

MCMLA Member's Corner: Profiles of New MCMLA Members

Catisha R. Benjamin
MLIS Student
University of Denver
Denver, Colorado

Catisha R. Benjamin is one of our newest MCMLA members. She is working towards her MLS at the University of Denver with an emphasis on Library Information Research Technology (LIRT). She obtained her bachelors in Communications with a minor in Management from Metropolitan State College of Denver.

In addition to studying library science, Catisha also works with the U.S. Geological Survey Library in Denver, Colorado. Her primary responsibilities consist of assisting with circulation, interlibrary loans, and cataloging.

As if the above activities were not enough, Catisha also takes care of her beautiful 5-month-old son Nelan. She is a single mother with an enormous amount of energy and determination. When she has free time, Catisha loves to read, listen to music, and spend time with her son.

Catisha is breaking new ground for her family, as she is the first in her family to attend graduate school. She hopes to pave the way for the rest of her family. Love of librarianship for Catisha, stems from the joy in assisting patrons and making required resources available. She hopes to gain as much knowledge as possible as a librarian and then pass that knowledge on to others.

We are fortunate and excited to have individuals such as Catisha choosing librarianship as a career.

Assako Holyoke, MS
Reference Librarian
Health Sciences Center Library
Saint Louis University
1402 S. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63104
314.977.8811
holyokea@slu.edu



Assako is originally from Brazil where she became an M.D., specialized in Pediatric Gastroenterology. Later, in Japan, she pursued Ph.D. at the University

of Tokyo. In the U.S., where she currently lives with her husband and their two children, Assako was admitted in a medical librarian-in-training program at the Saint Louis University, during which she pursued MS degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Assako has no previous experience in librarianship other than being a frequent user of medical libraries. She worked as a translator of medical literature and medical researcher while in Tokyo. This allowed her to be acquainted to the field, be with her children, and to improve her language skills in Japanese and English. Currently Assako is one of the reference librarians at the Health Sciences Center Library of the Saint Louis University and the liaison librarian for the school of medicine. It is also Assako's responsibility to do the collection development for the library. Through the liaison program, Assako works with departmental chairs and faculty of the medical school and assists faculty, residents, and medical students on library services, resources, and literature searching.

Assako's non-working hours are dedicated to her family and her home. She enjoys good movies, theater, music, and readings. She also enjoys nature by watching the birds that come for an easy meal in her back yard. Her deck at the back of the house is full of plants, mostly grown from seeds, including a lemon tree and grapefruit tree. Her most recent challenge is raising a Brazilian flowering tree called *ipê*, also from seeds brought from Brazil. Assako's husband, Larry, says that Assako is making of their house a jungle with so many plants in the house. Assako's son, Eric, is a senior college student majoring in music education. His favorite instrument is piano. Assako's junior high school daughter, Linda, loves ballet and is not happy with just 'A's at school.

What Assako likes most being a librarian is the sharing of information. She enjoys helping library users to find information they need, or to teach them how to find information. Assako's favorite quote talks for itself: "To know where to find information, that in short is the largest part of learning." -- Anonymous
By becoming a member of the MCMLA, Assako expects to meet other librarians in the field of health sciences and learn about what they do and how, to work with them in promoting medical librarianship. She expects that by disseminating knowledge, and at the

same time assimilating knowledge, will allow her to learn more about librarianship in order to improve her library skills and finding the best ways of doing her job.

Ann Kaste, MLS
Digital Resources Librarian
McGoogan Library of Medicine

University of Nebraska Medical Center
986705 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-6705
402.559.7088
akaste@unmc.edu

Ann received a Bachelor of Arts with a major in English and a minor in Philosophy from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN. She entered a job market in need of computer programmers, but few were available. Ann needed a job and was eager to find employment. With her liberal arts degree and passing the necessary basic aptitude test she undertook an 8 week training session with St. Paul Companies enabling her to become a COBOL programmer on their billing system. Ann found satisfaction in her job, but she still dreamed of working in a library. She had been introduced to the library world while working part-time in the college library as she completed her undergraduate degree. She loved the environment. While working full time she began taking night classes to earn a degree in Library Science. In 2000 she graduated with an MLS Degree from the College of St. Catherine which is a joint program with the Dominican University in River Forest, IL, a suburb of Chicago.

With her MLS degree completed she began working at two part time library jobs. One was a small business college as a solo librarian where she did it all! She processed the materials, answered reference questions, and provided bibliographic instruction. Another job was working in reference at a public library. For six months she juggled jobs until a grant supported position opened at the University of Minnesota at the National Services Learning Clearinghouse. Unfortunately grant funding ended and Ann returned to her old job at the St. Paul Companies for another year before she and her husband decided to move home to Omaha, NE. Ann was hired as the Digital Resources Librarian at the McGoogan Library of Medicine where she currently works part-time. She loves her job since it brings her background in computer programming and her love for libraries together. She enjoys working with the electronic resources and the web. In July she will have completed her third year at the McGoogan Library.

Ann's husband is a business teacher at the Westside Community Schools. They have a wonderful son, Teddy, who is two years old. She loves to spend time with him as well as cook, read, and go for walks. Currently she and her husband are making tons of decisions as they build a brand new house. Ann's Dad is the contractor which truly makes this a family affair.

Ann looks forward to getting to know the members in MCMLA. It will further promote what she loves most about librarianship – the variety of people she has come to know. She wants to learn more about what other Medical Libraries are doing with electronic resources. Welcome Ann and we look forward to your involvement in the organization.

Joshua Lambert, MLS
SBU Springfield Center

Southwest Baptist University – St. John's College of Nursing
4421 S. Fremont Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804
417.820.2104
jlambert@sbuniv.edu



Joshua's BA degree is from Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS where he majored in Biblical Studies – May 1999. His MLS degree is from Emporia State University, Emporia, KS – May 2003.

Joshua's first library work experience was at Tabor College as a student assistant. During weekends, student assistants were the only employees in the library. This gave him a broad range of experience with public service.

He worked for two years at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL) as Technical Services Associate. He ordered, received, and paid for the books coming into TSCPL during that time. He interacted with vendors and learned a great deal about acquisition processes. The volume was huge and overwhelming at times but he enjoyed working at the library and decided to go on to get his MLS.

At Emporia State's School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) he was a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA). It was a great experience from which he learned many things. He gained technical experience by installing and maintaining student lab computers and faculty computes. Part of the job also included running

cameras during video conference classes; a process often fraught with technical and pedagogical difficulties.

Today he works at Southwest Baptist University – St. John’s College of Nursing in Springfield, MO. He is a branch manager of a small library that serves around 500 students, mostly nursing students. Duties include circulation, reference, collection development, bibliographic instruction, discarding, and every other aspect of running a small library. Some projects he has worked on since accepting this position are: setting up a new periodical section for people to browse; started a library blog; survived a remodeling; and managed to make the book collection shrink due to needed discarding.

In Joshua’s free time he is involved at a local church where he participates in choir and helps community members with service projects once a month. He is also a computer hobbyist and uses the Linux OS and use Free software whenever possible. He advocates use of Open Source and Open Access anywhere he sees that it is useful for others as well. He constantly reads industry news as it relates to technology in libraries and has contributed frequently to Wikipedia and Wikibooks.

Joshua and his wife Jennifer are expecting their first child in November.

What he likes most about being a librarian is helping people solve information problems.

As the only professional librarian at his library, he looks to MCMLA for new ideas and services that he can implement in his library.

Paul Schoening, MS, MBA
Associate Dean for Academic Information Management

Bernard Becker Medical Library
Washington University of St. Louis
660 S. Euclid Ave., Campus Box 8132
St. Louis, MO 63110
314.362.3119
Paul.Schoening@wustl.edu

Welcome to new member, Paul Schoening, who is currently the Associate Dean for Academic Information and the Director at the Becker Medical Library at

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO.

Paul’s educational background includes a BA from St. Olaf College in Mathematics and Biology, an MS in Mathematics from the University of Minnesota and an MBA from Washington University.

His work experience likewise, includes a varied and perhaps atypical background for a library administrator. He’s worked for McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) doing research in application of artificial intelligence to military aircraft systems, and at Washington University School of Medicine, doing research in application of electronic document formats for publishing genetic information. Prior to his appointment in 1999 as the medical library director in 1999, Paul worked as the systems director at the medical library.

Paul looks forward to better involvement of the Becker Library in regional professional activities and MCMLA welcomes that approach!

Also welcome the following new members!

Jorge L. Mora III
Penrose Library
University of Denver
2135 E. Wesley Avenue
Denver, CO 80208
303.871.2747
jmora@du.edu

Helene Gottesmann
Medical Librarian
Family Resource Center
St. Louis Children’s Hospital/Becker
7147 Cambridge (Home)
University City, MO 63130
314.725.8415
hgottesmann@lycos.com

Christine O’Brien
Student
Emporia State University
7300 Floyd St.
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204
913.262.4521
Obrien_christine@stumail.emporia.edu

Omaha 2007 Planning Meeting

Teresa Hartman, MLS

McGoogan Library of Medicine

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Omaha, NE

thartman@unmc.edu

Most of the planning committee Chairs met in Omaha in July 2005 to kick off the 2007 conference planning process. Many thanks go to: the Iowa members investing their personal time in



traveling across the state for the meeting; the ICON members that joined the group for dinner (and a lot of laughs!); the Nebraska members for welcoming

everyone to the great city of Omaha; and Creighton for hosting the meeting. Everyone appeared to enjoy viewing the Hilton and imagining the learning and networking opportunities that could be created there for the 007 attendees. Meeting one another in person really helped solidify the planning process as well! ☺

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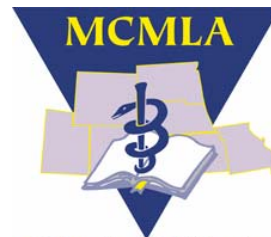
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