



# MAHSLIN NETWORK NEWS

A Quarterly Publication  
of the Massachusetts Health Sciences Libraries Network

October 2004, Volume 24, Issue 4

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## From the Desk of the Editor

Stay connected with your colleagues! Send your news to be published in the MAHSLIN Network News. We need your articles on health sciences library issues. Does your library have a new staff person? Would you like to share your experiences with a resource you have found particularly helpful to your research? Send in a review of a website, a database, or print resources. Do you have an update on the latest events at your library?

MAHSLIN Network News is a great place to share your news.

E-mail me at [michelle.eberle@umassmed.edu](mailto:michelle.eberle@umassmed.edu) with your news or article for publication in the MAHSLIN Network News.

Thank you,

*Michelle Eberle*

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## Join MAHSLIN Now!

Relationships, learning and fun. MAHSLIN is full of opportunities to network with other health sciences librarians, to stay on top of the latest trends in the field of medical librarianship, and to have a good time while doing so.

The MAHSLIN Membership application is online at: <http://library.umassmed.edu/mahslin/Membershipapplication04.pdf>

If you join now, your membership will not have to be renewed until the beginning of 2006. Fourteen months for the price of twelve. For more information, please contact MAHSLIN Membership Chair, Bonnie Hsu, at 508-961-5267 or [hsub@southcoast.org](mailto:hsub@southcoast.org).

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## MAHSLIN Education Committee Update

The Education Committee recently sponsored two programs:

1. New Models of Medicine in the Electronic Age on Wednesday, September 22, 2004. This program was jointly sponsored with the Mass. Medical Society and offered a full-day of presentations including the MLA Satellite broadcast entitled: "The art and practice of electronic journal, book, and database licenses". Overall this satellite presentation, which was packed with lots of useful information about various aspects of managing library licenses, was an excellent overview. The beginning of the program provided a lot of good specifics about things to look for in a contract and contract language advice. For those of you unable to attend the program, the region will have copies available for loan. The morning program featured six different speakers and was geared toward the physicians in the audience, however the different topics and speakers gave librarians insight into the issues of concern to their patrons and institutions. As expected Laura Adams was an enthusiastic speaker who described the genesis and interim results of the Rhode Island Quality Initiative and how what they have done could be used in other states. It was interesting to hear how the Initiative was able to create a working group of parties who might otherwise not be inclined to work together.

2. PubMed Update on Thursday, October 21, 2004. Donna Berryman gave her yearly PubMed Update. To judge by the fact that the class was overbooked, this was a very popular offering. Donna focused on new PubMed features along with review of some of the advanced features. If you did not have an opportunity to attend this update, Donna is happy to provide similar classes for local consortia.

For the future:

The Committee is looking at possible opportunities for upcoming educational opportunities. On Thursday, March 24th we will be offering a

workshop, “Creating Effective and Attractive Flyers/Newsletters for Your Library”. This workshop will cover:

- Effective use of language in brief communications
- Basics of desktop layout
- How to find and use images (clip art, photos)
- Overview of issues related to hard copy vs. web-based media
- Color schemes
- Font selection
- Page layout
- Formats (such as tri-fold)

We also are looking at other courses and are considering bringing an MLA course to Massachusetts. While we hear many good reviews of MLA courses offered at the Annual Meeting, many of us for whatever reason are not able to attend these courses. We need your input regarding what type of course would best fit your needs. One possibility is bringing the Mini-Med School course locally. This course will require a major commitment both in terms of time and financial considerations so we would like to gauge your interest before further pursuing this option. The reviews of this course have been excellent. I have even heard comments such as, “This was the best MLA course I have ever taken”. We would probably schedule the course for a Saturday and would like the membership to indicate their interest in this option. Please let us know which of the following courses would be of interest:

- Mini-Med School
- Well-Kept Secret: Health-related Government, Organization and Think-Tank Content
- Managing Electronic Resources: Beyond the Basics
- The Library & The Law: Patriot, Act, Confidentiality, Copyright
- Essentials of Library Law
- Copyright Basics for ILL
- Show Me the Money: Grant Writing for Librarians
- It’s About Time, It’s About Space: Time and File Management
- Successfully Presenting to the Adult & Professional Learner
- Writing for Peer-Reviewed Library Journals
- Molecular Biology and Genetics for Librarians
- Genomics, Proteonomics and Bioinformatics for Librarians
- Searching for Drug and Pharmaceutical Information Online
- Introduction to Molecular Biology Information Resources
- Super Searcher Course
- Evidence Based Nursing

If we have not hit upon a course which you need, please let us know your preference.

Another topic of interest expressed by several members is to have a “Virtual Journal Club”. If you would have any interest in joining such a group, please let us know.

Update on the Education Committee Website:

In addition to MAHSLIN sponsored courses, we will be adding links on the MAHSLIN website to additional courses which are offered locally. If you have suggestions of courses in your area which you feel would be helpful to other MAHSLIN members, please let us know.

We have added additional information to the Expert Searcher page and hope that you are finding some of the resources helpful.

Please let either Alison Clapp ([Alison.clapp@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Alison.clapp@childrens.harvard.edu)) or Nathan Norris ([nnorris@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:nnorris@bidmc.harvard.edu)) know what MLA course you would like us to bring to MAHSLIN or if you have additional suggestions for how the Education Committee can help you keep up with the rapid changes we all face..

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## Share the Vision

Although retired, MAHSLIN member and Medical Librarian, Gail Cogan, has continued her mission to provide books and journals for the Medical Library at Sihanouk Hospital in Cambodia. Gail travels throughout Massachusetts each year collecting discarded books and journals (recent editions and issues only) to send to Cambodia. The trips can be long, the boxes heavy, but the rewards are enormous, as evidenced in the Sihanouk Hospital Annual Report 2002-03, "Our library is one of the largest in the country and we continue to grow and update our volumes from overseas. Mrs. Gale Cogan, a retired Boston librarian, has been an ongoing contributor to our efforts... a building is presently being constructed to increase library space."

Gail would be delighted to hear from anyone who would share in her vision. She could use assistance with either the pick-up of materials from donor libraries or the offer of 2-3 libraries that would serve as central drop-off/pick-up locations (Boston, Worcester, western locale) that would eliminate the need for trips to individual libraries. To volunteer for this worthwhile endeavor, or to get more information, please contact Gail at 978-692-5443 or by email: [gcogan@massmed.org](mailto:gcogan@massmed.org).

By Kathy McCarthy

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## Message from Gail Cogan

As most of you are aware, through a convoluted set of circumstances, I developed and have maintained (all through donations) the first English language medical library in Cambodia at the Sihanouk Hospital-Center of Hope in Phnom Penh. I set this up in 1998 and did not return until this past June. What a miracle has transpired!!! The hospital has grown from one



building to the third one just being completed when I was there. There are conference rooms, an auditorium, an enlarged emergency department, and many more clinics.....hard to imagine. But the most important development was that the library was MORE THAN DOUBLED in size. I could not believe my eyes. They now have eight computer stations!!! They have credited the library as being responsible for the hospital being considered the primary teaching and training center in the entire country. (My feeling is that its very complete and extensive collection that gives it this honor). But so rewarding!!!

MOST IMPORTANT—I have just incurred devastation to the journal collection of 2004. Our four year old water heater burst (figure that??). All the journals are collected by title and placed on the basement floor. At the end of the year I scoop them up for mailing. I now have lots of mush and unusable journals...especially from the beginning of the year (January was on the bottom). I beg that you look through your collection and if you have any duplicates, please mail them to me at P.O. Box 782, Westford, MA 01886. All clinical medical, nursing, and surgical journals were involved. If you would like a complete list of the titles sent to the hospital please email me at [gcogan @massmed.org](mailto:gcogan@massmed.org). The good news is that the 30 plus boxes of books were not damaged at all...the water did not reach them. Hopefully, you can help me solve this problem so that I may send them a complete set. Would be most appreciated.

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## **MAHSLIN Resource Survey**

The MAHSLIN Board would like to determine if there is any interest in pursuing group purchasing on resources for our individual libraries. Some vendors are willing to set up group discounts if there is enough interest in a specific package or database. In order to determine if there are resources that you currently purchase or would like to be able to purchase for a discounted rate, it would be helpful to know what you currently have or would like to have. Once we tabulate this data, we will see if there is enough interest in specific resources to start pursuing a group purchase rate with specific vendors.

Please complete the survey at:

<http://www.mahslin.org/eresourcesurvey.pdf>

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## University of Massachusetts Medical School awarded NCLIS Blue Ribbon Consumer Health Information Recognition Award

On Thursday October 7, 2004, Aaron Lazare, MD, Chancellor/Dean, and Elaine R. Martin, Director of Library Services accepted the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Blue Ribbon Consumer Health Information Recognition Award on behalf of the Lamar Soutter Library of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

The event was held at 11:30 a.m. in the Lamar Soutter Library. The event concluded with a reception attended by librarians from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner and the Massachusetts Regional Library System.

The award honors the Lamar Soutter Library for programs providing essential health-related information to patients and others interested in patient care. The award was presented by Commissioner Edward L. Bertorelli on behalf of the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

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## People & Places

Brandy King is the librarian at the Center on Media and Child Health (CMCH), a nonprofit group out of Children's Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard School of Public Health. Our mission is to advance scientific research, clinical interventions, and education on the subject of media and their effects, positive and negative, on the physical and mental health of children and adolescents. We are currently creating what will be the first comprehensive and interdisciplinary searchable online database of citations on media and the health risks they pose to children. Users can navigate through our database either as a parent or a researcher, with advanced searching options available to researchers. Check out our new website at [www.cmch.tv](http://www.cmch.tv) !

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Carol Messerschmitt, MLS has joined the library staff at Berkshire Medical Center. She replaces Ellen Eldridge who has taken a new position within the health center.

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Southcoast Hospitals Libraries (including Charlton Memorial Hospital, Fall River; St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford; and Tobey Hospital, Wareham) received the NN/LM NER Electronic Document Delivery (EDD) grant in September. The award provided 2 Digital Senders and a Color Laser Printer. They will greatly enhance our Interlibrary Loan Service.



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