



Massachusetts Health Sciences Library Network

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MAHSLIN Network News

A Message from the President

Meaghan Muir, MAHSLIN President



Hunkered down in my home in February, battling yet another snowstorm, I remember thinking about how happy I would be in May. Not only would the snow be gone and the sun would be shining, the MAHSLIN Annual Meeting and the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting would be here! Having just returned from MLA in (sweltering) Austin, Texas, I am reminded by how far away that all seemed at the time.

There's something about going to MLA that rejuvenates me. Being in a large room with lots of librarians with similar interests always feels pretty cool, but that's not all. There seems to be a universal energy, motivation and desire to do our jobs better all the

time. As always, there was plenty of discussion about staying relevant within our environments, and branching out into new roles. Some of the buzzwords this year were systematic reviews and big data management, two good examples of how librarians are inserting themselves into new realms. MLA is also looking at itself as an organization, creating a strategic plan to better serve its membership and streamline its structure. I participated in initial discussions about this as a member of the MLA Futures Task Force, and it is heartening to see that some of the "big ideas" that came from the Task Force will actually come to fruition. For more information about MLA's future, check out the [Full Speed Ahead](#) blog.

The MAHSLIN Board is also working towards the future. At this time of year, each member of the MAHSLIN Board establishes goals for themselves to further the mission of our organization. I love this idea because it helps keep us accountable to the discussions that take place during our meetings, and ensures that action items are worked on and completed. This is also the time where the MAHSLIN Board shifts a bit, when the presidency and some board positions change hands. This year we welcome new Membership chair Jessica LaBrie, Children's Hospital Boston, and new Publicity chair (in a newly resurrected Board position) Jane Natches, Tufts University Hirsh Health Sciences Library. I am excited about these additions, especially because it just so happens that my goals this year focus around membership and communication! We are off to a great start, and there's much more to come. Stay tuned!

MAHSLIN Annual Meeting recap: What are the New Basics?

The MAHSLIN Annual Meeting, held on May 1, 2015, endeavored to answer the question, “what are the new basics?” with three engaging presentations. The morning sessions focused on LEAN principles to get us thinking about working more efficiently, and the panel discussion in the afternoon helped bring some “new basics” ideas home.

Varang Parikh, Senior Process Improvement Specialist with the Center for Innovation and Transformational Change at UMass Memorial Healthcare and acting Lean Program Manager for UMass Medical School, presented "Lean Process Improvement: Eliminating Waste and Adding Value Everyday." He explained some of the basics of Lean theory, and demonstrated Lean tools to help streamline processes. Varang engaged us with fun and interactive exercises (and tested our drawing skills!) to help put our brains in the Lean mindset.

"Getting Lean: Tools and Tips for Being More Efficient" was presented by Jean Shipman, Director of the Spencer S. Eccles Library at the University of Utah. Jean complemented Varang's talk by explaining what LEAN offers libraries. Jean detailed four case studies of Lean process improvement projects in her library; patient education in EHRs, interlibrary loan billing, order processing and invoicing, and clinical librarian literature service. The practical examples from four very different projects really illustrated how Lean might be used in various aspects of a library.

Evaluations from past MAHSLIN meetings often call for more panel-type discussion about what we are working on in our region. The “Pull Up a Chair” panel, featured moderator Margo Coletti, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and panelists Anne Connor, Littleton Regional Healthcare, Len Levin, Lamar Soutter Library at UMass Medical School, and Anne Fladger, Brigham and Women's Hospital. Margo asked each panelist what they are doing to thrive in this changing landscape. It was a candid conversation, and panelists were quite upfront about what has worked, and what hasn't worked, when trying new things.

Year after year MAHSLIN Partners show great support for our meeting, and this year was no exception. Ten vendors exhibited their products and meeting attendees had a chance to visit with them throughout the day. Lightning rounds are always a hit, and this year it was their turn! Vendors were invited to give 5-minute presentations to highlight new products, and four were brave enough to accept the challenge. Job well done by all! Thank you, MAHSLIN Partners.

As always, delicious lunch was served along with a chance to catch up with friends, as well as meet new colleagues. Awards were presented during the business meeting after lunch. Len Levin was the recipient of the MAHSLIN Hall of Fame award and Sally Gore was awarded the Paul Vaiginas Professional Award. Congratulations to Len and Sally!

Planning is already underway for the 2016 MAHSLIN Annual meeting. Stay tuned for updates from Meredith Solomon and her team!



The MAHSLIN Hall of Fame award was presented to Len Levin. Pictured from left to right: Catherine Carr, Judy Nordberg, Len Levin, Cara Marcus, Donna Beales.



The Paul Vaiginas Professional Award was presented to Sally Gore. Pictured from left to right: Cara Marcus, Sally Gore, Brandy King, Donna Beales

(Photos courtesy of Laurie Regan)

Member Spotlight – Ellen Lutz

My name is Ellen Lutz and I am a new-ish Science and Engineering Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (I've been here a little over a year) and a new MAHSLIN member. I work with the Department of Biology and the four departments in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences (Public Health, Nutrition, Kinesiology, and Communication Disorders) helping students, faculty, and staff learn to use information resources in more effective, efficient ways. One of the most satisfying things for me is working with students one-on-one, when I can see the “a-ha” moment happen.



I am originally from Indiana, where I earned a BS in Biology from Butler University and, eventually, an MLS from the Indiana University School of Library and Information Science Indianapolis. In between, I spent several years as a contractor at Eli Lilly and Company corporate headquarters in Indianapolis, performing a variety of roles, including help desk agent, application developer, technical writer, and project librarian.

I went south for my first academic library job, at the University of Texas at San Antonio. There, I was the liaison to several life sciences departments and had the opportunity to serve on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which helped me learn a lot about research. I also had the chance (twice) to teach a semester-long freshman seminar course, focused on helping students adapt to college life.

It only took a few years of south Texas' lack of seasonal variety for me to realize I was a Northerner at heart! I am happy to be back in an environment that has four seasons and I enjoy exploring New England.



Since a lot of the public health/health sciences arena is new to me, I look forward to learning tips and resources through my participation in MAHSLIN!

Submitted by:

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TechnoTool Corner: Periscope

Taking in one of the poster sessions at MLA last week, I noticed my friend, Kimberley Barker, Emerging Technologies & Digital Initiatives Librarian at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia, standing in front of her poster with her iPhone pointed at it, talking to herself. When she was finished, I asked her what in the world she was doing and she told me that she was making a short video for Periscope. “What’s that?” I asked. And that’s how I learned about this pretty cool new tool.

Periscope launched this past March and is an app available for both Android and iOS platforms. What it allows you to do is easily create live, short videos of experiences, ideas, even poster presentations at a conference, and then instantly publish them to the Web. In doing the latter, you also automatically broadcast to your followers on social media channels (Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook, etc.) so that they can share the experience with you.

Unlike a YouTube video, those posted to Periscope don’t last forever, generally disappearing in 24 hours. This makes them a nice way to communicate something within context and avoid the clutter of short, time-sensitive recordings on your YouTube channel. I loved Kimberley’s idea to use Periscope to share her poster during MLA. Once she finished recording, it appeared on the MLA Twitter channel so that those who were unable to visit it could quickly and easily learn what it was all about.

I can see lots of ways to use Periscope in my work. Suppose I need to walk someone through something on the Web. How much easier (and effective) would a live video be than a bunch of typed words and screen shots? If I’m at a seminar and need to show my boss something we should follow up on, I could take a quick video and Tweet it to him via Periscope. And like Kimberley, if I’m at a conference and want to capture and share my work with others... “Up Periscope!”

I can’t wait to try it.

Submitted by:

Sally Gore, MS, MS LIS

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MAHSLIN is Invited to the BWFH Summer Book Discussion Program

If you have ever thought about the possibility of hosting a book discussion program at your library and want to see one in action, I will be facilitating one this summer and MAHSLIN members are invited to attend. The Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital Cultural Competence Steering Committee sponsors the One Hospital: One Book program. We had a very successful first year in 2014, with over one hundred attendees. On June 30, 2015 from 11:00am-2:00pm, please join us outside the BWFH cafeteria to kick off One Hospital: One Book 2015. We'll be reading *Things Fall Apart* by Chinue Achebe. Book discussions will take place on July 9th, Aug 11th and Sept 10th from 12-12:30pm in the Tynan II Conference Room at BWFH (1153 Centre Street, Boston, MA). If you can't make the book discussions, but still want to participate, join our online book discussions on the BWFH [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages after the program kicks off.

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