

Announcing

MAC Messages: Our Very Own E-publication

by Linda J. Collins, Chair-Elect, Publications Committee
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There is no denying the trend towards electronic publications and MAC Messages is no exception. At the Executive Board meeting in Durham on February 6th, the Publications Committee received approval to make the transition to online only publication and distribution of MAC Messages. A PDF version of the newsletter will supplement the html copy on our Website for those who would like to print individual copies. This change will be effective

with the next issue, March/April 2004. Lynn Eades has graciously offered to mail print copies to a small number of retirees, as well as the MAC archivist.

This change to exclusive use of the electronic format will result in substantial time, money and labor savings for our organization. As the Board noted, 2004 will be remembered as the year of change. Look for related announcements coming up soon!

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News From The States

For the third year, Melanie Norton organized an informative event to encourage library school students to consider careers as health sciences librarians. Working with the student chapter of the Special Library Association, five energetic librarians participated in a panel discussion.

Carol Jenkins, Director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Health Science Library and past president of MLA, Pat Thibodeau, Director of Duke Medical Center Library and current president of MLA, Diane McKenzie, UNC-Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library, Monique Mackey, AREA L AHEC and Beverly Murphy, Duke Carol Jenkins, Director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Health Science Library and past president of MLA, Pat Thibodeau, Director of Duke Medical Center Library and current president of MLA, Diane McKenzie, UNC-Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library, Monique Mackey, AREA L AHEC and Beverly Murphy, Duke Medical Center Library participated in the program at the UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science. The panelists shared stories of what it is like to be medical and health sciences librarians and encouraged students to think about a career as a health sciences librarian. They spoke about how they became librarians and what factors contributed to their decision to become a librarian in the health field.

This year the event received grant money from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region. The money was used to provide pizza, veggies, cookies and drinks for those who attended. The money also went towards publishing a brochure for students, "A Guide to Medical Librarianship".



It's That Time Again!

by B. Lynn Eades, MAC Membership Database Manager
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Tax Time? Well yes, but not until April.
Elections? Well yes, but I know better than to talk politics.

Renew my MAC Membership? YES!!!!!!

It is again time to renew your membership to MAC for another year. Not sure your status in MAC? Check online at: <http://unchsl1.hsl.unc.edu/test/macdirectory/check.cfm>

If you have a 2003 or 2002 after your name, it's time to renew! If you have a 2004 or even 2005 after your name, you are a member in good standing and don't need to do anything! For those who need to renew, click on your name to show the membership form already filled in with your information from the membership database. Please print the page, make any changes needed, and send it with your check for \$25 to Jane E. Borland. You'll find her address on the form.

Time To Renew!?

WELCOME! New MAC Members

by Cynthia Burke, Membership Chair
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We extend a hearty welcome to new members of MAC. We hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities that this chapter offers.

Rudine Anderson
Howard University
Washington, DC

Wendy K. Johnson
Annandale, VA

Elaine G. Powers
Edward Via Virginia College
of Osteopathic Medicine
Blacksburg, VA

2004 : Continuations & New Beginnings

by Cynthia Burke, Chair, Membership Committee
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We are quickly approaching 2004. The past year has gone by so quickly. As we take these next few days to reflect upon the past year and anticipate changes in the new year, don't forget how important MAC has been to you. If you are not a MAC member, consider how important MAC can be to you. The year 2004 is a time of continuations and new beginnings.

Continuations:

Continue your membership in the greatest chapter in the nation!

- ◆ Several MLA presidents (including the 2 who are running for president) are MAC members
- ◆ Some of the nation's and the world's top hospitals and universities are in the MAC region.
- ◆ The National Library of Medicine and other major health sciences libraries are in the

MAC region.

Continue to participate on MAC committees. There is a lot to do, and we need you.

Continue to network with MAC members. Continue to cultivate professional relationships with your colleagues.

Continue to promote librarianship, specifically health sciences librarianship. If you don't, who will?

New Beginnings:

Begin a new chapter in your professional career -- join MAC.

Participate on MAC committees. There is a lot to do, and we need you.

Network with MAC members. Get to know your neighbors and your colleagues.

Begin to promote librarianship, specifically health sciences librarianship. If you don't, who will?

DUES are only \$25 for librari-

ans and \$10 for students. This is an investment that will yield high returns -- today and tomorrow -- but only as you put something into it.

DON'T FORGET:

- ◆ The 2004 MLA Annual Conference, "Seize the Power," will be held May 21-26, 2004 in Washington, DC (MAC region)
- ◆ The 2004 MAC Meeting will be held Oct. 13-16, 2004 in Raleigh, NC. A CAPITAL IDEA!

Seize the power, seize the day, and seize the opportunity to enhance or begin your career with MAC. For more information and a membership form, visit <http://www.cbil.vcu.edu/mac>.

Looking Forward to Seeing You.

Favorite Websites

by Vicky Spitalniak, Carroll Hospital Center
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HerbMed (www.herbmed.org), a project of the Alternative Medicine Foundation, is a web-based resource that provides access to the scientific data underlying the use of herbs for health. It can be accessed without cost and provides evidence-based information resources relevant for professionals, researchers, and the general public. The HerbMed database contains information on 187 herbs and other natural substances commonly used in alternative and complimentary medicine, such as black cohosh, chamomile, St. John's Wort, and tea tree oil.

Individual HerbMed records are quite detailed. Each record contains the following informational categories: Evidence for Efficacy (Human Data), Warnings, Methods of Preparation, Formulas/Blends, Evidence of Activity, Dynamic Updates, and Other Information (including related links). Within these categories are sub-headings such as Clinical Trials, Traditional and Folk Use, Adverse Effects & Toxicity, Pharmacodynamics, Contemporary Formulas, and Folk Blends.

While most records do not have information in each sub-heading, the majority of records contain extensive overall information, including links to PubMed records, U.S. patents, reference excerpts (e.g., *The Families of Flowering Plants*), and records from additional related databases (e.g., Agricola and the HortiPlex Plant Database).

HerbMed is fully searchable from the site's home page. Searches are performed on terms of the individual user's choosing. Such terms may include herb names (scientific or common), particular chemicals or other substances, and health/medical issues and/or conditions. Search terms can be truncated and expanded with an asterisk (e.g., immun* will be expanded and searched to include: immune, immunization, immunity, etc.). The search operators AND, OR, and NOT can be used to link multiple search terms. If desired both multiple operators and parenthesis can be used in a single search query. Clear and concise search help is available via the "How To Search" link found just to the right

of the search box and button on the HerbMed home page. Also included in the HerbMed Website are two complete browsable herb lists, which are organized alphabetically either by common name (e.g. *licorice*) or scientific name (e.g. *glycyrrhiza glabra*).

An enhanced, fee-based product, HerbMedPro, is also produced by the Alternative Medicine Foundation. However, the data contained in HerbMed and HerbMedPro appear to be very similar, although it should be noted that HerbMed is updated twice a year, while HerbMedPro is updated continuously. Those seeking pricing information for HerbMedPro are directed to send an email to inquiries@herbmed.org.

Editor's Note:

MacMessages welcomes your favorite Websites. Send those articles anytime to macmessages@hotmail.com

M. J. Tooley : New HS/HSL Executive Director and President-Elect, Medical Library Association

by Beverly Gresehover, University of Maryland, Baltimore
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On January 1, 2004, M.J. Tooley became Executive Director of the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland and Director of the Regional Medical Library for the Southeast/Atlantic Region of the NN/LM. Two weeks later, M.J. was elected President of the Medical Library Association for 2005-2006. These stellar accomplishments add to her already impressive record of involvement in leadership roles in our profession.

M.J. has been with the HS/HSL for 18 years and moved to the Executive Director position from her position as

Deputy Director. M.J.'s leadership roles at the Library have included serving as Assistant Director for Instructional and Information Services, and Associate Director for External Services and Development. M.J. was also the Library project manager for the design and construction of the current Library building--which celebrates its sixth birthday this April.

M.J. has held many leadership roles in the Medical Library Association during her library career including Chair of the 2004 National Program Committee for the MLA Annual Meeting, member of MLA's Board of Directors,

Chair of Chapter Council, and Chair of the MLA/PEW Internet & American Life Project Task Force. In 1997 she received the MLA Estelle Broadman Award for Academic Medical Librarian of the Year.

M.J. believes "these are very exciting and challenging times for our campus and for libraries in general," and looks forward to "examining the issues and meeting these challenges head on."

Please join us in congratulating M.J. on her new leadership roles at the HS/HSL as well as in the medical library profession.

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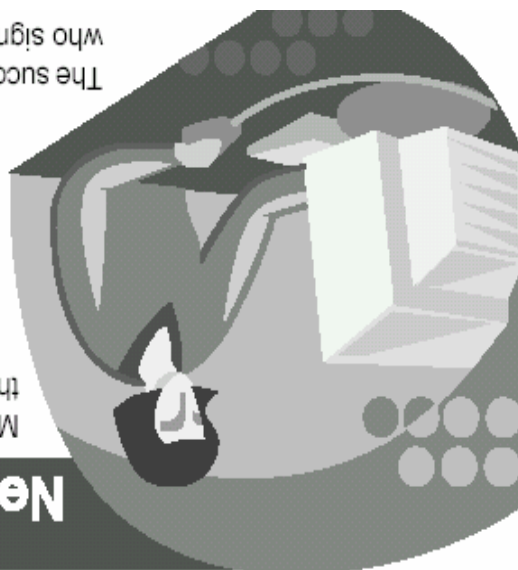
Newsworthy items for the *MAC Messages*
March/April issue may be submitted to the editor at
(macmessages@**hotmail.com**)
until **March 15, 2004.**

New Mentor Database Debuts

MLA announces newly created mentor Web pages that are part of the career section of MLANET.

- Sign up online to serve as a mentor to your peers, as a provisional mentor, or as a mentor to students interested in learning about the profession.
- Search the database to find a mentor.
- Link to mentor tip sheets and guidelines.
- Access Web resources to help you in your mentoring role.

The success of the mentor database depends on the number of members who sign up. Go to www.mlanel.org/mentor/ to explore the possibilities.



MAC MESSAGES

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