

## US Medical Library Association report for EAHIL



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**LATEST NEWS: MLA RESCHEDULED TO AUGUST 2020 - registration fees will be refunded until 15 July 2020**

**Focus on MLA '20: Portland, Oregon, US, 15-19 August 2020**

<https://www.mlanet.org/meeting>

Whatever the source may be of the quotation “May you live in interesting times”, there is no doubt that we are currently living in very interesting times indeed, as countries close their borders, quarantine their visitors and in effect curfew their own people.

This is an especially difficult time for meeting organizers and the US Medical Library Association has taken the very difficult but, I think, wholly necessary decision to postpone MLA from May 2020 to August 2020. This will be only the fifth time that MLA will be held outside the more regular March to June window, since its inception in 1898. This will be the 120th Annual Meeting and as such should be a landmark event.

It is essential to understand that MLA has published a commitment to refund all registration fees, until the new **early bird registration date of 15 July 2020**, for those for whom the new date is not acceptable and for those who are no longer able to or who no longer wish to travel.

<https://www.mlanet.org/mla20>

**It is as yet unclear what will happen if MLA has to cancel the event AFTER the early bird registration date of 15 July 2020 but further information will be posted on the meeting home page as the weeks go by.**

I would ask you to support MLA at this difficult time and try to support their efforts in ensuring that MLA still goes ahead. Please do consider attending in person, given the reassurances above, or if that is not possible, please consider attending remotely by registering for the e-conference option. You may have conference funds in your budgets that you have been unable to spend on attending conferences in person this year, so, do please consider using those funds to register for the MLA e-conference option.

In the light of COVID-19, MLA are planning what they refer to as an enhanced e-Conference option for MLA '20 and are subsequently delaying the availability of the e-Conference registration until closer to the meeting.

<https://www.mlanet.org/mla20>

It is hard to write very much at this time about the proposed programme for MLA '20 in August 2020 as the date change has only just been announced and in the coming weeks MLA will need to reconfirm all the presenters. Normally the conference would expect to attract c. 2,500 participants including delegates and over 100 exhibitors.

There will be c. 100 papers presented, in addition to posters and **Lightning Talks**. These are five-minute presentations and focus on one main topic, submitted as either a research abstract or a programme description abstract. Submissions for the Lightning Talks closed in January this year, i.e. prior to publication of this article but please bear this in mind for future years, as this later deadline for these presentations (c. 3 months after the standard deadline for oral 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.

This year there will also be **Immersion sessions**, described as follows. *"They are intended to: provide an in-depth perspective on areas of interest to MLA members. They are your chance to design and offer the programming that you want to see. Immersion sessions should strive for excellent engagement and can vary in format from a panel of invited speakers to a single invited speaker, a facilitated book discussion, as well as less-conventional sessions like an "unconference" or flipped session. The only type of programming excluded from immersion sessions are paper presentations."* It is envisaged that c. 20 sessions will be held as Immersion sessions this year. These were an innovation in the 2019 MLA programme.

### **A Preliminary Programme and Schedule at a Glance will be made available shortly.**

<https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1543>

**Networking Events** normally offered and to be confirmed in the coming weeks are likely to include:

Welcome Reception and Opening of the Hall of Exhibits

New Members/First-Time Attendees event

International Visitors' event.

Dinner Dine Arounds may also be offered again this year by the Local Assistance Committee – to be confirmed.

**Conference registration** is open at the link below this paragraph. There is a discount for EAHIL members through EAHIL's association with MLA. The **fully inclusive meeting registration package** is **685 US dollars** (reduced from 959 US dollars for 'non-members'). There is no reduced 'conference only' package (excluding the conference dinner) this year as the conference dinner is being replaced by a networking reception open to all delegates. For those of you for whom, even with these discounts, the travel costs remain prohibitive, there is an individual **e-Conference** registration, as noted above – for which the fee and enhanced content remain to be announced. These rates apply until 15 July 2020, after which higher rates apply. Additionally, **Institutional e-Conference Licences** will be offered 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!)

<https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1653>

**Continuing Education courses:** these will most likely take place on Saturday 15 August (1000-1700) and Sunday 16 August (0800-1500). There will, as ever, be a very wide range of courses, typical of MLA annual meetings (17 courses expected this year). You do not have to register for the conference 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:

## NEWS FROM US MLA

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**Data Management:** these courses provide the latest information and resources in the field of data management.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** these courses provide ideas to develop and implement diverse and inclusive strategies to improve your workplace.

**Evidenced-based Practice:** these courses emphasize the librarian's role in the practice of evidence-based health care.

**Expert Searcher:** these courses emphasize librarians' roles as expert searchers in health care and biomedical research.

**Management:** these courses address topics relevant to library administration for current managers and individuals interested in management.

<https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1643>

The **MLA '20 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.

<https://www.mlanet.org/p/bl/et/blogid=136>

Additionally, you can follow the meeting on **Twitter** with the MLA '20 hashtag **#mlanet20** and follow MLA more generally on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalLibraryAssn>

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

Washington, DC, 21-26 May 2021

New Orleans, Louisiana 2-7 May 2022

### 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 150 US dollars (or 25 US dollars if you are from a HINARI-eligible Group A or Group B country).

<https://www.mlanet.org/join>

### News and publications from MLA

The latest issue of the Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA) (Volume 108 (1) January 2020) is now available (open access) at:

<https://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:

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

Preprints of articles from the forthcoming issue of the JMLA are no longer available. JMLA does, however, encourage self-archiving at any point in the manuscript preparation or peer review process:

<http://jmla.mlanet.org/ojs/jmla/article/view/877>

MLAConnect is MLA's members-only e-mail newsletter and is circulated weekly. The online version now displays all articles to which members have access, including from blogs of MLA sections and is updated continually. Most articles are restricted to MLA members and/or to members of specific MLA sections. For the most complete display of articles, you need to login with your MLA username and password.