



CHRONICLE

CINCINNATI AREA HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

<http://cahsla.org>

September 2003

No. 85

President's Page

I hope that your summer was one filled with enjoyment, good times spent with family and friends, and some well-earned relaxation. I hope, too, that you are looking forward to a CAHSLA association year filled with informative programming, networking opportunities, and the fellowship of colleagues. Edith Starbuck, Program Chair and President Elect, along with the program committee got to work early this year planning very interesting workshops and programs. Elsewhere in the Chronicle you will read about the full year of programming the committee has already lined up. Cathy Constance, Treasurer, is spearheading our campaign to increase CAHSLA membership with a special incentive for new and returning members. You will find information about this elsewhere in the Chronicle. Mary Piper, Secretary, and Don Smith, COCLS Chair, and Jane Thompson, Past President will be sharing their expertise and wisdom with the organization again this year. Barbare Hill has readily agreed to continue as Chronicle editor and production co-ordinator.

When the Executive Committee met in August to map out the year, our discussion turned to goals. Number one on our list is to increase membership in CAHSLA and participation in workshop/program events. The variety of programming and the opportunity to network with CAHSLA, GCLC, and SLA members are benefits we need to market more widely. You will see announcements for CAHSLA

programming on more electronic listserves as well as our CAHSLA email list. For those of our members not on email, we will be sure to use the tried-and-true method of the postal service. Our renewal incentive, e.g. the chance to win a gift certificate, is something we have never tried before. Let us know what you think of this idea and, if you have other ideas for promoting membership in the association. A second goal of the executive committee is to update the officers' procedure manual. We plan to construct guidelines for vendor support of programs and workshops.

CAHSLA continues to thrive because of our talented members who are willing to serve the association. So many activities take place behind the scenes with a lot of creative work, planning, and coordination by the willing volunteers who are the heart and soul of our organization. The value of sharing information on professional advances in a collegial environment is the guiding principle for all of our activities. Please accept our invitation to participate fully and enjoy another year of fine programming and warm fellowship with CAHSLA.



Lisa McCormick

Chronicle 1

Programs Offer Variety in 2003-2004

CAHSLA members will be pleased to see the range of topics covered and the variety of locations planned for 2003-2004 workshops and meetings. This year's program committee, chaired by Edith Starbuck, includes: Mary Piper, Jane Thompson, Shelley Paden, and Nonnie Klein.

Susanne Phelps, professional organizer, inaugurated the association year with the workshop "I Know My Desk is Here Somewhere: Organizing Your Workspace" held at the Boone County Public Library on August 21. Susanne's workshop was a joint effort of CAHLSA, GCLC, and SLA.

Children's Hospital graciously offered to host the MLA teleconference "Reading Between the Lines: Focusing on Health Information Literacy" on September 10. The annual membership meeting was held in conjunction with the teleconference.

Beth Carlin, Education and Outreach Coordinator of the Midwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, will conduct a PubMed Expert Searching workshop at the University of Cincinnati AIT&L on October 16. Be sure to register early for this valuable workshop; seating will be limited.

Mary Piper and Shelley Paden are working on a program on the history of the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County. This presentation will take place at the historic Corryville branch of the PLCHC. Mark your calendar for October 27.

Our annual holiday party will be held early in December. If you have ideas for a location or wish to host the party, please contact the program committee as soon as possible.

Cindy Meisner, Ethicon Endo Surgery, will reprise her presentation to the SLA meeting in New York

City when she presents: "Beyond Science Fiction. Medical Technology for the 21st Century" in March 2004. Recent advances in fields such as biomaterials, tissue engineering, robotics and nanotechnology have enabled medical researchers to develop innovative products and surgical techniques similar to those seen in Star Trek. From bioresorbable implants to cellular scaffolds to sutureless wound closure, join us as experts provide a closer look at today's medical device environment. Learn about the specialized information resources required to support these research areas and the role of the information professional in these companies. (Downloaded from the SLA website)

Have you driven by the new University Pointe campus in Mason and thought, "What an interesting building! I wonder what it looks like on the inside?" Here is your chance to answer that question! The date for this meeting has not yet be determined, but will be in March or April of 2004.

If you would like to get inside the mind of an author and discover the intricacies of the writing process, you will have your chance to learn from local historian J. Morra who is writing a new book on Albert Sabin and Jonas Salk. This meeting will be held at The Jewish Hospital in Kenwood in April or May 2004.

Whew! We're almost finished. Didn't I tell you there is a lot happening this year!! Our final "end of the year" meeting will occur in June. The committee is looking for suggestions on a location, so don't hesitate to let them know your ideas.

The program committee is working in conjunction with GCLC and SLA to jointly sponsor meetings and programs this year. They are also actively seeking vendor support so that meeting expenses can be kept low.

Jane Thompson

Brownies were invented when a librarian from Maine forgot to add baking powder to her chocolate cake. Undaunted by the flatness of her failure, she cut the "cake" into squares and had an instant hit on her hands. The librarian's name, by the way, was Brownie Schrupf.

CAHSLA
Financial Report
9/4/2003



Checking Account

Balance as of 6/5/2003		\$2970.17
Deposits		
Total		\$ 0.00
Withdrawals		
May meeting – Observatory rental, supplies	\$181.65	
Thrifty Print – membership forms	\$ 83.50	
Service charges	\$ 21.00	
Total		\$ 286.15
Balance as of 9/4/2003		\$2684.02

Cash

Balance as of 6/5/2003	\$ 47.33
Balance as of 9/4/2003	\$ 47.33

Total Assets \$2731.35

Submitted by:
Cathy Constance, Treasurer

MDConsult Group Contract

The Group That Refused to Die and Went to Lunch (formerly COCLS) is exploring the idea of a group contract for MDConsult services. The idea, of course, is to realize some savings on the cost of the product and possibly provide our users with additional access. Those who participate in the group contract would share a bank of concurrent users or seats, the number of which to be determined by the group. Each member of the group would pay a share of the total price, again to be determined by the group based on some measure such as hospital beds or number of residents. MDConsult would give the group a discount on the price we would pay if we subscribed individually. All invoicing would be done

to the individual members, so there is no group administration work to be done.

What's the down side, you ask? Well, if you're interested, you can find out all the details by joining the discussions. Rose Zajak is coordinating the effort with the MDConsult representative, so give her a call at 872-2434.



MLA Teleconference: Reading Between the Lines: Focusing on Health Information Literacy

The panelists for the teleconference were: Sandy Cornett, Director, OSU/AHEC Literacy Program, Columbus, Ohio, Neil Rambo, Associate Director, National Network of Libraries of Medicine-Pacific Northwest Region, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, Michele Spatz, Director, Planetree Health Resource Center, Mid-Columbia Medical Center, The Dalles, Oregon, Eris Weaver, AHIP, Director, Redwood Health Library, Petaluma Health Care District, Petaluma, California.

In addition, there were videotaped presentations by: David Boilard, Director, Raymon H. Mulford Library, Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, Ohio, Jane Fisher, Coordinator, Office of Information Services, New York Public Library, New York, New York, Liz Gordon, Executive Director, Libraries for the Future, New York, New York, Kerry Harwood, Director, Cancer Patient Education Program, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, Jane Petty, Associate Librarian, Craig Memorial Library, Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, Ohio.

The program began with an overview of what health literacy and health information literacy are. Also discussed was how health literacy and the readability of health information are measured. Statistics from the 1993 National Adult Literacy Survey showed the large percentage of adults who have trouble reading and the populations at risk. This problem translates into increased health care costs in the billions, with more and longer hospitalizations, more doctor visits, more medication and treatment errors, and a general lack of skill in negotiating the health care system.

In part two of the teleconference, opportunities for librarians to address this issue were discussed. Videotaped presentations by librarians from around the country described what they are doing to address this problem. Programs have been

established in public libraries as well as academic medical centers and hospital libraries.

Part three of the teleconference discussed partnerships. These can exist between different types of libraries, between health science libraries and other departments within their institution, and between health libraries and other community organizations. The National Library offers funding for these projects. Strategies for developing partnerships were discussed as well as ideas for new kinds of partnerships.

After each part of the program, there was an opportunity for audience participation with viewers calling in to share their project ideas and to ask questions.

Mary Piper

Minutes of CAHSLA Membership Meeting and MLA Teleconference

Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 2:00-6:00 p.m., Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Present: Stephanie Ballard, Cathy Constance, Regina Hartman, Barbarie Hill, Nonnie Klein, Sandra Mason, Carol Mayor, Lisa McCormick, Shelly Padon, Mary Piper, Val Purvis, Cecil Rahe, Emily Rahe, Don Smith, Connie Song, Edith Starbuck, Jane Thompson, and Rose Zajac.

From 2-4 p.m., the MLA teleconference, "Reading Between the Lines: Focusing on Health Information Literacy," was broadcast.

The broadcast was followed by the CAHSLA membership meeting. President Lisa McCormick introduced the other officers: Vice-President - Edith Starbuck, Secretary - Mary Piper, Treasurer - Cathy Constance, Past-President - Jane Thompson, CAHSLA Chronicle Editors - Barbarie Hill and Lisa McCormick, COCHLS Coordinator - Don Smith. Members of the program committee are:

Edith Starbuck, Nonnie Klein, Shelley Paden, Mary Piper, and Jane Thompson.

Cathy gave the treasurer's report. The checking account has a current balance of \$2,684.02 and we have \$47.33 in cash. To encourage membership, this year we are giving away two gift certificates at the holiday party for Joseph-Beth Book Store. One will be for a new member, and one will be for a returning member. In order to be eligible for the drawing for the gift certificates, member dues must be paid by December 1.

Edith gave the program committee report. The first meeting was co-sponsored with GCLC and SLA, and featured a presentation by Suzanne Phelps, "I know My Desk Is Here Somewhere: Organizing Your Workspace For Comfort And Productivity." The next meeting following today's will be the workshop, "PubMed Expert Searching: Using PubMed to Get Advanced Results" by Beth Carlin of NN/NLM, October 16th, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Health Sciences Library. On October 27th, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Corryville Branch Library, there will be a presentation by John Fleischmann on the History of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Libraries, co-sponsored by GCLC. In December, the annual Christmas meeting will be held, but the location has not yet been determined. In mid-March Cindy Meisner and Beth White will give a talk they first presented at the SLA annual meeting, "Beyond Science Fiction: Medical Technology for the 21st Century. Later in the spring the committee is trying to arrange a tour of University Pointe, in West Chester, the new satellite campus for University Physicians. In the planning stages for April or May is a talk by John Morro, on the research process. And, the year end meeting will be in June.

Deadlines for the CAHSLA Chronicle this year are the first Friday of the following months: September, December, March, and June. Attendees at the meeting then did a round robin introducing themselves. We were very glad to welcome two new attendees, Stephanie Ballard, a recent graduate, and Connie Song. Both were

recruited by our hardworking vice-president, Edith Starbuck.

Following the close of the meeting, there was a tour of Children's Hospital Library for those who had not visited it.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Piper, Secretary

Pratt Catalog Online

The holdings of the Pratt Library at Cincinnati Children's Hospital are now included in the online catalog at the University of Cincinnati (UCLID). You can search only the Pratt holdings by going to <http://uclid.uc.edu/search~S2/> or you can search all of UC's holdings and limit to the location Children's. The Rubinstein Library (formerly CCDD) will begin to add holdings to UCLID very soon, but it will be a manual process which is expected to continue for some time.

Barbarie Hill

New Reference Service at UC Health Sciences Library

Information Services librarians at the Health Sciences Library (HSL) have recently partnered with their colleagues at University Libraries to provide 'chat' reference services to customers. The service has been available to library users throughout the OhioLINK community since last fall. The user connects to the chat reference site and is able to ask questions of a librarian on duty. The software that OhioLINK purchased for the service allows librarians to chat, to 'push' web pages to users, to 'co-browse' web pages with users, and to email transcripts of the chat session. Because the service is available to anyone in any OhioLINK institution, one of the challenges for the HSL staff has been to become re-acquainted with general reference sources/databases. We hope this service will allow us to reach a new generation of library users.

Leslie Schick

Planning for the BIG Move!

The University of Cincinnati has embarked upon a renovation and expansion of the Medical Sciences Building (MSB). This renovation will provide state-of-the-art research and educational space. A new building, the Center for Academic Research Excellence (CARE) will be connected to the MSB via a glass atrium and will house research and teaching space. As part of this renovation, the Health Sciences Library (HSL) will be relocated for two years while the CARE building and a new Health Sciences Library are being constructed.

Current plans call for the move to begin in late 2003. Here is a breakdown of where staff and services will be relocated during the construction:

- Computer lab and IT Customer Services, reserves collection, Instructional Technology Center, presentation services, and servers/network support will be relocated to the MSB e-level near the University Hospital.
- Unbound journals, reference collection, and browsing room collections will be relocated to the first floor of the Medical Heritage Center – 121 Wherry Hall.
- Bound journals will remain on the R-level of the HSL, but will be closed to customers. All needed articles will be delivered to the requestor electronically.
- Books will be relocated to the Genomics Research Institute (GRI) on Galbraith Rd. in Reading.
- Administrative offices, Information Services staff, Web development, NetWellness, and Database Development staff will be relocated to the second floor of the Health Professions Building.

Please contact Leslie Schick (558-4321 or leslie.schick@uc.edu) for questions on either chat reference services or the Health Sciences Library move.

Midwest Chapter/MLA Annual Conference – Indianapolis, Sept. 19-23, 2003

Keynote Address - Crossing the Rubicon: Envisioning a Future for Health Information Professionals

Professor Julie McGowan, Associate Dean, Information Resources and Educational Technology, Indiana University School of Medicine took us down a long road – from the Alps, through Italy to Rome, and to the current dilemmas facing information professionals in the changing environment regarding the provision of knowledge resources. She focused on defining the characteristics and development of leaders quoting from Peter Drucker (“Management is doing things right. Leadership is doing the right thing.”) And others. When she described the attributes of a leader, I was struck by the following: (1) Leaders are not born or taught, they learn from observation and experience; (2) They create and articulate a vision; (3) Leaders understand the environment; (4) Leaders foster innovation; (5) Leaders make informed analysis before taking a risk; and (6) Leaders are resilient.

Professor McGowan’s insights on the changing role of medical librarians from expert searchers to teachers of searching were challenging to hear. According to McGowan, librarians failed to understand the changing technology that enabled “curious users” to do their own MEDLINE searches on PubMed. Instead of seeing the change as an opportunity to recreate our roles, we engaged in protectionist behaviors and fought the development. Another change in the environment, publishers marketing products like UptoDate and MDConsult directly to consumers, create an opportunity for individuals to move from the role of librarian to the role of knowledge manager for the organization, according to McGowan.

Her final advice to the audience included: do not engage in protectionist behaviors in the face of new

technologies that appear threatening; take informed risks; and initiate the transformation of the profession to take leadership roles beyond the health care organization.

Lisa McCormick

The Plot Thickens

They weren't kidding about the plot thickening when the librarians from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine invested (\$3500) in a plotter for making posters. More physicians, students, residents, and researchers are making posters electronically for display at professional meetings without the use of professional graphic designers. The library added the plotter to its arsenal of equipment and with it came the need for library staff support. This support took the form of physical help as well as design advice.

There was the location of the plotter to consider and it was eventually placed in a public area with a locked door. Then staff needed to be able to teach people how to use the plotter and the software that supports it. Classes were offered on software such as PowerPoint, Corel Draw, Adobe InDesign, Quark and MS Word or Publisher and on use of the equipment. Just as with a photocopier, paper, ink and maintenance had to be considered.

Usage records were kept and they found it took an average of 15 minutes to print the average poster, not including the fact that they averaged 5 attempts before getting a final product. They also learned that Staff used the plotter 43% of the time, followed closely by faculty at 38%. At first, posters were free, but after the stats were evaluated, the library is now charging back to departments.

Plotters offer a lot of good things but you have to be prepared for "the plot to thicken."

Val Purvis

Health Insurance portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) presented by David Sweet, Director of Library Services for AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association)

Although I had heard more about HIPPA than I cared to know, I attended the meeting and learned that the purpose of HIPPA is more than patient confidentiality. Time will tell if they are able to achieve their goals. Since all of you have been saturated with patient confidentiality, I won't go into it here. Other major components are:

- Portability (insurance reform). Individuals moving from one plan to another will have continuity of insurance coverage.
- Accountability. Significant increases in the federal government's fraud enforcement authority (payment fraud).
- Administrative simplification. Through administrative standardization and simplification to reduce the cost of administrative overhead in health care by 50%. National standards for electronic health care transactions will simplify processes. An example is to develop one uniform medical record. There are at present numerous groups working on standardization. The Medical Library Association has joined HL7 (Health Level 7) in an effort to link knowledge based resources to the medical record.

David introduced us to some of the resources available through AHIMA. Their web page is: www.ahima.org. There is a wealth of information at their web site. Their Communities of Practice, articles from *Journal of the American Health Information Management Association* and other documents are available here. Unfortunately, unless you are very friendly with an AHIMA member or want to pay \$135 a year for a membership you can not have full access. There are some areas like Practice Briefs and other documents that are still free. About a year ago I was searching for information on the electronic patient record and was able to find useful information at this site.

Below are some HIPAA web sites he has found useful:

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/regs/index.htm>

Searchable HIPAA regulations

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/index.html>

Office of Civil Rights

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp/>

Administrative Simplification homepage: links to rules, implementation guidelines, FAQs

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com>

Phoenix Health System

<http://www.wedi.org/>

Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange

Carol Mayor

Mobile Decision Support Systems for Nursing Clinicals presented by Arliss Dittner, Director of Library Services at Blessing Health Professions Library, Quincy, Illinois.

They received a Technology Improvement Award from the NNLM GMR to conduct a research project with senior nursing students using PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) at the bedside in their nursing clinicals at their rural medical center. They had a control group that prepared for the clinicals in their usual way. The project group was trained on the PDAs by the Library staff and was monitored for eight weeks. There were many problems with the project. Notification of the grant came fairly late, there were problems with their Information Systems department, there was faculty resistance, the floor nurses considered it a challenge to try and find the information first, and the students were more interested in preparing for graduation. The results of the study were not very positive but; all the students indicated they hoped to receive a PDA as a graduation gift and most thought they should be included in the nursing program. Because of the problems, another study is presently going on with junior nursing students and the results will be reported.

At the insistence of the Information Systems department, expensive (\$500) IPAQ Pocket PC h3950 PDAs were purchased. They proved very

durable and had a long battery life. The references loaded on the devices were: DrugGuide (Davis's Drug Guide for Nurses), RNLabs (Nurse's Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests, 3rd edition, Davis) and RNDiseases (Diseases and Disorders: A Nursing Therapeutics Manual, 2nd edition, Davis.) The title RNDiseases the students found difficult to use. It did not map to subjects and did not map to correct spelling. It was replaced for the current study.

Carol Mayor

Physicians' Use of Technology

Jeff Bowman, physician and technology "thinker" at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, presented a lively discussion that belied its simple title. He began by introducing the concept of cognitive streaming (the difference between mechanical systems thinking and naturally adaptable systems thinking) and moved quickly to complex adaptive systems, using knowledge management as an example of a complex task. After that I was totally lost. Toward the end he mentioned that it is librarians' responsibility to teach health care systems to use technology. If the content of Mr. Bowman's presentation is what I need to know to fulfill this responsibility then I think I'd better consider retirement sooner rather than later.

Barbarie Hill

Reading the Signposts: Choosing the Right Road for E-journals

Marla Baden presented the final plenary session on the hot topic of e-journals. From acquisition management to user access, she laid out all the issues related to handling the slippery little devils and gave us lots of issues to consider. The outline of her presentation is very helpful in getting all of the details down on paper in an organized structure as a kind of checklist to use in developing policies and procedures. It is available for all to enjoy at <http://users.iptw.edu/badenmp/ReadingtheSignposts.htm>

Barbarie Hill

CAHSLA COLLEAGUES

Welcome to...

Regina Hartman and husband, Gregg Hopkins, had a baby girl, Gabrielle Hopkins, in June. Regina wants to thank everyone who sent cards and to express her appreciation for their good wishes.

Penny Philpot (Trihealth - Good Samaritan) wants to brag about her second grandchild born August 23, 2003. The baby boy was named Zachary James Geier and was 8 1/2 pounds 21 inches long! Mom and baby are doing well. Big brother Samuel says they will keep the baby if he doesn't have to share his trains with THE little brother. Nana can't stop showing baby pictures!

Congratulations to ...

Roger Guard, associate dean for information systems at the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine, has been named chairman of a National Institutes of Health scientific review group. Guard will chair the National Library of Medicine's Biomedical Library and Informatics Review Committee, which he has served on for three years. The National Library of Medicine is one of the 27 institutes and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health. The committee evaluates and recommends funding for grant proposals based on the scientific and technical merit of the project. "The programs under the committee's purview are crucial to the development of information technology and library resources that serve scientists, clinicians and administrators at our nation's academic centers," Guard said in a news release. Guard, who also is assistant senior vice president of UC Medical Center Academic Information Technology & Libraries, will serve as chair through June 2004.

Through her work with the UC Health Sciences Library Art Gallery, Jane Thompson was involved in the planning for a one-day conference on September 8, sponsored by the Mental Health Association on Dying--a Community Affair. The conference was inspired by a scheduled exhibition of photographs at the College of Nursing Library. The photographer, Godon Baer, documented the final months of his Aunt Beck's life, as she changed from an active, alert 94-year-old, to a wasted skeleton of a woman with intractable bedsores. Despite the grim nature of the subject, the photographs themselves are a moving testimonial to the power of love and the bonds of family. The exhibit will run until October 3, and is well worth a visit.

Cathy Constance and Sandy Mason at the VA have hired Susanne Phelps to help them organize their patient and family health library. Also, a new addition to the hospital is in the planning, and the library will lose space so good organizational techniques will be especially needed.

Travels

The final news about the UC Health Sciences Library and AIT&L move is the date is now January 2004. The staff will move to four different locations: French Hall East (the old Shrine Burns Hospital), the Health

Professions Building (next to Holmes Hospital), Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center, and the GRI (the old Marion Merrell Dow building on Galbraith Road). More details will follow.

Jane Thompson recently returned from a trip she made with her choir (Christ Church Cathedral choir) to Salisbury Cathedral, England. They were the choir in residence August 18-24, singing Evensong and full Sunday services. Jane managed at an advanced age to climb the highest church spire in Europe and got a button to prove it.

Rose recently had a lovely time at Indiana Shores State Park in her new RV.

In the literature or on the listservs

Forwarded with permission of Dina McKelvy...

Hi all - WELL! I just got a call from a NP in Florida who received a book -- Becker's Principles of Endocrinology -- as a gift from a drug rep. After looking at the book, she noticed library markings all over it and asked the rep where she got it. The rep produced a Paypal receipt -- she had bought the book off the internet and she paid about \$200 for it (it is worth about \$500, and weighs about 40 pounds too). The NP took it, then tracked me down and asked me if it was missing. I haven't done my inventory yet and hadn't noticed it was missing but indeed it was. I have no idea when it walked. She is going to send it back to me, and security here at the hospital is going to investigate.

So, apparently, my book collection has become someone's cottage industry. I think it is very interesting that the book stolen was one of the most expensive books in the collection and which to the untrained eye looks like any other big fat medical text. Keep an eye out for suspicious characters with an eye for expensive medical textbooks.

Yeesh-Dina

Dina McKelvy, AHIP, Health Sciences Library, Southern Maine Medical Center

... The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine has created a publication for the artistic expression of those involved with health care, even patients. The journal's title is *Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine*. It offers poems and other works that medical student editor, Geoffrey Slayden, refers to as "...dealing with subjects such as having loved ones who struggle with mental illness, the difficulties of beginning as a health professions student, the ethical and compassionate treatment of patients ... humorous poems and essays dealing with everything from hernias to bunions ..." More information on *Blood and Thunder* can be found at <http://www.bloodandthunder.org/>. *Lynn Yeager, Education Librarian, University of Oklahoma - Tulsa*

A perennial reference question is "how much is the human body worth?" The August 2003 issue of *Wired* has a two page article that attempts to answer this question, based on the cost of various commodities (e.g., a donated egg cell runs about \$7,000, donating 4 times a year between the ages of 18 to 25 would yield \$224,000). Adding up all the possible fluids, tissue, and organs that can be extracted, the author estimates a total body worth of \$46,618,575.82 (this includes both male and female "parts," an impossibility in a single individual...) At the other end, a breakdown by just our basic minerals (carbon, calcium, iron, etc.) yields only \$17.18. Making things from scratch is much cheaper, it just takes longer. Unfortunately, while most of *Wired*

is available online, this article isn't. Citation: Patrick Di Justo. How to sell your body for \$46 million. *Wired* 11#8: 46-7. August 2003.

Mark Funk, Head of Collection Development, Weill Cornell Medical Library

Librarians to the Rescue: New Action Figure Salutes Unsung Heroes, broadcast from *All Things Considered*
http://www.npr.org/display_pages/features/feature_1415714.html

From Dorothy Gilroy: I read the notice that all Chronicle articles were due October 1. How interesting as that is the day the much-discussed librarian doll goes on sale! I'm certain that everyone has heard about that action figure with her finger-shush and rues, once again, the public's concept of the librarian persona. Well, since I live in the area which conceived and birthed this specimen, let me fill you in on her provenance. The doll is suppose to resemble Nancy Pearl, a librarian who moved to Seattle from Oklahoma ten years ago. She is employed by the Seattle Public Library, specifically the division, the Center for the Book. Ms. Pearl is considered a gem, as her name implies. She is the originator of the concept, "What if everyone in the city read the same book?" This practice continues annually in this city and has been copied elsewhere, facilitating conversation and contacts between diverse groups. It was because she is a public figure, and is highly respected locally, that she was selected as the prototype for the action doll. Some may object to the bespectacled, slicked back hair, starch-backed representation of our revered profession. But how would YOU depict the many and diverse appearances and personalities in one subset of humans? Does every Wall Street 9-to-5 vested-suited, buttoned-down-collared business man appreciate being represented by Bill Gates' rumpled hair, coke-bottom glasses, and frumpy sweatshirt? Do we hear them protesting vehemently? Is it possible to capture and represent a profession? I say, "Go with the flow!" Enjoy the attention, the publicity, the recognition. Enjoy the librarian's 15 minutes of fame.

Bernadine Healy, M.D., Power to the people!

U.S. News and World Report 9/8/03

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/030908/opinion/8healy.htm>

Medical education is virtually just a click away these days. The Internet has become a vast sea of medical information, providing basic facts and the latest research. Whether it's for a woman diagnosed with breast cancer or for a child with cystic fibrosis, it's there 24-7. Indeed, for many, online medical information is a lifeline. But the hunt for such information can be daunting. Sometimes access to a key study is denied, but not because it isn't out there, floating in the ether. Consumers are required to fill out an online form and cough up their credit cards--often to the tune of \$25 or even \$50. That's not the public library we grew up with. It sounds more like a medical cartel.

That common and frustrating scenario has incited a small group of prominent scientists, led by Nobel laureate Harold Varmus, to create journals called the Public Library of Science, or PLoS. PLoS will publish online research articles paid for by authors, not readers--a novel approach. Their populist agenda is to make all knowledge free, pressuring others to follow suit. After all, they reason, taxpayers foot the bill for about half of all published research. The first issue of this effort, PLoS Biology, will hit the screens in October. Etc.etc.

CALENDAR

- Sept. 19-23 Midwest Chapter/MLA Annual Conference. Indianapolis.
- Oct. 16 CAHSLA will sponsor an Advanced PubMed searching workshop. Beth Carlin, instructor. UC AIT&L. Time TBA.
- Oct. 27 CAHSLA presents the history of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library at the Corryville branch, a lovely Carnegie structure. Time TBA.
- Early Dec. CAHSLA holiday party. Time, place and date TBA.
- March 2004 Cindy Meisner, "Beyond Science Fiction: Medical Technology for the 21st Century"
- March or April 2004 CAHSLA meeting at University Pointe campus in Mason. Time and date TBA.
- April or May 2004 CAHSLA presents J. Morra speaking on the writing process and his new book on Albert Sabin and Jonas Salk. Time and date TBA.
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The *CAHSLA Chronicle* is published four times a year in September, December, March, and June. The editors are Lisa McCormick, Jewish Hospital Health Sciences Library, and Barbarie Hill, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Pratt Library.

CAHSLA Chronicle
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