



Massachusetts Health Sciences Library Network

MAHSLIN Network News

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A Message from the President

Donna Beales, MAHSLIN President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's that sultry time of year when things seem to slow enough for people to take a little down time for fun in is an optimal time for lounging at the beach, the lake, or wherever your favorite relaxation spot takes weather hold, wherever you end up!

So in case you're wondering, "Hmmm... *Whatever those two MAHSLIN task forces Donna talked about MAHSLIN Annual Meeting, the Advocacy and Strategic Planning task forces?*" the answer is, they're waiting in the wings for recruitment in the Fall, when the first blush of cooler air wafts down to us from more northerly climes and everyone turns their attention from summer R&R to getting back down to business.

The MAHSLIN Executive Board met in June and approved the charges of these important task forces. Too the Board determined that I will chair these meetings, and that we will endeavor to make participation virtual for those who might prefer it.

The task force charges are as follows:



down long
the sun. August
or the mountains,
you. May the

*happened with
during the*

ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

Recognizing that medical libraries in Massachusetts face significant challenges, as evidenced by the closure of multiple medical libraries in our state, and that medical libraries serve a critical role in the quality and safety of patient care, the advocacy task force will explore achievable methods to advocate for medical libraries in Massachusetts.

Working with the Executive Board, the task force will:

- *Identify key stakeholders, both within and outside of the profession (including but not limited to individual physicians and members of the public) who will be sensitive to the quality and risk function of medical libraries and be willing to play a role in advocacy efforts in Massachusetts.*

- *Explore advocacy efforts within Massachusetts and other states, regions and national bodies, in order to glean best practices.*
- *Strengthen advocacy efforts by partnering with known allies in the library profession (including but not limited to local SLA chapter, MLS, MBLC, NN/LM).*
- *Resurrect a public relations arm of MAHSLIN in order to prepare and conduct outreach efforts.*
- *Develop short and long-term goals for advocacy efforts with measurable outcomes.*
- *Develop mechanisms within MAHSLIN to enact established advocacy goals.*
- *Regularly review and report the status of advocacy efforts and make recommendations for future efforts.*

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

Working with the Executive Board, the Strategic Planning Task Force will develop and implement a five-year strategic plan for MAHSLIN, understanding that a strategic plan is a “living document,” i.e. that rapid development both within and outside of the medical library field may make necessary the ability to modify and change such plan to reflect new circumstances as they arise.

The task force will:

- *Identify organizational priorities by developing and executing tools such as annual surveys, focus groups, or utilizing part or all of the annual meeting in order to receive maximum feedback from the membership related to organizational goals.*
- *Analyze and quantify organizational feedback and identify realistically achievable short and long-term goals.*
- *Write a strategic plan draft to be presented to the Executive Board and the membership for approval, including measurable outcomes for goals wherever possible.*
- *Develop a timeline for strategic plan development, acceptance, and implementation.*
- *Establish appropriate structures within MAHSLIN for successfully meeting the goals of the plan.*
- *Continually re-evaluate the plan, and track goal progress.*

I hope you'll consider participating in either or both of these vital efforts.



I'm Becky Morin, and I recently joined the staff of Tufts University's Hirsh Health Sciences Library as Head of Research & Instruction. After 15 years on the West Coast, this North Shore native is thrilled to be back home!

I am not only a new MAHSLIN member but new to medical librarianship altogether. After completing a music degree at Wellesley College, I relocated to San Francisco, where I started my career in biological sciences and natural history libraries, beginning with a paraprofessional position in the Interlibrary Loan Department in the Library of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. After a brief stint in Vancouver, BC at the University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies, I returned to San Francisco with my MLIS and was soon welcomed back to the Academy of Sciences to oversee reference and outreach as the User Services Librarian. In 2012, I became the Academy's Head Librarian.

During the last seven years in California, I worked with the Biodiversity Heritage Library, promoting free access to scientific literature and working to bring brick-and-mortar services to a digital library environment. I labored on open-access initiatives and library and archives digitization projects, and I implemented several outreach and educational programs for new scientific researchers, beginning with high school interns and extending up to MS candidates in zoology and botany. Working with students has always been my favorite part of librarianship, so I leapt at the chance to refocus my energy in Research and Instruction. I live for the "a-ha moment" when I see patrons make breakthroughs in their research.

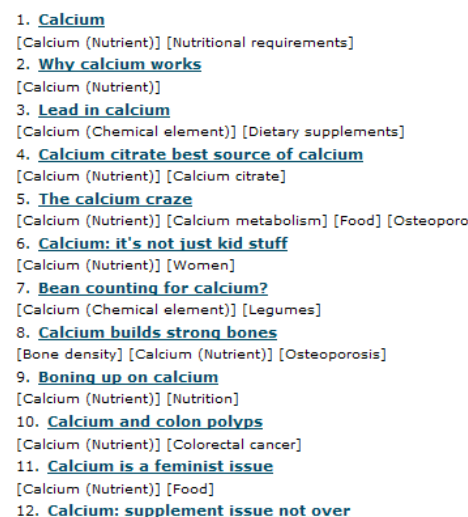
I'm thrilled to be working with the amazing staff at the Hirsh Health Sciences Library, and after over a decade helping scholars study all manner of flora and fauna, I'm excited to bring that experience to those studying the care and feeding of the human animal.

Submitted by:
Rebecca Morin

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Term Clusters in Gale databases

common themes or discover connections they didn't anticipate. The inner ring represents popular topics related to the search. The outer ring lists topics related to the inner rings, allowing the searcher to narrow focus easily. As an added feature, the whole term cluster works like a heat map – with more frequently occurring terms showing up in 'hot' colors (reds/oranges) and less popular terms in yellows or greens. The interface is dynamic, meaning the searcher need only click on a term in either the inner or outer ring to bring up relevant content listings on the right.



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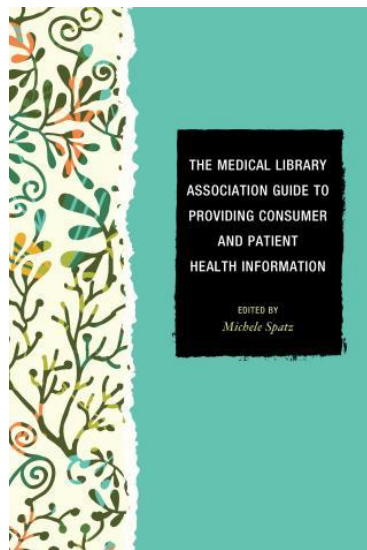
The June 20, 2014 revision of MAHSLIN Policy and Procedures Manual has been posted to the website. <http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/1636/1149613/MAHSLINPolicyAndProceduresManual.pdf>

Information about the September 26, 2014 CE course can be found at [http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/1636/1185026/September WMHIC-MAHSLIN CE.pdf](http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/1636/1185026/September_WMHIC-MAHSLIN_CE.pdf)

Submitted by:

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Cara Marcus, Director of Library Services, Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital, was the author of the [chapter](#) "Bricks and Mortar: Costs, Budgeting and Funding Sources" in *The Medical Library Association Guide to Providing Consumer and Patient Health Information* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014).

Michelle Eberle, Consumer Health Information Coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, was one of the reviewers for this new book.

Submitted by:

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NINJAS AND LABYRINTHS: WHAT A COMBINATION!

Later this month, MAHSLIN is partnering up with the Western Massachusetts Health Information Consortium Collaborative (WMHIC) to host our fall CE event.

Many librarians find themselves charged with teaching students, doctors, nurses, researchers, etc. without ever having received any formal training in instruction. MAHSLIN and WMHIC members heard the cries of our colleagues about this and thought it made for a terrific topic for a professional development event. Thanks to the efforts of Margot Malachowski, both a MAHSLIN and WMHIC member, we have two speakers lined up for this event in two weeks and a full list of attendees registered!

“Ninja Strategies and Labyrinthine Travels in Librarianship” will provide a morning of learning and stress reduction. What could be better?! First, Rebecca Blanchard, PhD, MEd, the director of medical education and research from Baystate Health, Academic Affairs Division, will lead us in “ninja teaching.” What’s that, you ask? Ninja teaching involves teaching people without them realizing that they’re being taught! Her strategies are based upon years of experience and research, and she will surely bring a lot of good content to the program.

After soaking up some new skills, we'll learn about the use of labyrinths in stress reduction. This part of the program will be presented by Donna Zucker, RN, PhD, FAAN, from University of Massachusetts, School of Nursing. Dr. Zucker researches the prevention of communicable diseases and the efficacy of behavioral modifications for those at high risk of addiction, contracting hepatitis C or HIV. With the Sheriff's Office of Hampshire County she has initiated two programs with incarcerated offenders: a peer education program to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and the development of a labyrinth walking curriculum. In this latter project, Dr. Zucker worked with a landscape architecture student to develop an outdoor labyrinth at the county jail. Currently she is completing a labyrinth walking study in high stress library environments. Data indicates that labyrinth walking is highly satisfying and reduces stress. Dr. Zucker plans to teach us through experience, as we'll get to try out the practice during the session.

Thanks to Margot and the members of WMHIC for working with MAHSLIN's CE Chair to plan such an exciting *and different* event.

Submitted by:

Sally Gore, Chair

MAHSLIN Continuing Education Committee

New Members

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