



MIDDLE ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVE

Newsletter of the
National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Middle Atlantic Region
New York • New Jersey • Pennsylvania • Delaware

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RL/AL DIRECTORS AND AD HOC RAC MEETING

By Mary Mylenki, Associate Director

On February 25, 2000, David N. King, Director of the Regional Medical Library and of the Academy's Division of Information Management, welcomed directors of the Middle Atlantic Region's Resource and Area Libraries (RL/ALs), and an ad hoc Regional Advisory Committee to the New York Academy of Medicine. Since he joined the staff at the Academy last summer, this was Dr. King's first occasion to meet face to face with most of the directors and other representatives of the Region's constituencies.

Dr. King took this opportunity to speak about the RML program within our own region as well as the broader National Network of Libraries of Medicine and some of the differences found among the regions. He described the overall new program focus at the New York Academy of Medicine, and changes in the Division of Information Management, which include plans to add a research component to the previously existing structure.

In addition to an update of ongoing programs within the RML, the major topic of discussion was to consider potential new directions and new areas of endeavor based on the National Library of Medicine's goals for the next NN/LM five-year program period. These include public health and consumer health, and the information needs of both health professionals and the general public. Representatives of the three institutions with ongoing Public Health Outreach Subcontracts updated the group on progress in their respective programs: Gary Byrd from SUNY-Buffalo; Pat Mickelson from University of Pittsburgh; and Michele Shipley, University of Rochester. (The SUNY-Buffalo group will be presenting a paper about their project at the MLA Vancouver meeting.) A general focus of these projects is Internet training for public health professionals, and its use to obtain the information they need. All

the project participants have found great variations in Internet access. Many public health professionals have better access from their home computers than they do from their offices and clinics.

Following the discussion of the public health projects were reports of the ongoing regional activities and services, which were followed by a general discussion of local and regional trends and concerns. Regarding the current status of the regional network, Associate Director Mary Mylenki reported that in the past two years 24 members were lost through closings or mergers of hospitals, and current regional membership stands at 690. Internet connectivity among network members has increased and presently stands at 96% of members reporting that they have Internet connectivity. It should be noted, however, that the level of connectivity varies considerably.

Joanne Jahr, Network Programs Coordinator, illustrated the current beta version of the web-based DOCLINE. NLM has been very responsive to the requests and suggestions of network members, and DOCLINE continues to be adjusted and amended in line with these many helpful contributions. As of this writing, new DOCLINE is expected to be activated in the late spring. Ms. Jahr reported that the National Library of Medicine is closer to the implementation of ISO interlibrary loan protocol. This implementation will mean that libraries will be able to send ILL requests without mediation to and from a variety of ILL utilities, including NLM, OCLC, RLG, the National Library of Canada, and the British Library, without having to log on to more than one system. This capability will be eagerly welcomed by many librarians. (See "ISO ILL Protocol in Brief" elsewhere in this issue.)

Six subcontracts aimed at providing the public with electronic access to health information had recently been awarded within the region. All of these projects resulted from the NLM "Electronic Access to Health Information for the Public" RFP which was issued in the summer of 1999. Representatives of two of the recipient institutions, Pat Mickelson of University of Pittsburgh and Diane Shipley from SUNY-Syracuse, were present and briefly described their programs. Ms. Mylenki then summarized the remaining four projects. These all commenced on February 1; five

of them are of 18 months duration and one is one year only. (See Middle Atlantic Perspective, January-February 2000)

General discussion then turned to RML structure and services, in light of the imminent release of the RFP for the next NN/LM contract period. Reference was made to an "NLM paradigm change" from serving health professionals to serving the public. Access to literature remains a major concern, and despite digital access and other technological advances, traditional paper document delivery remains constant and a document delivery network continues to be needed. Some consideration was given to the possibility of examining a variety of electronic document delivery methods with the object of determining the most cost effective method, and recognition that licensing and copyright are as-yet-unresolved issues in the new world of electronic document delivery.

The RL/AL representatives were joined at lunch and for the afternoon by a number of invited guests from other types of libraries or library organizations within the region. The afternoon session was broadened to consider issues from a state or regional (or national) point of view, not simply the RML, with Dr. King leading a general discussion which drew on some of the issues and questions which had been raised in the morning. Along with electronic document delivery, the group saw licensing and copyright issues as extremely important, though some members characterized this as a state or a regional issue, but not an RML issue.

There was further discussion of ideas on potential consumer health subcontracts, who needs to be reached, and the methods that may be used to reach them. Among those mentioned were:

Gail Gill of the Delaware Academy of Medicine suggested senior citizens centers as well as churches and women's groups in minority areas. She has done some initial exploration and would like to pursue these possibilities. Judy Cohn of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey has a prototype web site for public libraries and is developing services in that direction. The Central New York 3Rs Council has had a project with community based organizations, and sees the need

for further links to local resources. Jane Fisher of the New York Public Library sees reaching out to CBOs as “where the action is” for public libraries and believes that a three-way partnership (NYPL, NYAM, and CBOs) could be very useful.

In terms of what was dubbed “technology facilitated instruction,” the group explored what might be a worthwhile focus for training that is neither tutorial nor traditional distance education. Training needs in general were discussed, with the suggestion of a central clearing house for training materials that might be web accessible and maintained by the RMLs.

The group was asked what they thought needed to be provided by the RML on its own web site. Responses included new NLM items with links, and an awareness of who the audience is. [Many of the topics raised are already being addressed in the new national NN/LM home page under development, which is expected to “go live” at about the time web-based DOCLINE becomes active.]

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH LAUNCHES “ClinicalTrials.gov”

Database gives public easy access to information about research studies

(Bethesda, MD) –The National Institutes of Health has launched the first phase of a consumer-friendly database, *ClinicalTrials.gov*, with information on more than 4,000 federal and private medical studies involving patients and others at more than 47,000 locations nationwide. The new database may be reached at <http://clinicaltrials.gov>

Clinical trials are medical research studies that seek to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new drugs, medical procedures, or other means of treating, diagnosing, or preventing diseases. This type of research helps investigators learn how different people respond to medications or other therapeutic approaches, and such investigations may lead to new or improved treatments. Trials are conducted when

there is no proven treatment for a specific disease, or to test which treatment works best for a particular disease or condition.

ClinicalTrials.gov provides patients, families, and members of the public easy access to information about the location of clinical trials; their design and purpose; criteria for participation; and, in many cases, further information about the disease and treatment under study. There are also contacts to individuals responsible for recruiting participants for each study.

Acting NIH Director Ruth L. Kirschstein, M.D., said, “Through this new database, NIH offers up-to-date information on promising patient-oriented research on hundreds of diseases and conditions. Most of the 4,000 clinical trials now in the database are funded by NIH Institutes and Centers, and result from a long, fruitful partnership between NIH and the American people who support and participate in our work.”

“If we are to continue making the giant strides in diagnosis, treatment, and cure of illness that marked the last century, we must have active participation in clinical trials by well-informed volunteers,” said Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., Director of NIH’s National Library of Medicine, which developed and administers the new database. “*ClinicalTrials.gov* is a resource that will benefit trial participants, researchers, health care professionals and, over time, the general public.”

Dr. Lindberg noted that *ClinicalTrials.gov* might also be reached through the National Library of Medicine’s Web site at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov> and through its consumer health information service, MEDLINEplus, at <http://medlineplus.gov>. MEDLINEplus has extensive links to information about 350 diseases and health conditions, much of it from the NIH Institutes and Centers.

ClinicalTrials.gov grew out of 1997 legislation that required the Department of Health and Human Services, through the NIH, to broaden the public’s access to information about clinical trials on a wide range of diseases by establishing a registry for both federally and privately funded trials “on drugs for serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions.”

(Section 113, "Information Program on Clinical Trials for Serious or Life-Threatening Diseases," Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997, Public Law 105-115.)

"The project is proceeding in several major phases," noted Alexa T. McCray, Ph.D., who directs the *ClinicalTrials.gov* project at the National Library of Medicine. "In the first phase we were interested in collecting information primarily about studies that are being funded by NIH, or that are being conducted right here on the NIH campus. With the release of *ClinicalTrials.gov*, the first phase is well under way. In the next phase we will include non-NIH sponsored trials from other Federal agencies and private industry."

ClinicalTrials.gov is a completely confidential Web site. No registration or personal identification of any kind is required. People who search the site will not be contacted by the sponsors of clinical trials or by anyone else.

* * * * *

Additional Information

1. Background information about clinical trials and specific information about the new database is available. The information, in the form of a "Question and Answer" document, may be requested by email from publicinfo@nlm.nih.gov or by phone from (301) 496-6308. It can also be found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nn.html>.
2. If you wish to keep up-to-date, NLM has made arrangements with the NIH to receive web-based clinical alerts as they are issued. Links to the alerts are on the NLM web site at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/alerts/clinical_alerts.html.
3. The NLM Files mailing list distributes weekly announcements of new and updated files on the NLM web site, including the most recent clinical trials as they are announced. Information on how to subscribe can be found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/nlmfiles-email.html>

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBER

The NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region is very pleased to welcome George D. Constance as our new Education Programs Coordinator. George has an MBA in management and recently received his MLS from Queens College. George has worked as a reference librarian at both Winthrop University Hospital and Long Island Jewish Hospital where he honed his skills teaching the use of PubMed and other medical databases. George was also an adjunct lecturer in Business Statistics at a local college. We believe that his experience and diverse background will allow for the continuing expansion of education and training opportunities for both librarians and health professionals within our region. George joined the staff at the end of February.

THE ISO ILL PROTOCOL IN BRIEF

By Joanne Jahr, Network Programs Coordinator

Why is the ISO/ILL Protocol important?

The ISO/ILL Protocol is important to us because NLM will be implementing it in conjunction with the new DOCLINE so those libraries making ILL requests will only have to log on to one system and users of otherwise incompatible systems will be able to communicate directly. Libraries will be able to send ILL requests without mediation to and from a variety of ILL utilities, including NLM, OCLC, RLG, the National Library of Canada, the British Library, et. al. What this means is that if you are logged on to e.g., RLN or OCLC, you will not have to log off and then log on to DOCLINE; you will be able to remain on one system and still send ILL requests to the other.

What are Protocols?

In the context of standards, protocols specify to a computer programmer how to solve problems related to automating cooperative activities—specifically content (the packet of information); process (the

actions taken upon receipt of a message); communication (message transport and message encoding); and measurement (that which defines all the data elements).

What is the ISO/ILL Protocol?

The ISO/ILL protocol deals with messages and data elements; communication over networks; interactions between lending partners; and management information. The suite of ILL applications standards is composed of three individual standards—ISO 10160, ISO 10161-1 and ISO-10161-2. The official introduction to the ISO Interlibrary Loan Application Standards states:

“As Open Systems Interconnection standards, the suite of Interlibrary Loan (ILL) application standards has been designed to allow, with a minimum of technical agreements outside the standards, the interconnection of computer systems from different manufacturers, under different management, of different levels of complexity, and of different ages. In addition, the protocol provides support for the control and management of ILL transactions for both lending and borrowing activities.”

Brief descriptions of each of the three standards in the suite can be found at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/iso/ill/standard.htm>

As more information becomes available it will be posted.

Additional references:

TLC ISO/ILL Protocol slide presentation at <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/PIR/tlc/sld001.htm>

“Making connections: an update on vendor implementations of the ILL protocol,” by Mary E. Jackson <http://www.arl.org/newsltr/194/connections.html>

GENTLE REMINDERS TO ALL DOCLINE LIBRARIES

By Joanne Jahr, Network Programs Coordinator

1. Be kind to your colleagues. In order for them to keep their record-keeping straight, if you send a rush request via fax to a specific library, **you MUST confirm receipt on DOCLINE** when you receive the material.
2. Reminder: The cost of ILLs filled by Document Delivery Providers in the Middle Atlantic Region increased to \$11 on January 1, 2000.
3. By now we hope you have gone into the new DOCLINE at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline> and updated your DOCUSER record. There are five tabs and 20 screens to access from the dropdown menus under each tab. It should take approximately 30 minutes to fill in all the information. Remember to click on the Save button at the bottom of each screen before moving on to the next screen. Once the new DOCLINE is activated, all borrowing and lending will be based on your DOCUSER record. Transactions may be delayed if the information is not correct.
4. Have you looked at the SERHOLD module and practice searching for a title; looked at the Requests module, with Borrow and Lend and practice entering requests under Borrow; updated your Routing Table? Please remember that real DOCLINE requests will still route on the routing table in the current DOCLINE system; any requests made in the beta versions are **practice only**. Check the Online Manual and FAQs under the HELP icon.

CORRECTION TO THE REGION 1 LIBRARY GROUPS

We inadvertently included HSLANJ as a Library Group in the last issue of the Middle Atlantic Perspective and omitted the New Jersey Health Sciences Network (NJHSN) We regret the error and thank Barbara Reich, immediate past president of HSLANJ, for the correction.

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010

By Peggy Falls, Outreach Programs Coordinator

The Partnerships for Health in the New Millennium: Launching Healthy People 2010 conference was held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, January 24th through 28th, 2000. Speakers including Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, Ph.D. and Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, Ph.D. introduced various sessions focusing on developing healthy communities, especially by concentrating on preventable causes of disease to reach this goal. Several sessions dealt with enhancing consumer access to health information and the role of libraries and librarians in this endeavor. The proceedings of the conference can be viewed at <http://www.health.gov> and then linking to Healthy People 2010.

DOCLINE PARTICIPANT ADDENDUM

New institutions activated in DOCLINE through February 29, 2000.

LIBID	INSTITUTION
NYUCSH (Old LIBID: 11901A)	Central Suffolk Hospital Riverhead, NY
NYUBOQ (Old LIBID: 14850E)	South Central Regional Library Council Ithaca, NY
NYUTRU (Old LIBID: 12983B)	Trudeau Institute, Inc. Saranac Lake, NY
PAUSRK (Old LIBID: 16057A)	Slippery Rock University Slippery Rock, PA

DOCLINE Participation, March 2000

In the past year DOCLINE participation among NN/LM members has continued to grow, though slowly. Numbers have actually dropped due to closings and mergers. Percent participation, however, has increased from 94% a year ago to 98% in March 2000.

	<u>Number of SERHOLD Libraries</u>	<u>No. of DOCLINE Participants</u>	<u>Percentage of Eligible Libraries Participating</u>
New York	238	232	97%
New Jersey	97	87	90%
Pennsylvania	189	182	96%
Delaware	12	12	100%
Total	536	513	98%

CONSUMER HEALTH POSITION OPEN

Position: Consumer Health Information Coordinator,
NN/LM, Middle Atlantic
Region

Available: Immediately

Responsibilities: Developing and enhancing the consumer health program within the Middle Atlantic Region (comprised of the states of NY, NJ, PA and DE) under the direction of the NN/LM MAR. Setting program goals and objectives and working with public libraries and health science libraries; training librarians to provide consumer health information services and promoting NLM's consumer health programs; liaison with Consumer Health Information subcontractors. The Coordinator works with other MAR staff to train librarians and health professionals on PubMed, MEDLINEplus, other Internet resources and new NLM systems; presents and exhibits at professional librarians' and health professionals' meetings; provides referrals and information about NLM services and products to librarians, consumers and health professionals. This position reports to the NN/LM MAR Associate Director.

Qualifications: Required: MLS from an ALA accredited or equivalent program; three to five years professional experience in a public or health sciences library; knowledge of NLM databases and products. Some travel required, must have valid driver's license; able to travel with computer equipment, responsible for set-up. Flexibility, excellent interpersonal, organizational, written and oral communications skills. Highly desirable: teaching/training experience; experience with consumer health print and electronic information sources; experience with microcomputers and developing web resources.

Salary: \$42,000 minimum, based on experience; excellent fringe benefits.

Send letter and resume to Mary Mylenki, Associate Director, NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region, The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029. (Fax 212-534-7042)

The New York Academy of Medicine is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1847 to enhance the health of the public. The Library maintains approximately 700,000 volumes, including 49,000 rare books, and 2,000 serial subscriptions. Current acquisitions cover all areas of biomedicine, but emphasize public health, medical education, health policy, the societal aspects of medicine and the history of medicine. The Library is the headquarters of the Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine as well as a general member of the Research Libraries Group. The New York Academy of Medicine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

CONSUMER HEALTH FOR KIDS

The NN/LM South Central Region has added a wonderful web page, "Consumer Health for Kids," at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/scr/conshea/chforkids.html>

It is an annotated listing, including URLs, of web-based consumer health topics developed for children and teens. Among them are sites devoted to understanding AIDS; a 'virtual tour' of procedures that happen in a hospital; cancer; diabetes; ADD and LD; physical disabilities; food and nutrition; disaster information; and much more.

NLM TECHNICAL BULLETIN 2000

The following articles appear in a recent issue of the *Technical Bulletin* available on the Web at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html>.

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New Books Feature added to New PubMed - e1

The NLM *Technical Bulletin's* New Look - e2

Technical Notes - e3

Switchover to New PubMed

Debut of ClinicalTrials.gov

2000 MLA Meeting Reminder and NLM

Invitation

New NIH Clinical Alerts Available on NLM

Web Site

Special Note on Changes to ACOUSTIC

NERVE in 2000 MeSH

Images from the History of Medicine -

Rescanned Images Released

2/24/2000

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