North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries, Inc. (NAHSL)
Chapter of the Medical Library Association

Annual Report

This annual report covers the period from May 2014 through April 2015. This straddles two years on the NAHSL calendar, which runs from the NAHSL Annual Meeting in October through the NAHSL Annual Meeting the following year.

Recruitment, Membership, and Leadership in the Profession:

Richard Kaplan completed his term as NAHSL Chair at the Annual Meeting. Cindy Stewart assumed responsibility as NAHSL Chair. Donna Belcinski was voted in as Chair-Elect.

At the time of the annual meeting in October 2014, there were 186 members. NAHSL continues to actively recruit library students and health sciences librarians and information professionals in our region, and this year expanded recruitment efforts to a broader library community, including state library groups. In 2014, NAHSL had 46 AHIP members: 1 Provisional Member, 6 Members, 11 Senior Members, and 26 Distinguished Members and 2 Emeritus Members.

The NAHSL Executive Board conducted a needs assessment of the membership in 2014. This was followed by a discussion of the survey results at a special open forum at the annual meeting. The Executive Board has been addressing NAHSL’s serious budget situation, and identifying ways to decrease operating expenses, while increasing revenue.

The NAHSL Executive Board recommended that we increase our membership dues from $30.00/calendar year to $50.00/calendar year (effective 2015). 81.1% of the membership voted in favor of the increase. Our NAHSL membership dues are as follows: Regular membership: $50 per year; Student membership, free; Retiree membership, $25 per year (NEW option for 2015).

The Executive Board is in the process of writing a 3-year strategic plan.

NAHSL Bylaws are in the process of being reviewed and revised to more accurately reflect current NAHSL operations. A vote on the proposed set of revisions is slated for summer 2015.

Lifelong Learning:

“Widen the Lens” was the theme of this year’s annual meeting, held on October 19-21, 2014, at The Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine. 108 people attended the conference; 20 were first time attendees. Janet Cowen and her conference planning committee put together an outstanding program. The 2014 conference showed a profit of nearly $17,000 (due in large part to lower hospitality costs, including lodging, food, etc.). For details about the conference, see: http://nahsl.libguides.com/nahsl2014

NAHSL professional development funds were awarded to 4 NAHSL members to attend MLA and to 14 members to attend the 2014 NAHSL conference.

The 2015 NAHSL Conference will be in Providence, Rhode Island, October 18-20, 2015. The theme is “Health Sciences Libraries: Anchored in Excellence.”

Advocacy:

We have an excellent list of advocacy-specific resources available to our members from the NAHSL website: http://nahsl.libguides.com/advocacy. We have also been encouraging members to share their success stories with the NAHSL membership, so others can learn how colleagues are demonstrating their
value to appropriate stakeholders. We are also planning on establishing an Advocacy Special Interest Group.

NAHSL continues to honor its members within our profession with its annual Achievement Award. The NAHSL Achievement Award for 2014 deservedly went to Janet Cowen, former Director of Library Services at Maine Medical Center, who was awarded the NAHSL Achievement Award for her many years of dedicated service. The first recipient of the Jay Daly Technology Grant Award went to Madge Boldt, from Rhode Island Hospital.

Knowledge Creation and Communication:

NAHSL has been continuing to improve on communication to and from the NAHSL Executive Board, and among our NAHSL members. The NAHSL Chair has been sending out periodic updates to the membership. We continue to promote the NAHSL Blog (https://nahsl.wordpress.com) as a venue for all members to post ideas, events, legislative updates from our Government Relations chair, initiate discussions, etc. Our Technology Support Committee works with Executive Board members to keep our NAHSL LibGuide up-to-date. We created our first Special Interest Group (SIG) this year, specifically focused on mental health.

Building a Network of Partners

NAHSL works in partnership with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine New England Region and with the 4 state health sciences libraries organizations in the region. NAHSL members continue to serve on the NN/LM Regional Advisory Committees (RAC). We were fortunate to have Linda Walton attend our NAHSL annual meeting. It was critical to have Linda participating in our open forum at the meeting.

Motion:

This report is informational and requires no action by the MLA Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Stewart, NAHSL Chair, 2014-2015

Elected Officers 2014-2015:
• Cindy Stewart - Chair
• Richard Kaplan – Past Chair
• Donna Belcinski - Chair-Elect
• Anne Fladger – Treasurer
• Debra Berlanstein – Secretary
• Dina McKelvy - Chapter Council Representative
• Marianne Burke - Chapter Council Alternate

Nominee to MLA Nominating Committee
• Debra Berlanstein

Committee Chairs:
• Lisa Adriani – Co-Chair, Technology Support
• Gary Atwood - Government Relations
• Valori Banfi - Membership
• Anne Conner – Education
• Fran Delwiche – Bylaws
• Anne Fladger - Finance
• Jeannine Gluck - Conference 2016
• Sally Gore - Marketing Chair
• Nathan Norris – Co-Chair, Technology Support
• Melanie Norton - Professional Development
• Erika Sevetson – Conference 2015
• Hongjie Wang – Archives

Liaisons and Appointed Representatives:
• Mary Piorun – NN/LM, NER
• Meredith Solomon - Credentialing Chair

State Representatives:
• Donna Beales – MAHSLIN
• Madge Boldt - ARIHSL
• Lisa Carter – CAHSL
• Maureen Dunn – NH/VT
• Beth Dyer – HSLIC