

Developments Spring 2026 v. 37 #1

Message from the Chair

I have been thinking about how often our work in collection development asks us to offer grace—to ourselves, to one another, and to the systems we use. Our days are full of competing priorities: balancing budget pressures, supporting our colleagues and communities, staying aware of new formats and publishing models, responding to the continuing evolution of user information needs, and more. It's no surprise that many of us feel pulled in several directions.

While technology should make things easier, this isn't always the case. We've all experienced moments of exasperation with technology - an unexpected platform outage, a discovery layer that suddenly behaves in ways no one can explain, a spreadsheet that refuses to open, or discovering the absence of a password for an online session all 5 minutes before a presentation begins. I'm continuously impressed by how our community responds to these issues with patience, creativity, humor, and collaboration. These small acts of grace are what keeps me moving forward. I want to thank all of you for your kindness, and I sincerely appreciate your patience, grace, and humor as I've navigated my way through the year as the Chair of the Collection Development Caucus.

With that spirit in mind, I'm looking forward to the upcoming MLA Conference. The conference offers an opportunity to reconnect with one another, recharge, and be inspired by others' collection development activities and projects. I'm looking forward to learning more about your work!

Robyn Gleasner

MLA CD Caucus Chair

Message from the Co-Editors

The phrase “all good things must come to an end” is widely attributed to Chaucer and is certainly appropriate for my experience as one of your co-editors. It has been a great privilege chronicling the achievements of my fellow caucus members and informing the caucus and MLA about the work of the caucus. In the process, I've gotten to know some great people a little better. From this vantage point, I get to see the work that librarians in our caucus do, writing books, developing new educational curricula, creating symposia, and learning from each other through the caucus forums. Thank you for this opportunity.

Michael Lindsay co-editor

When I first saw this opportunity posted on the old MLA listserv (remember those? Sigh) I wasn't sure I would have the know how to fill this role, but Michael already had a great template when I joined him and was helpful and easy to work with and that made all of the work easier. I have sincerely enjoyed being one of the co-editors of the newsletter. Working with Michael has been a fantastic experience. I am so thankful to have had this experience, and I wish it could have gone on a little while longer however terms end and such is life. I look forward to seeing what our next co-editors do and learning more about the awesome work that is being done by this caucus.

Sarah Wade, co-editor

Member Highlight: Sarah Wright



Sarah Towner Wright, MLS, Head, Clinical and Statewide Engagement, Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Where were you born and where have you lived?

I was born in southern Pennsylvania (near Hershey Park), and I've also lived in northern Virginia and North Carolina.

What was your first library job?

My first library job was in high school as a desk clerk at our local public library. For my first professional library position, I served as a Reference Librarian at the Health Sciences

Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I enjoyed that position so much that I came back to UNC 10 years later after working in libraries in Washington, DC and Virginia.

What are your professional and career activities?

As is the case for all health sciences librarians, I am heavily involved in the adaptation and training of genAI tools, especially in the clinical environment. We are conducting a study on the usage of clinical genAI tools in the clinical environment and comparing the adaptation of these tools between faculty and trainees. Also, I just finished supporting two grants from AHRQ to support the development of clinical guidelines for the US Preventive Services Task Force.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love to cook, garden, and travel. This year, I have taken several classes in candle making and glass blowing. The glass blowing was extremely difficult but a fun adventure.

What is something you are looking forward to this year?

Professionally, I am looking forward to attending and presenting at AAMC. This is a great conference for academic health sciences librarians supporting medical education.

What is something that worries, scares, or surprises you? – OR- What do you consider to be your greatest challenge at this time?

Right now, I find it challenging to provide up-to-date and reliable data and information to support clinical decision-making and consumer health needs. With government resources frequently changing and generative AI tools not always providing trustworthy or reproducible information, ensuring accuracy has become a shared challenge for all of us serving our users.

Collection Development Caucus Forums

Forum on AI & Collection Development

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Ivan Portillo and David Carson presented [“Applying Artificial Intelligence and Chatbots to Enhance Collection Development in Health Sciences Libraries”](#) on September 10 for the CD Caucus Forum. They shared their prompts used in ChatGPT to discover new titles published,

gaps in their libraries' collections, and how to compare existing title lists for analysis. The session generated many thoughtful questions and ideas from the audience about how they can use AI for collection development in their libraries.

Forum on Hospital Library Collection Development

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Co-sponsored by MLA's Collection Development Caucus and the Hospital Library Caucus
Facilitated by Basia Delawska-Elliott (Medical Librarian, Providence) and CeCe Railey (System Medical Librarian at Norton Healthcare)

How are you dealing with budget cuts?

By cutting resources, beginning with canceling or reducing ClinicalKey subscriptions. One library's ClinicalKey ebook usage was low and concentrated on only a small number of titles; EBSCO Ebooks was a sufficient alternative. ClinicalKey also includes a lot of OA journals.

You could also track usage for certain ClinicalKey packages to see which ones make sense for your library, and which ones don't. You do not need to subscribe to the entire package. Be aware that ScienceDirect contracts are tied to ClinicalKey and can impact costs.

One library deduplicated its subscriptions after picking up MEDLINE Ultimate.

For useful alternative resources, catalogs have been replaced with LibraryThing or LibraryWorld. EBSCO Publication Finder and EDS are useful for finding electronic content. We are connecting PubMed to journals and database content using LibKey Nomad. FullTextFinder can do this, and it provides an ILL option when full text isn't available. Internet Archive can be useful too; it's now a federal repository.

Other resources: one library chose not to implement Article Galaxy because they could use CCC RightFind for no cost besides the article fee.

Challenges of large hospital library systems: purchasing print doesn't make sense because print resources can't be easily shared between all of the hospitals. Also, we cannot easily participate in consortia once they are multi-state. Attendees were interested in a future discussion about marketing resources.

Forum on Navigating AI Integration in Health Sciences Libraries: Perspectives, Practices, and Evaluation Tools.

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Megan Inman, collection development librarian at East Carolina University, William E. Laupus Health Sciences Library, presented "Navigating AI Integration in Health Sciences Libraries: Perspectives, Practices, and Evaluation Tools" at the CD Forum held November 18, 2025. She discussed her survey of libraries showing how many libraries provide and plan to provide access to AI Tools. She also shared her adaptation of the REACT Framework to evaluate requests for these tools. Slides can be found at:

https://www.mlanet.org/?attachment=330152&document_type=document&download_document_file=1&document_file=103488

Forum on Creating Core Resources Lists

December 3, 2025

108 attendees

This was an amazing forum. There were 4 presenters presenting on behalf of 3 different projects. Nicole Theis-Mahon presented about MLA's 2022 [Recommended Journals, Databases, and Books for Dental Hygiene Programs](#).

Sarah Wade presented about [NAHRS Nursing Essential Resources List](#).

Krystal Bullers and Dr. Jason Guy presented about the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)'s [Basic Resources for Pharmacy Education List](#) and provided a brief overview of their [Core Journals List](#). This presentation was particularly interesting because they talked about their review process, which was very intricate and thorough.

Everyone gave a summary of what their project was, how to access it, what the time commitment was, how to be involved (if the project was ongoing), and how the group decided what to include. Then there was time for questions and answers.

Forum on Collection Development Policies

Thursday, March 12, 2026

81 attendees

Yumin Jiang (University of Colorado Anschutz) kicked off the presentations by sharing her library's [Collection Development Policy](#), which includes an overview of the collection, its scope, funding sources, primary users, and selection criteria, among other topics. Their policy spotlights library support for open access in collection development and licensing. It also acknowledges outmoded descriptions and content, which are maintained for the historical record.

Robyn Gleasner (University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center) provided an overview of her library's [Collection Development Manual](#), which is a whopping 19 pages long! It dives far deeper into detail, even including a table listing collections-related employees and their responsibilities. It also has a section on reconsideration requests. Their manual was reviewed by several stakeholder groups, including the public, which was a lengthy process.

Liz Kellermeyer (National Jewish Health) talked about her hospital library's [Collection Development Policy](#). When she started there in 2014, there was no formal donation or collection policy in place, which made it hard to decide what to do with their many donations. She researched best practices for academic and special libraries, reviewed her library's 5-year plan,

examined other libraries' policies, and dug up a policy her library had many years ago. With this information, she created new donation and collection policies.

Lastly, **Ramune Kubilius** (Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine) presented on her library's [Collections Philosophy](#) and outlined some reasons why Galter Library opted to maintain and occasionally update a philosophy statement rather than create a more detailed public-facing policy or manual. Galter Library's philosophy includes brief statements on the purpose and scope of its collections and lists the following guiding principles to help with its management: environmental scans (e.g., usage statistics, user needs, and scholarly publishing trends), collection management principles, and business principles. Not included are details about levels and formats to collect for certain subject areas, how collection decisions are made, and other topics commonly covered in collection development policies. The [caucus's ebook chapter on collection development policies](#) was brought up as a useful resource; it also includes links to the policies/frameworks presented. It was noted how libraries can take very different approaches to their collection development policies/frameworks, even among libraries that seem very similar. Drafting one is also very much an iterative process. There was a question about what counts as a procedure versus a policy, and the speakers explained that a procedure provides instructions on how to do something, while a policy is more general. Some participants mentioned that they were in the process of revising very outdated collection development policies, and that support for that process would be helpful.

Forum on Educational Opportunities for Negotiation

Monday, April 6th, 2026

42 attendees

The session began with a presentation of the ONEAL Project, presented by **Katherine Macy** (Indiana University), **Courtney Fuson** (Belmont), and **Scarlet Galvan** (University of Chicago). ONEAL, or Open Negotiation Education for Academic Libraries, is an IMLS funded project to teach negotiation skills to academic library workers who work with vendors. As noted by the presenters, planning and executing negotiations is very similar to chess. The planners approached their work by seeking input from librarians, including 20 library workers that were involved in curriculum planning, conducting a qualitative research study with 35 interviewees, and included 6 pilot testers that completed the Foundations curriculum. The curriculum included an introduction to licensing, and ensuing modules covered negotiation strategy, vendor research, and accessibility. The project planners have developed a robust set of resources for participants and have had success in creating a community to support negotiation and knowledge. The project's website hosts the full, open curriculum, including learning modules, each with its own set of learning objectives. There are downloadable workbooks, a resource list including readings, links to resources on negotiation principles and model license language, and exercises to improve knowledge. SPARC hosts the curriculum on their website, and the curriculum can be used for individual or group learning. As part of the organizers' goal to build a community, a Discord account has been set up to facilitate communication on licensing questions and even supports a job board. One particularly interesting technique that the ONEAL group encourages for librarians in negotiations is the practice of journaling about their experiences, seeking to more systematically evaluate their own style and to reflect on how the negotiator can improve.

One question that arose regarded how to negotiate when the librarian is not the final decisionmaker. This question was posed in the Q&A, and it was pointed out how important it is for the librarian to know who has signature authority in an organization, and that librarians should make efforts to establish a relationship with the decisionmakers, so that they understand our priorities and we understand licensing rules for the organization. The presenters noted that they counted downloads of contents and accesses of the ONEAL website for evaluative purposes.

The next presenter was **Carly Ryan** of the California Digital Library, and she presented on CDL's licensing resources. CDL provides service to many vastly different kinds of libraries, including academic libraries, hospital libraries, and a national laboratory. Hospital libraries can be challenging for CDL to get good deals for as many vendors want to apply more commercial rules to pricing, such as using bed count. Licensing as a group can also be challenging as vendors will often have different reps covering academic and clinical markets. The group develops model licensing and keeps a library of redacted licenses for members' use. CDL includes Common Knowledge Groups (CKG's) which are smaller subject specific groups that are designed to foster innovation and cultivate shared expertise. There is a License Reviewers CKG, which provides a number of workshops, such as "Learn to License Like a Pro", which is designed for staff with no legal expertise. They also have partnered with SPARC, but don't have good statistics to demonstrate their value. At present, downloads of content, and video watchers are counted.

Caucus Election Results and Appointments

Congratulations to Megan Jaskowiak for being elected as the Collection Development Caucus Chair-Elect, and to J. Michael Lindsay for being elected Secretary for 2026-2027!

Dawn Hackman and Dennis Nangle have also been appointed co-editors of the Caucus newsletter, Developments, and Rich Wisneski has been appointed as the Web Manager.

In June, they will join Kayce Gill as Chair, and Robyn Gleasner as Past-Chair and Nominating Committee Chair on the Caucus Executive Committee.

Thank you all for your dedication to the Caucus!

- from Karen Gau

Caucus MLA '26 Presentation Citations

Lipke, L. (2026). Evidence-based citation analysis of a health sciences journal collection. Lightning Talk.

Evener J and Berg MH. Sound Solutions: Expanding Access Through Digital Audiobooks. Paper presented at: MLA Annual Meeting, May 22, 2026, Milwaukee, WI.

Deptula, M. & Ghajar, M. (2026). From Metrics to Meaning: Using Visualization Tools to Foster Collaborative OA Cultures [Poster session].

Pomputius A, Hough C, Miller V. Assessing Engagement following the Expansion of a Graphic Medicine Collection. Paper presented at MLA Annual Meeting, May 22, 2026, Milwaukee, WI.

Adaptation and Navigation: Collections in a Time of Change.

Panelists: Karen L. Hanus, Leonard L. Levin, and Nicole Theis-Mahon

May 21, 2026, 10:30am-11:45am, local time

Gleasner RM, Everitt L, Maurici-Pollock D, Hall LH. Cultivating Open Data Repository Discoverability through Cultured Collaboration: A Lightning Talk. In Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, May 19-22, 2026. Milwaukee, WI; 2026.

Symposia –Collection Development Sessions

A CONSTANT EVOLUTION: NEW AND UNIQUE APPROACHES TO COLLECTIONS

- AI & Collection Development
- Adaptation and Navigation: Collections in a Time of Change
- Building Community with Collections

Nangle, D. (2026, May 22). *Library advocacy through a funder's lens: What federal funding work taught me as a new health sciences librarian* [Lightning talk]. **Medical Library Association Annual Meeting**, Milwaukee, WI.

Nangle, D., & Hurst, E. (2026, May 21). *The language of strategy: How academic health sciences libraries are positioned in university plans* [Poster session]. **Medical Library Association Annual Meeting**, Milwaukee, WI

News & Updates on Major Projects: Collection Management Specialization

We've reached an exciting turning point in the Collection Management Specialization project. It has been a long road, but we have gone about it carefully; assessing the need for a new specialization, examining the existing specializations to develop our model, building our work group and expanding out to name a review group. By standing up a review group, we built feedback into the process from the very beginning. We have thought about who we would want to create the specialization for, discovered our "why" for a new specialization, decided on the scope of what the specialization should cover, and more recently, ironed out the skill areas that provide the most value for our intended audience. We've made decisions on the structure of the

specialization; the current thinking is to have a single-level specialization that would include one or more mini-credentials available on critical topics such as license negotiation.

Finally, we are now at the stage where the rubber meets the road, deciding on curriculum. To begin, we have been examining existing MLA CE offerings to find which ones meet the skill areas we have identified. For those areas that represent gaps in the curriculum, new classes will be designed. I want to thank all of my colleagues that are participating in this project for their diligent work and am looking forward to when we can release it to you all; I know this will be something we can all be proud of.

Michael

Collection Development Symposium

The fifth edition of the Collection Development Symposia will present three sessions at MLA in Milwaukee. The first session on Wednesday at 9am will look at how AI is being used in collection development. Our second session on Thursday at 1:30, Adaptation and Navigation: Collections in a Time of Change, will explore how libraries have been impacted and are responding to shifting federal and state policies and restrictions around DEI. The final session, Collaborating Across Perspectives: Graphic Medicine and Community Health Outreach Influencing Library Collections on Friday at 9am, will explore the dynamic intersection of graphic medicine and community health outreach to build more inclusive and engaging library collections. Please join us for all three exciting sessions.

-Jason Burton

News about Conferences, Professional Development Opportunities, and other items of interest:

Special Thanks to Ramune Kubilius for her contributions

Medical Library Association Annual Conference

May 19-22, 2026

Milwaukee, WI

<https://www.mlanet.org/meetings-events/MLA-2026>

Options: in-person+virtual; virtual only

The Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge

May 17-20, 2026

Government Camp, OR

<https://acquisitionsinstitute.org/about>

NASIG 41st Annual Conference

June 2-4, 2026

University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Union, Madison (WI)

<https://www.nasig.org/NASIG-Annual-Conference>

Charleston in Between

“Creative Destruction of Scholarly Communication”

June 25-26, 2026

<https://www.charleston-hub.com/the-charleston-conference/welcome/charleston-in-between/>

Options: Berlin, Germany or Online

ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition (celebrating 150 years of ALA)

June 25-29, 2026

Chicago, IL

<https://www.ala.org/conferencesevents>

[Full Schedule](#)

Options: On-site conference, online single day, exhibits only

The Charleston Conference at the Frankfurt Book Fair (2026 Frankfurt Book Fair Micro Conference)

October 9, 2026

Frankfurt, Germany

This event will be free and open to all book fair attendees.

<https://www.charleston-hub.com/the-charleston-conference/welcome/the-charleston-conference-at-the-frankfurt-book-fair/>

Charleston Conference

November 2-6, 2026 (in person)

Information will be forthcoming: <https://www.charleston-hub.com/the-charleston-conference>

Proposals will open in June 2026.

Options: in-person+online week; online week only