

mcmmla express

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDCONTINENTAL CHAPTER OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Volume 42 Issue 2
Spring 2021

This Spring issue's theme is Staying Strong. We asked MCMLA Members to share how you are staying strong and positive during this time. And, we have pet photos!

In this issue:

MCMLA Chair, [Melissa DeSantis](#), provides an update on all things MCMLA and shares how volunteers make our chapter stronger.

The Membership Committee introduces us to three new members. Welcome, [Katie Larsen](#), [Kristi Torp](#), and [Monica Benevides](#)!

In case you missed it, [MCMLA current and past members were highlighted in MLA Connect](#).

Jeanne Burke provides a summary of the [Spring Education Committee Survey Results](#).

There's a [call for submissions](#) for the 2021 MCMLA/Midwest Joint Chapter Meeting.

[Evidence Based Library and Information Practice \(EBLIP\)](#) seeks an Associate Editor (Evidence Summaries) and two Copyeditors.

[NNLM Region 3 Shares Announcements](#).

MCMLA Advocacy Award Winners include [Gwen Wilson and The Children's Mercy Library Services Team](#).

Take a moment to look at all the cute [MCMLA pet photos](#)!

We [celebrate the work and accomplishments](#) of our Members.



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Notes from the Chair

By Melissa Desantis, MCMLA Chair

Hello MCMLA members, I hope everyone is doing well. The theme for this issue of the Express is “Staying Strong” and I’m so impressed by the many times MCMLA members have stepped up to help the organization remain strong. After quickly pivoting our 2020 meeting to be a successful joint meeting with the Midwest Chapter, we surveyed our members to make an informed decision about our 2021 meeting. Every time I’ve asked for volunteers to serve on committees or in appointed positions there have been members stepping up. The Chapter continues to successfully manage its budget, and we completed elections for our new officers. The Chapter’s DEI efforts continue to move forward, we published Conference Proceedings for our last two Annual Meetings, and a survey was run to learn about the education needs of our members.

What is exciting about these accomplishments is that a large number of members helped to make these things happen. A whole bunch of people did one small thing and all of those acts taken together created a huge impact for the Chapter. One suggestion for staying strong is to remember you don’t have to do everything by yourself. There is often a whole village around you, and if you ask for help you will likely get it.

I hope everyone is having a good spring and taking time to connect with others. And because the Express Team asked for pet pictures, I’m including one here of my dogs who look extremely lazy but are always happy to distract me from work.



New Members Spotlight

By Cindi Flanagan, Membership Committee; edited by Jerry Carlson

Katie Larsen, Student Member

What made you want to work in libraries?

I started a temporary position at a library in 2012 and fell in love with the mission and day to day work. The consumer health and education work is the most enjoyable for me.

What is your previous work experience?

In 2012, I started as a library technician at a public library. After a week, I knew I had finally found my lifelong career. After 4 years working in the public library, I went back to school full time. I also worked in an academic library for 10 months and loved working with students. Sadly, my time there was cut short due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

What is your position title?

Currently, I am a student in my second year of the MLIS program. Only two semesters to go!

What do you like most about the library and information science field so far?

I love to teach. I've really enjoyed working with adults of all ages, especially on the topics of information literacy, health research, and technology.

What do you like most about MCMLA so far?

MCMLA is very new to me, but I am looking forward to the webinar trainings and the virtual conference.

What do you hope to gain from being a new or returning member of MCMLA?

I hope to make connections with other librarians who are interested in Medical librarianship.

Are you interested in a specific area of libraries?

I am very interested in outreach and medical librarianship.

What is your educational background?

B.S. Business Management and working on M.S. Library and Information Science

What is a fun/unique/interesting tidbit for your fellow MCMLA'ers to know about you or how do you spend your free time?

I love learning new things and have had many hobbies including wet concrete sculpture, sewing, pottery, quilting, gardening, mosaic tiling, lye soapmaking, and 3D printing.

Kristi Torp, Student Member

What is your position title?

I am a first year student at Emporia State University in Kansas and I also work as a clerk at the Springville Public Library in Springville, Utah.

What do you like most about the library and information science field so far?

I've really enjoyed learning about new technologies and ideas that aid in accessibility and improve efficiency.

What do you like most about MCMLA so far?

I feel like the people I have met are really invested in helping each other be successful. I have enjoyed exploring the website as well and think it has a lot of great resources I can use in my studies.

What do you hope to gain from being a new or returning member of MCMLA?

I'm still narrowing my fields of interest and I think joining MCMLA, using its resources, and networking with other members will help me in my education and career goals.

Are you interested in a specific area of libraries?

Yes, too many! I am interested in digital health literacy and ways technology and metadata can improve search and accessibility.

What is your educational background?

I earned my BA in History from Utah Valley University in 2005 where I also worked in the Distance Education Department.

What made you want to work in libraries?

My undergrad professors encouraged me to explore librarianship but I haven't felt ready for graduate work until now. I love working with people, research, and teaching. Seeing an ad for a medical librarian job last year made me realize I didn't want to put it off any longer. So here I am!



Continued on next page

New Member Spotlight, cont.

Kristi Torp, cont.

What is your previous work experience?

Before becoming a library clerk I taught history at a homeschool co-op and also taught piano.

What is a fun/unique/interesting tidbit for your fellow MCMLA'ers to know about you or how do you spend your free time?

I live in the suburbs but like to pretend I'm a farmer so I grow edible plants everywhere I can and keep chickens for pets.

Monica Benevides, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions

What is your position title?

Library Assistant/
Testing Center Coordinator

What do you like most about the library and information science field so far?

I like working with patrons and helping them find resources and solutions to their questions.

What do you hope to gain from being a new or returning member of MCMLA?

I hope to stay current in the health sciences field, and have more networking opportunities.

Are you interested in a specific area of libraries?

Health sciences, archives, and youth services

What is your educational background?

BA History

What made you want to work in libraries?

I wanted the opportunity to help others enjoy learning and reading for the experience, not just for formal education experiences.

What is your previous work experience?

I worked at Ancestry before working as a medical librarian at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

What is a fun/unique/interesting tidbit for your fellow MCMLA'ers to know about you or how do you spend your free time?

I participate in historical fencing as a member of HE-MA (Historical European Martial Arts).

MCMLA Members Highlighted in the MLA Publications

By Amanda Sprochi

Current member Emily Peters and former members T. Scott Plutchak and Lynn Fortney were highlighted in MLA Connect this month.

Emily Peters was featured as an MLA Ambassador in MLAConnect's I Am MLA campaign. Emily is the Family Health Librarian at Children's Hospital Colorado, and talks about her work at Children's and the importance of MLA membership for her professional development as a medical librarian. She describes working with the Health Literacy Department, creating patient-friendly health materials, and answers some fun questions about her pets, hobbies, and bucket list activities. Lisa Traditi was [also featured](#) in August, 2020. You can be an MLA Ambassador as well by completing the [I Am MLA profile form](#).

MLA has published a [joint oral history](#) given by T. Scott Plutchak and Lynn Fortney on their professional careers, personal collaboration, and of course, their band, the Bearded Pigs. It's a fascinating and wide-ranging look at the history of medical librarianship, from the birth of online searching, to the development of EBSCO as a major information provider, to the support and professional development provided by MLA and its chapters, with stops along the way for romance, weddings (at the MCMLA Annual Meeting in Kansas City!), and band gigs. It's a highly entertaining and illuminating interview. You can read the article in [MLA Connect](#) and access the oral history through the [MLA Oral History Project](#).



Spring 2021 Education Committee Survey Results

By Jeanne M. Burke, MCMLA Chair of the Education Committee; edited by Nina McHale

This spring, the MCMLA Education Committee distributed a survey to discover what topics our members are interested in learning more about. The table below has the topics in order of preference:

| # | Answer | % | Count |
|-------|---|--------|-------|
| 1 | Anti-Racism Projects | 16.09% | 14 |
| 2 | Tools and Software | 14.94% | 13 |
| 3 | Research Strategies | 13.79% | 12 |
| 4 | What Statistics to Keep? | 12.64% | 11 |
| 5 | Assessments for your work | 12.64% | 11 |
| 6 | Databases beyond PubMed & CINAHL | 10.34% | 9 |
| 7 | Moving outside of your comfort zone | 10.34% | 9 |
| 8 | Communicating Skills | 5.75% | 5 |
| 9 | Challenges for Librarians in the Hospital | 2.30% | 2 |
| 10 | Other (enter below) | 1.15% | 1 |
| Total | | 100% | 87 |

Additionally, the Education Committee used the survey to find out if there was interest in having MCMLA “Conversation Hours,” during which members can share their experiences and opinions on preselected topics. These would be open and free to all members. About 70% gave us positive responses, so as a result, the Education Committee is working on scheduling “Conversations Hours” events throughout the year.

Many members gave us a great list of ideas that mentioned most of the topics in the interest topics from the earlier question, but there were many comments relating to sharing innovative ideas, strategies, best practices, managing services, creative solutions, and improving library services. The underlying theme in these responses was that members are eager to network with their Chapter colleagues in ways that help them to continue to grow professionally and personally. The Education Committee has decided to move forward with this idea, and the Advocacy Committee is also

working with Education to start a journal club that will be a complementary component of the “Conversation Hours.” The Advocacy Committee is also planning an inaugural club reading that will focus on anti-racism. More information on the initial session schedule and topic details will be released in the next couple of weeks. These sessions will be a great opportunity for us to reconnect and support each other.

Another key area that the survey covered was our Annual Meeting. The Committee wanted to know who members were interested in hearing from. The suggestion list had a wonderful collection of names that would surely give thought provoking and insightful presentations. Some of these are listed below. Not included in the list below are some national figures in public health, research, and equity and inclusion. We have shared this list with Chapter meeting planners and will be happy to offer the full list to interested members.

- Safiya Noble, author, *Algorithms of Oppression*
- Jessica Malaty Rivera, founder, COVID Tracking Project
- Laura Bristow, @kinggutterbaby on Instagram
- Nita Mosby Tyler, founder, The Equity Project LLC
- Dolly Chugh, social scientist focusing on “the psychology of good people”
- Soraya Chemaly, writer and commentator
- Atul Gawande, founder, Ariadne Labs
- Patricia Flatley Brennan, director, National Library of Medicine

The survey also asked members if they were interested in CE credit for participating in the Annual Chapter Meeting, and about two thirds of respondents selected “Yes” or “Maybe.” These results indicate that this is a possibility to explore for present and future Education Committees.

With the financial strains that COVID-19 has put on most institutions, we wanted to ask if this has had an impact upon members’ financial ability attend conferences and other professional development opportunities. Not surprisingly, we found that about 55% of the respondents answered “Yes.” Education will be sure to keep this in mind.

Our sincere thanks to everyone that took the time and thought into answers this survey. Your answers will provide us with insights and direction in planning for

Education Committee Survey, cont.

the future. The full survey results will be added to the MCMLA Archives. If you have any questions, please contact the Jeanne M. Burke, Education Committee Chair.

Education Committee Members

Jeanne M. Burke, Chair
 Brandon Patterson
 Karen Neumeier
 Brenda Fay
 Wladimir Labeikovsky
 Catherine Soehner

Ex-officio Members

Emily Glen, Annual Meeting Advisor
 Shawn Steidinger, MLA Credentialing Liaison

Share your Research and Innovative Practices at the 2021 MCMLA/Midwest Joint Chapter Meeting!

By Emily Vardell, Research Program Committee Co-chair ; edited by Nina McHale

The Joint Research Program Committee invites poster, paper, and lightning talk abstract submissions on any health sciences librarianship topic for the 2021 MCMLA/Midwest Joint Chapter Meeting. The meeting will take place virtually from October 13-15, 2021.

Submission to present at the MCMLA/Midwest Joint Chapter Meeting is open to members and non-members of MCMLA and the Midwest Chapter. Papers sessions last 20-30 minutes, while lightning talks last 5-10 minutes. Posters will be available via an online tool with optional audio narration. For accepted submissions, at least one author should be in attendance at the virtual conference.

Submission of work that has previously been presented at MLA but not at MCMLA/Midwest Chapter is welcomed and encouraged for this year's joint meeting! Both program descriptions and research projects will be considered. Feel free to forward this announcement to potentially interested parties that may not have received this email.

Deadline for submissions is June 4th. Early submissions are welcomed and appreciated. Acceptance decisions will be sent out by July 30th.

Please contact Research Program Committee co-chairs Emily Vardell (evardell@emporia.edu) or Jolene Miller (Jolene.Miller@utoledo.edu) with questions.

Instructions: Abstracts should be kept under 250 words. Structured abstracts are preferred. Find more information about structured abstracts here: <http://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=517>

If you have additional questions about structured abstracts, you are invited to email John Bramble (john.bramble@utah.edu).

Abstracts should be sent through this submission form: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wx-POULzbE2WN7R4qD-DcdX5K8A1vndGjga2df9MYsRUMjRPTUt-WUTMxSjdCOVJTQUhMTENLSVBYUS4u>



Call for Editors: Evidence Based Library and Information Practice

Submitted by Heather Healy; edited by Nina McHale

Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP) seeks an Associate Editor (Evidence Summaries) and two Copyeditors.

Call for Applicants for Associate Editor (Evidence Summaries) <https://doi.org/10.18438/eblip29928>
Call for Applicants for Copyeditors <https://doi.org/10.18438/eblip29929>

The new Associate Editor (Evidence Summaries) is expected to begin their role by August 2021 and serve a 3-year term (with possibility of renewal). This role shares workload with a second Associate Editor.

The two new copyeditors will ideally be in place by May 2021 in time to begin work on the June issue.

Published quarterly and hosted by the University of Alberta, Evidence Based Library and Information Practice is a peer-reviewed, open access journal that has been publishing since 2006. It is targeted at all library and information professionals interested in an evidence based model of practice. By facilitating access to librarianship research via original research articles and evidence summaries of relevant research from the library literature, Evidence Based Library and Information Practice enables librarians to practice their profession in an evidence based manner.

Please visit the journal web site (<https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/eblip/index.php/EBLIP>) for more information about the journal. For questions about these positions, please contact Ann Medaille, Editor-in-Chief, at amedaille@unr.edu

NNLM Region 3 Announcements

Submitted by E. Bailey Sterling, NNLM Region 3

Due to the Network of the National Library of Medicine restructuring, we at NNLM Region 3 are proud to welcome the states of Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri into our region. To read more about the recent changes, check out these press releases:

- [NLM Awards 2021-2026 Regional Medical Library Cooperative Agreements](#)
- [The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth Named New RML](#)

Advocacy Challenge Winners

By Kristy Steigerwalt, MCMLA Advocacy Committee Chair; edited by Katie Dayani

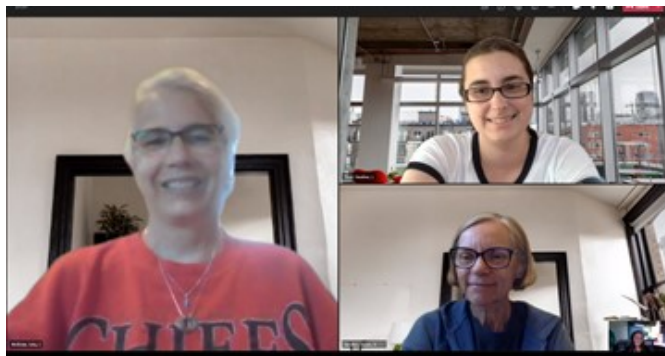
Congratulations to our two second quarter Advocacy Challenge winners, Gwen Wilson and The Children's Mercy Library Services Team! Their projects focused on ways members have adapted during the pandemic.



Gwen, a Medical Librarian for the Dept. of Family & Community Medicine at the University of Missouri – Columbia, attended departmental meetings to ensure knowledge of her virtual availability and promoted her library during National Library Week and the vaccine role out (including treats!).

Katie Dayani Manager of Library Services at Children's Mercy, nominated her team to highlight all their great work. In the past year they've:

- Rolled out a new Library Website to make discovery and access easier for users: <https://childrensmc.ovidids.com/>
- Implemented a new Library Assistance request portal/workflow via the hospital's ServiceNow platform.
- Created two new collections to support the hospital's [DEI](#) and [professional development initiatives](#).

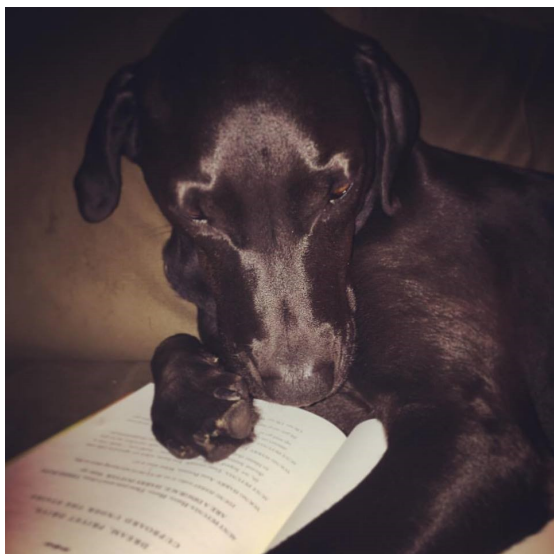


The Children's Mercy Library team during our daily update meeting (counter-clockwise from left): Julia McBride, Heather Steel, Susan Sanders, Katie Dayani (tiny in the bottom right corner). (Not pictured: Keri Swaggart).

Pets of MCMLA

Compiled by the MCMLA Publications Committee

One way many of us MCMLA'ers have stayed strong during these crazy times is from the love and loyalty of our pets. So, we conclude this issue of the *Express* with adorable pet photos. Enjoy!



Jennifer Brady: This is Miss Aspen. She has her own Instagram (@bibliopuppy) – her hobbies are holding down the couch, cookie tester, and snuggling. She isn't a formatist, and enjoys print, digital, and audiobooks. Oh – and she hates having her picture taken, therefore she is often featured with her ears laid back, even though she is quite spoiled and a very happy pup.



Emily Vardell and Brenda Linares' dog Mickey. As the dog of two librarians, Mickey can't help but be a bit literary

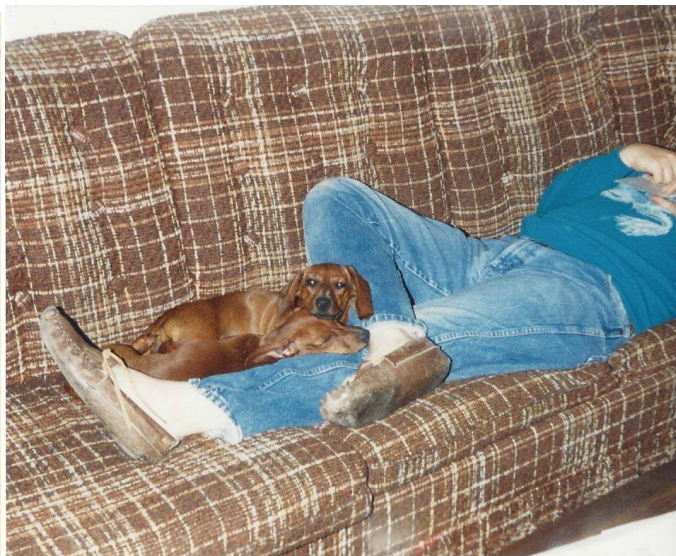


Cindi Flanagan's dog Stella patrolling the waterways of Missouri



Katie Dayani: This is our new rescue pup, Gus. We hopped on the quarantine adoption bandwagon!

Pets of MCMLA, cont.



Jerry Carlson's dogs: In Memoriam: The Pack: (L-R) Einstein, Sadie, Angel, and Harley; Hildy is on top in her pic with Lindy.

MCMLA Member Highlights

By the MCMLA Publications Committee

Angela Spencer, AHIP, Saint Louis University, Medical Center Library, and **Brenda Linares, AHIP**, University of Kansas Medical Center, for being awarded the [2021 MLA President's Award for their work as authors for MLA's COVID-10 Resource page and Spanish-Language COVID-19 Resources page.](#)

Thanks and congratulations to **Holly Henderson** for volunteering to serve as our next MCMLA Web Editor! Holly is the MCMLA-L listserv administrator and will continue in that role.

And many thanks to **Tisha Mentnech**, our current Web Editor who will be stepping down in October. Thanks, Tisha, for all your work.



Publication Statement

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