

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Middle Atlantic Region
Region 1

Quarterly Report
Second Quarter, Year 2 -- August - October 2002

New York Academy of Medicine

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A. NETWORK PROGRAMS

In October the RML was visited by a librarian from Oswestry, Shropshire, England. Marie Carter is the librarian at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. She received her hospital's Chairman's Award which provided funding for professional development or study tours. Ms. Carter was interested in learning about networking opportunities and shared information about library cooperation in Britain. Ms. Carter presented us with a delightful history of her hospital library which was established early in the 20th century.

Staff attended annual meetings of MLA chapters in October. The Upstate NY and Ontario Chapter met in Geneva, NY, and the New York-New Jersey chapter met in New York City for the first time in several years. RML updates were presented at both meetings.

Joanne Jahr, Network Programs Coordinator, attended a meeting of the METRO Hospital Library Services Program Advisory Council, on which she represents the RML.

Network Membership

Ms. Jahr responded to 240 telephone calls and an approximately equal number of e-mails.

Electronic Document Delivery (EDD) Project

The IT staff at the New York Academy of Medicine provided significant support in assisting the participating libraries to set up and begin testing their respective methods of EDD. September 3, 2002, was the official start date for the project. NYAM IT staff worked with SUNY-Buffalo on problems encountered in testing the use of TIFF files. A separate e-mail address was set up at the Academy for receipt of the data collection forms. The NYAM ILL staff had difficulty in setting up Prospero, but with the assistance of the new Academy IT director, it was finally up and running.

As part of the ongoing EDD testing, on October 23rd Ms. Jahr and Patrick Clancy, the Academy IT director, went to the Ehrman Library at NYU Medical Center to see how their proprietary electronic document delivery software performed in relation to Prospero. A week later they participated in a teleconference with Albany Medical Center to walk their staff through the Prospero setup. After much travail from July onward, Prospero was finally up and running by the end of October.

The data gathering portion of the project was to run for three months or until each institution had completed a total of 200 transactions with its program partners and end users.

DOCLINE/Document Delivery

The use of FreeShare was promoted to Network members. Many libraries in both Regions 1 and 8 are already benefitting from the BHSL Network, a hierarchical, reciprocal network of consortia, so FreeShare did not present as many immediate and obvious advantages as in other regions. However, it is still a very nice add-on for many, and quite a few members are taking advantage of it.

During summer “quiet time” Ms. Jahr ordered two SERHOLD reports on behalf of the libraries in the region – “Holdings out of Publication Date” and “Level Two Holdings Report” – and began sending e-mails to the librarians with their individual lists, to encourage them to correct their SERHOLD records.

She deactivated and reactivated 109 DOCLINE accounts and approved 116 routing tables.

Resource Libraries

Ms. Jahr regularly monitors the quarterly DOCLINE statistics for the Resource Libraries and contacts those whose fill rates are significantly below the minimum expected. Sometimes a specific condition or issue can be identified and the problem quickly rectified. In some instances more investigation is required before the problem can be identified and resolved.

Communications

The July-August June issue of the newsletter, *Middle Atlantic Perspective*, was promoted to the web site on August 9 and announced via the regional listserv MARL.

Twenty-seven messages were posted to the listserv during the quarter.

Classes Taught

October 2; R. Allard; Keeping up with PubMed; Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA; two sessions, 14 and 18 librarians, respectively. (Reporting form attached Appendix A.)

Grant Programs

The RML publicized NLM’s new funding opportunities for Internet Access to Digital Libraries, and the Small Grant Program for new research projects in areas of high relevance to the mission of the NLM.

B. OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Outreach Funding Opportunities

In August the NN/LM publicized the new Request for Proposals for Access to Electronic Health Information projects, to focus on improving access to electronic health information for such groups and organizations as consumers, underserved and minority health care professionals, public health workers, public libraries, and community-based and faith-based organizations. The proposal deadline was October 1. The region subsequently received 15 applications.

Health Professionals

In September Peggy Falls, Outreach Coordinator, made another swing through the far upstate New York Adirondack region. On the 17th she accompanied the Circuit Librarian from the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital to the Alice Hyde Hospital in Malone, NY. This hospital provides an example of problems encountered in rural (and sometimes not-so-rural) areas. The library is very small with outdated materials and a computer donated by the RML several years earlier. Because the hospital administrators fear that staff would use the Internet inappropriately, the hospital computers run on a shared DSL line. A PubMed search in response to a question from one of the nursing staff regarding pain management encountered numerous glitches, and it is understandable that staff would not attempt to search for information in this environment. It is an unfortunate fact that this hospital could be considered “connected” to the Internet.

On September 18, at the request of the library manager, Linda Auclair, Ms. Falls demonstrated PubMed to the staff of the Trudeau Institute in Saranac Lake, NY. Ms. Auclair wanted a comparison with PubMed in response to a staff request that the library purchase OVID. Ms. Falls had been given specific questions from the staff in advance and was able to address these in the course of the demo. The researchers present found that the Preview/Index, Cubby and History functions filled their need. (Outreach Reporting Form attached as Appendix B.)

On October 4, Rhonda Allard presented an introductory PubMed session to the 70 freshman students at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education with a live Internet connection for demonstration purposes. This introductory class was followed by six small-group lab sessions held on October 25, 28, and 30. In the lab sessions the students learned to use PubMed to do research for a class project. In addition to PubMed, they were also introduced to other NLM resources such as MEDLINEplus and Haz-Map. (Outreach Reporting Forms attached as Appendix C.)

Consumer Health

Network members with consumer health collections were encouraged to link their web sites to MEDLINEplus, via a newsletter article describing the advantages.

Rhonda Allard met with Marose Quigoe, CHOICES librarian at NY Public Library, to discuss staff training.

Ms. Allard taught the following classes:

August 20-21, National Library of Medicine Web Resources; sponsored by the Allegheny County Library System, held at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Two classes were presented with 36 and 30 attendees respectively. Outreach report forms attached, Appendix D.

August 30 and September 20, Consumer Health Resources at the National Library of Medicine; sponsored by CHOICES, Bronx, held at West Farms Branch of the NYPL, Bronx NY; there were six attendees at each of the two sessions. Outreach report forms attached, Appendix E.

September 26, Consumer Health Resources at the National Library of Medicine; Bergen County Department of Health Services, Paramus, NJ; 17 attendees. This class was well received and as a result, the library became an Affiliate member of the NN/LM. Outreach report form attached, Appendix F.

At the meeting of the UNYOC-MLA Chapter in Geneva, NY, Ms. Allard presented Teaching Internet Consumer Health to Healthcare Professionals, for 4 MLA CE credits. There were 18 attendees; outreach report form attached, Appendix G.

October 17, Consumer Health Resources at the National Library of Medicine; Hunterdon Public Health Nursing & Education, Flemington, NJ; four nurses. This group was previously unaware of NLM resources. Outreach report form attached, Appendix H.

Public Health

Ms. Mylenki attended the meeting of the Steering Committee for Partners in Information Access for Public Health Workers, which took place at NLM on October 3.

Technology Awareness

On October 3, 2002, Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center Library, SUNY Stony Brook, NY, hosted a one-day forum entitled "Evidence-Based Medicine Tools & Technology Symposium." The goal of this program was to educate primary care healthcare providers about the availability and application of information technologies in support of evidence-based patient management. A program report is attached as Appendix I.

The Rochester Regional Library Council presented a technology awareness program entitled "Consumer Health Information Fairs and Seminar." These programs were conducted at two branches of the Rochester Public Library on October 5 and 22. A copy of the final report is attached as Appendix J.

Exhibits

Staff exhibited at three professional meetings.

August 7-11, American Association of Diabetes Educators, Philadelphia, PA; P. Falls

September 21-26, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Philadelphia, PA; P. Falls and J. Jahr

October 20-22, American Dietetic Association Food & Nutrition Conference, Philadelphia, PA;

P. Falls (Exhibit reports appear in Appendix K.)

C. STAFF ACTIVITIES

M. Rockoff and **R. Allard** attended orientation for new RML staff at NLM, September 5-6.

P. Falls assisted with registration and hospitality at the Academy's September 9 conference, "One Year After 9/11: What Have We Learned and Where do We Go From Here?"

Ms. Falls served as Conference Planning Chair for the UNYOC meeting which was held in Geneva, NY.

George Constance resigned his position in August; he left librarianship to become a public school teacher.

G. Constance had been performing duties of two positions, Education Coordinator and Technical Applications person as well. The decision was made that both these positions should now be fully staffed with a dedicated individual. Recruiting began immediately upon Mr. Constance's departure.

Meetings/Classes Attended

UNYOC MLA chapter meeting, Geneva, NY, October 9-11 - M. Mylenki, P. Falls, J. Jahr, R. Allard. Ms. Jahr served as Parliamentarian at this meeting.

NY-NJ MLA chapter meeting, New York, NY, October 15 - M. Mylenki, P. Falls, J. Jahr, R. Allard, M. Rockoff