This first issue of 2021’s theme is Moving Forward. We asked MCMLA Members to share how you are moving forward from the past year. We highlight those ideas in this issue while highlighting exciting things to come this year.

In this issue:

MCMLA Chair, Melissa DeSantis, reminds us to stay positive in the new year.

The Advocacy Committee shares not one, but two podcasts to help inspire us in 2021. The Committee also celebrates those who are working to highlight the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their organizations.

Thanks to the efforts of MCMLA Archivist, Jessica Gerber, the proceedings of the 2019 and 2020 Annual Meetings are now available.

The Executive Committee voted to make the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force a standing MCMLA Committee.

Nancy Woelfl provides Bylaws Committee updates.

We get a look at the 2020 successes at Eccles Health Sciences Library.

A.T. Still Memorial Library shares exciting news about a Smithsonian exhibit coming to town.

We honor the life and work with an In Memoriam to Cam Gentry, MLS.

Dave Castelli shares some library-inspired haiku.

We celebrate the work and accomplishments of our Members.
Hello MCMLA members, and welcome to 2021! I hope everyone had healthy and happy holidays as the past year came to end. 2020 was definitely quite a year! I don’t think any of us thought when the pandemic was taking hold in early March last year that a full year later we’d still be living with it having such an impact on our lives.

And while the vaccine is slowly being administered (some of you might have already received it!), it is obvious that it is going to be a long time before we’ll actually know what “normal” is going to look like.

I hope everyone is taking time to care for themselves, in whatever way works best for you. All of us are likely experiencing disillusionment, disappointment and exhaustion some of the time. It is perfectly normal to be experiencing these feelings.

I strongly believe things will get better. I don’t believe things will be the same as they were before the pandemic, but I believe we will be successful in figuring out how to make ourselves, including MCMLA, adapt to our changing environment.

I believe this because I’ve seen the Chapter continue to function and adapt since the pandemic hit. We successfully held a virtual Annual Meeting and quickly adapted our plans for future meetings. Our committees continue to meet and get work done. Most recently the Advocacy Committee has updated their charge, the Bylaws Committee has ensured our work done electronically is compliant, and the Membership Committee is experimenting with different ways to reach potential new members.

One positive aspect of this pandemic is that it has forced us to try to do things in new ways. If you have thoughts or ideas of how MCMLA could better adapt, please don’t hesitate to let me or any of the other members of the Executive Committee know.
Two New Advocacy Podcasts

By Jacob White, MCMLA Advocacy Committee; edited by Jerry Carlson

The Advocacy Committee is excited to share two new podcast episodes.

The first is with John Chrastka, the Executive Director of EveryLibrary.

EveryLibrary is a political action committee for libraries. They work to build voter support for libraries. John spoke with us about his impressions of how the pandemic has impacted the way our patrons view libraries. We also talked about what health sciences libraries can learn from the public and school library worlds about advocating for support and building public awareness.

The second is with Jennifer Burke. Jennifer leads a consulting firm that assists libraries and information professionals in communicating their value and expanding their impact. We had a great conversation with Jennifer about lessons health sciences libraries can learn from the corporate world in terms of their brand and messaging.

John and Jennifer are both passionate advocates for libraries and library services. They realize what a challenging time this is for many libraries and are working hard to help us build and sustain the support needed to get through tough times.

We hope you enjoy listening to our conversations and look forward to bringing you more great guests throughout 2021.

Advocacy Challenge Winners

By Kristy Steigerwalt, MCMLA Advocacy Committee; edited by Nina McHale

Congratulations to our first quarter Advocacy Challenge winners, Emily Vardell & Maggie Shawcross! Their projects focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Emily, who is assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University, created a faculty book club focusing on DEI issues. They began by reading “How to Be an Anti-Racist” by Ibram X. Kendi and “Algorithms of Oppression” by Safiya Umoja Noble. They have been incorporating readings and discussions within graduate courses to help library students consider how best to support DEI efforts in their own workplaces.

Maggie, who is Health Sciences Librarian at the University of Northern Colorado, put together a DEI LibGuide for the UNC campus that includes DEI resources: https://libguides.unco.edu/DEI-and-Antiracism.

The guide, which is intended to serve as a discovery tool for DEI and anti-racist resources, includes books, journals, databases, films, and community resources.

Please join me in congratulating Emily & Maggie!
Meeting Proceedings Available

By MCMLA Publications Committee

Thanks to the hard work of Jessica Gerber, University of Colorado Strauss Health Sciences Library, the Proceedings from the MCMLA 2019 and MCMLA/MWMLA 2020 Annual Meetings have been created and published.

The Proceedings create a record of the content that was shared at the meeting. Thank you to Jessica Gerber, MCMLA Archivist, for getting this project completed. Check it out today!

Introducing the MCMLA DEI Committee

By MCMLA Publications Committee

In 2020 an MCMLA Diversity & Inclusion Task Force was formed. At the February 2021 Executive Committee meeting, members of the Task Force requested that the Task Force be made a permanent standing Committee for MCMLA.

The motion passed, and the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force has been renamed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI). The DEI Committee will foster diversity, equity and inclusion in all MCMLA activities. Brenda Linares, KUMC A.R. Dykes Library, led the Task Force and will now be the DEI Committee Chair.

Congratulations to everyone involved for making this important initiative a success!

AHIP Application Grants

By MCMLA Publications Committee

Are you considering applying to the MLA’s Academy of Health Information Professions - AHIP for the first time or renewing at a higher level?

Don't forget that MCMLA offers a grant to cover fees for both new and renewing applications. Applications are now being accepted.

if you have any questions - about the grants or AHIP - be sure to reach out to Shawn Steidinger, our Chapter Credentialing Liaison.
If you think MCMLA revises its bylaws frequently, you’re not imagining things. While the Chapter tries to minimize revisions, changes do become necessary. In 2017, for example, MLA revised its model chapter bylaws, necessitating a major overhaul of MCMLA bylaws. Now a recently published edition of Roberts Rules of Order will lead to additional changes. The Bylaws Committee has been on its toes, dealing with three issues.

First, Robert’s Rules of Order defines a meeting as a single physical gathering in one room at which a quorum of members is present. An organization that wants to hold virtual meetings must specifically authorize them in its bylaws. To bring MCMLA bylaws into compliance with Roberts Rules, the committee is recommending that a section dealing with meeting technology be added to the article on meetings. Coming up with the appropriate wording was tricky as it’s hard to predict how meeting technologies will evolve.

Second, Robert’s Rules requires MCMLA to clarify its article on nominations and elections to authorize elections via the e-mail list. The Chapter has been legally holding electronic elections for years but will now make this more consistent with Roberts. This led to broader discussion of voting and how to conduct votes when some members are gathered at a physical meeting site while others attend virtually.

Such hybrid meetings will inevitably occur and Robert’s is emphatic that votes conducted using two different methods (physical and virtual) are invalid. A related question also came up: can a virtual meeting attendee ask a physical attendee to serve as their proxy? No. Roberts Rules specifically forbids proxy voting in deliberative assemblies such as MCMLA. (Note: Proxy voting is legal in corporate settings where ownership of property such as stocks and securities can be transferred.)

Finally, while MCMLA ex officio committee members play an extremely valuable role, there has been uncertainty about their voting privileges. This will be clarified with a statement indicating that ex officio appointees serve as nonvoting committee members.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations on January 14, 2021. However, they will require a two-thirds majority of members attending the 2021 Annual Business Meeting to adopt them. The actual wording of the recommended bylaw changes will be distributed to members via the MCMLA e-mail list prior to the annual meeting.

A big THANK YOU to Elizabeth Kiscaden, George Strawley, Laura Lipke and David Brown who donated to the endowment fund when paying their 2021 dues. For donating to the endowment fund during dues renewal they will automatically become a MCMLA STAR and will be eligible for the MCMLA STAR drawing and the Endowment Fund drawing at the 2021 annual business meeting.
Eccles Health Sciences Library: 2020 Year in Review

By Catherine Soehner; edited by Katie Dayani

Eccles Health Sciences Library wrapped up 2020 promoting all their great work and successes from the year. The full report can be read online here.

Library staff highlights include:

• Nancy Lombardo’s research contributions were selected for the 2020 Banner Project. Eighty faculty were reviewed with only 20 faculty members selected across campus.
• Nena Schvaneveldt and Brandon Patterson were recognized as Research Honorees at the 2020 Celebrate U event.
• John Bramble received the 2019 Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association (MCMLA) Outstanding Achievement Award.
• Brandon Patterson received the 2019 MCMLA Star Award and received four scholarships to attend national and regional conferences.

Health equity and inclusion highlight:

A recent story about shortcomings in education surrounding dermatology and people of color highlighted the lack of images of conditions on skin of color. In response, EHSL reviewed its dermatology resources to identify those focused on inclusivity of skin pigmentation. These resources were shared with the Health Sciences Education Executive Council. The new resources were purchased and are now available for all University of Utah faculty and students:

• Atlas of Black Skin – Includes more than 800 high-quality photographs and illustrations to help guide physicians in treating the nuances of darker skinned patient populations.
• Dermatology Atlas for Skin of Color – With more than 300 color photos, this atlas focuses on dermatologic conditions most common in ethnic skin or skin of color.

Super Bowl 2021

Compiled by Katie Dayani

We asked, and you delivered! Those of us rooting for the Kansas City Chiefs were disappointed with the outcome of the game. But, we had fun cheering on our favorite NFL team! Here’s hoping for a better ending next season.

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*The Zalk Veterinary Medical Library journal collection was ready to #RunItBack! – Courtesy of Kate Anderson*
Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Exploring Water’s Environmental And Cultural Impact hosted by A.T. Still University

By Debbie Loguda-Summers; edited by Nina McHale

A.T. Still Memorial Library, located on A.T. Still University’s Kirksville, Missouri, campus, is pleased to announce it will coordinate the presence of a Smithsonian traveling exhibit in spring 2021. Due to COVID-19 pandemic safety protocols, the University has arranged for the exhibit to be on display at the Sue Ross Arts Center in Kirksville, Missouri, where it will be available for limited numbers of socially-distanced visitors. There will also be a number of virtual and outdoor events. CDC safety protocols will be followed, and masks will be required.

In 2019, A.T. Still Memorial Library was awarded a grant from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibits and Missouri State Humanities Council to host the exhibit “Water/Ways,” part of a Smithsonian exhibit series designed to promote access to museum exhibitions, research, educational resources, and programming for rural communities. This event was originally planned for August 2020, but was delayed due to the pandemic. From the Smithsonian release:

From above, Earth appears as a water planet with more than 71 percent of its surface covered with this vital resource for life. Water impacts climate, agriculture, transportation, industry, and more. It inspires art and music and is needed for everyday health.

A.T. Still Memorial Library, in cooperation with Missouri Humanities Council, Kirksville Arts Association, Sue Ross Arts Center, Adair County Public Library, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Kirksville Tourism Board will examine water as an environmental necessity and an important cultural element as it hosts “Water/Ways,” a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program. “Water/Ways” will be on exhibit March 15-April 21, 2021, at the Sue Ross Arts Center, 215 South Franklin Street, Kirksville, Missouri.

“Water/Ways” explores the endless motion of the water cycle, water’s effect on the landscape, settlement and migration, and its impact on culture and spirituality. It looks at how political and economic planning have long been affected by access to water and control of water resources. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment.

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about “Water/Ways” and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit museumonmainstreet.org.
In Memoriam: Cam Gentry, MLS

Compiled by Amanda Sprochi

Camillia Gentry

Obituary originally published in the Wichita Eagle, January 27, 2021:

Wichita, Kansas - Camillia "Cam" Anne Gentry passed away on January 21, 2021 in Wichita Kansas.

Camillia was born on September 1, 1949 in Washington D.C. to Merle A and JoAnne Gentry. After traveling the world and collecting 6 more brothers and sisters, the family settled back in Lawrence Ks. Cam graduated from LHS in ’67. She went on to attend the University of Kansas and completed her BS in political science and social work. She then enrolled at Emporia State and received a master's degree in library science.

As a librarian, she dedicated her life to making knowledge accessible to all. She was a librarian at Wichita State University for many years where she met and married Steve Otto in 1984. She was also librarian at Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, in Junction City, Ks and John F Kennedy Library at the Hutchinson Community College. She finished her career as a medical librarian at Via Christi Health Care in Wichita.

Cam was a known activist, especially for women's rights. She was a member of N.O.W, FOCAL and ZAP and she always fought for what was right. She participated in the 2004 March for Women's Lives and the 2016 Women's March in Washington DC.

Cam also loved going to auctions and collecting.

Cam was preceded in death by her parents and a younger brother Mark Allen Gentry.

She is also survived by her husband of 36 yrs Steve Otto, Wichita; step son Ethan; sisters Marsha Hesany and Denise Gentry, Gainesville Fla and brothers Fred, Lawrence; Brian and wife Amy, Lawrence and Clint and wife Vanessa, Piper Ks.

She is also survived by eight nieces and nephews and four great and four great nieces and nephews.

Due to Covid, there is no service currently planned.

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MCMLA Members’ Condolences and Memories:

It’s with a heavy heart that I share the news that Cam Gentry, MLS passed away January 21st. Cam was a dedicated, passionate librarian and a longtime MCMLA member until her retirement from Via Christi Health System in 2017. She was a wonderful colleague and friend. She will be dearly missed in our community. -Kristin Sen

This is very sad news. I enjoyed knowing Cam and I remember how much fun the 2010 meeting in Wichita was. I looked at the meeting info on the MCMLA web site and it brought back wonderful memories. Cam contributed so much to our profession and chapter but it was her warm personality that I remember most. - Margaret Bandy

I can echo Kristen’s comment about Cam’s passion for our profession and her dedication to those she served in the health professions and the patient community. I’ll remember her for her spirit, commitment, and many great ideas. - Nancy Woelfl
Library Triptych Haiku

By Dave Castelli, Intermountain Medical Center, Murray, UT; edited by Jerry Carlson

Change is nigh once more
It is my turn to succumb
No one hears my scream

Rumors circulate
Research articles are free
On the internet

Men in suits visit
The library with new plans
New transplant unit

MCMLA Member Highlights

By the MCMLA Publications Committee

Jennifer Brady, AHIP, Southwest Baptist University, completed her Doctor of Education in Instructional Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration and Instructional Design on January 13, 2021. She successfully defended her dissertation titled “Embedded Librarians and Student Success in Graduate Nursing Programs” which evaluated the role an embedded librarian and academic libraries play in student success.

Christina Pryor has been appointed Interim Director of the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, effective March 1, 2021.


Keri Swaggart, AHIP, Children’s Mercy Kansas City, served as the librarian for the AAAAI/ACAAI Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters. Swaggart designed and implemented the literature search strategies and worked with her co-authors throughout the systematic review process – planning, searching, methodology, and evaluation. Check out the article: https://scholarlyexchange.childrensmercy.org/papers/2807/

The Library Team at Children’s Mercy Kansas City launched their new Library website in January.