

US Medical Library Association report for EAHIL



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Update on MLA '22 – hybrid conference – virtual and in New Orleans

Still time to submit abstracts for posters and lightning talks (deadline 26 January 2022)
- see below.

For the third year in row, MLA are holding their annual conference virtually but this year they are planning to hold it as a hybrid event, with the in-person event planned for New Orleans. If all goes according to plan, this will be the fifth time that MLA has been held in New Orleans, the first time being in 1931 and the last time being in 1988, so I think it is fair to say that it is time that it returned there.

<https://www.mlanet.org/mla22>

I do, however, feel that it would be irresponsible of me to try to persuade you to plan to travel to attend MLA '22 in person with the current COVID-19 situation but do, please, consider attending the conference virtually this year. You may again this year have conference funds in your budgets that you have been unable to spend on attending conferences in person, so, do, please, consider using those funds to register for the MLA conference as a virtual attendee. The registration fee for virtual attendance for EAHIL members (under an arrangement between EAHIL and MLA) is the same as for MLA members, i.e. 340 USD.
<https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1910>

The dates for the in-person event are 4-6 May 2022, with the virtual event starting on 27 April 2022.

The virtual conference held in 2021 attracted 1,200 attendees, with 100 papers, 50 lightning talks, 100 posters, 20 immersion sessions and 20 exhibitor sessions and the feedback was generally very positive.



Posters and lightning talks – abstracts can still be submitted until the deadline of 26 January 2022. Acceptance notices for posters and lightning talks will be sent on 21 February 2022.

Keynote papers - MLA have announced two keynote presentations for the conference.

The 2022 John P. McGovern Lecture will be given by Dr Mona Hanna-Attisha, a paediatrician and public health advocate whose research exposed the Flint (Michigan, US) water crisis (2014-2019). Her research revealed that children were exposed to dangerous levels of lead and she led subsequent recovery efforts there.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_Hanna-Attisha

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint_water_crisis

The 2022 Janet Doe Lecture will be given by Michael Kronenfeld. Michael is a well-known medical librarian and in March 2021, his book, *A History of Medical Libraries and Medical Librarianship: From John Shaw Billings to the Digital Era*, was published as part of MLA's book publishing programme. His lecture will primarily be based on this research.

Contributed papers and lightning talks - with respect to the contributed programme, there will be papers and lightning talks. The contributed papers are c. 10 to 15-minute presentations whereas the lightning talks are five-minute presentations and focus on one main topic, submitted as either a research abstract or a programme description abstract.

Immersion sessions - this year there will again 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." These were an innovation in the 2019 MLA programme. These sessions run for c. 75 minutes and are likely to be held in-person only.

Exhibitor presentations are being planned, both in-person and virtually.

Continuing education courses, which used to be held during the two days prior to the conference, will not be held again this year. MLA, however, continues its programme of continuing education, available as both live and recorded events.

<https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=412>

Exhibition - the exhibition will also be in-person and virtual this year and c. 30 vendors have already confirmed exhibition space and others will attend virtually.

Preliminary programme – the preliminary programme will be made available shortly on the conference website.

Networking events will be offered both in-person and virtually, and more information will follow on the conference website.

NEWS FROM US MLA

Conference registration is not yet open. There is a discount for EAHIL members through EAHIL's association with MLA. The virtual only conference registration fee for EAHIL members is 340 USD, reduced from 690 USD for the in-person event in New Orleans.

<https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1910>

The MLA '22 blog provides coverage of a range of topics including programme sessions, plenary sessions, exhibition activity and virtual social events, before, during and after the meeting. A recent blog is entitled: How Does MLA Choose the Annual Conference Location? and makes fascinating reading with respect to their statement that MLA only meets in locations that do not by law discriminate against individuals due to race, colour, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

<https://www.mlanet.org/p/bl/et/blogid=158>

<https://www.mlanet.org/blog/how-does-mla-choose-the-annual-conference-location>

Social media - additionally, you can follow the meeting on Twitter with the MLA '22 hashtag #MLANET22 and follow MLA more generally on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalLibraryAssn>

Future MLA annual meetings - dates for your diary:

Virtual Conference and Exhibits (subject to change) May 2023

Portland, Oregon 18-21 May 2024

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 USD (or 25 USD if you are from an 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 109 (4) October 2021) 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 provides electronic content for both MLA members and non-members. It provides access to content including from blogs of MLA caucuses (previously known as sections) and is updated continually. Most articles are restricted to MLA members and/or to members of specific MLA caucuses. For the most complete display of articles, you need to login with your username and password. Older issues of MLA News are also available.

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

<https://www.mlanet.org/page/mla-news>