

INCIPT

Volume XVII Issue 3

November 2006

Greetings from the Chair

Welcome from your new Chair. This is my initial *INCIPT* message since assuming the Chair duties of the History of the Health Sciences Section in February 2006. The goals and agendas of my predecessors are worthwhile and I will continue to support them:

Work to increase Section membership.

Richard Nollan and I attended the 2006 MLA New Member Breakfast held at Annual Meeting. Copies of an updated brochure were available at the Section booth. New members provide new ideas and energy and we need to look at new ways for members to participate in Section activities.

Continue to improve communication with membership. One major tool for communication is the Section

Listserv. I got a full introduction to the listserv when we discovered it was no longer working and many important messages had simply entered the great unknown. Chao Cheng at MLA was very helpful in solving the problem and the listserv is again viable with a new server. I encourage members to sign up for and use the Section Listserv to communicate with other members. If you are not a member, go to the Section Website, <http://www.mla-hhss.org/> for information on joining.

Another communication tool is the Section newsletter, the *INCIPT*. The newsletter's life has been a bit rocky the past year. We now have a new energetic editor, Cynthia Kahn from George Washington University. Cynthia will be working towards an online version of *INCIPT*.

Increase member participation in the Section activities. We had several new members attend the Business meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2006, in Phoenix. I encourage Section members to seek elected and appointed offices in the Section. Remember, there are contributions you can make even if you cannot attend MLA or the Section business meeting. Thanks to those of you who contributed papers, posters, or ideas for the Section programs in Phoenix.

Promote life-long learning and research in the history of the Health Sciences. The Section sponsored three contributed papers sessions at the 2006 Annual Meeting. The Section also supports the Murray Gottlieb prize, participates in the MLA Oral History program, and Section members continue to teach MLA-approved courses.



Diane MacKenzie
Section Chair

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Editor—Cynthia Kahn

Introducing (some of the) Section Officers

Joan Stoddart
Deputy Director
Spencer S. Eccles
Health Sciences Li-
brary, University of
Utah, Salt Lake City UT

Joan is your Section
Council Representative
for the History of the
Health Sciences Sec-
tion.

I've been at the Eccles
Library for 27 years - as
a reference librarian,
clinical librarian, head
of public services and
now deputy director.

I'm interested in the
history of medicine,
and am working on a
digital photographic
history of the health
sciences at the Univer-
sity of Utah which can
be seen at

[http://
library.med.utah.edu/
hsc_historypics/](http://library.med.utah.edu/hsc_historypics/)

This project was done
as part of a 100 year
history of the medical
school in 2005.



**Groundbreaking ceremony for
the Spencer S. Eccles Health
Sciences Library, 1969.**
Printed with Permission.

Patricia Gallagher
Senior Librarian at the
New York Academy of
Medicine Library

Pat is the Section's
Oral History Committee
Liaison

At NYAM, she teaches
a class for the public
on historical research
sources. It is an abbrev-
iated version of the
class she teaches with
Stephen Greenberg.

She is also the manag-
ing editor of NOAH:
New York Online Ac-
cess to Health.

www.nyam.org
www.nyam.org/library/
www.nyam.org/library/noah.shtml

Cynthia Kahn
Reference and Instruc-
tional Librarian

Cynthia is the editor of
the Section's newslet-
ter, Incipit.

At the George Washing-
ton University Himmelfarb Health Sciences
Library, she works with
first year medical stu-
dents through their
problem-based learning
course, regularly guest
lectures for the history
and philosophy of pub-
lic health, and is the
library's liaison to the
departments of Anes-
thesiology, Environ-

mental and Occupa-
tional Health, Exercise
Science, Prevention
and Community Health,
Surgery, and Urology.

Oral History Project

The Oral History Committee is working on a 30 year anniversary celebration of the MLA Oral History Project at the MLA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

They want to acknowledge not only the many interviewees but the many committee members, interviewers, editors, indexers and oth-

ers who have contributed to the success of the project.

Stop by the MLA Connections booth at the meeting for more information and also, please contact Joan Stoddart at joans@lib.med.utah.edu, current chair who is compiling a list of all those who contributed.

“The goal of the MLA Oral History Committee is to encourage the use of oral history interviews to study the history of health sciences librarianship and the history of the Medical Library Association.”

Maternal and Child Health History

The Maternal and Child Health Library has posted on its Web site a new resource, Maternal and Child Health History. This resource brings together documents and reports related to the history of maternal and child health in the United States and health services for children and families that are part of the Maternal and Child Health Library Collection and also links to significant resources at other libraries and federal agencies.

The Maternal and Child Health Library (<http://www.mchlibrary.info>) is an electronic guide to maternal and child health information, offering a wide variety of

resources including the MCH Alert weekly newsletter, knowledge paths, databases, and other materials developed for health professionals, policymakers, and families. The MCH Library is located at the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health at Georgetown University.

To receive notification of updates to the history page and to other library resources in the future, you can subscribe to the MCH Alert see <http://www.mchlibrary.info/alert/default.html>), a weekly electronic newsletter that provides timely reference to re-

search, policy developments, recently released publications, new programs, and initiatives affecting the maternal and child health community.

URLS from the story:

www.mchlibrary.info
www.mchlibrary.info/history
www.mchlibrary.info/alert/

The listserv of the HHSS is open to members of MLA *only*. We invite all MLA and HHSS members to join the official HHSS listserv.

The HHSS listserv will be used to promote and communicate activities of the section. It may also be used as a forum for its members to discuss relevant is-

sues and concerns.

Be assured that email traffic will not overwhelm any of us. It will, however, provide a convenient means to communicate. While joining the listerv is an optional benefit of being a member, we strongly urge members to sign on.

Instructions for Signing On

1. Send an email message to majordomo@mlahq.org
2. Leave the subject line blank
3. In the body of the text, enter: subscribe hhss@mla-hhss.org your email@place.org
4. Respond to the email you receive to authenticate
5. Receive confirmation and begin participating

MLA '07: Information Revolution

HHSS Highlights

Joining the Revolution

Providing Information in Complementary and Alternative Medicine Past Present and Future.

HHSS is the primary sponsor; co-sponsors are the Chiropractic Section and the Complementary and Alternative Medicine SIG. Speakers have not been selected at this time, but the response to the proposal has been good.

Over 60% of Americans currently use Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) therapies. Attend this session to learn more about CAM and the difficulties in accessing CAM information by providers, consumers and librarians.

They'll All Be Rare Books One Day

Collection Development

in Special Collections.

HHSS is the primary sponsor of this program which will offer invited papers. *As the physical collections in our charge age, we are all faced with the decision of what to keep, what to deaccession, what to reformat or hold in electronic format only, and what to transfer to special collections.* Tentative speakers are Diane McKenzie (UNC Chapel Hill), Michael Flannery (University of Alabama - Birmingham), Cheryl Dee (University of South Florida), and John Schleicher (University of Nebraska). Patricia Gallagher will moderate. Times for the sessions have not yet been finalized.

Pat Gallagher and Steve Greenberg will also be offering their full-day CE course, "The History of

the Health Sciences: A One-day Overview."

Join more than 2,000 health information professionals in Philadelphia. The meeting will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown from May 18-23, 2007.

While there, you may decide to take a tour, the hotel recommends the African-American historical tour, and the lights of liberty tour. You might also decide to view the King Tut exhibit at the Franklin Institute Science Museum or cheer on the Philadelphia Phillies against the Blue Jays.

