



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



A belated Happy New Year! I am truly honored to be your new president, and I look forward to working with all of you in 2010. In addition, please join me in wishing Sylvia McAphee best of luck in planning the 2010 Annual Meeting, in her role as ALHeLA's new Vice President/President-Elect.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, I want to express my gratitude to all who participated in the 2009 Annual Meeting in Mobile this past September. In particular, I want to thank Nelle Williams, Lee Vucovich, Judy Burnham, and Jie Li for their invaluable advice and mentoring. Also, I was truly appreciative of the excellent vendor support ALHeLA received.

There were twenty registrants for the Annual Meeting, a very respectable number given the current lack of travel funding. Nine people attended the CE course taught by Sheila Snow-Croft, while ten people attended the CE class taught by Dale Prince. As usual, both Sheila and Dale did an excellent job of presenting. In addition, Anne Glenzer's speech and the panel discussion that followed were both thought-provoking and well received. [And the food: wasn't it wonderful?]

Now back to the present: the ALHeLA Executive Committee will soon meet to discuss items of concern for the upcoming year. We plan to hold more of our meetings in a virtual format, given the success of the board meeting held in July, 2009, in which a few of us met "in-person" in Montgomery while the rest joined from around the state, using voxli.com [for audio] and drop.io [for document sharing]. Kudos to Katy Allen, Paul Mussleman, and Andrea Wright for all their work in making the virtual meeting a reality. Although I enjoy the social interaction with other ALHeLA members at "in-person" meetings, virtual meetings represent

a major savings in travel expense and time, and hopefully, we will never have to cancel a meeting [as we did last spring] because of bad weather.

The Executive Committee consists of the following officers [in addition to me, your humble President]: Nelle Williams as Past-President, Sylvia McAphee as Vice President/President-Elect, Katy Allen as Secretary, and Nicole Mitchell as Treasurer. The three Members-at-Large are Margaret Alexander, Inga Moten, and Andrea Wright. In addition, committee chairs include Lee Clemans-Taylor [Bylaws/Handbook], Robert Britton [Continuing Education], Jana Slay [Directory], Kay Hogan Smith [Liaison], Errica Evans [Membership], Paul Mussleman [*Synapse* editor], Justin Robertson/Andrea Wright [Web Co-coordinators], and Lisa Ennis [List Moderator].

And now to news of the ALHeLA family. First, congratulations to Jana and Michael Slay on their birth of their son, Patrick Aidan Slay, born on October 21, 2009. Also, congratulations to Jason Baker, on his recent move to the Trussville Public Library. However, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Paul May this past Fall. Although not a librarian, Paul was a strong supporter of ALHeLA and served on the ALHeLA Executive Committee for several years. He was employed by the Alabama State Health Planning and Development Agency at the time of his death. In his honor, the ALHeLA Executive Committee made a memorial donation of \$25.

In closing, please inform me of any topics or ideas that you would like to submit for discussion in upcoming Executive Committee meetings. And finally, since Mardi Gras is just around the corner, let me conclude by saying "*Laissez les bon temps rouler!!*"

Trey Lemley
President



Alabama Health Libraries Association 2009 Executive Committee

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News from Around the State

USA Biomedical Library Receives Awards

The USA Biomedical Library was distinguished with awards at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association in Memphis, Tennessee last October, 2009:

- The Biomedical Library won the 2009 Distinguished Library Award from CONBLS (Consortium of Southern Biomedical Libraries) for their participation in the STARS and STRIPES program! These enrichment programs are managed through the University of South Alabama's Center for Healthy Communities' Center for Excellence and are funded through a grant from the National Center on Minority and Health Disparities. Students from Mobile County Public School System who demonstrate an interest in math and science and a desire to become health care providers compete for an opportunity to participate in the summer programs. This is the second year the USA Biomedical Library has participated.
- Judy Burnham and the University of South Alabama College of Allied Health's Department of Physical Therapy won first place in the research poster competition for their poster *Comparing and Contrasting Physical Therapy-Related Article Tags from a Social Bookmarking Site to Library Database Terminology* Author/s: D. Fell, Department of Physical Therapy; J. Burnham, MLS, Biomedical Library; K. Adams, DPT, recent graduate of DPT program; K. Greathouse, DPT, recent graduate of DPT program.
- Geneva Staggs received a certificate awarding her a Level II Designation in the *Consumer Health Information Specialization Program* from the Medical Library Association. Consumer health information is information on health and medical topics provided in response to requests from the general public, including patients and their families. This achievement represents the completion of 24 hours of study in this area.

In other news at USA:

Judy Burnham has received funding from the National Library of Medicine for her proposal *Empowering Health Ministry Leaders*, an outreach project which will collaborate with the University of South Alabama (USA) Center for Health Communities (CHC) to provide train-the-trainer sessions for Community Health Advocates and for targeted health ministry leaders on accessing consumer health information. The project will also provide technology tools (laptops, printers, jump drives) and health check tools (and any needed training on those tools) for the targeted health ministry leaders to monitor the health of their congregations and to encourage members of the congregations to develop a personal health record (PHR) using free Internet PHR tools. Other goals of the project are to provide technology and technology training for leaders of health ministry for improved communication, to work with the USA CHC and develop a speakers' bureau on health related topics, and to host health fairs for congregations. The targeted health ministry leaders were selected from health ministries in local urban African American churches in the 36617, 36610 and 36603 zip codes of Mobile County.

News from Around the State (cont.)

From the University of Alabama:

Sybil H. Bullock, Adjunct Professor and Intern Coordinator at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, and Medical Library Consultant for St. Vincent's Health System recently had the following article published:

Maietta, Carol and Bullock, Sybil H. "A Value-Added Partnership between a Chief Learning Officer and a Medical Librarian" Medical Reference Services Quarterly 28 no 4: 375-384 October-Dec 2009.

From UAB:

Elizabeth R. Lorbeer, as Principal Investigator, was awarded the Express Library Digitization Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region, worth \$3,899, effective 10/1/09-9/30/10. The project goals and objectives include:

1. Record and podcast the UAB Reynolds Historical Library lectures on the history of medicine and medical humanities.
2. Digitize three discrete collections, two of which will form part of a joint project with the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Public Health and the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Also from UAB:

Nicole Mitchell and Liz Lorbeer recently had the following article published:

Mitchell, N. & Lorbeer, E.R. (2009). Building Relevant and Sustainable Collections. Serials Librarian. 57 (4), 327-333.

How Are Health Sciences Libraries Managing Changes In Technology and/or Digital Content?

Adelia Grabowsky

Robert Avant Award Student Essay

Technology is one of the ways by which the human environment undergoes change. It can provide tools or processes to accomplish new tasks or to better accomplish existing tasks. Libraries, especially those serving areas like health care, have to keep up with technological changes or they will be left behind, stagnant and useless to those who are searching for innovation to make their lives easier, more competent or more efficient. A survey of selected health science libraries shows that they seem to be aware of this need and are attempting to put new technologies to use in order to better serve their patrons. From e-books to wikis to online tutorials and more, it seems that every form of new technology is being used by at least a few health science libraries and many of them are being used by most of the libraries examined.

Robert Avant Award Student Essay (cont.)

One of the more common responses to changing digital content is an increasing collection of e-books in addition to or instead of print, especially for reference type information. E-books provide two advantages to health care students and professionals. With the use of computers or hand-held devices, they provide point-of-care access to the information contained in the book along with the capability of searching by every word. The Health Sciences Library at the University of Pittsburgh has gone beyond just collecting and making available e-books. They have developed (with Vivisimo, Inc.) a federated searching tool that allows full-text searching across more than a thousand health and biomedical science e-books at one time. Their goal in doing so was to provide the ability to “drill down” to specific answers to specific questions while compensating for the sometimes context-specific nature of medical terminology. The University of South Alabama is currently trying out Webfeat for a similar purpose, searching all e-books from a single place no matter how the e-books are supplied.

Hand-held devices or smart phones such as Palm Pilots, Blackberries and I-Phones/ I-Pod Touches are technologies which are becoming commonplace in health care schools. More and more of these schools are requiring students to have such a device available during clinic hours. Health sciences libraries are responding to this burgeoning use in several ways. Some libraries like the Biomedical Library at the University of South Alabama offer links to PubMed and Medline in hand-held format. Others like The Medical College of Wisconsin offer links to numerous free or “for purchase” applications for various phone/device types plus tutorials, FAQ’s, and tips for using these devices more effectively. The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at The University of Iowa has one-to-one workshops for PDA/Wireless Device support available on Friday afternoons while Shiffman Medical Library at Wayne State University offers drop-in support for mobile devices during regular business hours.

RSS feeds are a fairly new and expanding technology offered by journals, news agencies and others to help users stay “up-to-date” by receiving notice when new information becomes available. Many libraries have developed guides or tutorials to help patrons learn to set up feeds but some go a step further. Hardin Library at The University of Iowa has a link to the medicine and health portion of EurekAlert, an online global news service operated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Users can sign up to receive breaking news about medical and health issues. The Alaska Medical Library offers two alert programs which can consolidate information from more than one database. AutoAlert allows patrons to create a search strategy for individual topics and receive notice of new output on the topic by e-mail each week. Users can also elect to have the table of contents of specified journals e-mailed to them when new issues come out and then request copies of articles.

Several libraries are taking advantage of wiki technology. The Health Sciences Library at the University of Buffalo has a wiki farm; they are developing wiki-based projects for use by health care students in the form of library guides, course guides and workshops. WikiTestPrep for the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination) is a wiki which has been developed by students at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and is linked from the Hollis Health Science Library’s website. It contains a question bank put together by experienced students familiar with the exam.

Robert Avant Award Student Essay (cont.)

USA's Biomedical Library has a Medical Matters Wiki that contains information on medical, nursing and allied health specialties and on medical reference.

Libraries have traditionally held workshops or instructional sessions for patrons to increase their information literacy. Health science libraries are continuing this service but using new technologies to create alternatives to face-to-face instruction. Many libraries are now creating online tutorials which have some advantages over traditional instruction, primarily in that they are available to users 24 hours a day/7 days a week and that they can be played as many times as needed for clarification or extra help. Some libraries are offering audio podcasts that can be downloaded to computers or personal audio players to be listened to as needed. The Health Sciences Library at the University of Hawaii at Manoa offers audio podcasts that cover a wide variety of topics including information for medical students and drug safety as well as information on medical specialties. The University of Tennessee offers podcasts that summarize library workshops and orientations and can be listened to in less than five minutes. Libraries are also using software like Camtasia or Adobe Captivate to add video to tutorials which is helpful especially for instruction on database searching. The Countway Library of Medicine has created video tutorials to instruct students in subjects including the use of medical subject headings and how to search PubMed. The Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library at the Medical College of Georgia has created video tutorials on searching various medical databases and on using library resources and clinical care tools and also offers links to audio podcasts from specific medical journals or on subject specialties.

It is important that health care professionals continue life-long learning in order to remain current in their fields so that patients get the best care possible. It follows that part of a health care student's education should include instruction in ways to continue life-long learning. Health science libraries have a part to play in that process. Not only should libraries be using new technologies like wikis to reach out to patrons but they should also be a resource for health care students and professionals to learn how to effectively use new technologies. Whether libraries are exploring new technology to accomplish new tasks (developing a tool to search an entire e-book collection) or new technology to more effectively accomplish an existing task (offer library instruction with online tutorials), the important thing is that they are continually exploring how changes in technology and digital content can be used to best advantage in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge to all patrons.

Health Science Libraries Reviewed

Alaska Medical Library. Unit of the Consortium Library at The University of Alaska, Anchorage
<http://www.consortiumlibrary.org/aml/>

Countway Library of Medicine: An Alliance of the Boston Medical Library and Harvard Medical School
<http://www.countway.harvard.edu/index.html>

Robert Avant Award Student Essay (cont.)

Health Science Libraries Reviewed (cont.)

HAM-TMC Library. Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library
<http://www.library.tmc.edu/>

Hardin Library for the Health Sciences. The University of Iowa
<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/>

Health Sciences Library. University of Buffalo
<http://library.buffalo.edu/hsl/>

Health Sciences Library. University of Hawaii at Manoa
<http://www.hawaii.edu/hslib/>

Health Sciences Library System: Serving the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC
<http://www.hsls.pitt.edu>

Henry Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library.
<http://www.med.yale.edu/library/>

Hollis Health Sciences Library. Winthrop University Hospital
<http://www.winthrop.org/departments/education/hollis/>

Library and Technology. The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
<http://www.utmem.edu/libraryandtech/>

MCW Libraries. The Medical College of Wisconsin
<http://www.mcw.edu/mcwlibraries.htm>

NYU Health Science Libraries.
<http://hsl.med.nyu.edu/>

Robert B. Greenblatt, M. D. Library. Medical College of Georgia
<http://www.lib.mcg.edu/index.php>

Shiffman Medical Library. Wayne State University
<http://www.lib.wayne.edu/shiffman/>

Membership News

Happy New Year ALHeLA Members!

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone but January 1st brought in a new year and a new decade. I'm sure we are all excited about the new opportunities that await us. This past decade many of our libraries dealt with significant challenges related to the economy. Budget shortfalls forced us to cut resources and staffing but we still managed to provide quality service to our clientele. Many of our success stories were made possible through the collaborative efforts presented through organizational channels such as ALHeLA, which is what ALHeLA was founded upon - sharing of ideas, experiences, and talents. An active membership is advantageous to us as individuals and to our institutions. Please take a few moments to consider renewing or establishing membership. Tangible benefits associated with an ALHeLA membership include:

- Continuing Education Courses
- Networking Opportunities
- Training Opportunities
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Internet Discussion List

There are two classes of membership, which include regular and/or student membership. The dues associated with each class covers a 12 month calendar year.

- Regular membership: \$15 membership fee
- Student membership: \$5 membership fee

To renew or establish your membership, complete the membership form which is available at <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/alhela/membershipform.pdf> and submit payment via check to:

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Thanks in advance for your continued support and participation within ALHeLA.

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ALHeLA Disaster Preparedness Virtual Meeting

On January 25, 2010, a disaster preparedness virtual meeting was held at 9:30 am. Beverly Rossini, Geneva Staggs, Judy Burnham, Jie Li, Nelle Williams, Michael Fitts, Lisa Ennis, Tracy Powell, Margret Alexander, Inga Moten, from ALHeLA libraries and Beth Wescott from NNLM SE/A, Dan Wilson, Coordinator of NN/LM National Emergency Preparedness Plan, and Jim Smith from the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) attended the meeting at Voxli.com/disaterprep. Representatives from USA, UAB, UA, Tuskegee, and Alabama State reported their disaster preparedness pocket plan progress and other disaster preparedness activities. Interlibrary loan back up was discussed at the meeting. Lisa Ennis reported that a wiki is in the planning to host resources for all ALHeLA member libraries. This will provide a backup for ALHeLA libraries when their websites cannot be accessed during emergency or disaster. Jie talked about the fact that when there is a pandemic, ALHeLA needs to work with APLS to distribute information to the general public. Dan Wilson uploaded tabletop exercise files to the drop.io box. ALHeLA member libraries may download the files to modify for their own libraries and to assess and practice the disaster preparedness exercises. Beth Wescott announced that she will retire February 1 and her replacement is PJ Grier. He will do EFTS, DOCLINE, Loansome Doc, Emergency Prep, membership and SEA Currents. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

ALHeLA Executive Meeting
July 8, 2009

Troy University at Montgomery & virtually

Present (in-person in Montgomery, AL): Nelle Williams (President), Katy Allen, Andrea Wright, Margaret Alexander, Justin Robertson.

Present (virtually): Jie Li, Robert Britton, Trey Lemley, Lee Vuovich, Kay Hogan-Smith, Paul Mussleman, Errica Evans. ***

*** This was the first trial run for virtual meetings. Katy Allen, Paul Mussleman and Andrea Wright made the recommendation to the Executive committee to use drop.io as a document reserve and voxli as a VOIP application. For that reason, there was virtual attendance.

Nelle Williams called the meeting to order at 10:38 am.

Justin Robertson motioned to approve the April 24, 2009 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: (Nicole Mitchell was not present, but had submitted a report)

The account submitted was up-to-date. There is a healthy balance of \$4550.69. Ms. Williams commented on the fact that there had been approximately \$6200 since November 2008 channeled through ALHeLA to grant awardees.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Bylaws: (Lee Clemans-Taylor was not present and no report was submitted)

Ms. Williams reminded members that Ms. Clemans-Taylor is currently investigating other examples of bylaws for similar organizations in order to give ALHeLA models as the organization determines the best course of action to adjust the current bylaws.

Directory: (Jana Slay was not present and no report was submitted)

Ms. Williams reminded the members that this is an off-year for the directory, given its publication/update schedule.

Liaison: Kay Hogan Smith (virtual attendance)

Ms. Hogan-Smith reported that there has been significant interest in applying for grant funds. She mentioned that Fiesta, a celebration of Hispanic culture and heritage, in October and a gerontology health fair were two very good outreach events.

Judy Burnham will also be exhibiting soon with Lee Vucovich, funded with grant monies.

Jie Li also applied for and was granted a \$6000 award from the “express planning and assessment award” to promote the library’s role in disaster preparedness, especially service continuity. Ms. Li has planned her event to coincide with ALHeLA’s annual meeting. The dates are September 15-16, 2009. Among the invited guests are academic librarians, hospital librarians, and representatives from hospitals without libraries. Ms. Hogan-Smith can help Ms. Li with hospital contacts. Lee Vucovich suggested that public libraries also be invited, and it is also the members’ understanding that the public libraries are organized so that one representative for this effort can be appointed. Meeting details are still being decided. Ms. Hogan-Smith will also be working to integrate HealthInfoNet as a state partner in disaster preparedness in the Fall with the help of interns. With \$1800 left from last Fall, Ms. Hogan-Smith bought HealthInfoNet water bottles for promotional items. She is also still exploring having an ALHeLA panel made to exhibit alongside with HealthInfoNet at events.

Membership: Errica Evans (virtual attendance)

Ms. Evans submitted a list of current members. She is working on creating a comprehensive members list. She asked the members for help in finding a more complete list than what she has so far found. Ms. Williams suggested that Jana Slay, as the member who works on the directory, might have a good list. Ms. Williams will also check her own files for Ms. Evans. After collecting member names for the list, Ms. Evans will generate a “paid” or “un-paid” list. Ms. Evans also suggested sending this list to the listserv for members input, especially in terms of overlooked members. Approaching this issue on an institutional basis is also a possibility.

Synapse: Paul Mussleman (virtual attendance)

Mr. Mussleman reports that everything is progressing according to the deadline. He stated that University of South Alabama is especially good at submitting for this issue. The next issue is set to be announced on September 16th to coincide with the annual meeting. Mr. Mussleman asked whether that was a good idea, considering its potential for the meeting’s promotion. The membership suggested that perhaps moving Synapse’s release date up before the meeting’s registration closes might be ideal. However, the registration deadline was not set at that time. Mr. Mussleman also asked whether scholarship content might be a part of the upcoming Synapse. If so, he will need that information, plus any meeting information as well as approved minutes.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Submissions can be sent to either Paul Mussleman or Jason Baker.

Web Coordinator: Justin Robertson (in-person)

Justin Robertson announced that Andrea Wright was also helping him with the website and between them developments might happen in a timely manner. He reported that the 2009 annual meeting information was not yet posted. Once he has the content, it will go up immediately. He is still very interested in re-designing the website at some point. For this process, he would like to collect feedback and requested that members begin to think about the possibilities.

Listserv: (Lisa Ennis was not present.)

The reported status was that the listserv is okay.

Continuing Education: Robert Britton (virtual attendance)

Mr. Britton reported that there are two classes scheduled for the annual meeting: The Ropes: Planning Instruction for the Adult Learner, led by J. Dale Prince of the SEA NN/LM, on September 17th and Grants and Proposals Writing, led by Sheila Snow-Croft of the SEA NN/LM, on September 16th. Lunch is provided for the Ropes session participants. There is no charge to ALHeLA for these courses aside from any facilities fees there might be.

Members-At-Large: Andrea Wright and Margaret Alexander (in-person); Inga Moten (not present)

The 3 members-at-large had already met to discuss their duties. Andrea Wright reported that the group was updating the application form and changing some questions on the Robert Avant Student Grant. The group members were waiting for confirmed dates for the annual meeting in order to establish a submission deadline.

Old Business:

Virtual Meetings: During the meeting, most participants thought it was going well. Only UAB Huntsville Campus is blocked from the chosen services (drop.io and voxli). Some commented that it might be better if video was also a part of the virtual meeting equation. General consensus confirms that this is a worthwhile counter to having to travel. It was also suggested that institutions that block the web services chosen for this could perhaps go to a public computer or to a home computer for the meeting. Several members suggested HealthInfoNet's state wide system (Polycom, or teleconferencing) as a possibility. This option would require members to have access to a teleconferencing setup so that each site could link up. Paul May in Montgomery may have access to state teleconferencing sites. Paul Mussleman would want to be sure that these web services are in fact blocked by their institutions ensuring it is not user error before ruling them out as possibilities. Further comment included the ease of web services opposed to teleconferencing which would involve location of equipment, access to equipment, scheduling and certain configuration knowledge along with limited site connection. It might be beneficial for the group to poll the members who did not attend to find out why they did not attend, especially if that reason included technical issues for virtual attendance. The trial was well received.

Annual Meeting: Trey Lemley (virtual attendance)

Mr. Lemley announced the meeting registration deadline was September 1st. The close date for registration will be shortly after the Hampton Inn hotel room rate ends; people will still be

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

able to get it with a timely registration. The rate is \$99 for a king or 2 queens sized beds plus complimentary breakfast and wi-fi access. Members-At-Large should reserve the student award winner's room as soon as possible to avoid having the rate elapse before announcing a winner. Hampton Inn can also accommodate our Continuing Education sessions. Fees would be \$250/half day and \$500/whole day. With 20 booked rooms at the meeting rate the meeting rooms will be free; otherwise, the fees stand. A member made the suggestion that Mr. Lemley amend the dates of the meeting to include the disaster preparedness event as well, which will make 20 rooms a possibility. Given those possibilities, the members decided Hampton Inn will host the CE sessions as well. Members were also interested in a guided tour of USA's library, to which Mr. Lemley said that could be arranged. He requested feedback about the fee schedule especially about the Banquet and the luncheon. Because of the Alabama state per diem for state employees, members suggested that all food should be included in the meeting fee.

New Business:

ALHeLA Achievement Award: Nelle Williams asked the members if there was need to give one. She was also curious about the Bylaws around this award and what procedure should be followed to award it. It was generally held that it was too late this year to follow the proscribed procedure and that members should come back to this next year.

Disaster Preparedness: discussed during Liaison update.

Announcements:

Nominating Committee is Justin Robertson, Valerie Gordon and Lee Vucovich. August 1st is the nomination deadline. The Nominating Committee seeks out nominations for Members-At-Large (3), Secretary, President Elect and Treasurer (every other year).

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

From the Editors

Happy New Year to all. I hope this issue finds you doing well. It has once again been a pleasure to put together an issue of *Synapse*. Thanks to all who contributed. A note of thanks to Jason Baker for the fine service he provided as co-editor of *Synapse* and I look forward to serving with whomever serves as the next co-editor. All the best to you this year and please keep the submissions and feedback coming in 2010!

--Paul Mussleman

