be a **change in the way information is delivered**. Predictions included changes in format, providers, and content. In 1968, Charles Watkins stated that "the library as a repository of books is outmoded" (p. 38). He commented that librarians should "find out the relative effectiveness as a learning tool of a recording, movie, or programmed instruction" and assume control of those formats in addition to books (p. 38). Matheson (1982) writes that "libraries may be less

repositories than management systems for a variety of computer-stored files that they use to disseminate information” (p. 24).

Colaiani (1980) predicted a change in the information providers. She believed information services would be increasingly provided outside of the library by Information Brokers. The Information Brokers would probably not be librarians, but rather individuals trained by database vendors. Lancaster (1978) also described a scenario where librarians were “freelance information specialists, working from an office or from the home” (p. 158). Nancy Lorenzi (1983) predicted a change in librarian provided content. By the year 2000, Lorenzi predicted, academic health centers will make changes in the focus of their mission; libraries in turn will be expected to revise the informational content they provide and the methods by which they provide it. For example, patient care will target prevention as well as the disease process. Librarians will need to support their institutions by distributing consumer health information to the community. Secondly, medical education will be conducted off-site more often; librarians will need to figure out how to provide the same services for off-site education as they do for on-site education. Lorenzi also predicted that researchers will remain prolific library users. There would need to be “appropriate library information planning and notification systems ... [such as] tagging specific patient data with specific disease entities” (p. 413), supporting research with literature searches, and using electronic mail. Without a doubt, we have experienced a change to the way information is delivered. Libraries have risen to the challenge by becoming more than simple book repositories, collecting and managing multiple formats, satisfying patient needs by providing consumer health information, providing off site information services, and supporting research needs by utilizing “electronic mail”.

Prediction #5: We will become a **paperless** society. This prediction was mentioned by several authors. Nina Matheson believes the library will “rely on machinery to gather, retrieve, and transfer information” (p. 24). Lancaster (1978) wrote a whole book envisioning a paperless society. He suggested that libraries would need to “identify the actions ... that will be needed to move the profession from one dealing almost exclusively with print on paper to one dealing largely with electronic media” (p.154). Although, certain aspects to this prediction have materialized, we are still a far cry from becoming paperless. Doris Bolef (1984), Director of the Library at Rush University wrote about the increase in printing in her library with the addition of new printers and a photocopier. During the 1982/83 school year, the Rush University library used more than 188 miles of paper for photocopying. In this respect, not much has changed since 1983. While the resources purchased by the library have increasingly become electronic, library patrons still use a massive amount of paper printing copies of online articles, sections of electronic books, lecture notes and presentations, and Up-To-Date search results.

I settled on the issues that I did because they were representative of most of the predictions that I found while researching this subject. However, truth be told, when I started delving into this topic, I was hoping to discover a few amusing predictions that would make this article more interesting; predictions that discussed, for example, how 8-tracks tapes were the wave of the future, how Betamax would undoubtedly triumph over VHS, or how the floppy disk would revolutionize digital storage for home computing for years and years to come. Sadly for the entertainment value of this article, most of the predictions offered stood the test of time and were spot on. Good for the authors' reputations, but not nearly as entertaining for readers. F. W. Lancaster (1978) wrote, “The responsibilities and functions of the research library in an electronic world seem to have received rather little attention from the library profession at large. Indeed, projections by librarians on the future of the library are usually conservative in the extreme” (p. 153). That would explain the lack of radical

predictions. In addition to the predictions being conservative, they were all interrelated, basically discussing how technological advancements will change the way libraries do business. And, not surprisingly they have. Furthermore, I fully expect this trend to continue. I will go on record and predict that technology will continue to change the way libraries do business in the future. Where will librarianship be thirty to forty years from now? Anyone want to take a guess?

For more on this topic: *A Brief History of the Future of Libraries: An Annotated Bibliography* by Gregg Sapp, Scarecrow Press, 2002.

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Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association Annual Conference 2012: *Librarians Driving Medical Education.*

When: October 17-19, 2012

Where: [Baronette Renaissance Hotel](#), Novi MI



What to expect:

- 3 days of CE opportunities
- Fine dining and conversation at the Tin Fish (Special Event)
- Poster presentations
- Interaction with vendors
- Opening Night Reception at the Baronette Renaissance hotel
- Networking
- FUN! FUN! FUN!

Printable invitation can be found at the conference website:

<http://www.mdmlg.org/MHSLA2012>

Video invitation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CDU_IDUcks

A Season of Firsts

the first year experiences of a new librarian

By: Andrea Kepsel

Spring is upon us here in Michigan and with it comes many signs of growth and change. I am feeling especially reflective this time of year as I look back on how much growth and change I myself have gone through recently. This past year I have experienced many “firsts” – first time teaching a class, first reference question answered, first literature search conducted, and I even completed my first performance review. These new experiences have taught me many things and are helping to shape me into a better librarian than I was just a year ago.

I do not remember exactly what my first reference question was, but I do know that I probably struggled to answer it. The first few months on the job were spent familiarizing myself with the library, its resources and services, and everything else a new employee needs to know. Back then I am sure I was unable to answer most questions without consulting something or someone. I am proud to say I am getting better, and it was a wonderful feeling the first time I answered a question without having to second guess myself. I feel I have come a long way since I first started, but I do still get asked questions I cannot answer right away. I have learned that admitting I do not know the answer is okay, as long as I am willing to find out what it is and respond in a reasonable amount of time. As much as I would like to always know the answer to things, I view the times I do not know as learning opportunities. Chances are I will be asked the question again, and next time I will be ready.

My first literature search was easy and quick, but gradually they are starting to become more complex. Many of my classes taught me how to build a search and what resources to use, but it is quite a different feeling when performing a search in real life. I like to think that the searches becoming more complex is a reflection of my abilities – I did well on easier ones so now people feel confident turning to me for harder subjects. I enjoy literature searches because I feel it gives me a chance to learn more about the population that I serve. My liaison area is incredibly large and this is one way for me to interact with individuals one-on-one, learn about their interests, and look for opportunities to help.

My first instruction session was a daunting experience, but in the end I think it went extremely well. I was incredibly nervous beforehand because I had never led an entire class before and was not sure what to expect. During school I had a class on instructional design and had given presentations before, but actually holding a class session in real life was completely different. I had a good turnout for the class and was asked plenty of questions (most of which I was able to answer quickly and easily). I have since held other instruction sessions and am improving with each one. I learned that confidence is key when teaching. I need to act like an expert in order to convince others that I one.

I have learned that admitting I do not know the answer is okay, as long as I am willing to find out what it is and respond in a reasonable amount of time

Looking back on this past year I am amazed by how far I have come since being a new librarian fresh out of school. My classes gave me a good backbone of experience, but I feel that being in the field has taught me much more than what is possible to learn in school. I am surprised at how many different projects I have become involved in, but I am proud of the number of things I have accomplished in such a short time and have many ideas for the future.

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Anyone going to MLA in Seattle this year? Let me know if you'd be willing to write a brief summary of your experience.

Marilyn Dow
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future events

Wednesday April 18, 2012

[MLA Educational Webcast](#)

Topic: Leveraging Mobile Technologies for Health Sciences Libraries

Location: Wayne State University, Purdy/Kresge Library Auditorium

June 14, 2012

MDMLG Summer Luncheon [Rattlesnake Club](#)

September, 2012

MDMLG Fall General Business Meeting

Reference Management Software : Panel Discussion

William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak

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