

HSLI Newsletter

Health Science Librarians Of Illinois

Volume 20, Issue 1 Spring 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jan Perone
2000 HSLI President

Greetings fellow HSLI members!

It is with great interest that I have followed the recent discussions from MED-LIB listserv as well as those on the HSLI listserv. It seems that we are not the only organization asking important

questions such as "how can we better serve our members?", "how can we increase attendance at our conferences?," "how can we increase membership?," and, of course, "how can we encourage greater participation among the membership...?"

HSLI board members have been discussing this issue for years. We decided to do a survey after the annual meeting to see if we could shed light on why members were not attending (see summary on page 3 in this issue of the HSLI Newsletter).

How does that old saying go..."The more things change, the more they stay the same. Time is short. Staff is small (or nonexistent). Budgets are not sufficient. Members lack support from their superiors. These are the same reasons people gave 10 years ago.

I realize that I am in a biased position here, but bear with me while I extol upon the virtues of HSLI membership. HSLI is a bargain. Not just in dollars (although I challenge you to find another professional statewide organization that charges

less than \$10 a year for a full membership!) The continuing education offerings are timely and relevant to the membership and continue to be offered at a price well below that of other groups (think, MLA, ILA, SLA). The annual meeting is packed with information that is either useful or interesting (sometimes, both!) to all in attendance.

And what a network! Nearly 10 years ago, when I was given the daunting task of starting a rehabilitation focused special library from scratch (I mean nothing!) within a time limit of something like three weeks, who did I call? My Consortium and HSLI colleagues. My background was not in rehabilitation, but with their help I was able to assemble a perfectly respectable collection—in three weeks! And this was before the instant availability of internet e-mail and listservs! OK, virtue extolling over.

What is HSLI doing to remain a vital organization? Phyllis Nathan came to our board meeting last fall in Quincy with a wonderful idea. Why not offer a stipend (or other monetary assistance) to a first time HSLI Conference attendee? OR someone who simply does not have the budget to attend. I would like to have this committee in place soon so that we can offer some "conference scholarships" for this fall's meeting in Rockford. I need a chairperson. If you think you could serve HSLI in this

capacity, please let me know ASAP. I have asked several individuals that cannot help at this time. I would like to have this committee in place by May 1.

Maybe this won't solve all of our problems, but I think it is a step in the right direction.

Special points of interest:

- *How can we better serve our members?*
- *Value of HSLI membership.*
- *Networking.*
- *Stipends to attend HSLI Conference.*

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New List Announcement

The MEDCAT list exchanges ideas related to medical cataloging provided by or for libraries and information centers in the health sciences. It provides an opportunity for technical services professionals and support staff, as well as anyone interested in the bibliographic and authority control of medical and health science resources, to participate in discussions about the standards, procedures, and developments that dictate policy.

MEDCAT is sponsored by the Health Science OCLC Users Group (HSOCLCUG) and is operated by its membership. The list posts continuing education opportunities, job vacancies, and meetings sponsored by related organizations in the field. Although not its primary purpose, the list announces HSOCLCUG meetings and updates to the HSOCLCUG Home page:

<http://www.unc.edu/~btyisingr/hsoclcug/>

Contributed messages are not moderated by the listproc owner, and messages are not archived.

To subscribe, send your request to: listproc@ucdavis.edu
In the body of the message, type: `subscribe medcat [Your name]`

The MEDCAT list exchanges ideas related to medical cataloging.

Submitted by HSOCLCUG / MEDCAT Committee:

Judith Dzierba, Chair	Mary Hawks
Karleen Darr, List Owner	Mary Holt
Cindy Fedders	

DOCLINE & Firewalls

At a recent state health science library meeting (HSLI), there was a concern expressed about firewalls and the new DOCLINE system. I wasn't able to give a definitive answer at the meeting, so to the participants of HSLI, and other interested GMR libraries, please take note:

In response to the question, if you can view *and log in* to the DOCLINE test site, and it reports that your browser is properly configured, you should not have any firewall problems with the new DOCLINE system.

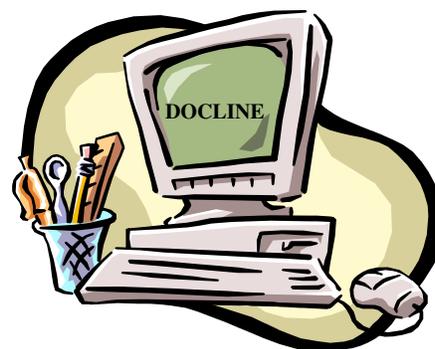
In addition to the test web site, users can test their browsers by accessing the new DOCUSER, beta version .01. This is a view only version of DOCUSER. To access DOCUSER, click on DOCUSER, then click View.

Here's the address for testing:
[Http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/test/](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/test/)

Also, users will be able to access the new DOCLINE system through Internet Explorer 4. This will accommodate users that will not be able to upgrade browsers until later in 2000.

Please test your browsers and systems now, so you will have time to make adjustments if you do have problems. If you need our help, please contact gmr@uic.edu. Thank you.

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Post-Conference Survey

Seventy seven HSLI members who did not attend the November, 1999 HSLI Conference were contacted by telephone regarding their reasons. Each committee member asked the same questions on continuing education topics, date, location, and attendance at other conferences (MLA, SLA, etc.) instead of the HSLI conference.

Location, date, and CE topics had been hypothesized as issues in drawing members to HSLI conferences. The survey results concluded that none of these were major issues.

Below are the three main reasons identified by the survey why more people did not attend the 1999 HSLI conference.

- (1) Many (28) attended other meetings instead of HSLI.
- (2) Many people (32) had other one-time commitments that conflicted with this meeting.
- (3) Many people (25) had institutional budget problems and did not have travel money.

Submitted by Nina Pals
Post Conference Survey Committee

Committee members: Laura Wimmer, Jerry DeWitt, Rhona Kelley, Syed Ahsan Maghrabi, Linda Feinberg, Molly Horio, Angela Wolf, Karen Douglas, Laura Brosamer, Nina Pals

HSLI 2000 - Bytes and Herbs

November 9-10, 2000
Clock Tower Resort
Rockford, IL

HSLI 2000 - Bytes and Herbs Taking into consideration responses to our survey of the HSLI membership, we will be emphasizing technology in the CE classes and secure a key speaker to present something regarding alternative medicine.

We will be conducting all CE sessions on **Thursday, Nov. 9**, in state-of-the-art computer labs at the Northern Illinois University facility located only blocks from the Clock Tower Resort.

A wine and cheese reception will be held Thursday evening at the Clock Tower, and the program will be held there on Friday.

Mark your calendar now!



Customer Service Teleconference

Five Star Customer Service

Monday, April 3, 2000
9 am - 3:00 pm CST

MLA CE 8 credit hours

The Health Science Librarians of Illinois sponsored a foundations of customer service and customer interactions videoconference workshop in cooperation with Alliance Library Systems, Chicago Library Systems, Lincoln Trails Library Systems and Rolling Prairie Library Systems. Ellie Hashman, President of Hashman Training and Development Company, Carmel, Indiana presented the workshop at Lincoln Trail Library System which was then broadcast to other locations.

Videoconference locations:

Alliance Library Systems, Pekin, Illinois
Chicago Library Systems, Chicago, Illinois
Lincoln Trails Library Systems, Champaign, Illinois
Rolling Prairie Library Systems, Decatur, Illinois

Brought to you in cooperation with Alliance Library Systems, Chicago Library Systems, Lincoln Trails Library Systems, and Rolling Prairie Library Systems.



**A BIG thank you to
Lincoln Trail Libraries
System for broadcasting
the teleconference!**

Conferences....Costs....Locations.....CEU's..... Value.....Time.....

Over the last few months, there has been an electronic discussion both in state and nationally about the costs, location and timing of conferences. Most of the conversations involved the high registration costs of MLA, the high location costs, and the distances necessary to travel. I will not attempt to specifically address those issues.

I am interested in how those issues affect HSLI. Membership in HSLI has declined for many years, due to hospital mergers, closed libraries, and perceived lack of value by the academic health science institutions. The reality is that hospital libraries have always supported HSLI and as hospitals are getting squeezed with cost and staff cutting, librarians may not be able to attend meetings.

The officers and conference planners have tried different locations, different formats, low costs, alternative ways of advertising and still ..."they don't come".....In practical terms, it is difficult to expend the energy required to manage a conference that is not valued by it's members.

But how do we measure value? Do we measure by numbers (average attendance over last 10 conferences is 57), positive evaluations, or money made or lost. We have made money on seven of the last ten conferences. The

choices for professional growth may be many small conferences for your travel dollars or one large conference. Those who prefer MLA will never choose HSLI no matter how good our material is.

The Quincy post conference surveys revealed many interesting points. Specifically, location didn't matter if you were planning on attending HSLI. Those who were not planning on attending, wouldn't have gone to HSLI no matter the date, content or location.

MC/MLA, held in Grand Rapids Michigan this year, listed 17 Illinois librarians, HSLI had 34 attendees. How many Illinois librarians will attend MLA? Hopefully, that number will be available to us.

Librarians do not attend meetings because of travel money limitations, other commitments, and other meetings. So, what are our choices in HSLI? Continue to do what we do? Stop worrying about attendance? Change the timing and try the summer? Change the days....and do a Friday/Saturday? This is an ongoing dialog, choices and change are never easy and we need your input.

(Submitted by Arlis Dittmer, 3/17/00)

HSLI Officers, 2000

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**We're on the
Web!**
<http://hsl.org>

New Newsletter Editors

- ◆ *Molly Horio*
- ◆ *Nina Pals*

Our goal is to do as well as Sue Hollander and Jeanette Gawronski have done. Please bear with us as we learn the process and the software.

I would like to encourage any HSLI member who comes across interesting information (article, Website, or other) to send a summary of it to the newsletter. If it is new or of interest to you, most likely it will also be to many others. This type of information sharing makes our newsletter more valuable.

If you have any items for the newsletter, please e-mail them to Molly at mhorio@bromenn.org or Nina at npals@sblhs.org. Likewise, any suggestion or recommendations, please e-mail to Molly or Nina.



*Please bear with use as we juggle the deadlines
and the information while we learn the process
and the software.*