



**Connections: Bridging the Gaps**

**May 16–21 • Chicago**

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION • [www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org)

**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

“Only connect!...Only connect the prose and the passion...  
Live in fragments no longer...Only connect.”

—E. M. Forster, *Howards End* (1910)



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**A**lmost 100 years ago, E. M. Forster dramatized the need for human connection in an increasingly fragmented world. Today, innumerable tools facilitate collaboration, but it is still possible to feel disconnected from each other. As we work together, how can we also use technology to form lasting connections with our colleagues and our communities?

MLA '08 will focus on the future of librarianship. Does this focus require abandoning the past? As we embrace new technologies, what might we lose? MLA '08 will provide an opportunity for critical reflection on how to preserve the best traditions of health sciences librarianship.

MLA '08 will also make use of cutting-edge technologies to enhance meeting attendees' experience and to allow members who are unable to attend to participate to a greater extent than ever before.

In addition to other benefits, tools that connect us—such as blogs, wikis, and tagging sites—are paperless, thereby conserving resources and reducing waste. The City of Chicago, our host, actively encourages green living. Building on environmental awareness, MLA '08 will showcase some of the best practices for hosting green meetings. The meeting center is conveniently located within walking distance of outstanding cultural and dining attractions, another environmentally sensitive step you can take at MLA '08.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Chicago, the “city of big shoulders,” has evolved from an industrial center to a growing high-tech “silicon prairie.” Chicago is also one of the leading transportation hubs in North America, and its many bridges connect its residents and visitors to neighborhoods, the lakefront, business centers, learning institutions, shopping, parks, and entertainment venues.

## An Open Invitation

### Papers

The 2008 National Program Committee (NPC) invites abstract submissions for contributed papers that explore the best ideas or showcase current best practices. Consider what is best in local practices, valid research results, current trends, use or development of innovative technologies, and future projects that highlight what is best about health sciences libraries and information centers and the role librarians and information professionals play in making health information accessible to all. Handouts and electronic presentations from the paper presentations will be posted to MLANET.

Plan to submit your abstract, using the structured abstract guidelines at [www.research.mlanet.org](http://www.research.mlanet.org), by early November 2007. Awards will be given for best papers.

**Contact:** Mary L. Holcomb, Section Council Liaison, Arizona Health Sciences Library, University of Arizona, 1501 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85724; [mholcomb@ahsl.arizona.edu](mailto:mholcomb@ahsl.arizona.edu)

### Posters

The 2008 NPC invites proposals for the best ideas expressed as a poster or electronic demonstration. The range of opportunities for self-expression is unlimited. Consider the use or development of innovative technologies, local best practices, valid research results, current trends, and future projects that highlight the power of partnerships and the best about health sciences libraries and information centers and the role librarians and information professionals play in making health information accessible to all. Posters will be available for viewing during MLA '08. Posters and related handouts will be posted to MLANET prior to the meeting.

Plan to submit your abstract, using the structured abstract guidelines at [www.research.mlanet.org](http://www.research.mlanet.org), by early November 2007. Posters should not repeat information submitted for papers. Awards will be given for best posters.

**Contact:** Tammy Mays, AHIP, 2008 NPC poster coordinator, UIC Library of the Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1750 West Polk Street, Chicago, IL 60612; [tmays@uic.edu](mailto:tmays@uic.edu)

## Note to Section Program Planners

### Planning Meetings for MLA '08

Section program planners will meet at MLA '07 to share their ideas for next year. These meetings will provide a general overview of the concepts behind MLA '08, proposed meeting schedule, and opportunities to explore your program ideas with potential partners. Please plan to attend:

**Saturday, May 19, 2007**

4:15 p.m.–5:15 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, Salon B

**Wednesday, May 23**

7:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Grand Ballroom, Salon D

## Registration

Materials will be available in January 2008. Discounted MLA member fees for early registration packages (before April 2008) are:

### **Super Inclusive: \$430**

Includes admission to all sessions, exhibits, the Welcome Reception, the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, the MLA Reception, and audio CD. This package provides the best value.

### **Inclusive: \$405**

Includes admission to all sessions, exhibits, the Welcome Reception, the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, and the MLA Reception.

### **Conference only: \$295**

Includes admission to all sessions, exhibits, and the Welcome Reception.

### **Headquarters Hotel**

Hyatt Regency Chicago

151 East Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60601

[www.hyattchicago.com](http://www.hyattchicago.com)

Rate: \$229 single/double occupancy, plus tax