

Medical Library Association report for EAHIL

Carol Lefebvre

MLA Representative to EAHIL

Independent Information Consultant

Lefebvre Associates Ltd, Oxford, UK

Contact: Carol@LefebvreAssociates.org

Focus on MLA '14: Chicago, USA, 16-21 May 2014

As I mentioned in my last column, the US Medical Library Association Annual Meeting returns to Chicago this year. It was last held in Chicago in May 2008, when nearly 2,500 delegates attended. I quote from the *Call for Participation* for this year's event: "In 2014, we return home to Chicago and a newly renovated Hyatt Regency Chicago in a city that continues to awe us with its stunning architecture". The 2014 National Program Committee (NPC) presents *Building Our Information Future* in tribute to the beauty and strength of the buildings that will surround us and the spirit of organic innovation that Chicago architecture represents. Architecture affords us abundant metaphors to reflect on how the foundations we have built continue to inform the present and future of libraries and our profession. Our buildings may now have more collaboration space than shelf space, storage may be more about bytes than books, and interactions may be more "virtual" than present, but the underlying foundations of our profession provide the pillars to support construction of innovative designs and services. With Cloud Gate reflecting the splendor of the Chicago skyline, we will be inspired to think about how we will be architects of a health information landscape that responds to the challenges of growth and an ever-evolving environment. How will you design your blueprint for the information future? What tools will you need? What skills will be required? How will you know if what you construct is useful? MLA '14 will offer the familiar structures of formal and informal meeting opportunities for you to plan and style an information future that reflects expanding roles to reach new heights."

http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2014/pdf/mla14_call.pdf

For the **Preliminary Programme, One-page Schedule** and other general information, see:

http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2014/pdf/mla14_preliminaryprogram.pdf

Confirmed plenary speakers include Aaron E. Carroll, Associate Professor of Paediatrics, who will deliver the John P. McGovern Award Lecture and Anna Deavere Smith, playwright, actor and professor, who will deliver the closing plenary session (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Deavere_Smith).

<http://mlanet.org/am/am2014/events/speakers.html>

Networking Events offered as part of the "conference only" package include:

- Welcome Reception and Opening of the Hall of Exhibits
- YBP Health Walk
- Sunrise Yoga
- New Members/First-Time Attendees Program
- International Visitors' Reception.

<http://mlanet.org/am/am2014/events/events.html>

Registration is open at the link below this paragraph. There is a discount for EAHIL members (through EAHIL's association with MLA) of 285 US dollars off the "inclusive" package registration (855 US dollars reduced to 570 US dollars) and a discount of 205 US dollars off the "conference-only" package (610 US dollars reduced to 405 US dollars). For those of you for whom, even with these discounts, the travel costs remain prohibitive, there is an **Individual e-Conference rate of just 120 US dollars** (reduced from 180 US dollars). All these rates apply until 9 April 2014, after which higher rates apply. Registration is transferable. MLA will honour written requests to transfer meeting registration or CE registration to another person. Additionally, MLA is offering an **Institutional e-Conference License** (Institutional members: 500 US dollars; Non-MLA Institutional members: 750 US dollars).

<http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2014/register/packages.html>

Continuing education courses will take place on Friday 16 May, Saturday 17 May and Wednesday 21 May. There will, as ever, be a very wide range of courses, typical of MLA annual meetings. You do not have to register for the MLA annual meeting to register for these courses. There are suites of courses on popular topics allowing delegates to sign up for a number of related courses and these are marked by a special icon in the programme. These suites of courses include:

- Consumer Health Information Specialization Program: presenting the latest resources and ideas in the consumer health information field, approved for MLA's Consumer Health Information Specialization Program
- Disaster Information Specialization Program: providing the latest information and resources in the field of disaster information
- Information Specialist in Context: providing training and demonstrating knowledge in regard to the role of the information specialist in context
- Expert Searcher Training Initiative: emphasizing librarians' roles as expert searchers in health care and biomedical research
- Management Track: addressing topics relevant to library administration for current managers and individuals with an interest in management.

<http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2014/ce/index.html>

Web-based continuing education courses, advertised under eLearning Opportunities, will be held during the conference, in addition to the courses being held in Chicago, for those of you who cannot attend in person.

Saturday, May 17

Perspectives in Research Data Management: An Introduction
Finding Your Way on the Magnet Journey

Wednesday, May 21

Supporting Open Access: Librarians as Advocates, Researchers, Educators, and Role Models

Lightning Round

Once again, MLA is offering the opportunity for "Lightning Talks for Our Information Future". These are five-minute presentations on new research or service implementations, using just three slides! Submissions in the form of a four-sentence/one-paragraph abstract will be accepted until 10 March 2014. Notification of acceptance will take place on approximately 28th March 2014. This later deadline for these presentations can be beneficial for

international visitors who may not have their funding confirmed well enough in advance to commit to submitting under the general call for abstracts.

<https://www.conferenceabstracts.com/cfp2/login.asp?EventKey=YOLADEXR>

The official **Annual Meeting Blog** will provide coverage of a range of topics including programme sessions, plenary sessions, exhibition activity and social events, before, during and after the meeting at:

<http://npc.mlanet.org/mla14/>

Additionally, you can follow the meeting on **Twitter** with the hashtag #mlanet14 and follow the MLA more generally on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalLibraryAssn>.

Future MLA annual meetings - dates for your diary:

MLA Austin, Texas, 15-20 May 2015

MLA Toronto, Canada, 13-18 May 2016

MLA Seattle, Washington, 26-31 May 2017

MLA Atlanta, Georgia, 18-23 May 2018

MLA Chicago, Illinois, 3-8 May 2019

Membership of MLA

MLA offers **International Membership** to individuals at a reduced rate for those health information professionals who live outside the United States or Canada. The current annual subscription rate for International Membership is 130 US dollars. In addition to core member benefits, these special benefits are available to international members:

- networking with your peers in health sciences librarianship and a listing in the annual membership Directory
 - up-to-date info on association activities through the *MLA News*
 - discounts on MLA annual meeting registration and continuing education fees
 - opportunity to join one or more of MLA's sections or special interest groups
 - opportunity to serve on an association national, section, or chapter committee
 - *Journal of the Medical Library Association*
 - electronic delivery of the News and JMLA
 - discounts on MLA publications and MLA books
 - eligible to win MLA awards and grants, including the Cunningham Fellowship – gain recognition from your peers and earn monetary awards
- <http://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/intern.html>

News and publications from MLA

The latest issue of the *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)* (Volume 102(1) January 2014) is now available (open access) at:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/93/latest/>

Open access to back issues of the *JMLA* (and its predecessors back to 1898) is available from:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/93/>

Preprints of forthcoming issues of the *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)* are available (for members only) by selecting *JMLA* Preprints under the Publications option when you login with your username and password. *MLA News Online* and the current edition of MLA-FOCUS (the fortnightly electronic newsletter (both for members only)) are also available when you login with your username and password.