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

Mid-Year Activity Report

This annual report covers the period from May 2015 through October 2015. The NAHSL Annual Meeting was October 18-20, 2015. The new NAHSL Chair, for 2015-2016, is Donna Belcinski. Debra Berlanstein has been voted in as Chair-Elect.

Rationalize MLA programs and services, and streamline and clarify organizational structure:

The NAHSL Executive Board spent the past year creating and implementing a 3-year strategic plan (http://nahsl.libguides.com/NAHSLstrategicplan). This working document will guide NAHSL over the coming years, help us set priorities, and ensure a commitment to transparency and accountability to our membership.

A final draft of the revised Bylaws was sent to the Board for its approval in April 2015. This revision represents an effort to bring the NAHSL Bylaws into alignment with the MLA Model Bylaws for Chapters. It also updates the language to accommodate electronic voting and addresses organizational changes made necessary by the dissolution of HSL- NH/VT. The membership is expected to vote on the proposed revisions in early November 2015.

The Board has also begun reviewing its Executive Board Handbook (EBH). This document covers the details of the operations of the organization, and includes position descriptions for each of the officers and committee chairs. Like the Bylaws, the draft of the EBH has been substantially rewritten and reformatted for clarity, ease of use, consistency, and completeness. This project will continue into the coming year.

Align MLA programs, services, and governance with new professional member needs and expectations:

At the time of the annual meeting in October 2015, there are 185 total members: 172 Regular members, 7 Retired members, 6 Student members. We are pleased to report there are 26 new members. NAHSL continues to actively recruit library students and health sciences librarians and information professionals in our region, and continued to expand recruitment efforts to a broader library community, including state library groups and public libraries. For the first time, at the recent NAHSL annual meeting, a welcome reception was offered to new members and first time conference attendees.

14 members applied for and were awarded professional development funds to attend the annual NAHSL conference. Every state in the NAHSL region was represented and 4 new NAHSL members applied and were given funding.

Only 2 individuals applied for funding to attend MLA 2015 in Austin. The NAHSL membership was surveyed for their feedback on why so few members requested funds for MLA attendance. We will be reviewing this input over the coming year.

Strengthen MLA’s educational curriculum and offerings:
The NAHSL Education Committee decided to change its way of selecting CE courses. In late 2014, we sent out a “Call for Abstracts” email to our NAHSL listserv of members. We received a number of high quality abstracts, and were able to select courses to offer in-person at the NAHSL annual meeting. In addition, two courses were identified that seemed appropriate to offer via webinar. Advanced Google, offered in September 2015, was very popular and received excellent feedback. Measuring and Enhancing Research Impact is scheduled for January 2016.

NAHSL continues to honor its members within our profession with its annual Achievement Award. This year’s award went to Penny Glassman. There were two recipients of the Jay Daly Technology Grant Award: Debra Berlanstein and Rolando Gracia Milian.

Rationalize and transform MLA information and communication systems:

NAHSL has been continuing to improve on communication between the NAHSL Executive Board, and our NAHSL members. 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., and we keep our NAHSL LibGuide up-to-date.

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 Michelle Kraft and Kevin Baliozian attend our NAHSL annual meeting, and appreciated Michelle Kraft’s MLA Update during our Business Meeting.

Support and advance health information research and evidence-based practices in healthcare by developing and implementing strategies to improve the research skills and competencies of health sciences librarians, grow the body of health information knowledge, provide better access to research that supports evidence-based practice, and advocate to employers, members, and the public the value, impact, and benefits of health sciences libraries and librarians:

We continue to maintain a list of advocacy-specific resources available to our members from the NAHSL website: http://nahsl.libguides.com/advocacy and have established an Advocacy Special Interest Group. In addition to our own education programs, we promote best practices and success stories among our membership specific to proving the librarian’s value at our hospitals and academic institutions.

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
• Rebecca Reznik-Zellen – Archives
• Erika Sevetson – Conference 2015

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

State Representatives:
• William Anger – ARIHSL
• Lisa Carter – CAHSL
• Maureen Dunn – NH/VT
• Beth Dyer – HSLIC
• Meaghan Muir – MAHSLIN