

## US Medical Library Association report for EAHIL



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### **Focus on MLA '15: “Librarians Without Limits”, Texas, USA, 15-20 May 2015**

The US Medical Library Association Annual Meeting will be held in Austin, Texas this year. Austin is the capital city of Texas, though perhaps less well known to many Europeans than some of the other Texan cities such as Dallas or Houston. Even if you cannot plan to attend in person, please see below for information on attending “remotely”.

If you are able to attend and this would be your first time, MLA offer a service called Colleague Connection. This offers a facility to pair up first-time attendees with an experienced MLA attendee. Once assigned, the pairs work out their own meeting schedules. To participate, contact Tomi Gunn at [gunn@mlahq.org](mailto:gunn@mlahq.org), by Friday, May 8, 2015, indicating that you would like to be paired with an experienced member.

#### **Preliminary Programme:**

[http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/sites/default/files/am2015/mla15\\_pp-1\\_0.pdf](http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/sites/default/files/am2015/mla15_pp-1_0.pdf)

#### **One-Page Schedule:**

[http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/sites/default/files/am2015/2015\\_schedule.pdf](http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/sites/default/files/am2015/2015_schedule.pdf)

**Confirmed plenary speakers** promise, as ever, very interesting presentations. There is the usual array of interesting plenary speakers from beyond the library and information world. Mae Jemison is the first woman of colour in the world to go into space. She was an astronaut at NASA for 6 years and currently leads 100 Year Starship (100YSS), an initiative that seeks to ensure that the capability for human interstellar space travel to another star is possible within the next 100 years. Prior to NASA, she was area Peace Corps medical officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia for two and a half years, overseeing the health care system for the Peace Corps and State Department in Sierra Leone. A general practice doctor in Los Angeles, she graduated in medicine from Cornell University, in the US.

Ann McKee is a neurologist and neuropathologist with extensive experience in neurodegenerative disease, particularly in traumatic brain injury and its long-term consequence, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). She has a special interest in brain injury associated with sport, in particular American football.

Eszter Hargittai is Research Professor in the Communication Studies Department and faculty associate of the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University, US, where she heads the Web Use Project. Her research looks at how people may benefit from their digital media uses, with a particular focus on how differences in people’s web-use skills influence what they do online. She is editor of *Research Confidential: Solutions to Problems Most Social Scientists Pretend They Never Have* (University of Michigan Press 2009), which presents a rare behind-the-scenes look at doing empirical social science research. She also

writes an academic career advice column at Inside Higher Ed called Ph.Do.  
<http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/about/speakers>

**Networking Events** offered as part of the “conference only” package include:

- Welcome Reception and Opening of the Hall of Exhibits
- New Members/First-Time Attendees Program
- International Visitors’ Reception

[http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/sites/default/files/am2015/mla15\\_pp-1\\_0.pdf](http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/sites/default/files/am2015/mla15_pp-1_0.pdf)

**Registration** is open at the link below this paragraph.

There is a discount for EAHIL member through EAHIL’s association with MLA. The “inclusive” package registration is 629 US dollars (reduced from 949 US dollars) and the “conference-only” package is 449 US dollars (reduced from 679 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 129 US dollars (reduced from 195 US dollars). All these rates apply until 8 April 2015, after which higher rates apply. Registration is transferable. MLA will honour written requests to transfer meeting registration or Continuing Education course registration to another person.

<http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/registration/how-register>

Additionally, MLA is offering site licences for those who wish to share video and audio presentations with staff and colleagues at training sessions. (Note: The Individual e-Conference rate is just what it says – individual! Not for sharing with your colleagues!)

<http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/register/econference.html>

**Continuing Education courses** will take place on Friday 15 May, Saturday 16 May and Wednesday 20 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.
- *Evidenced-based Practice*: emphasizing the librarian’s role in the practice of evidence-based health care.
- *Expert Searcher Training Initiative*: emphasizing librarians’ roles as expert searchers in health care and biomedical research.
- *Information Specialist in Context*: providing training and demonstrating knowledge in regard to the role of the information specialist in context.
- *Management Track*: addressing topics relevant to library administration for current managers and individuals with an interest in management.

<http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/registration/continuing-education-courses>

### Lightning Talks

Once again, MLA is offering the opportunity for “*Lightning Talks: Going Beyond*” the Limits. 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 16 March 2015. Notification of acceptance will take place on approximately 2 April 2015. 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=FDGUECHE>

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/mla15/>

Additionally, you can follow the meeting on Twitter with the hashtag #mlanet15 and follow the MLA more generally on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalLibraryAssn>

**Future MLA annual meetings** - dates for your diary:

- MLA Toronto, Canada, 13-18 May 2016 (jointly with CHLA/ABSC)
- 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. This category applies if you work or have worked in a health- or health information-related environment and live outside the US or Canada. The current annual subscription rate for International Membership is 130 US dollars.

<https://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/index.html>

### News and publications from MLA

The latest issue of the Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA) (Volume 103(1) January 2015) 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 issue of the JMLA are available (for members only) by selecting "JMLA Preprints" under the Publications option when you login with your username and password. MLA News and the current edition (together with past issues for the most recent year) of MLA-FOCUS (the fortnightly electronic newsletter (both for members only) are also available when you login with your username and password.



**MLA'15**  
**LIBRARIANS**  
**WITHOUT LIMITS**  
**May 15-20, 2015 • Austin, TX**  
Medical Library Association  
[www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org) • #mlanet15