



# NCNMLG Newsletter

## A Message from the President Submitted by Rebecca Davis (Vice-President) on behalf of Lisa Lott Jerant

Our Chair, Lisa Jerant, had a healthy 8 lb 11oz boy on July 15, 2003. His name is Alexander Francis Jerant. Mother and baby are doing fine. If you'd like to send congratulations, Lisa's e-mail is: [lljerant@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lljerant@ucdavis.edu).

Though a full column from the Chair will follow in the next edition of the newsletter, Lisa asked if I would pass on the following information to you:

The Executive Board is considering an exciting idea for a fundraiser and we need your input. We would like to investigate the feasibility of having an auction on eBay using items donated by NCNMLG members or others. Since October is National Medical Librarians Month, it might be a good time to have the auction. If you like fundraising and would like to get in on the ground floor of what just might prove to be a groundbreaking activity for us, contact Sara Pimental as soon as possible at [sara.pimental@kp.org](mailto:sara.pimental@kp.org) or 510-271-2360.

Our fall planning is off to a good start with a program on professional publishing on October 10 at Chiron Corporation in Emeryville. Linda Watson will be the speaker and an executive board meeting and business meeting will round out the day. Linda's talk will provide a reminder to all of us that the written word is a powerful networking tool, providing our colleagues with information about what we are doing that is innovative or interesting. Consult the Calendar in this issue for more information.

The Joint Meeting is shaping up nicely and promises to be one of the highlights of the year.

With 7 CE courses, a symposium on health information literacy, and a host of plenary speakers, roundtables, posters and contributed papers, there will certainly be something for everyone. An article with more details on the Joint Meeting is included in this issue of the newsletter.

Lastly, we still have two committee positions to fill: Documentation and Mentoring. The Documentation chair works with our web editor, newsletter editor and publicity chair to ensure that our message and formatting are consistent and accurate. For more information, go to: [http://ncnmlg.stanford.edu/about/about\\_committees.htm](http://ncnmlg.stanford.edu/about/about_committees.htm). The Mentoring Committee chair will be our liaison to the MLA mentoring effort and will take the recommendations of that group and ideas from chapter members to promote mentoring. This year at MLA, Section Council and Chapter Council jointly sponsored a workshop on mentoring, so it is a major priority. For more information, look at: <http://mlanet.org/mentor/>. If you are interested in either position, or just want to ask questions, please contact both Lisa Jerant at [lljerant@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lljerant@ucdavis.edu) and Rebecca Davis at [radavis@ucdavis.edu](mailto:radavis@ucdavis.edu).

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## Editor's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the first issue of the Newsletter as the new editor. You might have noticed the layout change, as well as the new addition of the table of contents. An introduction of new health-sciences related web sites and databases is also a new feature. I have started soliciting Newsletter articles from the NCNMLG members. The articles can be highlights of professional conferences, lectures or reports of published papers or even research-in-progress. Sharing your opinions and experiences in new projects or products with your fellow colleagues is also appreciated. In next issue, Peggy Tahir, the former editor, will write the highlights of the IFLA meeting in Berlin that she recently attended. Stay tuned for more interesting articles in future issues of the Newsletter.

Again, all your contributions to the Newsletter are greatly appreciated. I look forward to having this opportunity to work with you all. Feel free to contact me if you have any new ideas to enhance the readership of the Newsletter. Please note the new deadline for submitting copy for the September/October issue is **September 15, 2003**.

And last, but not least, congratulations goes to Lisa Jerent, our new President, for having a beautiful baby boy. A special thanks goes to Nadya Disend for proofreading this issue of the Newsletter.

Min-Lin E. Fang, Editor

## MLA Teleconference on Health Information Literacy

MLA will be offering a satellite conference titled, "Reading Between the Lines: Focusing on Health Information Literacy", on September 10, 2003, 11am-1pm PST. The stated goal of the conference is "to enhance the knowledge of information professionals about the concepts of health information literacy and to highlight opportunities for using these principles in the

provision of quality consumer health and patient education information services". For the conference agenda and speakers, go to:

<http://www.mlanet.org/education/telecon/healthlit/index.html>

The conference can be viewed at the following California sites:

### 1. Stanford University Medical School, Room M104

For directions, map and registration, go to [http://lane.stanford.edu/about/classes/mla\\_teleconference.html](http://lane.stanford.edu/about/classes/mla_teleconference.html)

### 2. California State University, Fresno

University Center UC 202  
California State University, Fresno  
5240 N. Jackson Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93740-8023  
Contact Patrick Newell at [pnewell@csufresno.edu](mailto:pnewell@csufresno.edu) for more information.

### 3. Del Norte County Dept of Health & Social Services

880 Northcrest Dr  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
Phone: 707.464.3191 x304; Fax: 707.465.6701  
Contact Michelle Clemann at [mclemann@co.del-norte.ca.us](mailto:mclemann@co.del-norte.ca.us) for more information.

## MLA Grants and Scholarships Available

The Medical Library Association is pleased to sponsor the following grants and scholarships to practicing health science librarians and also to help qualified students study health sciences librarianship in graduate library science programs.

### For Practicing Health Science Librarians:

#### Continuing Education Grants

MLA members may submit applications for these grants of \$100-\$500 to develop their knowledge of the theoretical, administrative, and/or technical aspects of librarianship. More than one CE grant may be offered in a year. Application Deadline: December 1

**Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship**

This fellowship is available to health sciences librarians from countries outside the U.S. and Canada. The grant provides up to four months of observation and supervised work in one or more medical libraries in the United States or Canada. Application Deadline: December 1

**EBSCO/MLA Annual Meeting Grants**

EBSCO Information Services sponsors four grants of up to \$1000 each to enable medical librarians working in health sciences libraries to attend MLA's annual meeting. Application Deadline: December 1

**Hospital Libraries Section/ MLA Professional Development Grants**

This grant, given twice a year, sponsored by the Hospital Libraries Section, provides librarians working in hospital and similar clinical settings with up to \$800 for educational or research activities.

Application deadlines: **February 1 and August 1.**

**David A. Kronick Traveling Fellowship**

One \$2,000 fellowship covers the expenses involved in traveling to three or more medical libraries in the United States or Canada, for the purpose of studying a specific aspect of health information management.

Application Deadline: December 1

**Donald A. B. Lindberg Research Fellowship**

The Lindberg Research Fellowship has been established to fund research that links the information services provided by librarians to improved health care. A \$25,000 grant is awarded through a competitive grant process to a qualified health professional, researcher, educator, administrator, or librarian. Application Deadline:

**November 15**

**Medical Informatics Section/MLA Career Development Grant**

This grant provides up to two individuals \$1,500 each to support a career development activity that will contribute to advancement in the field of medical informatics. Application Deadline:

**December 1**

**MLA Research, Development, and Demonstration Project Grant**

This grant provides support for research, development, or demonstration projects that help promote excellence in the field of health sciences librarianship and information sciences.

Application Deadline: December 1

**For Students:****MLA Scholarship**

A scholarship of up to \$5000 will be granted to a student entering an ALA-accredited library school or with at least one-half of the requirements of the program to finish when the scholarship is granted in February. Application Deadline: December 1

**MLA Scholarship for Minority Students**

A scholarship of up to \$5000 will be granted to a minority student entering an ALA-accredited library school or with at least one-half of the requirements of the library school program to finish when the award is granted in February. African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander or Native American students who wish to study health science librarianship are eligible. Application Deadline: December 1

**Thomson ISI/MLA Doctoral Fellowship**

The Institute for Scientific Information sponsors a fellowship in the amount of \$2000 to foster and encourage superior students who have been admitted to candidacy to conduct doctoral work in an area of medical librarianship or information science. The award supports research or travel applicable to the candidate's study within a twelve-month period. The award may not be used for tuition. The award is granted every other year with the next award scheduled for distribution in 2003. Application Deadline: December 1

**MLA/NLM Spectrum Scholarship**

MLA and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) jointly sponsor a scholarship through the ALA Spectrum initiative program. A \$5,000 donation each year supports minority students in their goals to become health sciences information professionals. For more information, contact the ALA Spectrum program at 800.545.2433 x4276 or email the [Spectrum Inquiry Line](#).

Application Deadline: **March 1**

*Application deadlines for all grants and scholarships are December 1, unless otherwise noted.* More information and applications are available at: [www.mlanet.org/awards/grants](http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants), or contact Lisa C. Fried at MLA Headquarters at: [mlapd2@mlahq.org](mailto:mlapd2@mlahq.org).

### MLA Awards—Nominate Yourself or an Outstanding Colleague

You can make a difference! Nominate yourself or an outstanding colleague for one of the MLA Awards mentioned below.

**Lois Ann Colaianni Award for Excellence and Achievement in Hospital Librarianship**

This award is given to a member of the association who has made significant contributions to the profession in the area of overall distinction or leadership in hospital library administration or service, production of a definitive publication related to hospital librarianship, teaching, research, advocacy, or the development or application of innovative technology to hospital librarianship. The recipient receives a cash award of \$500 and a certificate.

**Estelle Brodman Award for Academic Medical Librarian of the Year**

The award recognizes an academic medical librarian, who at mid-career demonstrates significant achievement, the potential for leadership, and continuing excellence. The Award was established in 1986 with a gift from Irwin H.

Pizer. The recipient receives a certificate and a cash award of \$500 at the Association's Annual Meeting.

**Majors/MLA Chapter Project of the Year Award**

This is a general award for excellence, innovation and contribution to the profession of health sciences librarianship. These attributes must be shown through special projects beyond the normal operational programming of the chapter. The recipient receives a certificate and a cash award of \$500.

**Janet Doe Lectureship**

The Janet Doe Lecturer is an individual chosen annually by the Medical Library Association for his/her unique perspective on the history or philosophy of medical librarianship. The selected lecture is presented at the Association's Annual Meeting, and is subsequently published in the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*. The Lecturer receives a \$250 honorarium, travel expenses to the site of the Annual Meeting, hotel expenses for 1 night, per diem for 1 day and a certificate.

**Ida and George Eliot Prize**

The prize is presented annually for a work published in the preceding calendar year, which has been judged most effective in furthering medical librarianship. The award was first presented in 1962. The recipient receives a cash award of \$200 and a certificate.

**Rittenhouse Award**

The award is presented annually for the best unpublished paper (bibliographical, issue or topic based, or report of research results) or web-based project on medical librarianship or medical informatics written by a student in an ALA-accredited school of library and information studies or a trainee in an internship in health sciences librarianship or medical informatics. The Rittenhouse Medical Bookstore in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania established the award in 1967. The

author of the winning essay receives a cash award of \$500 and a certificate.

### **Thomson ISI/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award**

The award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions for the application of technology to the delivery of health science information, to the science of information, or to the facilitation of the delivery of health science information. The Institute for Scientific Information has sponsored the Award since 1973. The recipient receives a cash award of \$500 and a certificate.

### **Louise Darling Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Collection Development in the Health Sciences**

The medal is presented annually in recognition of distinguished achievement in collection development in the health sciences. Ballen Booksellers International, Inc established the Medal in 1987. Blackwell North North America, Inc currently supports it. The recipient receives an engraved medal, a certificate and a \$1,000 cash award.

### **Murray Gottlieb Prize**

The prize is awarded annually for the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and allied sciences written by a health sciences librarian. Ralph and Jo Grimes of the Old Hickory Bookshop, Brinklow, MD, in order to recognize and stimulate the health science librarian's interest in the history of medicine, established the Prize in 1956. The author of the winning essay receives a cash award of \$100 and a certificate.

### **Lucretia W. McClure Excellence in Education Award**

The award honors an outstanding practicing librarian or library educator in the field of health sciences librarianship and informatics who demonstrates skills in one or more of the following areas: teaching, curriculum development, mentoring, research, or leadership in education at

local, regional, or national levels. The recipient receives a cash award of \$500.00 and a framed certificate.

### **Marcia C. Noyes Award**

The Noyes Award is the highest professional distinction of the Medical Library Association. The award was established in 1947 and recognizes a career, which has resulted in lasting, outstanding contributions to medical librarianship. The recipient receives an engraved sterling silver Revere bowl at the Association's Annual Meeting.

### **Fellows and Honorary Members**

Fellowship is conferred on Regular MLA members in recognition of outstanding and sustained contributions to the advancement of the purposes of the association. Fellows receive a certificate at the association's Annual Meeting and lifetime Regular Member benefits at no charge.

Honorary Membership is conferred on individuals, not formally MLA members, who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the purposes of the association. Honorary members receive a certificate at the Association's Annual Meeting and lifetime Regular Member benefits except voting privileges at no charge.

***Nomination deadlines for all awards are November 1.*** More information and applications are available at <http://www.mlanet.org/awards>, or contact Lisa C. Fried, Professional Development, Medical Library Association, 312-419-9094 ext. 28, [mlapd2@mlahq.org](mailto:mlapd2@mlahq.org).

## **MLA Task Force on Information Specialists in Context (ISIC)**

Submitted by Diane Wolf, Task Force Chair

The October 2000 Chapter meeting about the informationist concept was the beginning of spirited discussion among our colleagues around the country. In 2002, MLA sponsored a conference at the National Library of Medicine, a Web

discussion, and an open forum at the Annual Meeting, all devoted to this concept. Following those meetings, the MLA Board accepted an action agenda drafted by the Informationist Task Force. The action agenda spoke of the information specialist working in the context of a clinical or research setting. Given the debate over the word, "informationist," a decision was made to use the phrase, "information specialist in context."

At the winter 2003 meeting, the MLA Board established a Task Force on Information Specialists in Context (ISIC) to coordinate implementation of the [Informationist Action Agenda](#). The Task Force will identify the duties and qualifications of a Consultant on Information Specialists in Context to act as a project manager for this initiative. Then the Task Force will work with the consultant to:

- seek sources of funding, develop and evaluate model ISIC services and training programs, and prepare background documentation and compile information for publications
- contribute to publications and the Informationist web site on MLANET
- solicit, recommend and fund one or more model programs
- seek partnerships with organizations sharing this interest; and communicate with academic, health care and industry leaders about progress
- promote involvement by MLA units in achieving the agenda
- develop a program for the 2004 annual meeting to report to members on progress implementing the Action Agenda
- prepare final report in 2005

The Task Force met at the MLA Annual Meeting to review the possible role and qualifications of the consultant. Future meetings will be conducted by email and conference call. There will be an opportunity for MLA members to hear from the consultant and the task force at the MLA annual meeting in Washington. If you are interested in the continuing evolution of the informationist concept, please look for future

announcements of an open forum to be held in Washington next year.

## Joint Meeting 2004 Update

Submitted by Rebecca David

The Joint Meeting Planning Committee and PSRML have been hard at work planning a great meeting!

The meeting is scheduled for January 28-31, 2004 at the 16-story Holiday Inn hotel in downtown Sacramento. Themed "2004 Gold Rush: The Information Frontier", this meeting will mark the first time that our colleagues from the Pacific Northwest Chapter will be joining us.

One of the highlights of the meeting will be an exciting, daylong symposium on Wednesday, January 28 focusing on health information literacy. The symposium will be sponsored by PSRML and will provide an opportunity to listen to those working actively in this area; to view exhibits from producers of consumer targeted information; and to discuss related topics with colleagues. CE credit will be provided.

Plenary speakers will present on a variety of interesting topics, including outreach programs and resources, the Woods Hole informatics program, medical errors and the Public Library of Science. Contributed papers, posters and a roundtable luncheon will further enhance the offerings. The meeting will also feature a spectacular lineup of 7 CE classes, dealing with marketing, copyright, advanced Internet searching, web course design, web survey design, PDAs, and immunology. All CE classes will be held on Saturday, January 31.

Now, for the fun part, we have planned a Welcome Reception for January 28 to give us all a chance to see old friends and to meet our PNC/MLA attendees. The evening event on January 29 will feature dinner and a murder mystery play on board the Delta King, a stationary riverboat located

with walking distance of the hotel. Dine around to the best local restaurants will also be offered each night.

Stay tuned! Look for more details on the meeting web site in September!

### NCNMLG Needs You – Volunteer to Be an Officer!

Join your colleagues and make a difference by volunteering to be an officer in your NCNMLG. Learn how NCNMLG functions and get to know your professional associates better. Continue your progress toward AHIP certification and/or tenure.

Positions available are:

Vice President/President Elect 2004-2005

Secretary 2004-2005

Treasurer 2004-2006

Nominating Committee 2004-2005

MLA Nominating Committee 2004-2005

MLA Chapter Council 2004-2005

We have officer descriptions, but strongly encourage candidates to contact previous office holders to get a sense of the job requirements. The January/February 2003 issue of the Newsletter on the NCNMLG web site has a list of last year's officers who are in a good position to tell you about the job you are interested in.

The vitality of the chapter depends on those willing to become involved. An organization is only as good as its members and leaders. Volunteer and reap the benefits! For more information, Contact:

Kristi Wessenberg  
Nominating Committee Chair  
Samuel Merritt College  
510.869.6833  
[kwessenberg@samuelmerritt.edu](mailto:kwessenberg@samuelmerritt.edu)

Beverly Taugher  
Nominating Committee Member  
The American Academy of Ophthalmology  
415.447.0298  
[btaugher@aao.org](mailto:btaugher@aao.org)

### Minutes of the NCNMLG Transition Meeting May 30, 2003

Conference Room C - Second Floor  
Kaiser Permanente Regional Offices  
1950 Franklin, Oakland, CA

#### Call to order

Sara Pimental called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Sara conveyed thanks to all officers and Committee members for their hard work during her term of office as President. There being no old business, she turned the meeting over to Lisa Lott Jerant, Incoming President.

#### Attendance

Sara Pimental, President, 2002-2003; Lisa Lott Jerant, President, 2003-2004; Rebecca Davis, President Elect, 2003-2004 and 2004 Joint Meeting Chair, Continuing; Doug Varner, Past President, 2002-2003; Doris Hayashikawa, Secretary, Continuing; Annette Osenga, Treasurer, Continuing; Karen Halverson, Nominating Committee Chair, 2002-2003 and Co-Chair Membership Committee, Continuing; Jerry Thompson, Nominating Committee Member, 2002-2003; Candace Walker, MLA Chapter Representative, Continuing; Carolyn Fishel, MLA Chapter Representative Alternate, Continuing, and Continuing Education, 2003-2004; Terry Henner, MLA Nominating Committee, 2002-2003, and Research Committee, Continuing; Julia Kochi, MLA Nominating Committee nominee; Heidi Heilmann, Bylaws, 2003-2004; Anne Shew, Credentialing Liaison (AHIP), Continuing; Barbara Ryken, Governmental Relations, Continuing; David Brown, ILL Coupons, Continuing; Ysabel Bertolucci, Long Range Planning Tri-chair, Continuing; Cathleen LeGrand, Public Relations, Continuing; Kristi Wessenberg, Nominating Committee Chair, 2003-2004; Bev Taugher, Nominating Committee, 2003-2004; Lisa Wallis, Electronic Resources Chair, 2003-2004.

### Minutes

The minutes of the previous two meetings were approved as distributed.

### Committee Chair Openings

Volunteers are still needed for Mentoring Taskforce, and Programming.

### Treasurer's Report

Annette Osenga distributed a written report, showing a balance of \$26,102.36. She would like to receive budget forecasts by July 15, 2003, with a goal of having a budget ready by August 15, 2003. Except for one check for a continuing education event not yet received, she is ready to close out the fiscal year.

### Committee Reports and Related Business

The ILL Coupon reports presented by David Brown at the May 6, 2003 meeting are unchanged and are attached to the minutes of that meeting. He agreed to move some money from the checking account to a money market account at the suggestion of Anne Shew.

Rebecca Davis distributed a 2004 Joint Meeting update, dated May 29, 2003. The following are dates for the events:

January 28, 2004: Health Information Literacy Symposium

January 29-30, 2004: Joint Meeting

January 31, 2004: Continuing Education Sessions

Carolyn Fishel reported on progress made toward 6 or possibly 7 CE events being planned in conjunction with the Joint Meeting. A survey provided information on the topics for the CE classes.

Candace Walker reported on her efforts to obtain speakers for the Plenary Sessions and requested leads on good speakers, especially for the keynote address. A panel program, including Doug Varner and Sara Pimental, participants in the Woods Hole Informatics program, is being

included. Karen Halverson sent out two batches of letters and some e-mails to solicit exhibitors and has received some responses. Online registration for the Joint Meeting is being actively investigated.

Candace Walker, MLA Chapter Council Representative, reiterated some items of interest listed in the written report. She reported that a Satellite CE event will be held on September 10, to support Consumer Health Librarianship certification. Ysabel Bertolucci will ask Mary Leoni, Kaiser Multimedia Library, about hosting the session in Oakland. Candace brought to the attention of the group, the Advocacy Toolbox, distributed at the MLA conference, and expected to be published in the Journal. MLA is considering awarding AHIP credits for independent reading of journal articles (not a journal club), especially useful for members who cannot attend CE events. Candace attended a meeting intended as an orientation for chairs of CE and held at the MLA Conference, since a CE chair had not yet been appointed. MLA has difficulty getting Chapters to meet the requirement that they list three years worth of CE events on their Websites.

Lisa Lott Jerant reported on the Professional Excellence Award, which was given to Linda Grix at the NCNMLG Meeting on May 6. Criteria for the award will be publicized along with information on submission of names for next year's award. She also reported that new Newsletter editor will be Min-Lin Fang. Karen Halverson requested that NCNMLG adopt a policy that would allow her to quote a price for print versions of the Newsletter and the Directory to those that inquire. By consensus of the Board, Karen will provide these prices when asked: \$25 for a print copy of the Directory; \$30/year for issues of the Newsletter.

Terry Henner will be compiling and soliciting information about NCNMLG members who have published and are doing research for a Newsletter article. He is working on a possible "Research Interest" database and will begin the process of recruiting committee members.

Cathleen LeGrand presented a written report for 2002-2003. The report recommends that NCNMLG participate in the annual reception for the UC Berkeley School of Library and Information Management and Systems. She also showed the group a brochure that the Committee is drafting that could be printed and distributed at various events. She noted the need for some logo items that could be given away to promote and publicize NCNMLG at these events. She also plans to work with the Webmaster to put information for students on our Website.

### **New Business**

In response to the e-mails sent prior to the meeting by Rebecca Davis, the group discussed the issue of paid advertisements in the Newsletter. Julia Kochi moved that the NCNMLG accept paid advertising in the Newsletter. The motion was seconded by David Brown and was unanimously approved. The actual rates will be considered by the 2004 Joint Meeting planners and, under the current plan, Newsletter ads will be offered as part of an incentive package to increase the number of exhibitors at the Joint Meeting.

The separate issue of ads on the NCNMLG Website was discussed. The group agreed to postpone further discussion until after the 2004 Joint Meeting.

Rebecca Davis also asked for clarification of Board policy regarding authority to pay in advance for items/services. Specifically, she would like \$2800 to secure the place and date for the social event, Suspects Dinner Theatre, on board the Delta King. By consensus, she does not need Board approval for such expenditures and can work directly with the Treasurer, since there is an expectation of eventual reimbursement or cost recovery.

### **Scheduling**

The tentative schedule of meetings is:  
Program Meeting, October 2003, possibly on Scholarly Publishing with assistance from MLA;

NCNMLG Business Meeting in conjunction with the 2004 Joint Meeting, January 2004, including announcement of a slate and opportunity for the membership to nominate candidates from the floor; NCNMLG Business Meeting, March or April, 2004, in advance of the MLA Conference which is scheduled for May 21-26, 2004; transition meeting, June 2004, following the MLA meeting.

Although traditionally the election results are announced at a business meeting, the group favored announcing the results via e-mail in advance of the meeting. In addition, an effort should be made to fill committee chair vacancies in advance of MLA annual meeting so that new chairs can plan to attend various orientation events at MLA meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. to allow time for those needing to transition to do so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Hayashikawa, Secretary

### **New "Household Products Database" Providing Information on Health and Safety of Household Products**

What's under your kitchen sink, in your garage, in your bathroom, and on the shelves in your laundry room? Do these household products pose a potential health risk to you and your family? These questions are posed on the homepage of a new site for consumers, the Household Products Database (<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>).

The National Institutes of Health recently unveiled this consumer's guide from the National Library of Medicine. It provides easy-to-understand information on the potential health effects of more than 2,000 ingredients contained in more than 4,000 common household products. For more technical information, users can launch a search for a product or ingredient in TOXNET from the Product Page in the database.

## HICUP: Health Information in Chinese Uniting Patients, Physicians and the Public

The librarians and health educators from the Ehrman Medical Library, New York University (NYU) School of Medicine and the NYU Downtown Hospital identified a need to link the patients and physicians of NYU Downtown Hospital to quality-filtered and online consumer health information in Chinese. To best meet this need, the group decided that the health information should include the NYU Downtown patient education documents, as well as links to existing consumer health information in Chinese that is currently available on the Web. This unique service integrates patient education materials with consumer health information. The NYU Downtown Hospital health educators, literate in Chinese, review each link and patient education materials for readability, accuracy and authority

As a result, a Web site, HICUP, was created and devoted to the needs of Chinese speaking patients, the public and their physicians. Topics covered are medications, diseases, conditions, nutrition and insurance. To visit the HICUP site, go to: [http://library.med.nyu.edu/patient/hicup/about\\_hicup.html](http://library.med.nyu.edu/patient/hicup/about_hicup.html). HICUP is a good resource for consumer health information in Chinese.

## CE

### Web-Based Courses

The MLANET Educational Clearinghouse currently has several [Web-based courses](#) approved for MLA continuing-education credit. Go to <http://www.mlanet.org/education/web/> to visit Web-based course listings. For more information, contact [Kathleen Gaydos Combs](#) at [mlapd1@mlahq.org](mailto:mlapd1@mlahq.org), 312.419.9094 x29.

### Workshops on Electronic Healthcare Information

The Central California Health Information Project, a project of the Henry Madden Library, CSU Fresno, funded by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, offers free half-day workshops about electronic healthcare information.

The workshops are open to anyone working or volunteering in a Central Valley non-profit organization, healthcare facility, library, or school who must respond to questions about (or who has a personal interest in) healthcare information. This workshop is designed for people with little or no background in medicine or healthcare, although more advanced students may also wish to attend to learn about many useful Web resources.

Workshops will be offered at the Henry Madden Library, California State University, Fresno and the Library, College of the Sequoias (in Visalia). Dates, locations, and registration information is available at <http://www.lib.csufresno.edu/cchip/>.

### Videos Available from the PSRML

The following two new VHS cassettes are now available for loan from our PSRML multimedia collection. Please feel free to visit our web site to submit your request:

<http://nmlm.gov/psr/loans/videoloans.html>

1. 2003 NLM Expanding the Medical Universe  
An overview of NLM programs and services, demonstrations of MEDLINE®, MEDLINEplus® and other databases. (12 min)
2. 2002 MLA: Informationist Conference  
The MLA Informationist Conference Task Force planned and implemented this conference to facilitate a national discussion, derive a consensus definition, and develop recommendations for an action agenda for the

"informationist" professional in clinical and research domains. Two tapes: Part 1 with the Welcome and Keynote Address, and Part 2 with the Group Reports and Wrap-Up. (125 min each)

## Legislation

Submitted by Barbara Ryken,  
Government Relations, NCNMLG

Public Domain Enhancement Act Introduced in House On June 25, 2003

Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) introduced the Public Domain Enhancement Act (HR 2601), a bill to make it easier for older and endangered copyrighted works to fall into the public domain.

Representative Doolittle (R-CA) co-sponsored the bill, which is intended to reform lengthy terms of copyright protection. The Copyright Term Extension Act of 1998 added another 20 years of protection to what had previously been a 50-year term of protection for copyrighted works.

HR 2601 creates a simple mechanism by which copyright owners who wish to avail themselves of the additional 20 years of protection would be required simply to pay a \$1 fee 50 years after the work was published and every 10 years thereafter. Thus, materials -- currently those published between 1923 and 1942 -- that would have gone into the public domain but for the 1998 law and that copyright holders do not intend to exploit commercially during the additional 20 years of protection would enter the public domain. This process would not be an undue burden for the copyright holders (who today must pay a fee when they register with the U.S. Copyright Office) and would realize significant and important public benefits.

Under provisions of this act, the U.S. Copyright Office would establish a user-friendly,

efficient electronic filing procedure to process forms to extend the term of protection; collect the minimal \$1 maintenance fees; and make the forms broadly available to the public so that there is one centralized directory of titles that remain under the additional twenty years of protection. Today it is onerous and costly for libraries to track down copyright holders of older materials. The latter provision is especially crucial to libraries, archives and the public as it would provide a single database that could be easily searched to determine whether or not a particular work remains under copyright protection or is in the public domain.

It is estimated that after 50 years from the time of publication, 98% of copyrighted materials are no longer providing any economic benefit to the copyright holders.

At the June 25 press conference to introduce the bill, Representative Lofgren acknowledged the support of the library community. Miriam Nisbet, ALA Legislative Counsel, speaking on behalf of ALA, the American Association of Law Libraries and the Association of Research Libraries, emphasized that this bill would enable libraries to preserve many materials that would otherwise be lost. Professor Larry Lessig of Stanford Law School, who worked with Representative Lofgren on drafting the legislation, presented her with a Petition to Claim the Public Domain with 15,000 names of bill supporters.

Please contact your representatives and urge them to co-sponsor HR 2601, the Public Domain Enhancement Act. For further information, go to: [www.ala.org/copyright](http://www.ala.org/copyright) and click on copyright news. To sign the petition, go to: <http://eldred.cc>, a website that serves as the focal point for information about the campaign to pass this bill.

## Discontinuing BioSites

As you may know, BioSites was originally developed to be a central "clearinghouse" where

librarians could submit evaluative information about high-quality biomedical Internet resources. The intended audience was to be the biomedical librarians who are involved in Internet collection development.

For several reasons, BioSites is going to be disabled. No more contributions are going to be entered in the system. UCSF, who has been hosting the BioSites web page, is going to archive the site for PSRML on a CDROM. Users will be directed elsewhere as described below.

The factors that contributed to the decision to stop maintaining BioSites are:

Contributors have added very few new sites, even with the streamlined submission process implemented in 2001.

The feedback from the fall survey sent to BioSites contributors was mixed. Only a few contributors were enthusiastic about continuing BioSites, and others were ready to drop it. Contributors mentioned that they had created their own systems that were "oriented to their own clientele." While many said they would like to continue to contribute, only one actually did. The guilt factor appears to be strong--contributors like the idea of the web site, but have other priorities. Several of you mentioned specific reasons for the lack of contributions such as "less staff, managing own website, and the enormous amount of time required to maintain electronic journals." The statistics indicate a high level of usage-- over half a million a year:

545,591 Oct 01 to Sept 02

558,170 Oct 00 to Sept 01

However, looking at the topics that were searched, it seems clear that the searches are from consumers rather than librarians and/or health professionals (dieting/weight-loss, Viagra, what is diabetes, pregnancy, cancer, anthrax). These searchers would be better served by a consumer-oriented service such as MEDLINEplus. Of the

websites that point to BioSites, many are from academic health sciences libraries, and many are from international sources. In speaking with academic librarians, many have the BioSites link on their pages, but they didn't know who was using it, and they weren't referring people to it.

People who try to go to BioSites will be directed to a page that suggests MEDLINEplus or HealthWeb. HealthWeb is a collaborative project of the health sciences libraries of the Greater Midwest Region (GMR) of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) and those of the Committee for Institutional Cooperation. It groups web sites by topic area, but it doesn't include the value added information that BioSites included.

Thank you for your support over the years. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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 Education & Exhibit Coordinator  
 NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region  
 UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library

### Discontinuing MeSH Publications

For many years, NLM has published several MeSH publications each year: three MeSH "tools" (the Annotated Alphabetic MeSH, the MeSH Tree Structures, and the Permuted MeSH) and the Medical Subject Headings Supplement to Index Medicus (familarly known as the "Black and White" MeSH), which combines the Alphabetic arrangement and the Tree Structures in a single publication.

Sales of the MeSH tools have been declining steadily for a number of years, while use of the MeSH browser, other resources on the MeSH homepage, and the MeSH database in Entrez has climbed. Due to the greater coverage, flexibility, and currency of MeSH browser, NLM's own indexers and catalogers no longer use the print publications. The printed MeSH tools do not reflect

more than 100,000 MeSH Supplementary concepts, which are updated nightly, nor the infrequent but highly important additions to MeSH main headings that are made between annual editions of the vocabulary. The most recent examples of such additions are, "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome" and "SARS Virus".

For 2004, NLM plans to cease publication of the MeSH "tools" and simultaneously to expand the content in the "Black and White" MeSH. The expanded "Black and White" MeSH will include additional listings (e.g., geographicals, publication types, new headings by category), a primer on the use of the MeSH, and more detailed material on indexing and cataloging practices. The "Black and White" MeSH is available from the Government Printing Office and can be ordered separately from printed Index Medicus. NLM will announce ordering information for the "Black and White" MeSH when it becomes available.

## Job

### Director, Medical Information Resources

Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Memorial Care is seeking a creative, enthusiastic and experienced individual for the position of Director, Medical Information Resources. We are looking for someone who enjoys teaching and has a vision to lead the clinical education and research mission of a five-hospital system in Southern California into the future.

Requirements include Master's degree from a library or information studies program or an equivalent combination of library experience, an advanced degree in medicine or health sciences and a minimum of 5 years experience in medical or health science information services and experience in managing budgets.

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience within a range of \$64,097 - \$96,145

Qualified applicants who wish to be considered for this position should send their letters of application, complete resume and the names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to:

Carole Warde, MD  
Graduate Medical Education  
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center  
2801 Atlantic Avenue  
Long Beach, Cal 90806

[cwarde@memorialcare.org](mailto:cwarde@memorialcare.org)

Fax: 562-933-3888

Electronic applications only

## Directions for Joining the Listserv

**LISTSERV ADDRESS:** [ncnmlglist@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:ncnmlglist@lists.stanford.edu)

Everyone is encouraged to subscribe to the general listserv. These are very low-volume lists designed for communication of important information from NCNMLG to its members. The only time you will need to unsubscribe is when your e-mail address changes. In this case two actions are necessary. You will need to unsubscribe your old e-mail address and then subscribe the new address. This keeps our listserv current!

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## MLA Mentor Database Debuts



### New Mentor Database Debuts

MLA announces newly created mentor Web pages that are part of the career section of MLANET.

- Sign up online to serve as a mentor to your peers, as a provisional mentor, or as a mentor to students interested in learning about the profession.
- Search the database to find a mentor.
- Link to mentor tip sheets and guidelines.
- Access Web resources to help you in your mentoring role.

The success of the mentor database depends on the number of members who sign up. Go to [www.mlanet.org/mentor/](http://www.mlanet.org/mentor/) to explore the possibilities.

## Submitting Items to the Newsletter

Please email your submissions to the Newsletter. Items for the NCNMLG Newsletter may be sent in electronic format (text or WORD format preferred) to:

Min-Lin Fang  
Email: [fang@library.ucsf.edu](mailto:fang@library.ucsf.edu)  
Phone: 415-476-3397

If you have questions about submitting articles or announcements to the Newsletter, please feel free to call and ask questions.

The NCNMLG Newsletter is published 6 times a year: (July/August, September/October, November/December, January/February, March/April, May/June.

**Copy for the September/October newsletter is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.**