



CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWS

Issue No. 36, Fall 2004

NEWSLETTER OF THE CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Note from the chair...

Hello Everyone!

It was wonderful to see so many section members at MLA '04 in Washington, D.C. At our business meeting we were able to discuss several projects and goals for the coming year. Among them are a revision of the Cancer Librarians Section brochure and the continued efforts to get meeting and conference abstracts indexed.

In addition to the business meeting, the Cancer Librarian Section co-sponsored two well-attended programs at the annual meeting: a contributed papers session on health literacy and a combination session with contributed papers and guest speaker (Dr. Nancy Boucot Cummings) on end-of life issues and the role of the medical librarian. For MLA 2005, JoAnne Sparks is working on a program about the Open Access publishing movement and its impact on research efforts and clinical care. Many thanks are due to JoAnne for the time and effort she is putting in to planning this session.

I'd also like to give special thanks to the previous officers and section members for their service and dedication to keeping the Cancer Librarians Section strong and active, as well as to our current officers and active members who are building on that success while providing section support and guidance. Our accomplished past chair, Margaret Vugrin, has already started recruiting officers for our section for next year (let her know if you are interested). Gail-Yvette Hendler has done outstanding work representing the Cancer Librarians Section at Section Council and keeping us informed about Council updates and decisions. Michelle Arbuckle has successfully published two newsletters prior to this one. We are indebted to Ann Marie Clark for her continued work updating and maintaining our web site. We gratefully acknowledge all of the time and effort Sharon Lezotte put into her service as past treasurer. Sue Felber deserves a special round of applause for her willingness to tackle those responsibilities of section treasurer and for her previous service as secretary for our section. Thanks go out to our new secretary, Carolyn Bridgewater, to Karen Albert for her tireless efforts to get meeting abstracts indexed, and to each of you who have made contributions to our section's goals and projects.

Our section is fortunate to have several very active members, but we also need the rest of you and your ideas, suggestions, and projects to keep our section vibrant and visible to the rest of MLA. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding our section.

Have a safe and happy holiday season,
Tanya Smith
Chair



MLA 2004 CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION SUMMARY OF PROGRAM SESSIONS



TITLE: MAKING CRITICAL DECISIONS: END-OF-LIFE HEALTH CARE

Sponsor: Cancer Librarians

Co-Sponsor(s): Relevant Issues, Research, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Health Sciences Librarians SIG

First Presentation: The means to a better end: collection development in the medical library to support compassionate end-of-life care

Speakers: Susan A. Byars, Librarian, Hospice Library, Hospice of the Bluegrass, Lexington, KY ; Edwina (Winn) Theirl, Outreach Coordinator, Chandler Medical Center Library, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

Objective: To identify information resources to support professionals and their terminally ill patients when treatment goals change from curing disease to providing comfort and dignity at the end of life.

Methods: Case study: This presentation will: identify factors promoting change in the way we care for dying patients; describe the concept of palliative care; describe the hospice model as a framework for collection development in end-of-life care; review relevant MESH terms; and identify authoritative textbooks, journals, and Web-based materials appropriate for medical libraries.

Results: Although death is a universal experience, it continues to be a profoundly difficult topic for patients and professionals alike. In a *JAMA* article published in 2000, Rabow concluded that top-selling medical textbooks offered little helpful information for physicians caring for patients at the end of life, echoing the findings of a study of nursing literature by Ferrell published a year earlier. However, there have been significant changes in a few short years. Professionals and consumers alike are acknowledging the value of a palliative model that shifts treatment goals from effecting cure and/or prolonging life at any cost to promoting comfort and managing symptoms in order to achieve the best quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses.

Conclusions: Access to peer-reviewed literature is critical to clinicians providing quality care, but in the past little was published to support physicians and nurses caring for terminally ill patients. In recent years, the discipline of palliative medicine has evolved rapidly and there is wider recognition of the hospice concept as a legitimate model of care for dying people. As a result, there is an emerging body of quality literature on end-of-life care that should be included in all medical libraries.

Second Presentation: Introducing information resources to improve end-of-life care: a collaborative training effort

Speakers: Susan A. Byars, Librarian, Hospice Library, Hospice of the Bluegrass, Lexington, KY ; Edwina (Winn) Theirl, Outreach Coordinator, Chandler Medical Center Library, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

Objective: To describe a successful year-long outreach and training collaboration in which the goal was to introduce the growing body of literature on end-of-life care and to provide Internet-based training in accessing resources that support compassionate care for terminally ill people.

Methods: Case study: Highlighting the challenges of providing outreach and training to multidisciplinary groups, we will: describe project publicity activities; introduce an extensive, indexed resource guide developed as a training hand-out; and discuss the flexible ninety-minute program designed to address the needs of participants who were interested in terminal care but who came from different professional backgrounds and arrived for training with differing computer skills.

Results: This project was funded by a training grant from the National Library of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region. During the course of the project, 175 health care professionals and hospice volunteers attended one of 14 training sessions offered in 10 different locations in Kentucky and more than 1,300 individuals were reached by project activities.

Conclusions: The training grant provided an unusual and very successful opportunity for collaboration between a university hospital library, the University of Kentucky's Chandler Medical Center Library, and Hospice of the Bluegrass, a community-based non-profit hospice organization. The training model as well as the resource guide developed for this project will be of interest to medical librarians serving health care professionals providing care to terminally ill patients as well as serving consumers seeking compassionate end of life care for themselves or loved ones.

Third Presentation: Making critical decisions: medical librarians and end-of-life health care

Speaker: Nancy Boucot Cummings, Senior Biomedical Advisor, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Washington, DC.

Description: Issues surrounding the end of life are ones that everyone must face but often are ones that people are loathe to discuss and to face. While death is part of the human condition, modern medicine has helped to extend the life span to such an extent that awareness of acute diseases, dying, and death are not a usual part of experience in high-income countries as they once were. Euphemisms are frequently used to allude to death and dying--a way of not facing their reality. Chronic disease is increasingly common and life-sustaining technologies prolong life, often without an ideal quality of life. In the last three decades, awareness of the need to deal with these issues, legal mechanisms such as advance directives (living wills, durable powers of attorney for health care), and the Patient Self-Determination Act have been developed to encourage persons to make their wishes known about potential end-of-life care. Studies of chronic disease and of the ethical issues at the end of life focus on problems to be faced. The treatment of end-stage renal disease (renal dialysis and transplantation) is a paradigm for end-of-life treatment and the ethical issues involved

BIOGRAPHIES

Susan Byars has been librarian at Hospice of the Bluegrass for more than 10 years. She received her MSLS from the University of Kentucky and prior to that worked as an RN in a variety of clinical settings in California and Georgia. Her professional interests include consumer health information and education, information literacy for hospice staff, and the challenges of providing medical care to diverse populations.

Edwinna "Winn" Theirl is Outreach Coordinator at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center Library. She is responsible for planning, coordinating, and providing instruction on retrieval and evaluation of biomedical information for healthcare professionals located across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She serves as liaison to the Kentucky Area Health Education Centers assisting with identifying and delivering library services to their community based faculty, as well as unaffiliated and underserved health professionals. Winn is active in a number of professional organizations including MLA/Midwest Chapter and the Kentucky Library Association.

Dr. Cummings, BA, Oberlin College, MD, University of Pennsylvania; rotating internship, Pennsylvania Hospital; Residency, Internal Medicine, Hospital of University of Pennsylvania; Nephrology Fellow, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Harvard Medical School; Assoc. Dir. Kidney, Urologic and Blood diseases, National Institutes of Health; Emeritus Clinical Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine; Visiting Scholar, Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, University of Chicago; ethics faculty, Howard University College of Medicine and Georgetown University School of Medicine Author of papers, chapters on ethical issues in end-stage renal disease including: Ethical Legal Issues in Renal Disease, *Diseases of the Kidney*, 5th, 6th, 7th edns; Replacement of Renal Function by Dialysis; *International Yearbook of Nephrology*; etc.

TITLE: POWER TO THE PATIENT: NEW DEFINITIONS OF HEALTH LITERACY

This program took place on May 25, 2004, at MLA '04 in Washington, D.C. The program was developed by the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section and co-sponsored by the Cancer Librarians, History of the Health Sciences, and Relevant Issues Sections.

First Presentation: Keeping it real: using the natural language of sexual health information to empower urban adolescent health consumers

Authors: Nicola J. Cecchino, Electronic Resources Librarian, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD ; Holly A. Harden, Liaison Librarian, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD ; Susan Rohner, Public Health Librarian, Lilienfeld Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

Objective: To fulfill the need for further development and improvement of reproductive health terminology in health-related databases, especially those serving urban adolescent consumers, by creating a controlled vocabulary that provides both medical and slang terminology to improve access to valuable health information. The project aims to close the gap between health care consumer and provider through understanding, awareness, and cultural sensitivity of reproductive health terms.

Methods: Case study involving content analysis. Fifty terms are mapped to incorporate culture-specific slang and medical vocabulary used in the clinical setting. The vocabulary is selected based upon universal colloquialisms used at clinic patient visits. The terms are also searched in adolescent reproductive health Websites to identify comparative vernacular. The mapped terms are indexed in a manner that could be used for a consumer health database allowing for privacy and anonymity.

Results: Terms were modified based on the number of times slang was used in either the clinic setting or found on the Web. Birth control methods and sexually transmitted infections had the lowest incidence of slang terms in the six clinics contacted, while sexual activities and anatomy vocabulary had the largest number. Web searches of slang terms using Google and MedlinePlus yielded fewer relevant hits, but sixteen reproductive health Websites had higher retrieval.

Conclusion: Based on these findings reproductive health information is not well supported in some health databases or Websites and results are often inappropriate. Adolescent health literacy and access to appropriate information can be enhanced with correct mapping of slang terms within databases or Websites

Second Presentation: Accessing information about individual health insurance from “quote” Websites

Authors: Kui Chun Su, NLM Informatics Fellow, Health Management and Informatics, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO ; MaryEllen C. Sievert, Professor, School of Information Science and Learning Technology, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

Objective: To systematically evaluate quote Websites to examine how easy or difficult to find individual health insurance.

Methods: Comparative study: We examined ten quote Websites. The varying degrees of ease or difficulty of getting a quote were quantified in terms of the number of items requested of personal data, the number of separate pages to fill out one form, and how soon a quote was posted, based on a hypothetical US family of four. The manner in which the quote Websites provided information about the health plans was health plans that could be viewed in detail simultaneously, the presence or absence of health benefit descriptions from the health plans, and the presence of information on the health insurance carriers.

Results: Some quote Websites did not reveal information about themselves fully; they tended to be brief and ambiguous. The number of items requested of personal information varied from site to site, ranging from 6 to 152. The number of separate pages to fill out one form ranged from 4 to 15. The amount of time needed to fill out the complete form (including the printing time but excluding the time to learn about the Website) for all family members ranged from 8 to 31 minutes. Six quote Websites could not provide a quote immediately. If a quote Website could provide an immediate quote, comparative information on health plans was given. For the 4 Websites that provided an instant quote, the number of health plan choices ranged from 0 to 35. The maximum number of health plans that could be viewed in detail simultaneously ranged from 3 to 6. One Website provided the full description of the health plan benefits plus additional information about the insurance carriers.

Conclusion: There is a great variation in the degree of ease or difficulty of getting a quote for individual and family health insurance. Despite the difficulty, the Internet has the potential to provide sufficient information relevant to health plan decisions *before* making a purchasing decision about a health plan.

Third Presentation: The 24 Languages Audiofile Project

Authors: T. Elizabeth Workman, Clinical Librarian, Hope Fox Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT ; Nancy T. Lombardo, Systems Librarian, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

Objective: The 24 Languages Project provides consumer health information in 24 different languages, and includes over 200 portable document format (PDF) brochures for health consumers. Project staff recognized the need for this information also to be in an audio format for individuals who have low vision or who are literacy challenged. In fall of 2002, the authors submitted a successful grant proposal to NN/LM outlining the creation of online multilingual sound recordings of consumer health materials.

Methods: Project staff work with individuals and groups on and off the university campus to locate native speakers to read aloud 200 of these online brochures. The project technician records these narrations and posts them to the project Website for downloading or streaming by Website visitors. The project's principle investigators market the recordings through partnerships with community groups, workshops at regional professional conferences, and "train the trainer" workshops at libraries and other facilities throughout the state. Regional ethnic and other media will also advertise this service.

Results: This is an ongoing project, so outcomes are continually assessed. Initial feedback has been positive. Website use trends are positive; site visits have increased nearly 35% between the first and third quarters of 2003. Staff can more clearly measure success as the project develops.

Conclusions: Project success is measured through several methods. Web statistics chart increases in use of the project's Website. The number of other Websites that link to it will also gauge interest in this new resource. Feedback from other libraries, community groups, and individual users will also document the project's success.

CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWS

Cancer Librarians Section Business Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 24, 2004

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Present: Karen Albert, Michelle Arbuckle, Deborah Bonelli, Carolyn Bridgewater, Sue Felber, Heidi Heilemann, Gail Hendler, Ty Howell, Halyna Liszczyński, Tanya Smith, JoAnne Sparks

The Cancer Librarians Section business meeting was held 5/24/04. Snacks were served. Tanya Smith, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20. Minutes of the last business meeting were approved as written.

Benchmarking Network Editorial Board:

Michelle Volesko, chair of the Benchmarking Network Editorial Board, requested that all eligible libraries send data to the Benchmarking project for 2004 by June 30th. The survey is located on the MLANET homepage. Special needs of cancer libraries should be noted on the survey, and any other concerns sent to her attention.

Reports:

Section Chair's Report:

Tanya Smith reported for Margaret Vugrin that two program sessions were scheduled this conference, one titled *Making Critical Decisions: End-of-Life Health Care* and the other *Power to the Patient: New Definitions of Health Literacy* that Tanya worked to organize for our section.

Treasurer's Report:

Tanya Smith reported for Sharon Lezotte that the section funds were moved to a bank recommended by MLA, which now cannot locate our account. The amount is reported to be about \$6,000. It was decided that the new treasurer contact Ray Naegele or Carla Funk at MLA to work out this problem.

Program Chair/Chair Elect Report:

JoAnne Sparks said that five themes are being developed for next year's meeting: education, outreach, research, clinical and diversity. Each program session will provide presentations on all five themes. She polled the group for suggestions for the cancer section participation in these themes. Suggested topics included the impact of open access on cancer research; how clinical librarianship can enhance patient care and/or patient decision making; and consumer health issues before and after cancer diagnosis. Structured abstracts will be required, for all papers and posters. MLA'05 will start one day later than usual on, Sunday, May 22nd.

Section Council Report:

Gail-Yvette Hendler presented news from Section Council. With the demise of the Brandon-Hill list, sections may provide subject expertise for collection development. It was noted that each newsletter needs to be sent to the Section Council leader, and that the annual report has to be sent to all section members.

MLA has also been contacting the administrators of hospitals in which libraries have closed.

National Program Committee announced future annual meeting dates:

2006 Phoenix, AZ
2007 Philadelphia, PA
2008 Chicago, IL
2009 Hawaii



WEB SITE EDITOR REPORT:

Tanya Smith reported for Ann Marie Clark that news items are added to the web site as needed. The group commended Ann Marie for her work on the web site.

Newsletter Editor Report:

Michelle Arbuckle requested articles for the newsletter, and she will try to get vendor input as well, such as, information from Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW) about their oncology resources.

Nominating Committee Report:

Halyna presented the slate of officers for the upcoming year: JoAnne Sparks – Chair Elect; Sue Felber – Treasurer; Carolyn Bridgewater – Secretary; Karen Albert – nominee for MLA nominating committee; Margaret Vugrin – Section Council representative elect; Margaret Vugrin – membership committee liaison.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

Sue Felber presented the membership report for Jan Orick. There are 107 members for 2004. Jan noted that membership information coming from MLA has been very hard to obtain. Gail said that MLA is considering changing the membership period from calendar to fiscal year to reflect the influx of memberships prior to conference registration.

Section Projects:

BRANDON-HILL SUBJECT LISTS

Gail reported that there was a discussion at the Section Council meeting about the Brandon-Hill Subject Lists being discontinued. If this occurs, and if MLA puts together its own version of “Selected List of Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library”, a task force of Gail, Karen, Sue and Halyna volunteered to work on the cancer portion.

CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION BROCHURE

Status of a new section brochure was discussed. Appropriate text is needed. Gail volunteered to work on this project and to report back at next year’s meeting. The finished brochure could be put on our web site and also used to contact prospective members.

ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHY/ ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY/ CORE CANCER LIBRARY RESOURCE LIST

The annotated project under Margaret Vugrin’s direction has been tabled due to insufficient number of volunteers.

Other Business:

Discussion ensued about the ongoing lack of indexing for meeting abstracts. Karen reported on her correspondence with Dr. Lindberg. Gail will write a motion for Section Council about this problem. A possible petition for physicians to sign was discussed. Karen Albert will post this idea to the listserv. Karen asked about archives of the section, and produced an audiotape from a member at the first meeting of the section 25 years ago. Tanya Smith will and forward it to the MLA archives.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

*Submitted by Sue Felber, Secretary
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center &
Research Institute
Medical Library
Tampa, FL 33612*

*with Carolyn Bridgewater, Secretary-Elect
LSU Health Sciences Center
John P. Ische Library
New Orleans, LA 70112-2223*

*Cancer Librarians Section Newsletter - 7
November 2004*

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance (as of 6/15/04) **\$7149.82**

Expenses

7/7/04	Checks	\$39.91
7/2/04	MLA Business Meeting	\$318.53
11/17/04	MLA Business Meeting (2003)	\$371.90

DEPOSITS

8/30/04	MLA Dues (2004)	\$314.20
11/17/04	MLA Dues (8/1/01-1/31/02)	\$441.75
11/17/04	MLA Dues (2/1/02-7/31/02)	\$480.50

Balance (as of 11/16/04) **\$7655.93**

Submitted by Sue Felber, Treasurer
11/23/04



WANNA BE A STAR?!



Impart your immense knowledge on the rest of the world and write a short article for the Spring Newsletter!

Topics might just include:

New/Interesting Websites

Fabulous Book Finds

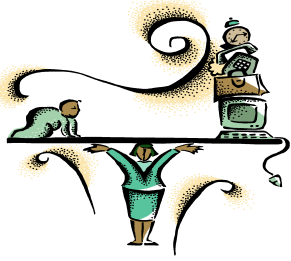
How to Communicate with Medical Students 101!

Please forward on your ideas to michelle.Arbuckle@uhn.on.ca

Deadline: Early April-ish 2005



MLA'S LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SECTION: THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



Certain problems are common to all medical librarians: how to keep their skills current, finding a network of colleagues who can advise and support them, and figuring out a career plan that offers them opportunities for growth and advancement. The MLA, fortunately, exists in order to help us address these problems. And within the MLA there is a flourishing system of sections that makes this task even easier.

There are currently 23 different MLA sections. These sections draw like-minded colleagues together so that they can better pursue their common interests. Their range – from medical informatics to collection development to dental and veterinary libraries – attests to the diversity and vitality of our profession. Membership in any one of these sections is certain to stimulate and benefit those who belong to them.

I am a member of the Leadership and Management Section (LMS) and serve on that section's membership committee. I am willing to admit that this affiliation has perhaps clouded my objectivity. And it's not inconceivable that my partiality to the LMS has made me lose sight of the important work that I'm sure is conducted within the other 22 sections. However that may be, I think that you might find membership in the Leadership and Management Section to be especially appealing. Let me explain why.

The LMS allows its members to network with colleagues interested in leadership and management by promoting research and professional development activities. It accomplishes this goal through programs and symposia held at MLA annual meetings, through *The Leading Edge* – its excellent newsletter, through its listserv, and through social events and business meetings. A particularly valuable service provided by the LMS is its identification and remediation of leadership and management problems in medical libraries. A recent LMS survey, for example, found that the profession offered few training and educational opportunities for librarians wishing to become middle managers. In response to this finding the LMS created a task force to determine how the section can help to fill this vacuum.

I mentioned at the outset that all librarians face the problem of figuring out a career plan that offers them opportunities for growth and advancement. Managerial and administrative positions are often exceedingly challenging and difficult. But they can also be fulfilling, rewarding, and stimulating in ways that other library positions are not. Those of you interested in such a career path will find that joining the MLA's Leadership and Management Section will help you to realize your professional aspirations.

More information about the LMS is available on its web page at: <http://www.lms.mlanet.org/>
An application form is available at: http://www.lms.mlanet.org/join_us_form.html

Submitted by Brian Bunnett, member of the South Central Chapter and of the LMS Membership Committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING



All MLA Scholarships and Applications can be viewed at:

<http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/index.html>



MLA CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT

Each year the Medical Library Association awards a grant to one or more of its members to provide them with the opportunity to increase their competence in the theoretical, administrative, or technical aspects of librarianship. This grant may be used to attend an MLA course or others CE activity and may range from \$100 - \$500.

Candidates for the CE Grant must: (1) hold a graduate degree in Library Science; (2) be a practicing medical librarian with at least two years of professional experience; (3) be an individual member of MLA; and (4) be a US or Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Applications should be submitted to Lisa C. Fried at MLA Headquarters.

Lisa C. Fried

mlapd2@mlahq.org

Phone: 312.419.9094



Deadline for application is December 1.

MLA SCHOLARSHIP FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

Up to \$5000!!

Who can apply?

Must be a member of a minority group - defined as African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, or Pacific Islander

Must be entering an ALA-accredited graduate library school or have completed no more than half his or her graduate program at the time the award is made (February)

Must be a citizen or have permanent resident status in the United States or Canada

Past recipients are not eligible

What you need to do?

Submit a completed *MLA Scholarship for Minority Students* application by **December 1st**

Submit a minimum of two (and no more than three) letters of reference from persons not related to you

Provide an official transcript from each college or university you have attended (must be sent directly from the institution)

Attach a short, typed essay to your application describing your career objectives and how your immediate academic plans will help you attain them.

See <http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/index.html> for more information.

MLA SCHOLARSHIP

The Medical Library Association is offering a scholarship of up to \$5,000 to encourage library school students who show excellence in scholarship and potential for accomplishment in health sciences librarianship.

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a student entering an ALA-accredited library school OR a student who has at least one-half of the requirements of the program to finish when the scholarship is awarded in February.
2. Applicant must be a citizen of or have permanent residence in either the United States or Canada.
3. Past recipients of the MLA Scholarship or the MLA Scholarship for Minority Students are not eligible.

To Apply:

Application forms can be requested from the Professional Development Department of the Medical Library Association or downloaded from the website listed above. The application packet includes: a completed application form; at least two and no more than three letters of reference; an official transcript from each college or university attended; and a statement of career objectives.

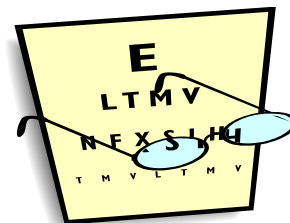
PUBLIC HEALTH TOPIC OF SPRING MLA TELECONFERENCE

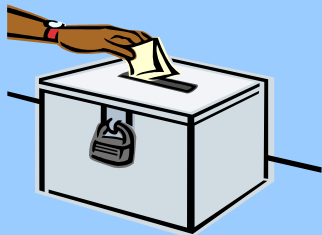
MLA is pleased to announce that its spring 2005 teleconference, "**Partnering for Public Health: Information, Librarians, and the Public Health Workforce**," will be held Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at 1:00 p.m., central standard time. The teleconference is cosponsored by the National Library of Medicine (NLM).

The goals of the teleconference are to enhance health sciences librarians' knowledge about public health information and to encourage participation in providing information.

The "Partnering for Public Health" teleconference will feature fundamental knowledge about public health, explore the needs of the public health workforce and describe current collaborations between health sciences librarians and those who work in public health. Participants will also receive samples of available public health resources.

Registration for the teleconference begins in January 2005 via MLANET at www.mlanet.org/education/telecon/publichealth/goal.html.





MLA HOLDS FIRST ELECTRONIC ELECTION

In September, MLA members passed amendments to the association bylaws to allow electronic voting. The 2005/06 MLA elections will be held in January 2005, when the bylaws amendments become effective. In early January, MLA will transmit electronic voting instructions to all MLA members with valid email addresses. Any members without email addresses on file will receive ballots by mail.

Candidates for 2005/06 MLA president-elect are **Elaine Russo Martin**, director of library services, Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School-Worcester and **Jean P. Shipman, AHIP**, director, Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University-Richmond. Members will also choose three new MLA Board members and nine Nominating Committee members.

Information about the candidates is available on MLANET at www.mlanet.org/members/mla_news/2004/novdec_04/2005_06_election/ and in the November/December issue of *MLA News*.

CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION OFFICERS 2004/2005

Chair

Tanya R. Smith (5/04 - 5/05)
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JoAnne Sparks (5/04-5/05)
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Past Chair/ Membership

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