

INCIPIIT

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Information Revolution: Change is in the Air

Medical librarians met in Philadelphia, PA from May 18-23rd for the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition. The theme of the meeting—Information Revolution: Change is in the Air—inspired the session topics, even for historical subjects.

They'll All Be Rare Books One Day: Collection Development in Special Collections

Attendees of the HHSS session on collection development were treated to a variety of perspectives. Topics ranged from culling collections and building a retrospective collection in pharmacy to collecting international dissertations and digitizing papers.

Key takeaways from each session are as follows:

1. Have a vitrine (display) and comfortable seating for guests to the special collection (John Schleicher, MA, UNMC)

2. Keep content distinct from applications when digitizing a collection (Cheryl Dee, Douglas Turk, USF)
3. "Materia Medica" is a general class of substances, both natural and artificial, which are used in the cure of disease. (Michael Flannery, UAB)
4. UNC-Chapel Hill has a whole lot of international dissertations (3500 linear feet!), a gift from the New York Academy of Medicine. (Diane McKenzie, UNC)

Joining the Revolution

HHSS (primary sponsor) and co-sponsors (Chiropractic Section and the Complementary and Alternative Medicine SIG) presented 'Providing Information in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) : Past Present and Future'. The session presented information about CAM therapies and the difficulties in accessing CAM information by providers, consumers and librarians.

The first paper was presented by Suzanne Shultz, Philip A. Hoover, M.D. Library, Wellspan Health at York Hospital and Esther Y. Dell, AHIP, The George T. Harrell Library, Penn College of Medicine. In their talk "Progression of Alternative to Accepted: A Crooked Mile", Shultz and Dell presented on a handful of therapies with formerly alternative (in the past, some might have said 'fraudulent' or 'quack') therapies that have been validated and accepted by the mainstream.

A team from the Specialized Information Service (SIS) of the National Library of Medicine shared their new database in complementary medicine: The Dietary Supplements Labels Database.

<http://dietarysupplements.nlm.nih.gov/dietary/>

Using content drawn from product labels and manufacturer websites, the database was presented as 'an information resource that focuses on brands

of dietary supplements. Searchable fields include brand names, uses noted on product labels, specific active ingredients, and manufacturers.

Lilian Hoffecker, AHIP, and Catherine Morton Reiter, AHIP, from the Denison Memorial Library, University of Colorado and Health Sciences Center-Denver, presented their collection development efforts in CAM. Their talk was titled 'Overcoming Skepticism: A Committee of Experts Bridges the Gap between the Library's Complementary and Alternative Medicine Resources and Health Care Professionals' and reported on the usefulness of an advisory committee in developing an endowed collection.

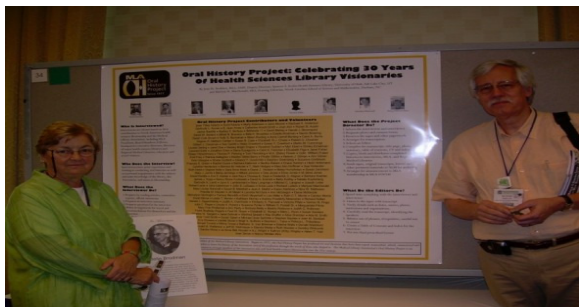
Librarians from the United Kingdom reported on the development of a specialist library focused on CAM. The library's 'overall aim is to make good quality, relevant information on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) available to health professionals and patients.' It was launched in May 2006. Search the library or read more about its development online:

www.library.nhs.uk/cam/

www.library.nhs.uk/cam/Page.aspx?pagename=LIBDEV



Panelists: Michael Flannery, Diane McKenzie, John Schleicher, Cheryl Dee, and moderator Pat Gallagher

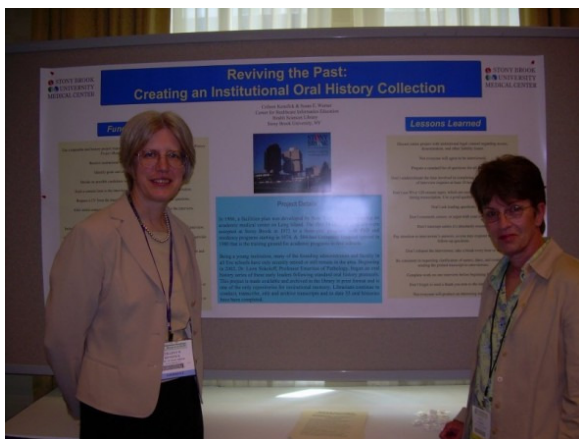


MLA's Oral History Project: Celebrating Thirty Years of Health Sciences Library Visionaries

Joan Stoddart, AHIP, Deputy Director, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah–Salt Lake City; **Marlyse H. MacDonald**, Evening Librarian, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics–Durham

Commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Oral History Committee and Oral History Project (1977–2007), this poster highlights the process of completing an oral history and acknowledge the many contributors involved in making the Oral History Project successful.

Link to: www.mlanet.org/about/history/oral_history.html



Reviving the Past: Creating an Institutional Oral History Collection

Colleen M. Kenefick, AHIP, Librarian; **Susan E. Werner**, Informatics Librarian; Health Sciences Library, StonyBrook University, Stony Brook, NY

It is a rare health sciences institution with a resident archivist or a structured method for recording its own personal history. Without a systematic process for recording individual experiences and personal perspectives, a valuable source of information is being lost forever. Many early leaders already have retired and to capture remaining institutional memory, an oral history collection was established.

Poultices, Potions, and Prayers

Cynthia R. Kahn, AHIP, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Himmelfarb Library, George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, DC; **Gail Kouame**, Consumer Health Information Coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, University of Washington–Seattle

Conventional medicine has recently begun to study and incorporate alternative therapies into practice. Interestingly, many of these therapies have historical legacies. This poster explores wound healing through several lenses: the healing process, the time period, and the associated artifacts.



MLA Sections Quilt—Can you find the MLA HHSS contribution? (hint, look at the end of the second row)



From the MLA Online Photo Album :
www.mlanet.org/am/photo/index.php?cat=4

Connections: Bridging the Gap

It'll be here before you know it. MLA '08 will take place from May 16th-21st, 2008 in Chicago, IL.

The theme of the meeting is "Connections: Bridging the Gap" and the focus is on the future of librarianship. Does this focus require abandoning the past? As we embrace new technologies, what might we lose?" As librarians interested in the past, the emphasis of considering the future by discussing the past is quite interesting.

Continuing education (CE) will be offered at the annual meeting. Of note, the 400s competency–health sciences resource management–includes CE titled *First Do No Harm: Basic Strategies for Administering Archival Material in Health Sciences Libraries*. Another CE to be aware of is in the 200s competency–leadership and management–focused on *From Idea to Design to Finished Printed Product*.

A personal note: My younger brother, Dan

Kahn, graduated from the culinary arts program at Kendell College in Chicago last year. As part of his course, he completed an internship at Sola. I hope to enjoy a meal there when I'm in Chicago for Annual Meeting.

Links:

MLA '08
www.mlanet.org/am/am2008/

MLA '08 Blog
<http://npc.mlanet.org/mla08/>

Sola
www.solarestaurant.com/

"Only connect!...Only connect the prose and the passion... Live in fragments no longer...Only connect."

—E. M. Forster, *Howards End* (1910)



You Are Invited To Join

We invite all MLA and HHSS members to join the official HHSS listserv.



The members-only 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 issues 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 listserv is an optional benefit of being a member, we strongly urge members to sign on.

Instructions for Signing On

- Send an email message to major-domo@mlahq.org
- Leave the subject line blank

- In the body of the text, enter: subscribe_hhss@mla-hhss.org your email@place.org
- Respond to the email you receive to authenticate
- Receive confirmation and begin participating

