

MAHSLIN Network News

A Message from the President

Meredith Solomon, MAHSLIN President

Change is in the air!

The last year has been full of changes not only for me personally but for our libraries here in Massachusetts. Retirements, position changes, new hires and more. As I started my new job at Brigham & Women's at the beginning of this year, I was overwhelmed with all the new changes happening in my life and wondered if life would ever get back to normal again. Then I realized my life was going to have a new normal. I was lucky to have a mild winter while commuting from Worcester to Boston 5 days a week, leaving a job of 3 years and starting a new one in yet another very large organization PLUS looking for a new home closer to work and family.



During these times of change my planning committee and I were feverishly working on putting together a great program for the MAHSLIN Annual Meeting that would involve even more change for all of us. User Experience, otherwise known as UX!

This term has been used in many disciplines for quite some time and we thought it was important for MAHSLIN members to get a better understanding of what this term meant and how easily participants could easily implement it in their libraries.

Change can be difficult but with our users changing, their needs changing and our library spaces changing, what better way to introduce these concepts than in a safe environment and with a bit of a hands-on approach.

MAHSLIN 2016

Boston Public Library User Experience Librarian Pete Coco's presentation and workshop was titled "See Better, Fail Better, Repeat." He discussed with us the basic elements of User Experience, and why it was important to libraries of any kind. He showed us examples of small incremental change and explained the importance of this for longevity purposes. Nobody wants to make changes that are already out of date when implemented. Tiny step by tiny step, Pete says. This makes it easier for the staff as well as eases the user into the changes being made. Some may not even notice! The workshop consisted of participants writing themselves a note for the following Monday morning. Many participants commented during the conference and in

their survey how much they liked this exercise. Maybe it is a change you implement for yourself to improve workflow or to make you try something new you have been planning to do for weeks? Pete then dove into User Testing, how to get started, drafting a script with goals, planning analyzing and improving the content and then, of course, testing it all out. Thank you to our vendors for your continued support each and every year. MAHSLIN could not put on this conference without you and I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to my planning committee without whom this conference would not have happened....Bridget Gunn, Catherine Carr, Laurie Regan, Marie Nardi and Elaine Alligood. Thank you ladies!!!!

Member Spotlight – Marybeth Edwards



I'm Marybeth Edwards, manager of the Health Sciences Library at Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, RI. Long-time MAHSLIN members will remember me from St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston, where I worked with Cathy Guarcello for 13 years. My work life moved "south of the border" in 2006 to RI, where I commute from Quincy to Providence four days a week. I have maintained my MAHSLIN membership and always enjoy reconnecting with my Massachusetts colleagues at meetings and workshops.

Since working in RI, I served as Treasurer of ARIHSL for six years and have built close working relationships with another great group of librarians. I am very fortunate to have such a diverse cadre of seasoned professionals with whom to confer on a professional and personal level. I believe those connections are crucial to building and maintaining expertise in our chosen field, where so many of us are solos.

My undergraduate degree (BA English / Journalism) is from UMass Amherst and my MSLS is from Simmons College. Before finding my "true" vocation as a health sciences librarian, I worked as a school librarian in Quincy for a couple of years. That particular position was lost to budget cuts (yes, even way back then). I audited the Medical Library course at Simmons, taught by the late, great Elizabeth Eaton, and was hired as a part time solo librarian at Franciscan Children's Hospital in Brighton, across the street from St. E's. My work at St. E's prepared me well for my current position at RWMC, where I provide services for our residents, fellows, clinicians, various other students, researchers, and administrators.

I am especially pleased to see the number of new MAHSLIN members, which indicates our organization is alive and well and I look forward to my next opportunity to connect with MAHSLIN members, old and new.

Submitted by

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TechnoTool Corner



A question I have received regularly for the past 20+ years I have been a health sciences librarian is “I wrote a paper. Where should I try to get published?” With the explosion of journal titles overall, both legitimate and predatory, patrons struggle with this question more and more. The key is to assist them in finding a journal that is appropriate for their topic and will provide them with some measurable impact, meaning their research will be seen, hopefully read and, better yet, utilized.

The Biosemantics group at Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, in conjunction with the Observational Health Data Sciences and Metadata collaborative at Columbia University, have developed an online tool called Jane that can help. Jane, which stands for Journal/Author Name Estimator, allows authors to paste a manuscript title, keywords or an abstract of their work in the Jane search box and Jane will produce a results list suggesting journals that might be a good match for their proposed submission. The results show the confidence rating of the match as well as the impact factor of the journal. It will also display other citations from the journal that most closely match the search and provide the user with the option to explore even further in PubMed. A second component of functionality in Jane is the ability to match keywords and text against other authors working in similar disciplines in order to locate potential collaborators and/or researchers involved in similar work. The author search results page includes a feature that attempts to match an author with a last-known e-mail address and will also run a PubMed search for that author. The one limitation of Jane is it searches in tandem with PubMed and only offers suggestions for journal titles indexed in MEDLINE.

I have heard a number of success stories from patrons telling me Jane has helped them find the best place to submit their work. Jane is freely available online at <http://jane.biosemantics.org>.

Submitted by

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Thanks again!

I was completely taken by surprise to receive the MAHSLIN Lifetime Service Award at the MAHSLIN meeting in March. Overcome, thrilled, tearful...these are some of the words that come to mind. When I retired from the Board several years ago, I wrote a piece about how much I respect and admire this group, MAHSLIN. Those thoughts resonate, perhaps even more strongly. At a time when other library organizations disappear, lose sight of their mission, or are swallowed by larger, related groups, MAHSLIN continues to embody the best qualities of a local professional association. We provide our members cooperative purchasing opportunities; our grants provide a financial boost so we can purchase the latest equipment; our educational programs inspire and inform us on the latest innovations and best practices in our profession. Finally, our Annual Meeting, is a welcome opportunity to network with colleagues and speak with our vendors. We can connect faces with email and text messages we've exchanged during the year. Finally, our speakers inspire us to learn the latest technologies; to utilize best practices from business, education, or social science; and to support our healthcare professionals as they

strive to provide the best possible care. What an achievement for a small regional group of 76 members! I couldn't be more proud of my MAHSLIN award.

Submitted by

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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL

Jay Daly Information Technology Grant

The Howe Library at Massachusetts Eye and Ear was the recipient of the MAHSLIN 2015 Jay Daly Information Technology Grant. The grant was used to purchase ZoomText, a magnification and screen-reading software for the visually impaired. The software was installed on one of the library's public access computers, allowing patients and/or patient's families to use the product. ZoomText will not only magnify and enhance the text and images on the screen, it also allows users to customize features such as colors, contrast, and the size of the mouse pointer and text cursor. The reader also reads aloud the text on the screen, including web pages, email and Word documents.

Once ZoomText was installed, we then had to market it to make as many people as possible aware that it is now available.

We started by putting a notice of the acquisition on the MEE staff newsletter, e-Forum. An individual email was sent to each staff member in the Social Work and Vision Rehabilitation departments. A notice was put up on the video screens in the lobby and in the cafeteria, and was left up there for several months. Flyers were made up and distributed to the check-in desks and patient waiting areas in the various Ophthalmology clinics and the Emergency Department. The Library Director put a blurb about it under her email signature so any staff member emailed would be made aware we had it. A note was added to the main page of the library website. A flyer was hung up on the wall directly behind the coffee station next to the hospital auditorium, a common gathering area. Key contacts in the Publications Office, Communications Office, and the Development Office were notified. Each of them added a story about the Library having Zoomtext to their publications. A notice was put in the Harvard Medical School Department of Ophthalmology newsletter *eyeNews*, encouraging clinicians to let patients know it is available.

The Howe Library collection is strictly aimed at staff needs, and so we rarely get patients in the library. One of the main purposes for the purchase of ZoomText was to enhance the library's services to patients. Sadly, despite all our marketing efforts, we have not had any patients come in to use ZoomText. One very positive outcome of the acquisition is that an Emergency Department nurse manager saw the notice on the video screen in the cafeteria and came in for a demonstration. She said many vision impaired patients have a hard time reading and filling out all the forms/consents they are presented with, and is considering getting it installed on one of the computers in the ED.

Howe Library is very grateful to the MAHSLIN board for selecting us for the 2015 Jay Daly Technology Information Grant. We will continue to fine-tune our marketing efforts in the hopes that this valuable resource can be put to good use.

Submitted by

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New Members for 2016

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