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SoutteReview, Issue 9

Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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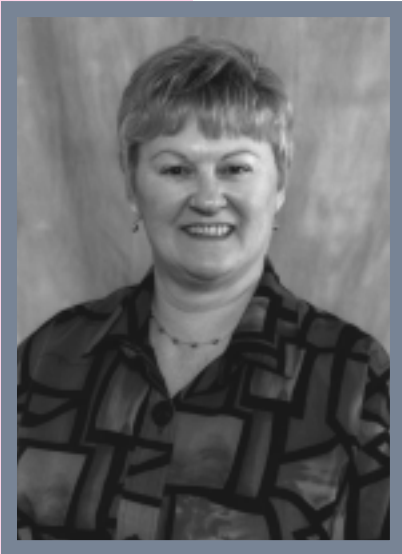
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SoutteReview

Newsletter of The Lamar Soutter Library • University of Massachusetts Medical School • Issue 9

Library Employee Honored



Jan Sohigian

Jan Sohigian, the Lamar Soutter Library's Administrative Assistant, was the recipient of the University of Massachusetts Medical School's "Employee of the Month Award" in April. She is the second Library employee to win this award in the past two years. Jan was recognized for her outstanding work and for her commitment to customer service. As the recipient of the "Employee of the Month Award", Jan received several gifts from the University, some of which she shared with her fellow Library employees. She, along with 12 other employees from UMass, will be honored at the Governor's Performance Recognition Dinner and at the UMass Employee Appreciation Awards, both occurring in September. Jan was presented with her award at a ceremony in the Faculty Conference Room. The staff of

the Lamar Soutter Library celebrated this honor with a party for her after the presentation. Library Director Elaine Martin noted that "the Library is extremely fortunate to have a second employee receive this award. Jan's name is permanently etched on this year's plaque honoring each "Employee of the Month." PJ

MLA Goes North of the Border

Recently, a number of staff of the Lamar Soutter Library attended the first joint meeting of the Medical Library Association and the Canadian Health Libraries Association. At this May 5-10 annual MLA convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, presentations by these professionals from UMMS were well-received. Slides of their presentations are available on the Library's web page.

A paper describing the implementation of wireless technology for access to the University's campus-wide backbone via laptop computers was given by Deputy Director Debbie Sibley, Systems Librarian Mary Piorun, and Assistant Director for Access Services Mary Ann Slocomb. It was presented as part of a session on "Innovative Solutions to Networking Issues" for the Educational Media and Technologies Section of MLA on Tuesday, May 9. The visual portion of the presentation, with the authors' e-mail addresses, may be viewed at <http://library.umassmed.edu/~mpiorun/mla2000.html>. The documentation for the program, including the circulation procedures and the form to be signed by the borrower, are accessible there as well. The audio portion was taped and is available for sale through MLA. *continued on page 2*

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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 7:00 am - 11:30 pm

Friday 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am - 11:30 pm

Hours are subject to change due to exams, holidays, and weather conditions. Please call (508) 856-2511 for current library hours.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Circulation

(508) 856-6099

Reference Desk

856-6857

Document Delivery

856-2029

Interlibrary Borrowing

856-3302

Library Administration

856-2205

Government Documents

856-3290 or 856-2473

Journal Information

856-2388

Acquisitions

856-1041

Poster sessions at MLA are part of the program and are set up in a portion of the vendor area. Participants are expected to be at their poster for the two hours scheduled and answer questions from any and all attendees who show some interest. Conference organizers encourage participants to set up their posters a day before the scheduled poster session, and to leave it on display for one additional day.

A poster prepared by Reference Librarians Margaret Spinner and Robert Vander Hart demonstrated the outcome of a collaborative effort between a faculty member from the Department of Family and

ADA Issues at LSL

Linda Hayes, the Lamar Soutter Library's Coordinator for the Americans with Disabilities Act, has been serving in this capacity since March, 1999. Linda has consulted with Deputy Director Debbie Sibley and John Peters of Facilities Management about the ADA compliance of the library. Linda says, "I have learned a great deal in the past few years about not being able to do the everyday things you automatically do during the day, and how you can adjust with the help of others. Maybe I can make a difference to someone who needs assistance like I did."

In surveying the Library from the perspective of her motorized cart, some of the problems identified by Linda in her inspections around the library have included: Step stools and trash cans impeding progress in the stacks.

Chairs left pushed out from tables.

An elevator that requires a great deal of maneuvering to get in and out.

Impossible angles to navigate when trying to access the bathrooms.

Elevator buttons too high to reach with any degree of comfort.

The Government Documents section is far too narrow for any

Community Medicine and librarians. The project uses web technology to teach evidence-based medicine to medical students. The Power Point slides which formed the poster may be viewed at <http://library.umassmed.edu/EBM/MLA2000/index.htm>. The authors' e-mail addresses are included as well. Contact them for the files containing the usability test and observer documents.

Associate Director Jim Comes and Systems Librarian Mary Piorun presented an electronic poster describing the transition from a paper-based system for collecting reference statistics to the design and implementation of an elec-

wheelchair.

Fire alarm pulls are out of reach.

Some steps have been taken to make the Library more ADA-compliant. There has been a shifting of trash cans at the ends of the stacks so that there is better wheelchair access. One of the photocopy card machines and the telephone in the photocopy room are now at a level for wheelchair-bound patrons.

After visiting the Palmer Public Library, Linda had some further suggestions:

Automatic or remote door openers.

A pay phone that can be operated by a person with vision or hearing problems.

Door openers that are levers, which are more easily gripped than round knobs.

Better signage at a low level.

Better lighting in the stacks, reading areas, and hallways.

Talking books.

Large print books.

Information on programs and how to get assistance to use materials.

The Lamar Soutter Library also has a computer workstation for the visually-impaired. Programs loaded for use are:

tronic tracking system using Microsoft Access. The Power Point slides describing the planning and design process are accessible at <http://library.umassmed.edu/~mpiorun/mla2000.html>. A copy of the database is available for downloading as well. The next step in the project is to add a component to collect circulation statistics. Contact the authors at their e-mail addresses for more information.

Next year's MLA annual meeting will be held May 25-30 in Orlando, Florida. The theme of the meeting is "2001: An Information Odyssey." *BI and JC*



Zoom Text Xtra
Kurzweil 1000 V4.0
Jaws for Windows 3.3

The Library is taking a hard look at ADA issues, as the major renovation will require many changes to render it legally compliant. But it looks like we are on the right track.

JT

The Library Collection: Help Us Help You

The Lamar Soutter Library welcomes and encourages suggestions for books to be added to the Library's collection. Request forms are available at the Circulation Desk or on the Library's webpage at <http://library.umassmed.edu/MatReq.html>.

Items are added to the collection in support of the mission of the Library and its written Collection Development Policy, as the budget allows.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ingrassia, Assistant Director for Library Technical Services, at (508) 856-1041 or by e-mail at: Barbara.Ingrassia@umassmed.edu.

BIOSIS

Life sciences research is increasing by thousands of studies each week. Each day, another dramatic breakthrough is announced. For the researcher, finding exactly the information that is needed to keep ahead can be difficult and time-consuming. BIOSIS is one of the databases in the Library's suite of services on the OVID platform. Long considered to be the world's largest life sciences abstracting and indexing service, BIOSIS provides an excellent source of information for life scientists.

The company which produces BIOSIS was established in 1926 and is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to "foster the growth, communication and use of biological knowledge for the common good." The BIOSIS

information system contained over 13 million citations at the end of 1999. Approximately 550,000 items are indexed, abstracted, or otherwise processed each year. Material is gathered from many sources, including primary research and review journals, books, monographs, and conference proceedings.

Subject area coverage includes agriculture, agronomy, biochemistry, biotechnology, biomedicine, botany, ecology, environment, genetics, instrumentation, medicine, methodology, microbiology, neurology, pharmacology, and zoology.

The BIOSIS database is accessed via the Databases tab on the Library's website. By clicking on Databases and then OVID, the full

list of products on that platform may be viewed. Viewers are required to have an OVID login code and password. Passwords may be requested by contacting the Reference Desk in the Library either in person or via telephone at (508) 856-6875. A request form is completed and passwords are issued.

BIOSIS' stated mission is "To advance the knowledge base of biology by organizing information to support the needs of life science researchers, educators, and students in all settings." By including BIOSIS in The Lamar Soutter Library's list of databases, we will be able to offer researchers at UMass even more information to better serve their needs.

DS

Doctors of Literature; Or, The Pen is Mightier Than the Scalpel

What do Anton Chekhov, Robert Coles, Robin Cook, Michael Crichton, A. J. Cronin, Arthur Conan Doyle, Oliver Wendell Holmes, W. Somerset Maugham, Axel Munthe, William Nolan, Walker Percy, Oliver Sachs, Richard Selzer, Tobias Smollett, and William Carlos Williams have in common? All are doctors better known as writers than as physicians. As outstanding authors, these and other literary medicos have distinguished themselves in fiction (short stories and novels) and non-fiction (poetry, plays, essays, autobiographies, and reportage).

Among the Americans, Boston ophthalmologist Robin Cook has won fame for his medical thrillers, including *Coma*, his most famous, which was translated into film. Cook's novels often feature unscrupulous physicians or medical researchers. Though Michael Crichton graduated from Harvard Medical School, he never practiced medicine, though scientific subjects

often appear prominently in such popular works of his as *Andromeda Strain* (a science-fiction thriller) and *Jurassic Park*, both of which also found later success at the movie box office.

Highly respected Walker Percy (1916-1990), a graduate of Columbia University's medical school, contracted tuberculosis after practicing for a year. As he recuperated, he began to write and never returned to medicine. Percy's first novel, *The Moviegoer* (1961), won the National Book Award. Finally, there is poet William Carlos Williams, a practicing pediatrician who delivered 3,000 babies in a working class neighborhood of Rutherford, N. J.; he posthumously won a Pulitzer Prize for his two-volume work, *Paterson* (1946).

Well-known writers from the British Isles include the Scotsman Archibald Joseph Cronin (1896-1981), a physician who wrote many admired novels about the medical profession. Two of Cronin's most widely read, *The Citadel* and *The Keys of the Kingdom*, also were adapted as popular films. Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle created perhaps the best-known detective of all

time, the masterful Sherlock Holmes, whose last name was inspired by another distinguished literary physician, Oliver Wendell Holmes. Sherlock's amazing deductive reasoning powers were based on those of still another physician, Edinburgh professor, Dr. Joseph Bell. Though he never practiced medicine, the great storyteller Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) learned medicine at St. Thomas Hospital in London. Author of over sixty books, Maugham's illustrious works include *Of Human Bondage* (1915) and *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919).

As for the theater, one of the greatest dramatists of modern times, Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) struggled to make ends meet as a practicing physician in Czarist Russia but gained world acclaim for his plays and short stories

Nor can we omit the many famous medically trained non-fiction writers including:

- Robert Coles, a Harvard child psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize winner; for his many books on the lives of children, among them the

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SoutteReview

SoutteReview is a quarterly publication of The Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Comments:
jeff.long@umassmed.edu

Newsletter Team and Contributors:

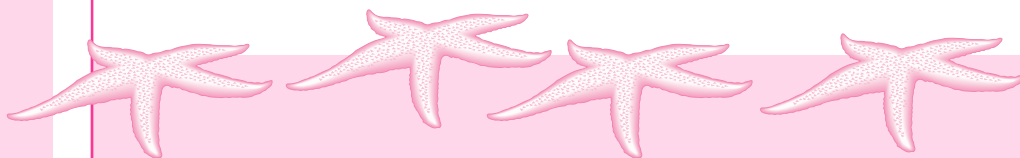
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Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts
Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655

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NAHSL 2000: Portals to Partnership

Seven poster proposals submitted by The Lamar Soutter Library staff have been accepted for display at the North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries' 2000 annual conference, to be held October 22-24 in Newport, Rhode Island.

Focusing on the theme "Portals to Partnership," the poster titles and their presenters are as follows:

- Closing the Health Information Divide: UMass HealthNet. Javier Crespo, Asst. Director, UMass HealthNet; Elaine Russo Martin, Library Director.
- Expanding the OPAC. Mary Piorun, Systems Librarian;

Pauline McCormick, Cataloger; with Andy Dzaugis of UMass/Memorial Health Care and Kay Landry of Heywood Hospital.

- From a Paper-Based System to a Database: Using Microsoft Access to Track Reference Desk Usage. Mary Piorun, Systems Librarian; Jim Comes, Associate Director.
- Integrating Information Retrieval Skills Training with the Undergraduate Medical School Curriculum. Gael Evans, Reference Librarian; Peg Spinner, Reference Librarian.
- Librarian-Faculty Collaboration to Provide EBM Resources to

Family Medicine Residents in Community Settings. Patricia Carney, Reference Librarian; Peg Spinner, Reference Librarian.

- The Worcester Gateway: A Portal for Partners in Consumer Health. Gael Evans, Reference Librarian; Kelly McManus, Corporate Librarian; Barbara Ingrassia, Asst. Director for Technical Services; Elaine Russo Martin, Library Director.
- Usability Testing Evidence-Based (EBM) Web Tutorial. Robert Vander Hart, Reference Librarian; Peg Spinner, Reference Librarian. **BI**

Doctors of Literature cont. from page 3

5-volume *Children of Crisis*.

- William A. Nolen, author *The Making of a Surgeon* and *Surgeon Under the Knife*, the true story of heroic survivors of cancer surgery.
- Oliver Sachs, a neurologist and author of *Awakenings*, a moving account Parkinson's Disease victims and later a major motion picture starring Robin Williams
- Richard Selzer, a retired Yale

medical surgeon and author of the highly acclaimed *Confessions of a Knife*.

- Bernie Siegel, author of *Love, Medicine & Miracles: Lessons Learned About from a Surgeon's Experience with Exceptional Patients*, emphasizing the link between mind and body, how patients overcome major illness using will, faith, and conviction rather than surgery and drugs
- Lewis Thomas, a gifted essayist

and past president of Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, whose *Lives of a Cell* won a National Book Award.

Finally, we remember English physician, Dr. Peter Roget (1779 – 1869), who in addition to having had a distinguished medical career, left us with his most lasting achievement, twelve years in the making - - a work continuing to provide first aid to every writer, the indispensable *Roget's Thesaurus*. **HF**