Digital Library Benefits Rural Health Care Providers

Representatives of two Missouri universities, one regional medical center, and four Area Health Education Centers finalized an agreement to support a computer-based information service for the state’s rural physicians, nurses, and other health care providers. The MAHEC (Mid-Missouri Area Health Education Center) Digital Library (MDL) is a low-cost way for rural health care providers to get important health information that can be used in treating patients. The MDL brings together several health-related electronic information resources and human information services in a single Internet-based package that allows users to “visit” the library without leaving their desks.

Deborah Ward, director of Health Sciences Libraries at MU, led the meeting. It served as the next step in creating a system to provide a common Web portal with access to a core set of health information resources and services for Missouri health care providers. The MDL Alliance establishes a platform of support from which the MDL can grow and extend to any rural health care provider who wants to have a paid membership in the service.

Alliance members include four Area Health Education Centers, academic health sciences libraries at the University of Missouri and A.T. Still University, and Phelps County Regional Medical Center. The services of MDL include access to several electronic information resources, reference assistance and medical literature searching by professional health sciences librarians, inter-library loan, document delivery, and workshops approved for Continuing Education Units and Continuing Medical Education.

The MDL was initially created with grant funding from the National Library of Medicine. A second grant provided funding to extend the services throughout the state. Web developer Brian Andrews overhauled the portal so that it fully integrates all services in an easy-to-use format.

Susan Center, project director, teaches physicians and nurses about how the MDL can be used to bring medical evidence into their practice. Her co-instructors include a physician, a nurse practitioner, and Rebecca Graves, a medical librarian from the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library.

“The MDL illustrates the impact that our state’s medical school libraries can have in helping not just their current students, but also the entire health care community,” said Gary Bartle, executive director of Mid-Missouri AHEC. “Community-based hospitals and medical clinics in Missouri as well as individual health care providers can continue to learn, research and apply the medical evidence that continues to grow.”

The MDL Alliance is creating an advisory council of MDL users to ensure that the offerings and services of the MDL will meet their needs. For more information on the MAHEC Digital Library, please call 573/458-7282 or e-mail mdl@maheclibrary.org.

Adapted from article in MU Health Care InSight newsletter.
MU Libraries Vacancies

**Assistant Director for User Services.** A full description of the position may be found at the following address:
http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/admin/Posdesc/Admin/AD_US.htm

**Digital Resources Cataloger and Digital/Tangible Media Cataloger.** Full descriptions of the positions may be found at the following address:
http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/admin/NewsNotes/Job_ads/Catalogers.htm

**Library Information Specialist I, Catalog Department.** A full description of the position may be found at the following address:
https://www.missouri.edu/%7Eemployment/vacdetails.php?vac=1005510

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**CELEBRATION OF SERVICE**
Monday, April 16
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Ballroom (N201/202)
Memorial Union

The MU Libraries’ annual “Celebration of Service” will be held on Monday, April 16, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., in the Mark Twain Ballroom located in N201/202 of the Missouri Unions. The program part of the Celebration is tentatively scheduled to run from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. The Staff Development Committee will distribute a formal agenda before then. But in the meantime, please mark this event on your calendar and plan to help celebrate the dedication and hard work of all Libraries employees.

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Goodbye to Roger Knouff, LIS I, Reference. Roger has accepted the position of Maps/GIS Librarian at Arizona State University.

T-shirts and bookmarks were handed out at the All-Staff Meeting. If you were unable to attend but would still like a t-shirt and/or bookmark, please contact Shannon Cary at carysn@missouri.edu.