



MAHSLIN Network News
Winter 2010 —Volume 30, Number 1

Table of Contents

- [A Message from the President](#)
- [Do It Yourself: Custom Search Engines](#)
- [Member Spotlight](#)
- [Passings](#)
- [Continuing Education](#)
- [Save the Date! MAHSLIN Annual Meeting](#)
- [Swap Shop](#)

Resolutions

(A Message from the President)

It's a new year and that means it's resolution time, once again. I have, like so many people, made a number of resolutions this year and, surprisingly enough, they are remarkably similar to those of last year, and the year before that, and the year before that – procrastinate less, exercise more, and stay energized, professionally.

The fact that I am frantically writing this piece only three days before the deadline should be a clear indication of how well I am doing with the first resolution. And, as far as the second one goes, I am working on it. Really! (Well, maybe when the weather gets warmer). But, the third is one that I consciously carry over from one year into the next – to stay professionally energized. Not always easy to do in this age of budget cuts and added-on responsibilities, but I am determined to do it, nevertheless, in part by reading more, exploring more, and connecting more:

- ***I am resolved*** to work my way through the piles of reading on my office desk and living room coffee table. I will make the time.
- ***I am resolved*** to stay curious and explore, more assiduously, the many rich and valuable resources, literally available at my fingertips (blogs, wikis, mashups, vertical search engines, etc.). I will conquer Web 2.0 (or at least a piece of it, anyway).
- ***I am resolved*** to stay connected, maintain relationships with colleagues, make new ones, and participate. I will stay involved.

And now I challenge you to do the same in whatever way works best for you. Learn even just one new thing, read just a little bit more, maybe take a CE course, attend a professional meeting (the MAHSLIN annual meeting is a great way to stay connected with colleagues), be sure to renew professional memberships, select a couple of your favorite blogs and follow them regularly and, if possible, join in, participate, work on a committee, contribute to a newsletter (maybe even a journal). You don't necessarily have to do a lot, just do.

So have a very Happy New Year, stick to those resolutions, and be sure that one of them is to stay professionally energized. Remember the famous quote, attributed to Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, "History is made by those who show up."

Submitted by Terri Niland, MAHSLIN President
Fahey Library, Lawrence Memorial Hospital

Do It Yourself - Create Custom Search Engines!

How many times a day do you throw up your hands at the hundreds of thousands of URLs resulting from a Google search? Too many sites, too few relevant results, right? Perhaps a Google Custom Search Engine (CSE) is just the thing for simultaneously searching only those sites you frequently access? Now, actually since 2006, you can up your productivity not to mention your rep as a miracle-working techno-savvy informationist

Google Custom Search

Search

by defining your own search engine using [Google](#) or one of the few other CSE sites such as [Rollyo](#) or [Gigablast](#). (Note: Rollyo is currently under construction, 2/25/2010. The site promises to be back up soon.)

Over the holidays in 2006, determined to try my own hand at a CSE, I sat down one evening at my kitchen counter, futzed my way through the instructions and pulled together a 22+ URL CSE for recipe search websites - I use it all the time! Then, I took my new CSE skills and created a CSE for the health technology assessment group I belong to. The HTAi Vortal (a vertical, all one subject, portal) searches over 300 URLs relevant to the world of health technology assessment. Check it out [here](#).

The Google folks added a lot of CSE bells and whistles in the past few years adding to the search-ability and retrieval successes you can expect with a CSE. Google does all the heavy lifting of crawling, indexing, ranking, and displaying the results. Your primary chore when creating a CSE is to identify the URLs/sites you want, plug them in, play with it, and then start impressing your boss! When finished, you will get a bit of HTML to plug into your site or blog supplying the search box as you see here. Not your design vibe? No worries, Google has lots of search box styles to choose from. Give it try, then write it up and share it with MAHSLIN!

Submitted by Elaine Alligood, MLS
Informationista
VA Technology Assessment Program (11T)
VA PCS Field Program



Florence Mercer, MLS, AHIP

*Welcome to a brand new feature of the MAHSLIN Network News, the Member Spotlight. This issue we shine the light on a longtime devoted and active member of our Association, **Florence Mercer**.*

You may know Florence from her role as Chair of the MAHSLIN Education Committee. Or perhaps you know her as CME Coordinator and Director of Library Services for the Rogers Medical Library at Anna Jaques Hospital. But I'll bet you didn't know about Florence's other claim to fame – she (along with her husband) has climbed ALL of the mountains over 4,000 feet in the Northeast (that's 113 mountains!).

While Florence enjoys her home in Amesbury near the Merrimack River, where she just has to cross over the bridge for a fifteen minute (we're jealous!) commute to work, her roots are in the South. She was born and raised in Front Royal, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley. She was the first graduate from her school to venture north for college. At Mount Holyoke College, Florence majored in History. With no idea what she wanted to do after that, she joined the Peace Corps and spent an amazing two years in Northern Nigeria as a teacher. She founded a library for her school in Maiduguri and found her passion as well.

Back in the United States, Florence enrolled in Simmons College. She graduated in 1966, but she'll never forget laboriously writing catalog cards by hand. She also remembers an illuminating prophecy from the then Dean of the Library School, "Computers are just a passing fad. There's no need for any of us to bother with them."

Florence was eager to branch out into the world of library science. She enjoyed her early jobs as school librarian for North Quincy High School and as staff librarian for the Center for Community Economic Development, where she created her second library. In July 1980, she was hired to direct the Rogers Medical Library (named after Dr. Howard Rogers) and the CME program at Anna Jaques Hospital, roles that continue to inspire her. The library is home to the Jaques Family Genealogy and displays a sampler sewn by Anna Jaques when she was a mere eight years old.

While her professor's prediction did not come true, automating the library in the 1980s was certainly a process. Florence was the proud recipient of the hospital's **first** computer and had to attend a full week-long training class at Dartmouth College to learn how to use MEDLINE.

When not hiking the Adirondacks or the White or Green Mountains, Florence volunteers for her church as an adult education coordinator and peruses her daughter's news media website, [The Daily Beast](#). She's also a researcher for a brand new organization called Roof over Our Heads (no website yet) that will provide housing

for the homeless.

Florence has worn many hats at MAHSLIN and has served on the Board for years. She's been President twice and has also chaired the Bylaws Committee. In her current role as Education Chair, Florence states, "This year has been very good for MAHSLIN. There are a lot of new initiatives underway which will really help our members. The Annual Meetings last year and this year have been and will be both practical and inspirational."



Radiology Department at Children's Hospital Remembers Mrs. Geller

By Kathleen Clute, Dept. of Radiology, Children's Hospital

The Radiology Department has lost its legendary librarian, **Miriam R. Geller**, who presided over the Stem Learning Center on the hospital's second floor for nearly 30 years. Mrs. Geller, 81, died at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital on Dec. 31, 2009.

In 2006, the Boston Globe profiled Mrs. Geller in its Health and Science section. "You want to know what a fetal gall bladder looks like under ultrasound? Miriam Geller can find out for you," wrote Keith O'Brien. "Or how to spot Marfan syndrome using MRI? She'll dig up examples."

Mrs. Geller's career in medical libraries began in her student days at Boston University; she later worked for 20 years as an information specialist at the National Institute of Mental Health, according to the Globe. In 1978, she earned a master's in library and information science at Simmons College. She began working at Children's in 1980 and retired last year on Oct. 1.

Radiology Chair George A. Taylor, MD, first met Mrs. Geller in 1983, when he was a fellow at Children's. "Mrs. Geller was the protector of the kingdom when it came to the library," he said on Tuesday. "She was rightfully very proud of the collection of books and journals she had helped build over the many years she was in charge. Her skill in searching the medical literature was legendary, and so was her strong personality—we will miss her."

The Stem Learning Center was created in the late 1970s in honor of the late Dr. William Stem, a radiology/pediatrics resident at the hospital in the 1940s. Mrs. Geller's obituary can be viewed online. (<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?page=Lifestory&pid=138074903>)

Submitted by Alison Clapp, MLIS
Manager, Library Service
Children's Hospital Boston

Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

- **MLA Webinar - *Now's the Time: Understanding the Electronic Health Record Maze and Health Sciences Librarians Roles***

"The goal of this program is to clarify the terminology surrounding the emerging electronic health information environment and to illustrate how and why health sciences librarians can and should become engaged with the efforts to achieve the national 2014 goal of instituting an electronic health record for each person in the United States."

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010
Time: 2:00 - 4:00

More Information is available on the MLA [website](#)

(The Webinar will be broadcast in both Boston and Worcester.)

• ***Librarians and Nurses: Relationships that Work***

This one day seminar will be an opportunity to explore the relationships and connections between librarians and nurses. Presentations from nurses will explore the various roles and current trends in nursing research, education and clinical care. Discussions through panel presentations and via group sharing, by both librarians and nurses, will enable you to better understand nurses' needs in order to succeed as a partner with them.

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2010

Time: 9:00 - 3:30

To register or get more information contact [Lauri Kolakoski Fennell](#) at the NN/LM NER.

• ***2nd Annual UMass and New England Librarian eScience Symposium***

The 2010 E-Science Symposium will continue to explore the librarian's emerging role in managing new forms of information. Come here leading professionals in this area discuss how they're addressing and bringing about this significant change in our work.

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Time: 9:00 - 3:30

**Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center
Shrewsbury, MA**

For more information contact [Elaine Martin](#).

Remember to check the [NAHSL blog](#) regularly for posts by the NAHSL Continuing Education Committee to discover other opportunities available in the region.

Save the Date

May 7, 2010

MAHSLIN Annual Meeting

Diagnostic Error – the New Frontier for Medical Librarians

These days change is everywhere, good and bad. We are in a profession that deals with a constantly changing technology and content delivery landscape. Now, health care delivery paradigms are changing as well. One fascinating shift that includes librarians is the issue of diagnostic error and the librarian's role in its prevention. Lorri Zipperer, MLS will offer a presentation on this topic and tell us all about how we can take an active role in this crucial arena.

Different from medical error, diagnostic errors are multi-layered because they often take place in emergent clinical care situations. Clinical care is a complex endeavor requiring clear communication and access to expertise and evidence. Increased awareness of the role appropriate information plays in safe patient care is highlighted by a recent study that looked at the quality of advice clinicians received from their colleagues and found that the advice was not actually in line with the research literature (1). Contrasting that finding is evidence in two articles showing evidence supplied by a trained medical librarian was found to decrease length of stay and improve clinical decision making (2, 3).

Are you intrigued yet? Be sure to save the date now and look for registration information via an email announcement soon. And while you're waiting for that email, enjoying exploring the articles and links below:

1.

Schaafsma F, Verbeek J, Hulshof C, van Dijk F. Caution required when relying on a colleague's advice: a comparison between professional advice and evidence from the literature. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2005 Aug 31;5:59.

2.

Banks DE, Shi R, Timm DF, Christopher KA, Duggar DC, Comegys M, McLarty J. Decreased hospital length of stay associated with presentation of cases at morning report with librarian support. *J Med Libr Assoc*. 2007;95:381-387.

3.

Mulvaney SA, Bickman L, Giuse NB, Lambert EW, Sathe NA, Jerome RN. A randomized effectiveness trial of a clinical informatics consult service: impact on evidence-based decision-making and knowledge implementation. *J Am Med Inform Assoc*. 2000;15:203-211.

4.

Scott IA. Errors in clinical reasoning: causes and remedial strategies. *BMJ*, 2009; 338: b1860.

5.

Croskerry P. Cognitive forcing strategies in clinical decisionmaking. *Ann Emerg Med*, 2003; 41(1): 110-120.

- http://www.patientsafety.gov/SafetyTopics/HFMEA/HFMEA_JQI.pdf
- <http://psnet.ahrq.gov/index.aspx>

Submitted by Elaine Alligood, MLS

Swap Shop

- The [American Friends of Kenya](#) builds school and community libraries in Kenya. We are looking especially for children's books plus large print books and books on cassette for visually impaired readers. Library furniture and shelving is also needed. If you are looking for a good home for your discarded items, please contact [Susan Yannello](#).
- The **Faulkner Hospital Ingersoll Bowditch Medical Library** is looking for the following:
 - Cancer Nursing, v.32, n.3
 - Annals of Surgery, v.250, n.5
 - JACC, v.53, n.15
 - Annals of Internal Medicine, v.150, n.8
 - Kidney International, v.75, n.10

We can provide current copies of:

- NEJM
- JAMA
- Medical Economics
- American Journal of Medicine

If you would like to swap, please contact faulknerlibrary@partners.org

As always ...

The MAHSLIN Network News co-editors, Sally Gore and Cara Helfner, welcome your suggestions and submissions of news, updates and educational opportunities that you wish to share with the MAHSLIN community. The Spring edition will be Sally's to edit, so please contact her via [email](#) if you have anything you would like to contribute.
