

## National Library of Medicine report for EAHIL



**Dianne Babski**

Deputy Associate Director, Library Operations  
National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
dianne.babski@nih.gov  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>

### Future of the National Library of Medicine

While we were hard at work at the Edinburgh Workshop, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) met on June 11 to share and highlight its final report and recommendations on the future of the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The overarching recommendations in the report will position NLM to capitalize on current and future opportunities and to emerge as a unifying force in biomedicine that promotes and accelerates knowledge generation, dissemination, and understanding in the United States and internationally. Six recommendations were detailed:

- NLM must continually evolve to remain a leader in assimilating and disseminating accessible and authoritative biomedical research findings and trusted health information to the public, healthcare professionals, and researchers worldwide;
- NLM should lead efforts to support and catalyze open science, data sharing, and research reproducibility, striving to promote the concept that biomedical information and its transparent analysis are public goods;
- NLM should be the intellectual and programmatic epicenter for data science at NIH and stimulate its advancement throughout biomedical research and application;
- NLM should strengthen its role in fostering the future generation of professionals in biomedical informatics, data science, library sciences, and related disciplines through sustained and focused training efforts;
- NLM should maintain, preserve, and make accessible the nation's historical efforts in advancing biomedical research and medicine, thereby ensuring that this legacy is both safe and accessible for long-term use;
- new NLM leadership should evaluate what talent, resources, and organizational structures are required to ensure NLM can fully achieve its mission and best allocate its resources.

### OBSERVATIONS

*"The remarkable work of NLM has generated international goodwill and reflected positively on the NIH and the United States. In fact, for many, NLM is the most visible face of NIH."*

*Comment from the NLM Working Group of Advisory Committee to the NIH Director.*

For more information about the committee and its recommendations report:

Committee overview and charge: <http://acd.od.nih.gov/nlm.htm>

Full report of the committee: <http://acd.od.nih.gov/reports/Report-NLM-06112015-ACD.pdf>

Powerpoint presentation: <http://acd.od.nih.gov/reports/Report-NLM-06112015-slides.pdf>



### MeSH® in RDF now Available!

Medical Subject Headings is the National Library of Medicine's controlled vocabulary. The vocabulary consists of sets of terms naming descriptors in a hierarchical structure that permits searching PubMed/MEDLINE at various levels of specificity. The descriptors are arranged in both an alphabetic and a hierarchical structure. We are now offering a beta version of the MeSH data in RDF (Resource Description Framework). RDF is a well-known standard for representing structured data on the Web. Systems that use RDF are often called Linked Data because of RDF emphasis on well-described links between resources. To download MeSH in RDF, go to: <ftp://ftp.nlm.nih.gov/online/mesh/>. We encourage users to

test this new beta version and provide comments and feedback:

Provide feedback via the NLM Customer Service Form:

<http://apps2.nlm.nih.gov/mainweb/siebel/nlm/index.cfm>

GitHub for MeSH in RDF code and documentation: <https://github.com/HHS/meshrdf>

### NLM's Digital Resources

Digital Collections is the National Library of Medicine's free online resource of biomedical books and videos. All of the content in Digital Collections is freely available worldwide and, unless otherwise indicated, in the public domain. Digital Collections provides unique access to over 14,000 items spanning eight centuries.

Recently, our participation in the English Short Title Catalog (ESTC) helped us identify the nearly 200 items uniquely held by the NLM and printed in the English-speaking world from 1552 to 1800. The ESTC is a union catalog managed by the British Library which lists books, pamphlets, and other ephemeral material printed in English-speaking countries from 1473 to 1800, containing over 480,000 items reported by over 2,000 libraries from around the world. Titles now available are:

- The Anatomy of Melancholy by Robert Burton, published in London in the year 1660, and one of the first books on the issue of depression
- The anonymously penned, Treasure for Poore Men, a popular manual published in London in 1565 and containing recipes such as "A medicine for the eye if it be hurte with a thorne" and "a migraine in the head"
- Reports about various local hospitals and other charitable organizations in Britain during the 18th century, including Guy's Hospital in London (1734), Lying-In Charity for Delivering Poor Women at their Own Habitations (1772), and the Asylum for Orphan Girls (1786)
- Pamphlets advertising patent medicines and popular guides to health and reproduction.



*An account of the Westminster New Lying-in Hospital, begun and finished under the patronage of the Right Honorable Earl Percy, president. (London, 1767?). The engraver is Charles Grignion (1720-1810)*

PubMed Central® (PMC), provides free, full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature, now including 3.5 million articles spanning the early nineteenth century to the present day. Based on a request by the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy additional agencies will be using PMC to make publicly-funded research, available for the public to find and read. Organizations include:

NIH, CDC, FDA, Veteran Affairs, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and NASA. The [Association for Research Libraries](http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/US-Government-Agency-and-Canadian-Tri-Agency-Public-Access-Plans-and-Policies.pdf) has compiled a plans and policies guide at: <http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/US-Government-Agency-and-Canadian-Tri-Agency-Public-Access-Plans-and-Policies.pdf>

### Europe PMC

Europe PMC is part of a network of PMC International (PMCI) repositories that includes PMC Canada. It includes all of the PMC material and:

- Europe PMC full text articles (3.3 million, of which over 1 million are Open Access)
- Patent abstracts (over 4.2 million European, US, and International)
- National Health Service (NHS) clinical guidelines
- Agricola records (580,000)
- Supplemented with Chinese Biological Abstracts

### Bookshelf PubReader

Finally, Bookshelf, is an online collection of full-text books, reports, databases and other documents. It was recently upgraded with PubReader view, which offers a more user-friendly way to read literature.