



SLML Newsletter
August 2003

Articles In This Issue

Summertime and the Living is Easy...From the Editor – Jackie Hittner	1
President’s Corner: To Do List - Kim Lipsey	2
Annual Business Luncheon – Jackie Hittner	3
Membership Drive - Georgiana Grant	3
Interested in Joining a SLML Committee – Jackie Hittner	3
Up Close and Personal: Member Profile Karen Wawrzyniak – Jackie Hittner	4
Congratulations – Jackie Hittner	5
Retirements...Happy Trials to You	5

Summertime and the Living is Easy...From the Editor

By: Jackie Hittner
President, Elect

Just where has the summer gone. While the traffic in the library has been slow, I have been very busy. I had dreams of getting so much work done and I did get some of it done but not the amount I wanted done. Now it is time for those of us in academic settings to get ready for a new academic year. For hospitals with an intern program, they will be showing up soon – if they are not there already.

SLML begins another cycle too. Kim Lipsey in this issue has written an article challenging SLML membership to become involved in the many aspects of SLML. Georgiana Grant is looking for new members and has asked all of SLML membership to help her. New chairs for Communication, Continuing Education and Programs, and Recognition and Awards committees will be looking for help in this coming year. Hopefully, everyone took some time to complete the Continuing Education and Programs survey.

This issue notes the retirement of four long time members of SLML and another SLML member is profiled. For those who could not attend the June business meeting, a summary of the meeting is part of this issue.

Enjoy the rest of the summer for fall is just around the corner with the usual busyness.

I could not figure out how to put this in the article so I just will end with it...maybe the boys of summer will play to their potential and win the NL Central.

President's Corner: To Do List

By: Kim Lipsey
President, SLML

Welcome to the SLML Organization! The business year started off with setting goals and objectives based on the 2002-2003 Strategic Plan. At the first Business meeting of the year several items were approved to be addressed. Please visit the SLML website (www.slml.org) to review the 2002-2003 Strategic Plan, to familiarize yourself with what was discussed at the July 14th Board of Directors meeting (see minutes) and to make yourself aware of the names of new Board Members and Committee Chairs.

So far, several charges have been accomplished but more needs to be done. As of July 21st, the SLML Professional Development Survey was emailed to the SLML Listserv. Russ Monika, the new Communication Chair, made a web-based format of the survey available via the SLML website. Although there was a low survey response rate, many useful ideas were generated and you may view the results at (<http://enterprise.wustl.edu/slml/results.php>). I understand many of the members were out on vacation during the initial survey launch; therefore, the survey will remain posted for another week. I would like to ask that any members who have not responded to the survey please do so.

The Continuing Education & Program Chair posted a message to the listserv announcing the MLA Satellite conference, *Reading Between the Lines: Focusing on Health Information Literacy*, sponsored jointly by SLML and the Becker Medical Library, on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Becker Medical Library, room 601A. Hope to see you there!

As you read along you will see that a few things have been completed, but as I mentioned earlier much remains to be done:

- Participation in completion of Professional Development Survey
- Attend upcoming MLA Satellite Teleconference
- Increase members participation
- Publish history of SLML written by Phil Skroska
- Perform membership drive
- Participate and attend upcoming events
- Become involved in the planning of the 2006 MCMLA meeting here in St. Louis

As I reflect on all of the above activities and commitments I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Please feel free to attend any of the Board Meetings that are scheduled for every third Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm in the King Center at the Bernard Becker Medical Library. Any changes to the meeting schedule will be reflected on the SLML calendar (<http://www.slml.org/calendar.htm>). Thanks in advance for your help and willingness to participate in the well being of the SLML organization.

Annual Business Luncheon

By: Jackie Hittner
President, Elect

The annual SLML business luncheon was held Friday, June 13, 2003 at Matthews Medical Books. About 50 members attended to hear the accomplishments of SLML for the 2002-2003 year. Saundra Brenner and an ad hoc committee of SLML members revised the SLML strategic plan. Many goals were met by SLML standing committees. Some goals were not. Committee goals will be revised for the next business year. The revised strategic plan, the review of the strategic plan and the committee's annual reports are posted on the SLML website at <http://www.slml.org>. All members are encouraged to read these reports.

Recognized at the meeting were SLML members retiring from the medical library field (see article in newsletter), the SLML board, committee members and the new officers in attendance.

John Chesmelewski, 2002-2003 SLML President, urged SLML to begin planning for the 2006 MCMLA regional meeting that will be held here in St. Louis.

After the meeting concluded, Afua Bromley of Universal Holistic Healthcare Services gave a lecture on traditional Chinese medicine. Afua gave a very informative talk explaining the roles of massage, acupuncture, exercise and nutrition. She also identified some of the major journals in the field.

Membership Drive

By: Georgiana Grant
Membership, Chair

In an effort to increase SLML membership, the Membership Committee is planning a membership drive for the upcoming year. Anyone working within the medical library field is encouraged to join as well as librarians who are interested in medical librarianship. People who we are targeting with this campaign are medical librarians in the metro area who are not SLML members as well as support staff in medical libraries and public librarians who serve as consumer health librarians. Please email names and contact information for anyone in the St. Louis area that may be interested in joining to: Georgiana Grant
grantg@msnotes.wustl.edu

Interested in Joining a SLML Committee

By: Jackie Hittner
President, Elect

SLML standing committees are always looking for members to join in the fun and work of the committee. Being part of a committee is a great way to get to know SLML members. To join a committee or to find out what a committee does, contact the following committee chairs for more information:

Archives

Betsy Mueth

314-966-5803

ecm3213@bjcmail.org

Communication

Russ Monika

314-362-2778

monikar@msnotes.wustl.edu

Continuing Education and Programs

Carol Murray

314-362-4736

murrayc@msnotes.wustl.edu

Goverance

Cheryle Cann

314-516-5909

cann@umsl.edu

Membership

Georgiana Grant

314-362-8092

grantg@msnotes.wustl.edu

Recognition and Awards

Christina Sullivan

314-362-4734

csulliva@msnotes.wustl.edu

Up Close and Personal: Member Profile Karen Wawrzyniak

By: Jackie Hittner

President, Elect

When I emailed Karen Wawrzyniak and asked her if she would be the SLML member profile for the August 2003 issue, I received an email back saying, "I am not a librarian." I emailed Karen back and said I hope she would do the interview because the organization is composed of people who have an interest in medical librarianship. Karen agreed and here is what she had to say.

Karen Wawrzyniak is the Senior Secretary at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health Library. She has worked there since 1995. As senior secretary, Karen assists library patrons with their research needs by helping them locate books and journals on their topics and providing computer assistance when they need information on a particular subject. She is responsible for the library's budget and makes all book, journal, and office supply purchases. She also processes the paperwork for all of the library's invoices. Karen assists the librarian, Mary Johnson, and provides backup support to the library assistant and interlibrary loan person. She has been a member of SLML since 1995.

Karen was born in St. Louis and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1988 with a B.A. in English. She is married and has a pet rabbit named Sasha. Karen and her husband enjoy boating, vacationing in Florida, and are active members of the Missouri House Rabbit Society.

Congratulations

By: Jackie Hittner
President, Elect

Jennifer Plaat has been named the new director of library services at St. John's Mercy Medical Center taking over from Sandra Brenner who retired on May 16, 2003. Prior to being named the new director, Jennifer was the Coordinator of Information and Educational Services at St. John's Mercy Medical Center. Previously she served as head of information services at the Becker Medical Library. Jennifer began her new position May 19, 2003. SLML wishes Jennifer much success in her new position.

Retirements...Happy Trails to You

By: Rosemary Buhr, Sandra Brenner, Barbara Halbrook and Jackie Hittner

I emailed Sandra Brenner and Rosemary Buhr a set of questions regarding their retirement and their library careers. Here is what they had to say:

Rosemary Buhr

When I contacted Rosemary Buhr her first words were I'm looking forward to retirement!

JH: How long have you been a librarian and where did you get your degree?

RB: I've been a librarian for 32 years and graduated from Rosary College in River Forest, IL, which is now known as Dominican University.

JH: How long have you worked at Logan College of Chiropractic? What other jobs did you hold before your present one?

RB: I've been at Logan for almost 20 years, since November 1983. I was Librarian at Barnes Hospital School of Nursing for 11 years and 1 year at Bishop DuBourg High

School. I also spent a summer at the Walnut Park Branch of the St. Louis Public Library. Prior to librarianship I taught in elementary and high schools for 16 years.

JH: Describe the changes you have seen during your time as a medical librarian.

RB: The major change that has occurred is automation. Card catalogs became online databases and the Internet exploded access to data and information. Fax machines and Ariel are expediting the transmission of interlibrary loan requests. These have been major improvements and challenges to information specialists. The "Learning Curve" is really a steep incline!

JH: How has SLML changed over the years you have been affiliated with it?

RB: SLML has always been an organization of dedicated information professionals who focus on providing the best possible information and resources to constituents. A hallmark of the group is their willingness to share and assist each other as well as their clients.

JH: What do you think you will miss most from your working life?

RB: What will be missed most is the comradery which is classic among librarians, faculty, and staff.

JH: What are your plans for retirement?

RB: I plan to travel, catch up on a lot of reading, spend more time with family and friends, complete unfinished counted cross stitch projects, sew, garden, take some classes, and get a computer so I can continue to explore and keep in touch. In the future ... perhaps some tutoring and/or volunteer teaching ... I have a Missouri Lifetime Teaching Certification.

JH: How can folks stay in touch with you?

RB: I plan to stay in my home for the present but eventually 'downsize'. I can be reached at:
271 Spring Oaks Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011-3835
636-391-9689

Sandra Brenner

I have known Sandra Brenner over 10 years. When I heard she was retiring, I was surprised and thrilled for her at the same time. Here is Sandra's interview:

JH: How long have you been a librarian and where did you get your degree?

SB: I received my master's in library science from the University of Missouri in 1987 after several years of commuting between here and Columbia, MO.

Who knows when I became a librarian – probably in the late sixties when I worked for Nina Matheson at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health (formerly Missouri Institute of Psychiatry). Nina was my mentor and gave me the opportunity to handle the daily operations of a dynamic library. She also gave me the courage to try new ideas.

As most of you know, Nina was a visionary librarian, an entrepreneur and the guru of IAIMS. She urged me learn and get involved in professional organizations. With reservations (about not having a MLS), I attended my first SLML meeting in the spring of 1967. There were only about seven people there. A few days later, someone from the meeting phoned and asked me to run for President. And so I served the first of my two terms as President of SLML. With a little more urging and a desire to learn, I attended my first MLA meeting in 1968 and took **five** 8-hour CE's. I still remember spending the entire last day of CE's listening to a lecture on punched cards and not understanding a word.

JH: How long have you worked at St. John's Mercy? What other jobs did you hold before your present one?

SB: Twenty years. My first job after college was in Chicago at the Research Library of the Portland Cement Association. I translated Russian and French abstracts and produced catalog cards from a typewriter-like machine that punched little holes in a paper tape – very, very boring. Next I accepted a position at Harper & Row Publishers, a very interesting job that allowed me to travel around Chicago answering reference questions using the great libraries of the “Windy” city. At this point, I decided to attend library school at the University of Chicago, a decision that was superseded by getting married and moving to St. Louis. At last, I discovered medical libraries and spent fifteen years (full time, part time and with some time off to be a full-time mother) at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health.

JH: Describe the changes you have seen during your time as a medical librarian.

SB: Rapid access to quality information. I remember when we searched paper indexes, sometimes spending as long as a month on one search. With a paucity of union lists and copy machines, document delivery was unbelievably slow and cumbersome. Often you had to guess who might hold a particular journal title and you could only call Washington University once per day to request a maximum of five articles.

All of this reminds me of an amusing interlibrary loan story: I had requested a journal article from a local hospital library known for providing excellent service. More than a week passed and no article. Reluctantly, I phoned the librarian who apologized profusely, explaining that her volunteer had not finished **typing** the article yet.

And for the not so good changes: end-users who think they can search, administrators who believe it is all on the Internet and free, the closing of hospital libraries and a “graying” profession. Yet there are many more opportunities today for creative and highly motivated librarians. It **requires** one to get involved in the organization where they work as well as a variety of professional organizations.

JH: How has SLML changed over the years you have been affiliated with it?

SB: In many ways, SLML has not changed. It has always provided a way to network with other librarians, a way to become involved in the profession and a way to improve our knowledge and skills. And it is a great way to make some wonderful friends! What

changes is the leadership, some years the organization “moves and shakes”; other years it just “rumbles”.

JH: What do you think you will miss most from your working life?

SB: The people and a very responsive IS Department. Now I have to solve my own PC problems!

JH: What are your plans for retirement?

SB: Visit family and friends that are scattered from Montana to Thailand. And, hopefully travel to exotic places. I have wanted to see the Taj Mahal since I was seven. I also plan to volunteer at the Medical Center after completing a course in “Teaching English as a Second Language”. (St. John’s Mercy has a large number of Bosnian employees who want to learn English.) In between, I’ll play bridge, hike, continue my piano lessons, go to plays, movies, the symphony, whatever strikes me at the moment.

JH: How can folks stay in touch with you?

SB: My email is: saundrabrenner@yahoo.com and my phone number is listed in the SLML directory. I must confess to not checking my email with great regularity so the telephone would be my first choice, especially if you want to invite me to do something fun!!

Cindy Fedders

Barbara Halbrook of Bernard Becker Medical Library provided the following information for Cindy Fedders and Polly Cummings who both retired from Washington University’s Bernard Becker Medical Library.

Cindy Fedders retired on April 30, 2003 after 29 years at Washington University Bernard Becker Medical Library. Cindy, a graduate of Simmons School of Library Science, began her career in librarianship at Princeton University Library. In December 1973, she came to Washington University Medical Library as interlibrary loan librarian. She moved to cataloging in 1976. Cindy was involved in the development of the Becker Library’s online library system, BACS. Since 1981, Cindy was responsible for maintaining the bibliographic data in BACS as well as original cataloging and overseeing copy cataloging. Cindy and her husband have moved to San Diego, California.

Polly Cummings

Margaret (Polly) Cummings retired from Washington University Bernard Becker Medical Library after 34 years of service. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Polly came to Washington University Medical Library July 1, 1969 from the Division of Radiation Oncology library. Previously, she was assistant technical librarian at Monsanto Company Central Engineering Department. At Becker, Polly held various positions including reference librarian, selective dissemination of information librarian, clinical librarian, reference librarian in the history of medicine, and visual collection librarian.

SLML wishes Rosemary, Sandra, Cindy and Polly a happy retirement and thank them for their service to SLML and to the field of librarianship.