As we enter into December and the end of another calendar year, I can’t help but notice all of the “Best of…” lists that come out. There are the usual suspects; best movies, best books, best bands, and best CDs. We also celebrate the person of the year, the sportsperson of the year, the newsmaker of the year, and more. There’s always a great deal of discussion around these lists and no one ever comes up with any “top ten” that everyone can possibly agree upon. To address this conundrum and avoid any ugly altercations over what constitutes “best”, I decided to create a different kind of “Best of” list – the made-up kind. Thus, I present for you now, The 10 Best Books of 2011 that Were Not Written:

1. **THE ART OF FIELDING REFERENCE QUESTIONS**, by Chad Harbinger
   The library of a small college town in Wisconsin sees its fate play out with the arrival of a new librarian, supremely gifted in the art of getting to the heart of any patron’s question with charm, grace and, to the consternation of his colleagues, great speed. Harbinger brings to life a story of talent, ambition, and the human passion for greatness that can bring strife and envy to even the most tranquil of settings.

2. **STACKLANDIA!**, by Karen Rustling
   Towering compact shelving, rows of study carrels, haunting spirits and dead poets all come into play as a young girl tries desperately to cope with the grief of losing her family to electronic media. Rustling gives us a page-turner in this, her first novel. You will not soon forget the wisdom and bravery of her young heroine.

3. **THINKING FAST, AND FASTER STILL**, by Daniel Cancatchem
   Cancathem, a 2002 Nobel Prize Winner for his work in economics, gives a sharply worded rebuke of those who would claim that life in the fast lane will kill you. We underestimate the value of all the things we cannot possibly remember. “The flood of irrelevant information will drown you, only if you resist,” he harkens.

4. **LEXICONMIX**, by Apostolos Dexterous
   Covering several centuries, the graphic novel *Lexiconmix* was inspired by the epic story of Google’s mission “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.” Beginning with their introduction of a nonsensical word to everyday language, the story unfolds as the two idealistic mathematicians give all of themselves to their quest, resulting ultimately in great personal wealth, but alas, existential crises.

5. **THE LEFTOVERS AT THE FRONT DESK**, by Tom Perogies
   With a nod to science fiction, Perogies tells a fantastical story that turns suspenseful as doctors, nurses, students, and every working party many others in a community hospital known suddenly come down with a strange virus, leaving the library staff to care for the patients left behind with them. Part fantasy, part humor, part inspiration, “Leftovers” shows just how far people really can go to help one another.

6. **CALLIMACHUS: A Life Sacred and Profane**, by Andrew Melville-Dewey
   Noted poet, critic and scholar at the Library of Alexandria, Callimachus is credited with producing the first bibliographic survey of a library collection. His work, while held as a magnificent contribution to the field of information management, was also influenced by the fact that he was continually passed over when it came to the appointment of the Chief Librarian. His resentments seep through in the cataloging, most notably in his critique of Homer, whom he frequently called a “One Hit Wonderboy”.
7. **IS THAT A FISH IN YOUR LAPTOP? Translation and the Meaning of Everything**, by David Bellows
   A scholar argues that the translation and meaning of words need not be the same, nor even in the same realm, thus explaining, in a most amusing way, why very little at work makes sense some days.

8. **A WORLD ON FILE**, by Amanda Formal
   Just what side DID the Hospital CEO come down on when it came to choosing between the medical library and information services? Formal gives us a work filled with characters you love one moment and despise the next. Her vivid descriptions of hospital administration and politics are gripping, and her examination of where and how the money goes is spellbinding.

9. **THE DIRECTOR’S TIGER**, by Téa Time
   A farcical romp - a library turned upside down when the small kitten adopted as the new “library kitty” turns out to be a bit more than expected.

10. **THE FREE WORLDCAT**, by David Bezeebee
    Bezeebee topples the doubts of the deepest skeptic as he describes the story of the little catalog that could. From its humble roots as a bookmobile in Ohio, to its place atop the world of integrated library systems, “WorldCat” inspires the reader to keep searching for that ever elusive dream.

Thanks to friends and colleagues who suggested their favorite books of the past year, the NY Times’ “100 Notable Books of 2011,” and a December deadline for the inspiration for this piece. Any resemblance to any actual title and author is… obvious. And, of course, meant in good fun.

**Happy Holidays and all the Best in 2012!**

Submitted by:
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**Welcome Debbi**

Let’s extend a warm welcome to our newest MAHSLIN member - Debbi Tustin, MLIS, Library Assistant at the Frazier-Grant Medical Library at Cape Cod Hospital.

Submitted by Brandy King
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**Not Just Another Interlibrary Loan Librarian**

Diane E. Young, Information Specialist, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, published in the *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* in the Jan-Mar 2011 issue. Her article was published online on Feb 3, 2011. The citation is: Young DE: Not just another interlibrary loan librarian. J Hosp Librarianship 2011 Jan-Mar;11(1):78-86.

This article explains the reasons behind the author’s interest and experiences in Interlibrary Loan services and what motivates her to specialize in that area of librarianship. Also described are the evolution and significance of Interlibrary Loan services in a regional teaching hospital library, and a brief history and description of DOCLINE and QuickDOC.

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**Save the Date!**

The MAHSLIN Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, April 20, 2012!

Submitted by:
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Heywood Hospital Medical Library Recognized During National Medical Librarians Month

The Health Sciences Library at Heywood Hospital in Gardner, MA has been recognized by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM), a division of the National Institutes of Health, during National Medical Librarian Month. The NLM chose only a select number of innovative educational and research projects from hospital medical libraries throughout the nation to be featured this month on their web site. Highlighted under the New England Region is the Health Sciences Library at Heywood Hospital, along with two others in the area.

The joint education project, for which Heywood Hospital has been recognized, is focused on improving the health status of residents by sharing health education information and resources in partnership with other community agencies.

A pre-project survey revealed a need to raise awareness of community and web-based health resources and methods to evaluate them. Specific goals were created to establish Heywood Hospital’s Health Sciences Library as a community resource for health information needs, to teach evaluation skills for health information websites and to introduce several quality websites, such as MedlinePlus.

In collaboration with the Greater Gardner Religious Council, Heywood Hospital's Health Sciences Library and Social Services Department embarked on a community outreach project to provide education to various faith-based communities in the area.

In addition, through partnerships with a total of eight different community agencies and four internal departments, the Heywood Hospital Health Sciences Library program entitled Finding Reliable Answers to Your Health-Related Questions was presented at 14 venues and provided education to 118 community members.

According to post survey results, the project, which was funded by the NLM’s Express Outreach Award, successfully accomplished its objectives. In addition to providing education to community members, the project enhanced in-house relationships, developed community partnerships, and contributed to Heywood Hospital’s overall mission.

To learn more about National Medical Librarians Month, Heywood Hospital’s featured Health Sciences Library project and the 6,014 NLM member organizations nationwide, visit the NLM web site at www.nlm.nih.gov/lo/profiles11 or the Heywood Hospital web site at www.heywood.org

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New Edition Published of the Medical Library Association Guide to Managing Health Care Libraries

Faulkner Hospital’s Director of Library Service Cara Marcus’s review of the 2nd edition of The Medical Library Association Guide to Managing Health Care Libraries was published in Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet (2011; 15:4, 421-423). The review focused on the authoritative, practical advice found throughout the book and the accompanying CD-ROM. MAHSLIN member Donna Beales, Librarian/Continuing Medical Education Coordinator for Lowell General Hospital, was an author of the chapter on Associated Services.

Submitted by:
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Member Spotlight – Margret Branschofsky and Betsy Like

This issue’s Member Spotlight introduces two MAHSLIN members from the Webster Veterinary Library at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University: Margret Branschofsky, Director of Library Services & Information Technology and Betsy Like, Educational Services & Training, ILL, Cataloging Librarian. Margret has been in MAHSLIN for several years and Betsy is a fairly new member, and both have fascinating backgrounds to share.

Both Margret and Betsy were born in Europe – Margret in Austria and Betsy in Germany. Margret spent her youth in Canada, where she learned to speak English, and later lived in France. What she remembers most from Canada was that they never had snow days from school. Betsy moved to Massachusetts when she was less than one year old, but also lived in Switzerland for a time. Both librarians speak French and German, and enjoyed these languages so much that they studied them in college – Margret majored in German and minored in French, while Betsy minored in German and majored in anthropology.

Then their paths differed. After graduating from Mount Holyoke, Betsy’s first job was as a laboratory technician, a career she continued while attending graduate school. Margret graduated from Queens College in New York and took a position in the life insurance field, which she realized after two short months was not for her. When a friend told her, “I’m going to become a librarian,” that started her thinking that this might be a good career for her too. Betsy, on the other hand, had always secretly wanted to become a librarian. Both came from families with scientific backgrounds, so medical librarianship seemed a great fit.

Their library school experiences differed too – Betsy went to Simmons and enjoyed classes with Professor Candy Schwartz, while Margret started library school at Queens College and finished ten years later at University of Kentucky in the middle of horse country. However, both recalled that their favorite class was the systems/project management class.

They’ve worked at a number of diverse libraries – New York Public Library on East 23rd Street, University of Cincinnati Physics, Engineering, Chemistry and Biology Libraries, MIT Libraries (Margret), and Litton Itek Optical Systems Library and Harvard Medical School’s Countway Library (Betsy). They’ve also both enjoyed their experiences working for library vendors – Betsy with Nelinet, where she got to travel and meet many librarians, and Margret with Cincinnati Electronics, which sold a library circulation system. Margret was on the original team to develop MIT’s DSpace, one of the first open access institutional repositories.

Betsy and Margret love working at the Webster Veterinary Library. It’s a small library in terms of physical space, but it has some very unique collections, such as the John A. Seaverns Equine Collection, which includes a book on horsemanship from the 16th century. They also benefit from being part of Tufts University, working collaboratively on projects, and sharing access to all the resources available through member libraries. One exciting project Betsy enjoyed working on was the Tisch Lincoln Exhibit, a Library of Congress traveling exhibit about the Civil War. The Webster Veterinary Library was able to contribute resources about the many horses, dogs and even birds of prey that took part in the war.

Not only does their library serve the students and faculty of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, it is also open to the public, so the librarians help everyone from schoolchildren writing reports on animals to pet-owners seeking medical information (Betsy’s most memorable question was from a dog owner who wanted to know why her dog’s hair turned pink – a question she was not able to answer!) They also provide research to firms for a fee. Beyond “normal” library work, the library staff also maintains the website for the entire school, participates in the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee which makes sure that the animals are treated fairly, examines alternatives to animal care...
studies and inspects the animal facilities, including the pig houses and laboratory mice. The staff is happy to
give tours of the library, providing visitors call ahead, and wants people to know that there are always cats
available for adoption at the school.

Surprisingly, neither Margret nor Betsy has any pets, although they estimate that most students and faculty at
the school own 2-4 pets. They are both avid outdoor fans and enjoy gardening – Betsy grows blueberries in her
yard and is into rock-climbing and hiking the Appalachian Trail, while Margret skis, kayaks, and has traveled to
Argentina.

While there have been challenges integrating new technologies into their library, Betsy and Margret enjoy their
work tremendously. “I’m really happy that I’ve chosen librarianship,” said Margret. “It’s a career that keeps
you moving through the times. Every day is interesting.”

**TechnoTool Corner – OVID WIDGETS**

**Try a Search Box Widget for Fast & Easy Searching**

I often hear that clinicians and residents use general Internet search engines because they are fast and
easy; my reaction is “I certainly hope my clinician doesn’t!” If you have the same sentiments,
implementing an Ovid search box may be the right solution. They, too, are fast and easy, but the results
will be far more reliable.

See some examples below. Double-click the image to test the search boxes yourself because pictures are
not enough. This is only a handful of Ovid resources; we can easily send you a search box customized for your resources.

1. **Search Box** with functionality to search in either BASIC or ADVANCED Mode, and a drop-down box to search your
   subscribed databases:

   ![Search Box Image](image1)

   **Search Mode:** Basic (natural language) □ Advanced (syntax)
   
   **Search:** Enter your question or search terms...
   
   **Database:** MEDLINE □ Search
   
   MEDLINE
   Ovid Nursing Full Text Plus
   MAHSLIN Full Text Nursing Journals

2. This is my favorite - find images in your Ovid journals and/or books. Because every word in Ovid journals articles and books
   is indexed, including **image caption text**, you can locate images using this tool:

   ![Image Gallery Image](image2)

   Just access the Ovid Full Text, go to “Image Gallery”, select your image(s), and email, save or export to PowerPoint.
3. **Search** across your Ovid books or select a specific book for searching:

![Image of Ovid search interface]

4. Find the **top articles in a specialty** this month or in past months. This tool uses statistical usage across all Ovid journals to provide a list of the top articles by specialty:

![Image of Ovid specialty top articles]

So, now that you have seen some samples, what to do with them? The search boxes are small HTML files which can be pasted into any web page. How can you get them? Contact Ovid Technical Services (email: support@ovid.com). We will be happy to customize files for your library.

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**MAHSLIN Mentors to the Rescue!**

MAHSLIN wanted to find a way to help members who need support in this fall, winter, spring and summer of discontent; who face library threats each day and wonder how to cope! Stop wondering, stop worrying send an email! mahslin-mentors@googlegroups.com.

MAHSLIN Mentors is **not** reference help or ILL or resource help. It is just-in-time advice, counsel, coaching, and practical strategic assistance when you’re pulling out your hair.

Submitted by:
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Submitted by
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Apply for a Jay Daly Information Technology Grant

Are you thinking of attending a technology-related program or course or, perhaps purchasing a new, cutting-edge piece of hardware or software, neither of which quite fits into your budget plans? MAHSLIN’s technology grant program, named in memory of beloved colleague, Jay Daly, may be able to help.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and evaluated by a five-member MAHLSIN review committee. For more details on the how’s and why’s of this program and an application form, click here.

Submitted by:
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And… ACTION! MAHSLIN First Action Day is a Big Success

Everyone seems to accumulate those projects that continually get pushed to the bottom of our “to do” lists. We have articles to write, reports to finish, notes to review or presentations to update. It’s just these types of activities – and our nature to put them off – that make the idea of an Action Day so appealing.

Those of you who attended the 2010 annual meeting might recall our keynote speaker, Stever Robbins, telling us about the power and usefulness of Action Days. You can find background and details on the idea from Stever’s “Get it Done Guy” podcast, but in general, here’s how it works:

1. Identify a project/task or two that you want to focus on for a day.
2. Share this with others via a conference call.
3. Check in every hour to share your progress.

It’s really that simple. We help each other be accountable and get those stubborn, “procrastinatable” projects done!

To help put the idea of action into… well … action, MAHSLIN held its first Action Day on October 14th. Brandy King, Margo Coletti, Penny Glassman, Judy Nordberg, Kathy McCarthy, and Isabel Lopes joined me in the day, and we poked and prodded and kidded one another into getting stuff done. Stever Robbins, himself sent me an email earlier in the week, wishing us a good and productive time. I think we can report that we achieved both.

Brandy worked on a blog post (and got her picture taken), Margo got things done for the Hospital Library Section of MLA, Judy and I made progress on subject guides that we’re building for our library’s new website, Isabel worked on her annual review and then a search request, Kathy conquered a folder full of information on copyright along with several last-minute items, and Penny managed to act on tasks while she juggled duties as the librarian on call for reference.

If you missed out on October’s Action Day, don’t fret! We will be organizing our second day on Friday, January 20th. If you’re interested in participating, send me an email at sally.gore@umassmed.edu and I’ll forward along details closer to the day. If you need some help in making your Friday more productive and fun, join us!

Submitted by Sally Gore
Resource Sharing – Access Medicine

Last year MAHSLIN members were able to participate in a group purchase of the “Hospital Clinical Package”, a collection of 6 major McGraw Hill titles. Ten hospitals shared access and split the cost which made it a cost-effective way to provide this important content. Unfortunately, this consortium pricing is not being offered this year. However, MAHSLIN members can purchase the entire suite of content on Access Medicine, and if more than 3 MAHSLIN libraries subscribe to the entire Access Medicine collection, they will receive a 10% discount.

If you are considering subscribing to this extensive collection, please contact Jeanie Vander Pyl/ Resource Sharing Chair (at 508-862-5866 or JVanderpyl@CAPECODHEALTH.ORG), or Tracy Nan Smith at McGraw Hill (at 401.330.8566 or tracy_nan_smith@mcgraw-hill.com).

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As always ...

The MAHSLIN Network News co-editors, Andrew Calo and Cara Marcus, welcome your suggestions and submissions of news, updates and educational opportunities that you wish to share with the MAHSLIN community. The fall edition will be Andrew’s to edit, so please contact him via email if you have anything you would like to contribute.