One of my favorite childhood photographs shows my older brother and me standing on the front porch of our house on Fort Rice Street. I am 6 and my brother 8. It is the first day of school; my very first and his first day of 3rd grade. I am all smiles, bursting with happiness, my new Snoopy lunchbox held tightly, my new outfit pressed and pretty. My brother, on the other hand, is anything but. No smiles, no happiness, looking more like the end of summer marks some sort of punishment rather than new beginnings. This picture could have been repeated every single year over the decade that followed. I was always happy and excited and my brother… well, let’s just say that our similarities are found elsewhere.

Fall is my favorite season, probably because of the sense of new beginnings that always came with a new school year – new teachers, new classmates, new subjects, new notebooks and pencils. The new season brings changes, too. We enjoy cooler temperatures and beautiful fall colors, the beginning of fall sports and baseball’s “new season”, aka the playoffs, and for those of us who work in academic settings or teaching hospitals, we welcome new students, new residents and new faculty. There is a lot of “new” in the fall season, even as it signals the outward quieting of nature that leads to winter.

In the spirit of newness, I’d like to welcome a new member to the MAHSLIN Board, co-editor of the MAHSLIN Network News, Andrew Calo. Andrew is editing this very issue of the News. I’m grateful to him for taking on this role, one that I assumed for the past several years until becoming President this year. Andrew will work with current co-editor, Cara Marcus; the two continuing to bring to MAHSLIN members a quarterly publication that highlights the happenings of our organization, as well as helpful pieces related to our field. I thank them both for their service.

As I thought about what to write for this piece, I thought about new beginnings and new starts. What happens when your life is no longer paced by the cycle of a school year, by the beginnings and endings of semesters? What do you do when work becomes more like a continuously running treadmill – something in need of a little spark to get it firing again?

New York Times columnist, Thomas Friedman, wrote a piece this summer called “The Start-Up of You”. It prompted a good bit of discussion on the Internet, both in agreement and disagreement. In a nutshell, Mr. Friedman claimed that for the indefinite future, young people just entering the workforce and everyone else at every other point in the vocation/career path must reconcile themselves to the fact that the days of “finding a job” are numbered. What we need to do now is “invent jobs” for ourselves.

Talk about a spark! If you’ve ever needed a little something to light a fire under your treadmill, think about the pressure to constantly reinvent one’s self and one’s career over and over and over again. But really, those of us in health sciences and medical librarianship have been thinking about and reinventing ourselves for a good while now. Some are focusing much more on knowledge management. Others are working to create platforms
that disseminate original and repurposed information digitally. Still more are starting new programs and
teaching new subjects and branching out from many of the traditional skills we used to promote.

If you attended last spring’s Talent Show, you got just a glimpse of the variety of forms and functions our
profession takes today. For me, that event was a TREMENDOUS boost towards giving me new ideas that lead
to new energy, and to me this is one of the greatest benefits of MAHSLIN membership. The ability to network
with peers, to share ideas with others, to encourage and support each other when we’re in need of a new
beginning, a new start, or a new approach – these are all things I’ve received from being an active member of
our organization. I hope you’re finding the same and if not, I hope you’ll see there’s plenty of opportunity to do
so here.

**Member Spotlight – Wanda Anderson**

Thank you for this opportunity to say hello to colleagues in Massachusetts and New
England. It is marvelous to have such a wonderful and dedicated group of people with
whom to collaborate.

At Boston College, I am the Nursing/Health Sciences Reference Librarian/Bibliographer.
My position is a combination of Reference and Consultation services as well as Library
Instruction and Collection Development in Nursing in particular and Health Sciences in
general. To me this is a very unifying approach to my library services and sharing of
library resources. The Boston College Connell School of Nursing has a variety of Undergraduate, Master’s and
Ph.D. programs. Boston College also has a pre-Med, -Dental, -Allied Health and -Veterinary Program with
over 1400 students participating.

Thanks to the vision of Mary Pekarski, the Founding Nursing Librarian in the Boston College School of
Nursing, the Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Library has a comprehensive Nursing Collection. For this reason O’Neill
serves as the Nursing Resource Library under the NLM’s National Network/Libraries of Medicine New
England Region. All nurses and nursing students are welcome to use resources in the library and also to utilize
our reference and consultation services.

It was a long winding road that brought me to New England and to librarianship. A Biology Undergraduate
Major with a Minor in Chemistry, I studied at Thomas Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in the
Cytology Program and became ASCP (American Society of Clinical Pathologists) board registered. After ten
years as a Cytotechnologist, I decided I was more interested in the research aspect of health screening and
health promotion. And where does the research process begin but in the literature review? Moving to
biomedical librarianship seemed very logical. And so I enrolled in the Library and
Information Sciences Program at Simmons College in Boston, MA. After a time as
Biology Bibliographer at Boston University, I moved down the avenue to Boston
College. Nurses are very caring and dedicated people and it is enriching to be a
supporting partner in nursing education, clinical research and clinical care.

To develop right brain/left brain balance I enjoy music, art, drama, reading, walking in
the woods or along the ocean, and travelling. Recently I spent a week at the University
of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain sharing ideas and experiences about Subject Librarians
and Faculty Collaboration. Ours is a very vibrant and dynamic profession and we can be
of service in many arenas.

I also volunteer with one of the BC Undergraduate Community Health placements which is a parish nursing
program entitled, “Cathedral Cares.” I help sign in community residents who attend the flu and other health
clinics. At the Summer Family Festival I staff a Health Information table with Mary Blanchard, Director of
the Boston University Medical Library. We provide health information in various languages including those
provided by the Tufts Health Sciences Library [SPIRAL: Selected Patient Information Resources in Asian
Languages project](https://sf.spiral.tufts.edu). *As you can see collaboration is the key.*
New Cookbook – Flavors of Faulkner Hospital

The Faulkner Hospital Library Services and Food and Nutrition Departments have created an inspiring new cookbook - *Flavors of Faulkner Hospital* (Morris Press, 2011). Our cookbook contains recipes from around the world, as well as familiar, traditional and comforting favorites. Staff, volunteers, patients and Faulkner Family descendants have all contributed unique recipes. Director of Library Services Cara Marcus compiled the cookbook, which contains her own recipes as well as many from the library staff and volunteers.

We’ve aimed to create a healthy cookbook, and our recipes include portion sizes and nutrition analysis based on standard reference data for recipe ingredients. Many recipes are low-fat and low-sodium and some of our recipes contain no saturated fat or cholesterol. You'll find *Flavors of Faulkner Hospital* in the Faulkner Hospital libraries, the Faulkner Hospital Gift Shop, and online at [Morris Press](http://www.morrispress.org) (all proceeds benefit the Faulkner Hospital Patient/Family Resource Center).

Submitted by
Cara Marcus
Director of Library Services
Faulkner Hospital
cmarcus@partners.org

SEMCO Signs Buddy Agreement with Atlanta Health Sciences Consortium

It all began with a visit by Javier Crespo to a SEMCO (Southeastern Massachusetts Consortium of Health Sciences Libraries) meeting at which he described the work initiated by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) on disaster/emergency preparedness. As part of that work, Javier mentioned that the NLM had paired the regional networks as buddies. After his presentation, SEMCO decided to pursue a disaster preparedness plan for the consortium that would include establishing a buddy library agreement with a library group outside of the New England region.

We began the process by dividing the work into two parts: 1) identify library groups that would buddy with us and 2) develop disaster preparedness within our libraries. While potential buddy libraries were identified and contacted, the group worked on individual member readiness. The focus with this piece was to have each member develop a disaster plan if none existed and to verify that each library was included in its institution’s disaster plan.

As we worked on the second part of our disaster plan, we realized that we should have a better sense of what resources each of us has. Consequently, a resource survey was conducted among the membership. This in turn led to the development of a list of texts in print form that would serve as a “core” collection during disasters.

With the work at the member level completed, emphasis shifted to finalizing an agreement with a library group that expressed sufficient interest in the buddy concept to enter into an agreement with us. We are pleased to report that a MOU was signed between the Atlanta Health Sciences Consortium and SEMCO in January, 2011!

Submitted by
Denise Corless, MLS ~ President, SEMCO
Norwood Hospital | Steward Health Care
denise.corless@steward.org

Nicola Pallotti, MLS ~ Vice-President, SEMCO
Charlton Memorial Hospital | Southcoast
PallottiN@southcoast.org
**TechnoTool Corner - EBSCO Nursing Reference Center**

*EBSCO Nursing Reference Center* is a web-based nursing reference system providing the latest evidence-based clinical information for nursing practice, education and research at the point-of-care. Nurses can be proactive in preventing serious avoidable events by using the information from over 4,000 documents contained within Nursing Reference Center (NRC).

*We are highlighting custom folders in this article.*

**Custom Folders**

*NRC* allows you to create custom folders in your personal folder area. Using custom folders you can more effectively manage and access saved items by organizing according to topic, project, class, etc. Custom folders can contain *NRC* items (articles, images, search alerts, etc) or custom sub-folders.

Nurses, Nursing Managers, and Education Coordinators will find the Custom Folder feature especially useful for organizing frequently referenced documents about specific medical conditions. For example, you can create individual folders for diabetes, heart disease, and asthma. Within each folder you can store as many documents as you need – such as patient education packets, guidelines, and quick lessons. To further group conditions or document types, you can create sub-folders within custom folders. For example:

- Diabetes -> Quick Lessons
- Diabetes -> Type 1 -> Patient Education Docs
- Diabetes -> Type 1 -> Treatment Guidelines
- Diabetes -> Type 2 -> Patient Education Docs
- Diabetes -> Type 2 -> Treatment Guidelines

You can create as many custom folders as you require. After a folder is created, you can rename or move the folder. If you move a folder, all contents of the folder are moved along with it (items and sub-folders).

Submitted by
Erin J McDonagh
Director of Northeastern Medical Sales
EBSCO Publishing
demcdonagh@ebscohost.com
If you’re like me, you both enjoy and need lists. I make a lot of lists; “to do” lists for work, “to do” lists for home, lists for different projects I have going, lists of different projects I’d like to get going, etc. One of the great things I find about a list is the satisfaction of checking items off of it. You make a check beside or scratch off an item all together and think, “I’ve done that”.

About a month ago, I read an article describing a neat online productivity tool called iDoneThis. While it isn’t for making lists and checking them twice, it is a really simple and free way to help you feel that sense of accomplishment at the end of each day. Around 6:00 every evening I get an email from iDoneThis with the friendly message, “Hi there. Take 30 seconds to write out what you got done today.” Some days I can’t say much more than “I got through that meeting,” but I can always think of something – at least ONE thing – that I’ve accomplished in the previous 24-hours. Usually, I can think of more than one. I type out my thoughts, hit the “reply” button, and away it goes to my personal calendar on the iDoneThis website.

As I send in my daily email, my personal calendar fills up with checkmarks. If I ever wonder what I did on a particular day, I can just click the check mark and a list of the tasks I sent in appears. It’s quick, it’s free, it’s easy, and it’s a great way to both track projects and motivate you to keep going.

Dan Pink recently wrote a nice blog post about iDoneThis. Give it a read.

Submitted by
Sally Gore, MS, MS LIS
Head, Research & Scholarly Communication Services
Lamar Soutter Library
UMass Medical School
Sally.Gore@umassmed.edu
**MAHSLIN Mentors – We’re Here When You Need Us!**

We all have them: those OMG moments when our jobs and heads explode! When you’re in a surreal movie that just happens to be your work life—you *know* what I’m talking about!

Well, MAHSLIN Mentors is here for you when your manager morphs into the wicked witch, or the advisory committee shape shifts into gooey Aliens. Perhaps you are clueless about how to begin a big project, plan a new management wants-it-no-matter-what service, or your boss believes everything is on Google! We’re a bunch of seasoned librarians (that means behind the crow’s feet we’re savvy and smart) who’ve experienced the ups and downs of running and working in medical libraries, navigating big and small organizations; we’re ready to help—just an email away!

[mahslin-mentors@googlegroups.com](mailto:mahslin-mentors@googlegroups.com) The communication is confidential your email will be answered by one of us as soon as possible. At that point you and your mentor can decide to talk on the phone, continue by email, whatever works for you. This is in the moment help, advice and counsel—a friend when you need one! No records are kept and the mentors have an ethical responsibility to keep your confidences. 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](mailto:mahslin-mentors@googlegroups.com)

Submitted by
Elaine Alligood, MLS
Informationista & Chief Library Service
VA Boston Healthcare System
Elaine.alligood@va.gov

---

**One-On-One: Individualized Program Designed to Provide Guidance on How to Perform Research**

The one-on-one library service makes information resources understandable, accessible and useful to students. The individualized program trains students to use information resources in order to develop research skills that support evidence-based practice.

The Library Director works with each student on an individualized basis by recommending/selecting books, journals, databases, DVDs, videotapes, and other information resources. Students can obtain guidance on how to perform research for assignments and projects.

Individual appointments with the Library Director are available to students in all course levels.

Submitted by
Andrew Calo
Library Director
Labouré College
Helen Stubblefield Law Library
andrew_calo@laboure.edu

---

**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 Cara’s to edit, so please contact her via email if you have anything you would like to contribute.