



the *Chronicle*

Philadelphia Regional Chapter
Medical Library Association, Inc.
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In this Issue...

[From the Communications Chair](#)

[From the Editor](#)

[From the Outgoing Chair](#)

[From the Incoming Chair](#)

[MLA '07](#)

[CE 206: Planning and Managing the Consumer Health Library](#)

[CE 201: Decision-Making: How to Make the Hard Decisions](#)

[Section Program: Turning Clinical Students into Evidence-based Clinicians:](#)

[The Medical Library's Role](#)

[Section Program: Revolutionizing Discovery through Text Mining](#)

[Health Information Literacy: rEvolution in Roles](#)

[Annual Dinner](#)

[MLAPhil.org Gets a Facelift](#)

[Meet Your Fellow Chapter Member:](#)

[Member Profile: Rebecca Raszewski](#)

[TechnoHumanist Corner](#)

[Member and Library News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Development Report](#)

[Chronicle Editor and Staff](#)

From the Communications Chair



Happy summer, Chapter members:

“In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.” Benjamin Franklin

For me, other than death and taxes, the third certainty in life is change. Click on the link to the Merriam Webster online dictionary

and check out how many definitions there are for the word “change.” mw1.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/change>.

Management tomes abound on how to deal with change in the workplace; people hire personal coaches to help them adjust to life changes. There is even a website called librarychange.com <librarychange.com/>.

I graduated from the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, C.W. Post Campus, Long Island University, in 1986. Only two, 3-credit database-searching classes were offered: “Introduction to Database Searching” and “Introduction to MEDLARS Searching.” I was so tense the first time I picked up a telephone—a rotary dial phone—and dialed an access number, and waited to hear the electronic “noise” that indicated I was electronically inside the DIALOG mainframe computer. As I promptly placed the receiver into the coupler and within seconds was searching at the blazing speed of 300-baud rate, I was hooked. Three hundred-baud rate! Yet, there was no graphical user interface. No mouse. Only DOS commands to navigate me through the ERIC database. Sigh. What a thrill; I was a library pioneer.

Fast forward twenty-one years: I am currently finalizing contract agreements with numerous database vendors and a link resolver service, and find myself frustrated when my Internet connection slows to a mind-numbing 768 kbps! However, during the past year, I’ve found myself puzzled and at times confused by the Web 2.0 revolution. I realized the only way to end my confusion was to get involved. I volunteered to work with Gary Kaplan, our chapter’s webmaster, on the re-design of our website. I enrolled in the “Geeks Bearing Gifts” MLA CE course; I attended an MLA webinar on emerging technologies; and I talked with librarians well-versed in the social networking revolution. I continue to learn ways in which this “revolution” can positively influence libraries and how librarians serve their patrons. I continue to adapt.

As I begin my term as Communications Chair for our chapter, I am honored to be part of a great team that will usher our chapter into the Web 2.0 world. Gary Kaplan has done a yeoman’s job in redesigning our website. Look for it soon: mlaphil.org/wp/>. At its July transition meeting, the board unanimously voted that the webmaster be elevated to a board position—so please congratulate the board for its vision and Gary for being the first person to hold the webmaster board position.

Rachel Resnick, the editor of the *Chronicle* since the winter 2006 issue, is ready to move the *Chronicle* smoothly to its next, Web 2.0 juncture.

Finally, I’d like to thank Linda Katz for her many years of service to our chapter. I’ve served with Linda during the past year on the board and have come to know her as a dedicated, concerned library leader. Her encouragement has meant a lot to me during my year of professional transitions and changes.

Death, taxes, and change. Personal change. Professional change. It's scary. It's inevitable. And if we can move beyond the "we've always done it this way" mantra, we'll be better armed to better serve our patrons and ourselves. 

Maura Sostack
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Communications Chair, 2007-2009
Government Relations Chair, 2006-2008

[Back to top](#)

From the Editor

Hello! First, I wanted to let you know that our website—and this newsletter—will soon have a new look. The new website has a more blog-like appearance, and while the *Chronicle* will still be available in HTML format and PDF, the HTML version will be incorporated into the website. What this means for you is that if you use a news aggregator, you can subscribe to the website via its RSS feed, and you'll be able to keep up with all chapter news posted to the website and to the *Chronicle* simultaneously. If you prefer to download the *Chronicle* for hands-on reading, you'll still be able to download the PDF. You'll also notice that we've added photos of some of our editors and writers, to help you put the faces to the names of your fellow chapter members. Hopefully, by the time you read this issue, all of the previous issues will have links from our new website.

In related news, if you have not yet signed onto our discussion list at its new address, please do so right away. Thanks to Kevin Block, our discussion list owner, who shepherded us from the old to the new list. Kudos go out also to outgoing Communications Chair Linda Katz, incoming Communications Chair Maura Sostack, Webmaster Gary Kaplan, our formatting guru Nancy Spedding, and the rest of the Communications Committee for all their hard work on the discussion list, the website and the *Chronicle*. I look forward to working with Maura. I would also like to extend a special appreciation to Nancy Spedding, who has been formatting the *Chronicle* for ten years. Nancy, I will miss your good humor and your unperturbability. (If that isn't already a word, it is now.)

I would like to welcome Barbara Henry, of Christiana Care Health System, and thank her for volunteering to be our new formatter. Barbara will handle all of the formatting beginning with the fall issue. Barbara is also our Chapter Council Alternate through the 2008 term. She was profiled in the *Chronicle* in the Summer 2005 issue (Vol. 23, No. 2: www.mlaphil.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2007/07/summer2006.pdf).

The new website and the *Chronicle* will be works-in-progress for some time, so we look forward to hearing from you about what you like and don't like. Information about posting comments to newsletter articles and other entries, and providing original posts to the website, is contained in Gary Kaplan's article, and this issue's TechnoHumanist Corner explains some of the ins and outs of WordPress, our blogging software.

This issue wraps up some items from the past, and introduces you to the chapter's future. Several articles describe CE courses and sessions from MLA '07. Speaking of MLA '07, I'd like to give a special shout-out to Melanie Cedrone, who was truly the hostess with the mostest at the Hospitality area at the conference. I volunteered a couple mornings, and I can attest to the amount of organization, planning and preparation that went into that service. Melanie, you put the spit in Hospitality—and I mean that in a good way!

The Annual Meeting article reviews the chapter award winners and provides information about our outgoing and incoming officers; Meet Your Fellow Chapter Members introduces you to one of those new officers. And be sure to check the Calendar for upcoming events and continuing education opportunities.

Have a safe and happy summer! 

Rachel R. Resnick
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[Back to top](#)

From the Outgoing Chair



Summer greetings to all of you and I hope you had an opportunity to participate in some way in May's National MLA convention held in Philadelphia. Hats off to the Local Assistance Committee, chaired by Anne Seymour and Etheldra Templeton. The many hours of work put in by them and their committee made a considerable contribution to the smooth running of the meeting. I hope all the Hospitality Booth volunteers received their free MLA-Phil chapter t-shirts, a small "thank you" for your time and talents.

Now it is time to relinquish my position to in-coming Chair Jacquelyn Knuckle, director of the library at Chestnut Hill Hospital. The board had its transition meeting on July 12. This meeting gave the old members and the new members of your board an opportunity to share the current status of the chapter and smooth running of its programs. We have three new members on the board this year: P. J. Grier is incoming program chair and chair elect; Rebecca Raszewski is secretary; and Laura Koepfler is membership committee chair. THANK YOU for agreeing to serve the chapter with your time and talents. A full list of the new board is posted in this issue of the *Chronicle*.

It has been a wonderful experience to work more closely with all of the members of this year's board and the chapter. Thank you to all for making this a valuable and rewarding experience. This coming year I will be nominating committee chair, and I hope to work toward assuring the future leadership and strength of the MLA-Phil chapter. As always, please share your ideas for programs and events with the Board—we are here to represent the membership 

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Chair, 2006-2007

Nominating Committee Chair/

Parliamentarian, 2007-2008

[Back to top](#)

From the Incoming Chair



Greetings! It gives me great pleasure to address you for the very first time as the chair of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association. I am looking forward to the year ahead with much anticipation of the programs being planned by our Chair-Elect P. J. Grier and his Program Planning Committee. I am excited to see our newly designed MLA-Phil website go live with the new look that Gary and his team debuted at our annual dinner in April. Welcome our new board members as they join me in governing our chapter. A special thanks to our outgoing board for the hard work and leadership they have provided during their terms in office. I believe I speak for all us in saying that Anne Seymour, Etheldra Templeton, and the Local Arrangements Committee did a fabulous job with the work they did for the Annual Meeting. You deserve a huge round of applause. Finally, I am truly looking forward to our organization's leadership under Mark E. Funk. I was inspired by his inaugural address, and I am really proud that our chapter is moving towards his vision of connectedness with our website redesign. Enjoy summer, see you in the fall. 🍀

Jacquelyn B. Knuckle

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Chair, 2007-2008

[Back to top](#)

CE 206: Planning and Managing the Consumer Health Library

For anyone who is faced with the task of creating a new consumer health library or reinvigorating an ongoing service, this excellent course provides an outline for action. The instructor and course creator is Michele A. Spatz, Director of the Planetree Health Resource Center at Mid-Columbia Medical Center (MCMC), The Dalles, Oregon. Michele's Health Resource Center is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. A recent community survey found that residents rated the Resource Center as the number one benefit they receive from MCMC! With this proven track record, Michele has created a course that is highly practical for the consumer health librarian. The planning process segment was packed with advice and sample documents related to needs assessment, identification of target audience and partnerships, mission statement and goals, defining services to be offered, funding and costs,

facility design, staffing and staff evaluations, the business plan, budgeting and forecasting, and the development of the policy and procedure manual. This format was followed through the sections on collection development, providing electronic consumer health information, promotion and outreach, and measuring results.

This course is one of sixteen offered online from MLA's CE Institute: Developing Web-based Instruction <www.mlanet.org/education/institute/courses.html>. Contact Michele at micheles@mcmc.net for future dates. 

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[Back to top](#)

CE 201: Decision-Making: How to Make the Hard Decisions



I have made many decisions during my thirty-year career in libraries, most especially throughout the last twenty years as a department head in my healthcare system. Nonetheless, I felt I could learn to use more logic, analysis and efficiency in my decision-making process, so I signed up for the Decision-Making: How to Make the Hard Decisions continuing education course taught by Pat Wagner of Pattern Research in Denver, Colorado. Pat is a long-time MLA instructor and taught more than one course at the annual conference.

Pat began by saying that often when we make decisions, “we often don’t solve problems; we only swap one set of problems for another and hopefully, we prefer the new set of problems.” Most of us, when surveyed by Pat as to what we liked about making decisions said, “I like the ‘power’ of the task,” “I like weighing the options,” “I like focusing on the outcome,” “I like doing the research.” Most of us didn’t like the time pressure of making decisions, the unhappiness it usually brought to some people and, of course, making the wrong decision.

One technique for weighing options is to create a management triangle comparing cost, convenience and quality. We can choose to have two of the three conditions, but usually not all three, and one condition must be most important. That is usually where people are indecisive. For example, we can have the outcome “cheap and fast,” but that usually precludes that the quality will not be good. If the quality is excellent, usually the cost is high and the time to achieve it is greater.

Studying the Governance Model helps clarify things. This model helps us answer these questions: Who makes decisions? What decisions do they get to make? How do they make the decision? If people know who makes the decision and how it is to be made

and what decision this person or persons get to make, they are more likely to trust and accept the final decision. Timeliness in communicating decisions is also very important. Good decision-making (good governance) relies on four simple concepts. These rules count whether your medical library's decision structure is hierarchical, collaborative or somewhere in-between. These are the four important rules for success:

1. Get input from everyone. Transparency in the decision-making process builds trust.
2. Write things down. Once the decision is made, write it down in detail. This reduces mistakes.
3. Follow through. Are we going to do what we said we would do? This is competency.
4. Evaluate the decision. Go back to those who gave original input and explain your decision, especially if you didn't follow their advice.

Pat also explored making your organizational map, determining your personal time, scope and preferences style, using grids to lay out the pros and cons of a decision, and creating a five-minute strategic plan. Finally, here are Pat's seven steps to success: Be calm and alert within yourself; do your research, be precise; use creativity to inspire; focus on time limits; demonstrate courage; assume people will make mistakes; and responsibly evaluate benchmarks and timeliness.

Here are a few of her favorite websites:

Project Management Institute	http://www.pmi.org/info/default.asp
Edward de Bono & Robert Heller's Thinking Managers	http://www.thinkingmanagers.com/
Strategic Planning Society	http://www.sps.org.uk/



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[Back to top](#)

Section Program: Turning Clinical Students into Evidence-based Clinicians: The Medical Library's Role

This session was comprised of several paper presentations:

Weaving Evidence-Based Medicine into the School of Medicine Curriculum: The Library's Role in Developing Evidence-Based Clinicians

Connie Schardt, Associate Director–Education Services; Anne Powers, Information & Education Services Librarian; and Megan von Isenburg, Associate Director–Information Services, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina.

(Online location of presentation slides:

<www.mclibrary.duke.edu/dukemla07/ebmcurriculumpaper.pdf>.)

Connie Schardt took us on a tour down memory lane of how the medical librarians' evidence-based medicine (EBM) know-how was slowly but surely integrated into the Duke University School of Medicine curriculum. Ten years in the making, library instruction is now woven into all four years of the EBM curriculum. In the early years the librarians were involved during the initial orientation and also did group teaching. What they found is that teaching during orientation was not very effective, teaching during the first year exposed students to searching before they really needed it, large lecture hall presentations did not work well, and EBM was not on the medical school's radar.

Things began to shift when the librarians developed partnerships with faculty, EBM came to the Duke campus, and there was a curriculum overhaul in 2004. The librarians seized several opportunities by cultivating partnerships with faculty interested in co-teaching EBM and by getting involved on curriculum revision committees. The librarians cultivated their visibility and faculty members learned the librarians were flexible and responsive to EBM teaching needs.

After ten years of nurturing their involvement with EBM at Duke the librarians' expertise is present throughout the four years of medical school, the curriculum is based on the needs of the students, they are involved with various faculty members in different settings, and the learning objectives are linked to those of the School of Medicine and the Association of American Medical Colleges. What now works well for the librarians is that their instruction is integrated into the EBM curriculum, sessions are more interactive, teaching is case-based, and searching is taught as an integral part of the evidence cycle. Connie's recommendations were: Link your goals to theirs, seek and nurture the champions of EBM, seize the opportunities, work on their time and turf, it is okay to take baby steps, and be patient.

Lastly, she pointed out some useful Internet sites: The EBM Librarian wiki

<ebmlibrarian.wetpaint.com/> is designed to develop a community of librarians who are involved in teaching and supporting the practice of EBM or evidence based practice.

Also, the Duke School of Medicine EBM Curriculum and information about how the librarians are involved can be reviewed at <www.mclibrary.duke.edu/training/courses/ebm600/ebmcurriculum.pdf>.

Helping a Dental School put the "E" in Evidence-based Dentistry

Lauren A. Maggio, Coordinator, Library Education and Information Management, Alumni Medical Library; Keven M. Jeffery, Information Services Librarian and Web Coordinator, Alumni Medical Library, Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts; Paul Farsai, Assistant Professor, Goldman School of Dental Medicine; Jeffrey P. Hutter, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.

Lauren Maggio explained how the librarians at Goldman School of Dental Medicine at Boston University developed a one-and-a-half-hour Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) course that includes hands-on and case-based training, graded in-class assignments and interactive tutorials. Tutorials include “Introduction to Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD)” <medlib.bu.edu/tutorials/ebm/intro/index.cfm?school=dental&loc=az> and “Formulating a Clinical Question” <medlib.bu.edu/tutorials/ebm/pico/index.cfm?school=dental&loc=index>.

The course content was first developed and then presented to the director of teaching, who was interested in integrating EBD into the curriculum. A champion of EBD, he was enthusiastic about their course, and to encourage attendance decided it would be worth 10% of the dental students’ grade!

Because many of the faculty were also unfamiliar with EBD concepts, before teaching the students the librarians first team-taught the faculty, who received continuing education credits. In this way the librarians could cultivate buy-in and be seen as experts in EBD. Much of the course was presented to small groups of eight to ten students in a computer lab. One effective teaching method was to have students project their search strategies and discuss them with the class.

A Full Revolution: 360 Degree Library Services to Clinical Clerkship Students
Kathryn J. Skhal, Clinical Education Librarian, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Kathryn Skhal discussed how she has developed an Evidence-Based Practice Electronic Resource Center <www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/eb.html>. This is a one-stop shop for a lot of EBP resources. The librarians get involved in the curriculum by offering course-integrated instruction in a hands-on computer lab and “Hardin House Calls,” which are tailored research consultations or instructional sessions. The House Calls meet the information needs of an individual or group.

One interactive method Kathryn uses to engage students in the EBP process is to give them the five-minute challenge. This exercise is based on a case and PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome) question. The students are challenged to take no longer than five minutes to find an answer, identify their resources, and identify the evidence-level provided by the chosen resource. The answers are e-mailed to her and she follows-up with them with the best evidence she identified and other suggestions. She said she has been surprised at some of the resources chosen and the “evidence” presented.

Accessing and Assessing the Evidence: An Online Tool for Teaching Evidence-based Nursing Practice

Mary L. Klem, Reference Librarian, Health Sciences Library System; Elizabeth M. LaRue, AHIP, Instructor, School of Nursing; Peter Draus, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Mary Klem described how the librarians have gotten involved in teaching Evidence-Based Nursing Practice (EBNP) as part of the School of Nursing curriculum by developing online modules that can be accessed at any time. The modules review all aspects of EBNP. One of the unique features is that students can compare the PICO questions they develop in response to a case to expert questions developed by the librarians, effectively modeling this fundamental EBNP skill. At this point the module is available only to students at the school.

Assessing the Effectiveness of an Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) Pharmacology Course
Irena Bond, Librarian and Assistant Professor, Library and Learning Resources; Alice Gardner, Associate Professor, Pharmacology/Toxicology; Monina Lahoz, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Administration, and Assistant Dean, Curriculum and Assessment, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Irena Bond described an elective fourteen-week EBM course for pharmacology students that consisted of one two-hour class per week. During the first three weeks the students have focused, hands-on instruction on the EBM steps and during weeks 4-12 the students are given three case-based pharmacology problems to work on. The last two weeks are devoted to a poster project. One of her goals was to document if the course significantly improved the EBM skills of the students that took the course compared to those who did not. She found that few studies focus on evaluating EBM searching skills. During her background research she discovered that the Fresno test (UCSF-Fresno Medical Education tool) is well suited to document EBM competencies. The competencies focused on during the course fell into four EBM domains: formulate a clinical question (Ask); conduct efficient searches (Access); appraise the evidence (Appraise); and theoretically apply it to clinical problems (Apply). She used a Fresno test to compare week 1 (pre-test) and week 13 (post-test) scores using a paired t-test. One example of a Fresno test that Irena referenced is located at <www.fammed.washington.edu/ebp/media/GradingRubricFormA4_22.doc>.

Irena also developed a grading rubric specific to EBM searches. The results of the study showed that those who participated in the course significantly improved their abilities to conduct efficient EBM searches and to appraise the relevance of a study 

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[Back to top](#)

Section Program: Revolutionizing Discovery through Text Mining



The Medical Informatics Section and the Molecular Biology and Genomics SIG sponsored Kevin B. Cohen's presentation, *National Language Processing and Knowledge Discovery for the Health and Biological Sciences: "Ask Not What Text Mining Can Do for You...."*

The moderator was Carrie Iwema, basic science librarian, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland. Kevin Cohen is a computational linguist and the biomedical text mining group leader at the Center for Computational Pharmacology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado. The session was well attended, with a number of people asking questions at the end of the presentation. The speaker had a tremendous amount of information and provided an overview of text mining and its implications for librarians in this field.

Text mining was defined as "finding information that is not explicitly stated in the text." It is also known as "literature-based discovery." A looser definition refers to text mining as "finding facts in text." Kevin provided historical perspective and attributed the start of the text mining field to Don Swanson's research on the relationship between Raynaud's Disease and fish oil by using text mining techniques on the medical literature in the 1980s. Swanson was a faculty member of the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago at that time, and reasoned that if concept A was related to concept B, and if concept B was related to concept C, then concept A may be indirectly related to concept C. His interest in Raynaud's syndrome led him to test this hypothesis by researching information on this disease (concept A) and finding that it involves the blood and circulatory system (concept B). Secondly, fish oil has effects on blood and the circulatory system (concept C). Swanson surmised that fish oil may be helpful in the treatment of Raynaud's, but could not find any publications making this connection. In addition, he predicted that computer software could be developed to make these connections.

Kevin discussed the differences between text mining and other forms of information retrieval research. In information retrieval, documents are found based on the response to a query, but retrieval does not necessarily find relationships between the retrieved documents. Text mining finds patterns through natural language found in the documents, and data mining finds patterns from data or facts queried from large amounts of structured data. Text mining is also used to explore one or more texts and to synthesize the information into an abstract or paragraph form. Several text mining applications were briefly mentioned such as Chilibot <www.chilibot.net> and BioEx. BioEx software has indexed 17000 PNAS full text documents, and Chilibot uses gene names and keywords to summarize information from articles. There has been increased interest in text mining as a result of the sequencing of nucleic acids and proteins, and microarray technology, all generating huge amounts of information and making the curation and annotation of this information more difficult. There is double exponential growth in the literature, so computational biologists became very interested in text mining in the late 1990s.

However, text mining is not as easy as it sounds, and Kevin described the advantages and difficulties of two methods of analyzing speech or text in the next part of his presentation.

Natural language processing utilizes computer programming methods to analyze speech or text. However, computers are not proficient at understanding the nuances of language. Words have different meanings depending on their use within a sentence. A “slinky” dress could mean a tight fitting outfit or refer to a metal, coiled toy. Likewise, the following sentence is ambiguous: “Dealers will hear car talk at noon.” A cartoon depicting a youngster with a hammer and saw in his hands, telling his parents, “I’m going to make my bed,” facetiously portrays another type of ambiguity. Words can have multiple meanings: “hunk” can mean human natural killer (cell type), HUN kinase (gene and protein), or a piece of something. Problems with parts of speech, multiple meanings of words, structural relationships between words and other linguistic characteristics of words create problems for computer analysis.

Natural language processing uses two main techniques: rule-based algorithms and statistical methods. Rule-based methods detect patterns in text or speech. However, much time and cost is required to develop these rules. This is not surprising, considering the ambiguities noted above. The second approach uses Bayesian statistics and machine learning based on the probability of the meaning of words within text. This works because certain words are used frequently enough in certain contexts. However, there is usually not enough data when comparing frequency and the ranking of the words. Words with high frequency, such as “the,” “and,” and “but” are ranked lower in importance, while more important words with higher rank appear with low frequency. Both techniques are cost-sensitive but both could be combined starting with the statistical solution first, and then using the rule-based technique.

Kevin discussed the hype and the need to be cautious about these techniques because neither is perfect. He outlined three ways to evaluate literature-based discovery. The first involves replicating Swanson’s original findings. The second method uses date-restricted literature and he mentioned COX-2 inhibitors prior to 2004, as suggested by a librarian involved in text mining research. During the presentation he did not discuss the results of this method, but in a conversation I had with him afterwards, he said that a paper will be published soon on this result, and there were suggestions of problems with COX-2 inhibitors found by this method. He noted that pharmaceutical companies could have saved themselves a huge sum of money if this technique had been used at the start of research into COX-2 inhibitors. The last way to evaluate literature-based discovery is by repeatable, scalable, and quantifiable methods.

Text mining has continued to evolve from the manual methods used by Swanson in 1986, to statistics in 1996, and the use of the MetaMap to find concepts in 2000, MeSH headings in 2001, and full text in 2004. Some of the new applications for literature-based discovery will be analyzing genomic information. There are genes with many names and aliases that are found in multiple organisms, resulting in lots of ambiguity. With the advent of computational biology in the late 1990s, the use of text mining has become more important and useful.

Kevin outlined the role that librarians and library science can contribute to this field. Library science provides models for text mining tasks such as indexing. The National Library of Medicine presently is a driving force for text mining, with a basic research and genomics information retrieval group involved in this effort. Dr. William Hersh at the Oregon Health & Sciences University chaired the TREC (Text Retrieval Conference) Genomics 2004, and results of the tests found that summary and product fields together work best for extracting the most relevant information from PubMed records. Results suggest using the summary field if the product field is not available in the PubMed record in the literature-based text mining system used. This conference tested information retrieval systems using a specific and known document collection. In the case of TREC Genomics 2004, 4647 human genes of known function from Entrez were used in this test collection. The speaker credited the following text mining researchers at the end of his presentation: Lynne Fox, Denison University Library; Linda van Wert, Gambro Inc.; Neils Smalheiser and Donald Swanson, both at the University of Chicago.

As mentioned above, I had a conversation afterwards with the speaker and he mentioned that the best text mining software program is Swanson's "Arrowsmith." This tool is online and freely available at <kiwi.uchicago.edu/>. In the exhibition area, the National Library of Medicine had a presentation that included demonstrations of text mining tools. They are developing methods to extract and synthesize information from hundreds of titles and abstracts found in PubMed, with the capability of condensing the information into a short paragraph. Visualization tools that show graphical maps of concepts are also being developed in the Semantic Medline Prototype <skr3.nlm.nih.gov/SemMedDemo/>. If there is enough interest in this subject, perhaps in the future another presentation could include demonstrations of some of these tools. Librarians with hands-on knowledge of this technology could provide a valuable service by helping researchers to discover results faster by creating new hypotheses to test or finding possible adverse events in drug development in the early phases of basic research.

Related Reading:

Weeber M, et al. Online tools to support literature-based discovery in the life sciences. *Brief Bioinform* 2005; 6(3), 277-86. 

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[Back to top](#)

Health Information Literacy: rEvolution in Roles

Health Literacy – the term was bandied about during many sessions at MLA this year. Healthy People 2010 defines the term as “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services for

appropriate health decisions” <<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/pdf/Volume1/11HealthCom.pdf>>.

The keynote speaker for this session was Janet Ohene-Frempong, a founding member of the Clear Language Group, a consortium of nationally recognized health literacy experts, and President of JO Frempong & Associates. She began with a series of statistics to illustrate the extent of the problem and went on to explain that people with low health literacy levels use healthcare services more while benefiting less than those with higher levels of health literacy, thereby costing the system lots of money and costing the patients lots in terms of physical and mental health. Frempong showed clips from the AMA Foundation’s *Help Your Patients Understand* video, featuring real patients and healthcare providers <www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/9913.html>. This video was “rated by physicians as the most effective tool in raising awareness and sparking discussion about patients’ low health literacy skills” <www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/8035.html>.

The latest literacy survey showed that 43% of adults in the U.S. are marginal readers while only 15% read at the college level. Information overload contributes to healthy literacy problems as too much information is channeled, too rapidly, at too advanced levels. Janet mentioned several times that we, as medical librarians, are uniquely suited to lead the charge on health literacy. She noted several excellent resources, including the Council of State Governments (CGS) State Official’s Guide to Health Literacy <www.csg.org/pubs/Documents/SOG02HealthLiteracy.PDF>, based upon their 2002 National Survey on Health Literacy Initiatives; the California Health Literacy Initiative <cahealthliteracy.org/rc/1.html> with links to Plain Language Health Resources and the California Health Literacy Resource Center <cahealthliteracy.org/resource_center.html>; and the Partnership for Clear Health Communication-National Patient Safety Foundation joining forces to prepare a national action agenda on health literacy <www.p4chc.org/chc-joins-npsf.aspx>.

Panel members included two of our favorite local librarians! Andrea Kenyon, of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, spoke about Philly Health Info <www.phillyhealthinfo.org>, emphasizing the non-English resources, and described their experience with the Teen Health Summer Program in North Philadelphia. Micki McIntyre, of the Campus Library at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–Stratford, talked about continuing developments in the HealthyNJ website <www.healthynj.org>, where 60% of the entries have Spanish language equivalents. She also discussed her partnership with the Newark Public Library/La Sala Hispanoamerica.

Lynda Baker, a former nurse and current faculty member at Wayne State University, described her research with female sex workers in Detroit. Marge Kars, Bronson Health Sciences Library, Health Answers <www.bronsonhealth.com/HealthInfo/HealthAnswers/page2818.html.html> and the Bronson Referral and Information Center at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan, described the efforts to address the problem of health literacy at her institution. She is currently co-authoring a book entitled *The Librarian’s Role in Health Literacy* and chairs the Health Literacy Task Force at Bronson.

The session was followed by a lively question-and-answer period with participation from experienced consumer health librarians including Kathy Moeller, Peg Allen and Michele Spatz. 

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[Back to top](#)

Annual Dinner

The 56th Annual Philadelphia Regional MLA Chapter Dinner was held Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at the Independence Visitor Center at 6th and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Attendees had the opportunity to marvel at this magnificent building and to reconnect with their fellow chapter members. Tote bags and T-shirts with the chapter's new logo were available for sale.

Highlights of the evening included a preview of the chapter's new website, the presentation of awards, the recognition of outgoing members, and a few words from MLA National President Jean P. Shipman. A change to the by-laws to reduce retirees' dues to \$10 was voted on and accepted.

Gary Kaplan demonstrated the chapter's new website. The site uses WordPress 2 to create a blog, with links to the Membership, Communications, Professional Development, and other areas that were available on the old site. Details about WordPress 2 and blogs—and how you can contribute—are provided in the TechnoHumanist Corner column elsewhere in this issue.

The following awards were presented at the dinner:

The **Beatrice Davis Education Award** is awarded to an individual pursuing a career in health science librarianship. The purpose of this award is to foster and encourage library students to pursue educational activities related to health sciences librarianship. This award was presented to Christina Daley and Lydia Witman.

A **Certificate of Appreciation**, was presented to Esther Dell, a chapter member who has done extensive work for the organization.

An **Honorary Life Membership** was awarded to retiring member Mignon Adams, in recognition of her contributions to the chapter during her career.

The following board members were recognized for their contributions to the chapter:

- Nominating Chair/Parliamentarian Dan Kipnis (2006-2007)
- Secretary Barbara Cavanaugh (2005-2007)
- Membership Chair Gary Childs (2005-2007)
- Communications Chair Linda Katz (2005-2007)
- Benchmarking Chair Mary McCann (2005-2007)
- Government Relations Chair Maura Sostack, (2006-2007)

Election results were delivered at the meeting. Herewith are your 2007-2008 elected and appointed board members:

- Chair Jackie Knuckle–Chestnut Hill Hospital
- Chair Elect/Program Committee Chair P. J. Grier–Delaware Academy of Medicine
- Past Chair/Nominating Committee Chair Nina Long—Wistar Institute
- Secretary Rebecca Raszewski–Drexel University Health Sciences Libraries
- Treasurer Stephanie Ferretti–Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Chapter Council Representative Melanie Cedrone–University of Pennsylvania, Biomedical Library
- Chapter Council Alternate Barbara Henry–Christiana Care Health System
- CE Committee Chair Lynne Joshi–A.I. Dupont Hospital for Children, Delaware
- Government Relations Committee Chair Maura Sostack–Virtual Health System, New Jersey
- Communications Committee Chair Maura Sostack–Virtual Health System, New Jersey
- Membership Committee Chair Laura Koepfler–Magee Rehabilitation Hospital
- By-Laws Committee Chair Lenore Hardy– Drexel University Health Sciences Libraries
- Archives Committee Chair Joan McKenzie–College of Physicians of Philadelphia
- Development Coordinator Cynthia McClellan–University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
- AHIP Liaison Esther Dell–Pennsylvania State University/Hershey Medical Center
- *[At the board's July meeting, the position of webmaster was assigned to a board position. Webmaster Gary Kaplan—Thomas Jefferson University. –Ed.]*

After the awards ceremony and the recognition of outgoing board members, MLA National President Jean P. Shipman made a few remarks, expressing her appreciation to the chapter and to the Local Assistance Committee for their hard work in ensuring the success of MLA '07, scheduled to take place in Philadelphia the following month.

Joan McKenzie was our photographer for the evening. A few photos are printed here, but the full set of photos from the meeting, captioned “from jrmckenzie44,” can be found at the MLA Phil Flickr photo pool <www.flickr.com/groups/363552@N22/pool/>. Flickr is an online photo management and sharing application. A few folks in the photos remain anonymous, so if you would like to identify yourself or your friends, please feel free to click on the link for any individual photo and leave comments. 

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[Back to top](#)



Present and Past Board Members - Phila. Regional Chapter/MLA



From left: Kathy Broyles, Dave Williams, Phil & Yolanda Crespin, Maura Sostack, Mary Taylor, Suzanne Nagy, and Carol Jeuell



Sue Couch, Lenore Hardy, Rod MacNeil

MLAPhil.org Gets a Facelift

Our chapter officially launches its redesigned website this summer. I hope you'll find it showcases the vitality of the organization and its members. The new site runs on WordPress, the popular blogging platform (see this month's TechnoHumanist column), so it joins our newsletter and mailing list as platforms for *your* voice.

Site features include:

- A calendar of events (iCal compatible)
- Search box on every page
- Topical categories and month-by-month archives to aide navigation
- Password-protected posts for the membership directory, etc.
- RSS feeds to stay informed
- "Share-This" by email or social web
- Flickr badge to display our group photos (add yours to the pool!)

I encourage you to comment on posts—no account necessary. If you'd like to contribute original posts to the blog, click the "Register" button to get an account, then contact me to have it upgraded with posting privileges. The graphical interface makes posting easy with no special coding skills necessary. Write about relevant news items to our profession, events around the area, chapter programs or committee activities. 

Gary Kaplan,
gary.kaplan@jefferson.edu
MLA-Phil Webmaster

[Back to top](#)

Meet Your Fellow Chapter Member

Member Profile: Rebecca Raszewski



Present Professional Position: I have been the Reference Librarian at Hahnemann Library, Drexel University Health Sciences Libraries, since November, 2003.

Past Professional Experience: While getting my degree from Drexel, I worked at the Moore Library at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. I was in charge of circulation and interlibrary loan.

My current position is my first professional job.

What do you find most interesting about your work? The variety of people. Within a day, I may encounter undergraduate or graduate students in nursing, creative arts therapy, physician assistant, or medical school at the reference desk.

What qualities or traits do you find most helpful in your work? Being determined to find the answer or to point the patron in the right direction.

What do you enjoy doing "for fun"? I enjoy reading contemporary and historical fiction and nonfiction books about history, social sciences, and religion. One of the best books I've read so far this year is *The Book Thief*, a young adult novel set during World War II Germany. Unfortunately, I am a Philly sports fan so I mostly listen to or watch games whenever I can. I've been to two Phillies games so far this year and I wish I could go to more because they won when I was there. I wish I gave in to the temptation to write more and resisted the temptation to shop! I also enjoy going to musicals, movies, and museums.

Is there anything about you that others might be surprised to know? I've discovered that I like to cook. Within the last year, I've acquired about eight cookbooks. I like making desserts the most.

Why would you encourage members to become actively involved in the Philadelphia Regional Chapter? It's a good way to get to know other librarians from the area. 

Edited by Linda M.G. Katz
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[Back to top](#)

TechnoHumanist Corner

The Chronicle will be getting a new look as we transition to the new website. This new appearance is a product of a Web 2.0 tool--WordPress. Following Web 2.0 principles, it allows us to have a presence with you, while simultaneously inviting you to interact with us and other chapter members. WordPress is one of the most popular blog publishing systems in use. Since blog publishing systems were created to manage content, they are content management systems (CMS). However, WordPress is more flexible than most blog publishing systems in existence on the Web. It is used for creating both [blog <dtw2t.wordpress.com/>](http://dtw2t.wordpress.com/) and [non-blog sites <blog.pixelita.com/10/10-non-blog-wordpress-sites/>](http://blog.pixelita.com/10/10-non-blog-wordpress-sites/).

WordPress is written in PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP), and is backed by a MySQL database. Simplistic definitions for PHP and MySQL are that PHP is a programming language that allows you to build and execute web pages on the fly, and MySQL is a relational database system which uses Structured Query Language (SQL).

WordPress evolved from earlier open source blog publishing software known as b2 or cafelog, which was developed by Michel Valdrighi. Unlike proprietary software, which is owned and tightly controlled by a vendor, an advantage of open source software is that developers permit an unlimited number of unaffiliated people from all over the globe to work on their software. In June 2002, a talented 18-year-old, Matt Mullenweg, started

using b2 and occasionally contributed code towards the b2 project. Although by training, Mullenweg was a jazz saxophonist, he knew about code because his father was a programmer and he had grown up around computers. A few months after Mullenweg began using b2/cafelog, Michel Valdrighi announced he would no longer work on the b2/cafelog program. In early 2003, Mullenweg announced on his blog that he would take over development of b2, bring it up to current web standards, and make additional enhancements. He was soon joined by other talented programmers, and the result was WordPress. WordPress is based on b2/cafelog code, but it is distinct from b2. Although other programmers contribute to the code, Mullenweg is considered the developer of WordPress. WordPress is one of the most popular open source blog publishing programs today, and according to the March 5, 2007 online article of *PC World*, "[The 50 Most Important People on the Web](#)," the development of WordPress has made Matt Mullenweg the sixteenth most important person on the Web <www.pcworld.com/article/id,129301-page,2-c.techindustrytrends/article.html>.

WordPress exists in two varieties: WordPress.org and WordPress.com. The difference between the two is like eating at a fine French restaurant and deciding whether to choose your food from the à la carte menu or the prix fixe dinner menu. The à la carte menu may provide you with more variety, but be more expensive, while the prix fixe dinners may be cheaper, but your food choices are limited because there is no substitution. WordPress from the .org domain is similar to selecting from the à la carte menu. You download the free software, find a host server for it, and are responsible for spam filtering, security, archiving, upgrades, etc. However, since you control the code, you can determine how your blog looks. Software from WordPress.org requires that you have some tech savvy. On the other hand, if you use the WordPress.com software, it is easier to use. The software is already on their server and you host free of charge. They are responsible for upgrades, security, spam filtering, etc. Basic services and blogs are free, but you pay for an upgrade with premium features. On the down side, you cannot change the code. Also, since you cannot upload peripheral programs such as plug-ins, the look of your blog pages is limited. We are using the program from WordPress.org. We chose it because it was free, open source software, had features we liked, and our webmaster, Gary Kaplan, had some experience with WordPress.

Why is WordPress the choice of so many bloggers? First, of course, is that it is open source software and is free. When you have a popular program such as WordPress, you often have a lot of people contributing code to improve its functionality. The more functionality you provide, the more versatility you give to the users. For example, one type of add-on that gives WordPress functionality and versatility is a plug-in. Unlike other blogging software, WordPress has plug-ins that will let you integrate tag clouds, surveys, shopping carts, and even YouTube videos into your blog. Second, WordPress is customizable. You control the appearance and feel of your site. You can control the design of each section of your site by the use of themes. Themes are design templates, which consist of a stylesheet, some templates, and perhaps other add-ons such as widgets and plug-ins. You can create your own theme or download a free one. For some examples of themes, click on [Theme Viewer](http://themes.wordpress.net/) <<http://themes.wordpress.net/>>. WordPress themes are constantly being created by users. Another reason that users like WordPress

is that it is fairly easy to use. For instance, you can write your blog content in XHTML or text. If your content is written in text, WordPress translates the text into standards-compliant XHTML, including the correct punctuation. It also has a live preview function that continually updates and saves as you write. The preview function shows you the display the reader would see. Finally, WordPress makes it easy to set permissions, create and edit categories, moderate, and respond to and edit comments.

In summary, WordPress is a content management system that lets you focus on writing content rather than design while you create, organize, publish, and maintain your blog. If you have any comments or questions about this column, follow the directions for registration provided elsewhere in this issue and log into our blog. C U NX Time on the Web. 

Carlos Rodriguez
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[Back to top](#)

Member & Library News

Eric Delozier, Electronic Services Librarian, Penn State University, Harrisburg, has been appointed Chair of the Medical Library Association's Credentialing Committee for 2007-2008.

Dan Kipnis, Senior Education Services Librarian, and **Gary Kaplan**, Information Services Librarian, Scott Memorial Library, Thomas Jefferson University, presented a poster at MLA's Annual Meeting in May: "Broaden Your Reach: Instant Messaging from the Reference Desk."

Dan Kipnis, Senior Education Services Librarian, Scott Memorial Library, Thomas Jefferson University, along with Megan von Isenburg, Associate Director—Information Services, Medical Center Library, Duke University, Durham, NC, and Rebecca Pernell, Manager of Access Services, Scott Memorial Library, Thomas Jefferson University, presented a poster at MLA '07: "Changing With the Times? Library Associations and New Librarians."

The **Delaware Academy of Medicine** has received FY08 funding from the state of Delaware to deliver clinical information (medical, nursing, and allied health) to acute care facilities statewide. The \$400,000 award is an earnest beginning toward reducing the access barriers to clinical information that are experienced by smaller and community-based hospitals. The DelMIRA (DELMira Medical Information Resource Alliance) award impacts over 2,000 patient beds and close to 10,000 healthcare professionals. It will enable internet access to up-to-date patient education information that is not freely available on the web. In addition, most of the e-content vendors will provide their information to two federal health centers serving needy residents in Wilmington and Newark, at no additional cost.

Rachel Resnick, Research Librarian, Polisher Research Institute, Abramson Center for Jewish Life, North Wales, has received a Technology Improvement Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine for her project, "Polisher Research Institute Improvement of Knowledge-Based Information Access Services."

Maura Sostack, Librarian, Virtua West Jersey Hospital, Voorhees, gave a presentation on how to create a virtual public health record (PHR) at the 19th Annual Technology in Adult Education Conference, which was held May 10 at Temple University. Her presentation, entitled "Low Health Literacy and Personal Health Records: the Post-Katrina Push for All Americans to have a PHR," was geared toward those who work with low literacy clients. For more information, go to <www.philaliteracy.org/conference/sessions.html>.

Staff Changes:

Joanna Karpinski, who is completing an internship at the University of Pennsylvania's Biomedical Library, has been selected for the National Library of Medicine's Associate Fellowship Program; she will begin in September. She is a June 2007 graduate of Drexel University's College of Information Science and Technology (the iSchool).

Effective June 20, 2007, **Magee Rehabilitation Hospital**, Philadelphia, terminated all library services. The position of **Laura Koepfler**, Librarian, was eliminated, along with those of twenty-one other hospital staff. It is not clear what the disposition of the collection will be. 

Edited by Linda M.G. Katz
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[Back to top](#)

Calendar

October is National Medical Librarians Month

PALINET Workshops

Location: PALINET
3000 Market St., Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Registration & Information: (215) 382-7031 or
http://www.palinet.org/ep_workshops_results.aspx?Type=FTF
(can register for other locations as well)

Workshops at the Philadelphia site:

August 16, October 10: OCLC cataloging basics for new users of Connexion Client
September 27 - 28: Basic serials cataloging (SCCTP) Parts 1 & 2

October 9: Technology planning & project management for library managers
October 25: Catching your customers on the go: podcasting for the iPod Generation)
October 25 - 26: Basic subject cataloging using LCSH (ALCTS) Parts 1 & 2
November 1: Using CONTENTdm
November 2: Electronic Serials Cataloging (SCCTP)
November 14, 15: Stewardship of digital assets: sustaining digital collections, Parts 1 & 2

To register for online workshops:

http://www.palinet.org/ep_workshops_results.aspx?Type=Live

August 22 - 24

Competitive Intelligence Institute

Sponsor: Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals

Location: Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, CA

Information: http://members.scip.org/scriptcontent/BeWeb/events/eventdetail.cfm?&PRODUCT_MAJOR=INSTAUG07

Registration:

http://members.scip.org/scriptcontent/BeWeb/events/eventinfo.cfm?product_major=INSTAUG07

September 17 - 18

WebSearch 2007

Sponsor: Information Today, Inc.

Location: Washington Marriott, Washington DC

Information: <http://www.websearchu.com/dailyschedule.shtml>

Registration: <http://www.websearchu.com/registration.shtml>

October 9 – 12

MAC/ MLA 2007 Annual Meeting

“What’ll it be, HON? Libraries a la carte”

Sponsor: Mid-Atlantic Chapter, MLA

Location: Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards, Baltimore, MD

Information: <http://www.hshsl.umaryland.edu/mac2007/>

Registration: <http://www.hshsl.umaryland.edu/mac2007/registration.cfm>

October 14 – 17

2007 Annual Conference: “Soaring to New Heights”

Sponsor: Pennsylvania’s Libraries (PaLA)

Location: Penn State Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA

Information: <http://www.palibraries.org/events-conf/ann-conf.asp>

October 18

“Librarian Lead the Way to Long Life & Health”

Sponsor: New York – New Jersey Chapter/MLA

Location: Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

Information forthcoming: <http://www.nynjmla.org/annmtg2007.htm>

October 19 – 24

ASIS&T 2007: “Joint Research & Practice: Social Computing & Information Science”

Sponsor: American Society for Information Sciences & Technology

Location: Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, WI

Information: <http://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM07/>

Registration: <https://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM07/am07regform.php>

October 28 – 30

“NAHSL ’07: Building Bridges”

Sponsor: North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries, Inc., a chapter of the MLA

Location: Woodstock Inn, Woodstock, VT

Information: <http://www.nahsl.org/2007/>

Registration: <http://www.nahsl.org/2007/registration.html>

October 29 – 31

Internet Librarian 2007

Sponsor: Information Today, Inc.

Location: Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, CA

Information & Registration: <http://www.infotoday.com/il2007/>

November 10 - 14

AMIA 2007 Annual Symposium

“Biomedical & Health Informatics: From Foundations to Applications to Policy”

Sponsor: American Medical Informatics Association

Location: Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, Chicago, IL

Information & Registration: <http://www.amia.org/meetings/f07/>

Ongoing Educational Opportunities

DIALOG training workshops in the United States are now web-based.

For upcoming classes: http://training.dialog.com/sem_info/calendar/webtraining/#us

Health Sciences Libraries Consortium [HSLC]

Location: 3600 Market St., Suite 550, Philadelphia, PA

Information: (215) 222-1532 or http://www.hslc.org/classes_intro.html

Registration: <http://www.hslc.org/register.html>

NN/LM workshops

For locations, dates, topics & registration: <http://nmlm.gov/ntcc/classes/schedule.html>

Special Libraries Association online courses: <http://www.sla.org/calendar/> 

[Back to top](#)

Janet Clinton
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Treasurer's Report

The Philadelphia Regional Chapter/MLA Citizen Bank account, as of July 5, 2007, has a balance of \$10,760.49, with all transactions recorded in a Quicken database.

Funds invested in the PA Treasury currently total \$5,443.61. 

Stephanie Ferretti
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Treasurer, 2006-2008

[Back to top](#)

Development Report

2006-2007 was a very good year in terms of vendor support for our chapter. This fiscal year we received total contributions in the amount of \$3,500 from ten vendors (a drop from the \$5,150 received from fourteen vendors in FY 2005-2006). The donors are listed below, by tier.

Gold (\$500-\$749)

Elsevier Science

HSLC

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

Silver (\$300-\$499)

EBSCO Information Services

New England Journal of Medicine

Rittenhouse Book Distributors

STAT!Ref

Swets Information Services

Bronze (Up to \$299)

EXAM Master

PALINET

It is with such support that we are able to provide outstanding programs and continuing education opportunities for our members, and we should all thank these vendors for their ongoing partnership with our chapter. 

Cynthia McClellan
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[Back to top](#)

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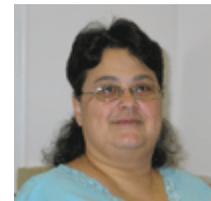


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The next deadline is November 7, for Vol. 25, No. 3 (Fall)

[Back to top](#)