



February 2008 ♦ Volume 31 Number 1

FEBRUARY 20, 2008, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUBMITTED BY LILIAN HOFFECKER

Rosalind Dudden and TCH to Be Featured at the February Meeting

How do you evaluate the needs and quality of library services in today's dynamic health information environment? Plan to attend the February General Membership meeting on the 20th at the brand new Children's Hospital and you'll find out! **Rosalind Dudden**, one of our own and a Marla Graber award winner, will speak on "The Context of Library Measurement" based on her recent book, *Using Benchmarking, Needs Assessment, Quality Improvement, Outcome Measurement, And Library Standards: A How-To-Do-It Manual*. Bring your notepad and pen, your laptop and PDA, because you'll want not only to listen but to take notes on her relevant and practical message.

Preceding the main program is a tour of the breathtaking Children's Hospital led by the host of the meeting, **Deb Weaver**, medical librarian and manager of the hospital's Clinical and Research Library and **Leslie Schaeffer**, Associate Vice President of Major Gifts, The Children's Hospital Foundation. Highlights of this modern facility - including the [*"Wow" Facts*](#) - consist of:

- Family sleeping accommodations
- Internet access
- Teen-only area
- 270 beds
- 1.44 million gross square footage of building space
- 842 miles of wiring
- And two libraries: the Family Health Library, and the Clinical and Research Library.

The CCML meetings are the best opportunities to network with Colorado and Wyoming's professional medical librarians, the experienced as well as the newcomers. Students, public librarians and others who may have a growing interest in the profession are welcome to attend.

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Finally, I hope all members will come for the programs and stay for the business meeting where your contribution will help shape this great organization.

Here are the details:

Date of the Meeting: Wednesday, February 20th

Location: The Children's Hospital (13123 East 16th Avenue, Aurora), 2nd floor conference area, Mt Harvard Conference room.

Procedures: All visitors must stop at the front desk to obtain a temporary visitor badge. From there, proceed to the second floor conference area. Deb Weaver will inform TCH security about the meeting and station librarians to help everyone find their way.

Schedule:

Tour of The Children's Hospital	8:15 am – 9:00 am
Networking and Refreshments	9:00 – 9:30
Main Program	9:30 – 10:30
Break	10:30 – 10:45
Business Meeting	10:45 – 11:45

cq

"SAVING A KID FROM UNNECESSARY SURGERY"
SUBMITTED BY ADELAIDE FLETCHER

One afternoon, about 10 minutes to close, one of our regulars, a vascular surgeon called the library. He was well known in the library for his habit of calling at a late hour and demanding obscure information *at once*—sometimes to settle bets with colleagues. So I had my doubts when he said he wanted to know if a rare form of muscular dystrophy existed that affected the chest in such a way that it would appear to be a vascular problem. I said we would be happy to look that up for him, and when would he need it? He said, "right away, the patient is sitting in my office as we speak". Dorothy Struble, our library director at the time, and I did a quick search, and between us we found something in a textbook that

sounded just like what he was describing. I phoned him back and asked him if he wanted me to fax the page from the textbook. He said, "No, just read it to me over the phone," which didn't surprise us, for he is the type of patron who just wants a quick answer, not a stack of articles to read. He asked me to repeat it a couple times and then he said. "I think that's it. That's what this kid has".

The next morning he called and thanked us and said we did a great job, and I replied "really? How much money did we earn?" He laughed and said "same as me: nothing! But you helped save that kid from an unnecessary surgery."

If you would like to submit a medical story, please e-mail Lynda Lillwitz, CCML Membership Chair, at llillwitz@yahoo.com. cq

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

RENEWAL TIME!
SUBMITTED BY LYNDA LILLWITZ

The CCML renewal letters will be mailed shortly. The return deadline is March 30, 2008. Please renew to continue the benefits of CCML Membership. cQ

MEMBERSHIP PROFILES

Nancy Peterson

Nancy Peterson has been with CCML for approximately 15 years. She joined while she was a Library Manager/Administrative Assistant with Whedon Cancer Foundation in Sheridan, Wyoming. She believes she was very fortunate to work for Director Dr. Aldrich who was supportive of libraries and advanced in setting policies. One contribution that illustrated Dr. Aldrich's futuristic planning was to lead the way in moving documents by placing fax machines at both the University of Wyoming and Sheridan College.

Working and learning from the best is what Nancy has to say about her former co-workers. She wants to thank Jim Bothmer, who catalogued the Foundation book collection when he was at the University of Wyoming, and Karen Hackleman Dahlin, who included their library in an NLM "frontier grant."

Nancy participated in OCTANET, the forerunner to DOCLINE. She was sent to Denver, and able to participate in classes from library notables like Helen Ann Brown and Carolyn Reid. The Foundation also sent her to regional MCMLA meetings where she was able to network with medical librarians. This was where she decided to become a professional librarian after meeting with librarians like Sandra Parker, Martha Burroughs, Lisa Traditi and many others. Eventually, the Whedon Cancer Foundation offered to pay her tuition if she paid her other expenses (450 miles one way about every 3 weeks for 2+ years) to be part of Emporia State University's "Colorado II" MLS program. She feels she survived by God's grace and a supportive family. In 1993, Nancy graduated, and later earned a distinguished member of AHIP.

She has been married to Denny, a veterinarian, for forty plus years, and they have five children. In 2001 they became grandparents and moved to Denver. They now have three wonderful grandchildren. She feels fortunate to have been hired by Sue Coldren to work part-time at the Denver Medical Library as the Family Health librarian. She has worked there for almost seven years.

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Working with the public is the best part of her job! Her patrons are so appreciative when they get their medical information, and she genuinely likes to help people find what they need. Her Bachelor's degree is in Applied Chemistry. Her hobbies are cooking, cleaning and traveling. She hopes to travel to South America in 2008.

(By Debra Taylor)

Glenn Pflum

Glenn Pflum has been a member of CCML since 1993. He has served as treasurer and president. He has been working at the Art Institute of Colorado for 3 ½ years.

Glenn has had a variety of work experiences over the years. While in graduate school he worked as a Chemical Dependency Counselor for the State of Nebraska Penal and Correctional system for several years. He took a break from graduate school and went to massage school in Boulder for a year. Then he returned to Nebraska and finished his PhD in Ed Psych while he supported himself doing massage. After finishing the degree in Lincoln, he moved to Boston and worked for several years at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital in its Development Office and then as a research study coordinator. From Beth Israel he went to Library School at the University of Maryland in College Park, and worked part time at the CDC in its Office on Smoking and Health. After he finished the MLS, it took awhile to get a job. Glenn's first library job was as a part time library technician at the now defunct Denver General Medical Library. In the nearly five years he was there, he went from library technician, to librarian, to reference librarian and finally to library director. From Denver General, Glenn went to Children's Hospital and worked for about 3 years, and then on to Swedish Medical Center as library director for 4 years. While he was at Denver General, he was treasurer for CCML; and while he was at Children's, he served as president. In March 2003, he switched library venues to the Art Institute of Colorado where he has been ever since.

What Glenn finds most enjoyable in this profession is providing resources to assist people with their information needs and helping them find answers to their questions. When he has the time, he enjoys singing in choirs and taking pottery classes. He spends a lot of time in his garden the year round – although he does not necessarily think of gardening as a hobby! Glenn also enjoys traveling, visiting friends, and participating in swim meets.

Glenn regrets that he has not been able to attend more CCML meetings since he started working at the Art Institute. He states that he always enjoyed the company of his medical librarian friends and learned lots and lots about library work from them.

(By Sally MacGowan)

Barbara Wagner

Barbara Wagner has been a CCML member for 12 years. During that time has served as CCML Membership Committee Chairperson and CCML Secretary.

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She's the Library Manager at the NEIC Library where she has worked for the past 5½ years. The library is part of the National Enforcement Investigations Center, US Environmental Protection Agency, and located at the Denver Federal Center. In addition, for the past 11+ years, she's been an on-call substitute Reference Librarian at the Front Range Community College and Westminster Public Library. Finally, for the past 26 years, she's done research and training for clients through TAP (The Access Point) -- mostly part-time.

For 43 years she's been a librarian (MS in LS, Western Reserve University; BA in Biology, Heidelberg College). She has worked in academic, public and specialized libraries in Massachusetts, Ohio, Wyoming and Colorado. Her information-services company, The Access Point, was founded in 1981; for six years (1996-2002) she freelanced as an independent information professional after taking early retirement from the federal government. She stated that she "can't really retire as I still have a mortgage!"

What she likes most about what she does is research. She likes helping people find the information they want.

Her hobbies are reading, travel, collecting and making beadwork, swimming, among others. Another interesting pastime is to volunteer in the Anthropology Department at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Her specialty is cataloging beads and beadwork as part of the Department's Bead Study Group. She is also a cat person. This past year she fostered four cats, two at a time, for several months. In the summer of 2006 she raised six feral kittens, tamed them and found them homes (thanks to Table Mountain Animal Shelter and their arrangement with PetsMart). For a year now, their mother, Pretty Lady, has lived with her -- making the transition from completely feral to sleeping next to her. They've bonded, but she hisses and runs from everyone else.

Her family includes her son, Doug Hartmann, and grandson, Andy Hartmann, who moved to Melbourne, Australia, in July 2007. Andy turned 14 on Beethoven's Birthday this December. Her sister and family live in State College, Pennsylvania. cc
(By Jim Honour)

NEW MEMBERS

CCML is pleased to welcome the following new member:

Name: Barbara F. Blum

Title: Graduate Student

Library Name: Graduate Student at Emporia State University

E-mail address: barbara@rsblum.com

Biographical Sketch:

I have just finished my first year of course work toward my degree in Library Science through Emporia State University. Once I get past the "fine print" of volunteer requirements I shall be at Exempla Lutheran Medical Center one morning a week. My mother was an RN; very old school—she graduated in 1938 before antibiotics came into use.

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I'm looking forward to all I can learn about librarianship at Exempla.

I worked in publishing about 15 years before being a stay at home Mom. I worked for both a large house (Prentice-Hall) and a small scholarly law press (Fred B. Rothman & Co.).

I'm a quilter and love all things related to textiles. My older daughter is a math/pre-med major at Emory and my younger daughter is a freshman at Evergreen High School. My husband consults about computers and my black lab Maggie is sweet but poorly mannered. cQ

GOOGLE GROUP CREATED FOR NURSE LIBRARIANS SUBMITTED BY SARA KATSH

I have created a Google Group for individuals with both the RN and MLS credentials, having identified over 50 people who meet these criteria and are interested in exploring common concerns. The list is not limited to RNs (obviously), so if you'd like an invitation to join, please let me know. All you need is a Google account. cQ

MUSINGS BY MAXWELL SUBMITTED BY DICK MAXWELL

In what's becoming a regular feature of the news, triggered by a research study in, usually, *JAMA* or the *New England Journal of Medicine*, we recently were told that...hold onto your hats...studies in which investigated drugs produce little or no significant benefit over placebo or a comparable drug, tend never to see the light of day.

In the most recent example, an article in the *New England Journal* looked at 74 FDA-registered studies of 12 antidepressant agents and found that negative results generally resulted either in no publication or in the use of such masterly creative writing that black became white and they were "published in a way that, in our opinion, conveyed a positive outcome."

The authors of the *NEJM* study choose to view this through the prism of a half-empty glass, saying that "selective reporting of clinical trial results may have adverse consequences for researchers, study participants, health care professionals, and patients." They are obviously naïve and rooted in some earlier century's perception of what constitutes "truth" in matters such as this. From National Intelligence Estimates to Census Bureau statistics to scientific issues such as global warming and evolution, this is the era of mind over matter...if I believe it (or don't believe it), then "facts" be damned. It's a much more empowering way of looking at the world. Who wants to be told things that just don't sound right or to be told that we should alter or discontinue some pleasurable behavior?

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Another recent party pooper is L. Barker Bausell, whose expertise is in conducting and analyzing clinical trials. In his book *Snake Oil Science*, Bausell takes an exhaustive look at the literature on various types of complementary and alternative medicine. In case after case, he points out the flaws in the studies, and ultimately concludes that in almost all cases, it's the placebo effect that is doing the good work. He refuses to ascribe evil motives to the researchers, but suggests that one of the most difficult things for any of us is to look objectively at something we have a great deal of hope and affection for. This would include our kids and our trials of homeopathic medicines.

But there it is again. He's suggesting that it might be a good idea for me to change my mind about something that I'm feeling really good and optimistic about simply because a set of facts seems to suggest I'm wrong. What about my positive attitude? That's important, isn't it? Doesn't that keep me healthy or make me well sooner when I have the sniffles?

Well, no, according to Bausell.

That's among the things that he looks at and, according to the evidence, there's nothing solid to back it up. Still, he points out, the placebo effect is real and could use a bit more study itself. In many of the papers he reviewed, the placebo arm was as effective as the treatment being evaluated, and sometimes more effective.

But to show the real joy that all of these fact-based bipolar types are asking us to give up, there can be no better example than an article from the September 24, 2007 issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. A group of German researchers with an obvious fondness for using acupuncture to treat chronic low back pain conducted a trial involving 1162 patients. One third received acupuncture "according to the principles of traditional Chinese medicine," one third received "sham acupuncture consisting of superficial needling at non-acupuncture points," and one third received "conventional therapy, a combination of drugs, physical therapy, and exercise."

At six months, the response rates (based on standard questionnaires) were 47.6% in the traditional acupuncture group, 44.2% in the sham group, and 27.4% in the group receiving conventional therapy. Now someone like Bausell might look at this, note the positive effect and the lack of statistical significance between real and sham acupuncture and say "wow...score one for the placebo effect here." Not the authors of the study, though. They are not about to give up so easily (nor are the editors of the journal, apparently).

Despite the thousands of years of refinement and the carefully drawn charts of specific effective acupuncture sites, the authors can only take something new and positive from the sham results. In the same paragraph they say both that "the underlying mechanism may be a kind of superplacebo effect..." and also that "the effectiveness of acupuncture cannot be attributed merely to a placebo effect..." Their glass is overflowing.

Apparently acupuncture is so effective that it's not necessary to worry about how deep or even if the needle penetrates the skin, or to obsess over where the acupuncturist sticks it. This, I would

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think, is the breakthrough news of this study...after all of these years, "...the effectiveness of sham acupuncture and the principle of nihil nocere suggest that a discussion is called for about the necessary depth of insertion of acupuncture needles." It appears that a blindfolded therapist gently tossing the needles at the patient like little darts could expect excellent results.

Have a very good day and don't let anyone tell you you're not. cQ



MYTHS AND TRUTHS HAS GONE INTERNATIONAL! SUBMITTED BY MARGARET BANDY

The "Myths and Truths about Library Services" paper, developed by the CCML Advocacy Committee, is being used internationally! See the email below received by Carla Funk, executive director of MLA.

Dear Carla,

I'm an Italian biomedical librarian working in the library of an oncologic National Cancer Centre (Aviano, Italy). I found very very precious the presentation "Myths and truths about library service" that I "browsed" in Internet and I have already cited this work (CCML as author, 2006 year) in many situations.

Now I'm asking you the permission to publish a little paper about this work for an Italian periodical for librarians "Biblioteche Oggi". I can assure you that an Italoamerican expert of medical things will help me in the wright translation of the presentation.

Thank you in advance

Ivana Truccolo
Director of Library Services
Centro di Riferimento Oncologico Aviano IRCCS
Via Franco Gallini, 2 - 30081 Aviano (PN), Italy

cQ

MARGI STEWART RETIRES SUBMITTED BY SARA KATSH

Margi Stewart retired at the end of 2007. Her last day in the office was December 21. I know you join me in wishing Margi well after her 26 years in the Colorado medical library community, the last 20 of which have been at AORN. She served as CCML President in 1995-1996, and has served on site selection committees for Colorado MCMLA meetings. cQ

2007 - 2008 CALENDAR

February

20 Meeting

March

10 Council Quotes Deadline
 13 Executive Committee Meeting &
 Luncheon, Location to be announced
 17 Mailing Deadline
 19 Mailing
 30 Renewal Notices Return Deadline

April

16 Annual Meeting

February Observances

Library Lovers' Month
 Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month
 Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket
 Month
 Spunky Old Broads Month
 National Pancake Week 3-9
 Just Say No to PowerPoints Week 11-15
 Random Acts of Kindness Week 11-17

March Observances

International Expect Success Month
 International Mirth Month
 National Clean Up Your IRS Act Month
 National Umbrella Month
 Return the Borrowed Books Week 1-7
 National Procrastination Week 3-9 (or later)
 Egg Salad Week 24-30
 Beer Day 1
 Get Over It Day 9

PUBLICATION STATEMENT

Council Quotes is a publication of the Colorado Council of Medical Librarians (CCML). CCML / P.O. Box 101058 / Denver, CO 80210-1058. Subscription is a benefit of membership. Editor, Deb Weaver; Associate Editor, Kate Elder; Contributors, CCML members. Web version is available at: <http://www.ccmlnet.org/>

**COLORADO COUNCIL OF MEDICAL
 LIBRARIANS
 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS
 2007 /2008**

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Medical Paralibrarians	Debra Miller and Debra Taylor