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Response to Neil Rambo's editorial: "E-science and Biomedical Libraries"

Elaine Russo Martin

University of Massachusetts Medical School, elaine.martin@umassmed.edu

Donna Kafel

University of Massachusetts Medical School, Donna.Kafel@umassmed.edu

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Response to Neil Rambo's editorial: "E-science and Biomedical Libraries"

In his editorial in the July 2009 *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)*, Neil Rambo referred to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) electronic science task force statement that "e-science requires new strategies for research support and significant development of library infrastructure." In recognition of the need for librarian involvement in e-science, the Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School—in collaboration with the Boston Library Consortium, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region (NN/LM NER), and the University of Massachusetts libraries—sponsored multiple e-science initiatives in 2009. These initiatives have included an e-science symposium, a stem cell workshop for area librarians, and

a two-day e-science boot camp and have been attended by more than seventy New England-area science and medical librarians. The broad goal of these initiatives was to increase awareness of the relevance of e-science among librarians and to identify library roles in supporting scientific research.

The needs for training and a centralized web portal for e-science resources for librarians were voiced by several attendees during roundtable discussions at the e-science symposium. Subsequently, the Lamar Soutter Library applied for and was awarded NN/LM NER funding to create an e-science web portal for New England-area science and medical librarians. This web portal will educate librarians on e-science topics, consolidate information on the latest resources and initiatives, provide tutorials for the tools and information resources that scientists use, and provide a blog forum for

librarians' discussion and collaboration. Original content and links to preexisting resources will be developed to educate librarians about scientific terminology and issues. The NN/LM NER, Lamar Soutter Library, Boston Library Consortium, and University of Massachusetts libraries recognize the interdisciplinary nature of e-science and the impact e-science has across multiple scientific disciplines in their vision of this broad-based e-science web portal for librarians.

Elaine Russo Martin, DA, elaine.martin@umassmed.edu, Director of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, and Director of Library Services; Donna Kafel, RN, MLIS, Donna.Kafel@umassmed.edu, Project Coordinator; University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

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