UIC Librarians make a splash at MLA’s Annual Meeting

by Mary Shultz

The Medical Library Association (MLA) holds its annual meetings each year in the month of May. This year, UIC Librarians were conspicuous in a number of areas.

First and foremost, Ruth Holst, delivered her inaugural address as the newly elected president of this national association. Ruth is the Assistant Director of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine’s Greater Midwest Region (GMR) which is housed at the UIC Library of the Health Sciences in Chicago. The GMR is a multi-million dollar contract awarded every five years. The UIC Library of the Health Sciences has maintained this contract and its regional library status since 1980.

Ruth’s presidential vision is one of transformation and preparation. From the President’s page:

“As members of the Medical Library Association, we can work together to develop and communicate the evidence of our value and to prepare ourselves to fill emerging roles that will help us achieve our vision to be the most visible, valued, and trusted health information experts.”

To read Ruth’s complete inaugural speech and see slides from her inauguration, see her President’s page.

Ann Weller, UIC’s Special Collections Librarian, was awarded the prestigious Virginia L. and William K. Beatty MLA Volunteer Service Award. Ann has been a member of MLA for over thirty years and has served on many MLA committees during that time. She is well known for mentoring colleagues and new librarians in the areas of evidence-based medicine, research, and publishing.

Max Anderson, GMR Technology Coordinator and UIC LHS librarian, taught "Screencasting," in which students created online tutorials. This workshop was attended by 25 medical librarians from all over the country. He also served as the videographer coordinator for the conference. In this role, he helped create 110 videos of paper and lightning round presentations.

Deb Blecic, Bibliographer for the Life and Health Sciences, gave a wonderful talk on the impact of e-books on libraries. She addressed the current status and issues as well as the possible future of e-books. The session was well attended and generated a rich discussion with the audience.
Jo Dorsch, Health Sciences Librarian (LHS-P), moderated a panel discussion titled Career Reflections: Career Planning from New Graduate to Late Career. Jo is also the chair of the Leadership and Management Section.

Rebecca Raszewski reported the results of her recent survey project in a poster presentation titled Health Sciences Professionals Who Became Librarians.

Holly Ann Burt, GMR Program Coordinator, participated in the Lightning Poster Presentations with: Patient Safety Answers Require Outreach, In-Reach and Partnerships. She also facilitated the 2010 Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables: Influencing Decision Makers.

Mary Shultz, Health Sciences Librarian (LHS-U), gave a lightening round presentation on the results of work with her co-author, Sandy De Groote, Scholarly Communications Librarian. The title of the presentation was The Health Impact of the Wii: a wii-view of the literature.

All in all MLA 2010 was a great conference, and the UIC Librarians represented the Library of the Health Sciences in a visible and positive manner.

Mary Shultz
Health Sciences Librarian
Associate Professor
Library of the Health Sciences-Urbana
shultz@uic.edu