

University of South Alabama

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Synapse Newsletter

Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library

Spring 2012

President's Column

Alabama Health Libraries Association

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello and welcome to all.

The Annual Meeting for ALHeLA, planned by Jana Smith, began November 3, 2011 in the Rosa Parks Library at Troy University Montgomery. The meeting took place over a day and a half and included one CE course, *So You Have to Weed Your Collection, What to do with all that stuff*. The course was presented by Michael Flannery, Professor and Associate Director of Historical Collections, and Liz Lorbeer, Associate Director for Content Management and Co-Liaison for Dentistry, both at UAB Lister Hill Health Sciences Library. Cheryl A. Plettenberg, Chair of the Department of Health Information Management at Alabama State University presented a session, *Timely Topics in Health Information Management: What Librarians Need to Know*. At the dinner gathering Sunney Poyner, a student of the UAB Honors Program, presented "Libraries and Cultural Record," reflections of her independent study seminar which was conducted under the direction of Liz Lorbeer and Sylvia McAphee. The business meeting provided the opportunity to elect new officers and review activities.

Since that time we have had to say good-bye to Jana Slay as President and the Executive Committee continues to fill vacancies with myself as President.



Though not official, Michael Fitts has agreed to come on board as the Vice President-President Elect as we work to finalize some of the other committee assignments.

Through the continued diligent work of Kay Hogan Smith and other members who have worked with her, ALHeLA continues to share health information and resources with citizens of Alabama. This year, Kay has been awarded funds from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern Atlantic Region to exhibit at the Alabama Health Library Association in Birmingham.

ALHeLA is looking to partner its next annual membership meeting with another health library organization. The annual business meeting is scheduled for Fall. More information to come as the planning for these events develops. For all members who have yet to do so, please renew your membership for 2012. Thanks to all for your participation in ALHeLA!

Inga Moten

Alabama Health Libraries Association Executive Committee 2012

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2012

In attendance:

- Robert Britton
- Susan Smith
- Emma O'Hagan
- Inga Moten
- Errica Evans
- Sylvia McAphee
- Lee Clemons-Taylor
- Kay Hogan Smith

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of August 2, 2011 [[Synapse](#) (2011), 4-5.]

Committee reviewed minutes prior to meeting. Minutes were approved

I. Reports

a. Liaison

Kay pointed out that because there is lots of interest in exhibiting around the state and we'll need to coordinate in applying for SEA NNLM awards more than in the past. A list of meetings we should consider exhibiting at has been compiled and is stored in Google Docs. We should consider region and organization when deciding if USA, UAB or ALHeLA should take the lead on the exhibit and submit the exhibit grant to NLM. If you don't have access to the document e-mail Kay and she'll add you.

There are several meetings coming up. Emma and Cara applied under UAB for NLM funding to exhibit at two nursing conferences. Kay also applied as UAB for the Alabama Public Health Association meeting. There are other opportunities to exhibit in Montgomery and on the Gulf, which USA might consider. Kay would like to apply as ALHeLA for the Alabama Library Association to get word out about Health InfoNet. Also ALHeLA may want to consider the Alabama Rural Health Assn in Prattville (May 2-3). USA may want to consider the Alabama Pharmacy Association in Destin (June). The committee agreed that that ALHeLA should be the listed agency for the Alabama Library Association so Kay will submit the application to NLM.

b. Treasury

Inga asked for questions about budget and expressed concern that we wouldn't spend enough money considering our non-profit status. So long as we stay under \$10,000 Sylvia thinks we'll be all right.

Briefly discussed the treasury report. Sylvia motioned to approve, Lee seconded.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2012 (cont.)

Errica's name has been placed on the Regions account and we've also gotten a debit card. ALHeLA was being charged a monthly analysis fee so we've moved to "Life Green Checking for Business" account. We must maintain \$2,000 in a 30-day period and not go over a certain number of transactions. We'd like to move back to the business-style checks (the current ALHeLA checks look like personal checks). This will cost \$83. Inga and Lee agreed should move back to business-style checks. Errica will call bank and order new checks. Finally, Errica asks that we keep her informed about all awards we applying for/receiving.

c. Bylaws/Handbook

Lee reminded us we needed to call a meeting of the general membership to elect a new board after a new VP has been elected. After that the new board can approve the revised bylaws. For the first part of this revision we need to notify the full membership with a 10 day notice. A minimum of 7 members must be present to vote.

Sylvia has formed a nominating committee with Suhua Fan & Erin Thrift. One person has been nominated; Sylvia is still looking for other candidates.

d. Continuing Education

Inga would like to see programming concerning Health Disparities. There was interest in this topic among the rest of the group.

e. Directory

Has been updated.

f. Disaster Preparedness

No updates

g. Membership

No updates

h. SYNAPSE

Call went out March 1st for contributions.

i. Nominations

No updates

j. Board Members at Large

No updates from members at large. Inga would like them to consider taking on vacant committee chair positions.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2012 (cont.)

k. Website

No updates

l. Listserv

No updates

II. Unfinished Business

a. Executive Committee –once the nominees are determined we'll proceed

b. Meeting issues

For the next meeting we'll try using UAB's Fuze meeting account. Inga pointed out that free services have largely disappeared or been absorbed by paid companies. So that ALHeLA doesn't have to purchase one of these products we'll try using Fuze from UAB. Emma will send out a guide to using the product with Skype or a phone line in preparation for the next meeting.

c. Next meeting will likely be in mid May

III. New Business

a. Annual Meeting 2012 - We'd like to consider meetings less often, perhaps every other year. Lee suggested we have an e-mail discussion amongst the executive committee. Will start discussion on officer listserv then maybe open to entire membership.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2012

In attendance:

- Andrea Wright
- Elizabeth Laera
- Emma O'Hagan
- Inga Moten
- Jie Li
- John Burgess
- Nelle Williams
- Robert Britton
- Susan Smith
- Errica Evans
- Lee Clemons-Taylor

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 5, 2012

Andrea motioned to approve the minutes from the 3/5/12 meeting and Robert seconded.

I. Reports

a. Liaison

Kay was unable to attend, but in an email she said everything went well with the exhibits at the Alabama Library Association meeting. She wanted to remind us, if anyone writes an exhibit grant for NNLM, please include a request for funds for water bottles for future exhibits.

b. Treasury

The treasury report was displayed. As of May 7th, there was a little over \$11,200 in the treasury. Errica just received the exhibit award from NNLM so the account is over the \$10,000 maximum we are supposed to hold.

Nelle suggested we could use some of the surplus funds for water bottles. Errica will ask Kay how many bottles could be purchased for \$500. She'll then send the suggestion to the listserv and we will vote from there. Lee seconded.

Inga moved to open the floor to discuss Errica's suggestion for the development of a new treasurer transition document. Nelle seconded. Errica is concerned by the difficulties in transferring responsibilities from one treasurer to the next and would like to create guidelines so facilitate this transition in the future. There was general assent and several people volunteered to be involved. Errica will write something up and ask for Nicole's opinion. Lee seconded the treasury report.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2012 (cont.)

c. **ByLaws/Handbook**

Nelle addressed that as we consider holding biennial meetings, we have to consider that a nonprofit has to have a meeting with a quorum at least once a year. It doesn't have to be a meeting with other programming or CEs but we will need to continue have an annual business meeting. If we combine our meeting with another state's we will have a separate business meeting at that time.

Lee and Nelle want to review the new ByLaws once more before we vote on them at the next annual business meeting.

d. **Continuing Education**

No updates, Michael Fitts was unable to attend

e. **Directory**

No updates, Jana was unable to attend

f. **Disaster Preparedness**

Jie informed us of two disaster courses MLA has developed. Jie and Nelle both plan to attend one of these courses. Another course (10 Step Approach to Service Continuity) was offered when we had an emergency preparedness grant. Jie suggested we consider offering a refresher course at UAB and/or USA, or possibly online. Jie is looking into this and will update us when she has more information.

May 23rd through June 2nd is hurricane preparedness week and June 1st is the beginning of hurricane season. Jie reminded us to update our emergency preparedness plan every year.

g. **Membership**

Errica is still acting membership chair. She sent the spreadsheet of renewed dues and two reminders through the listserv but we still have a poor rate of renewals (only 15 for 2012). Elizabeth suggested we send a mailer with the form and an addressed envelope or even an individual email with the form attached (as opposed to a listserv email) to encourage better response. A new membership committee chair should be appointed soon and this will be a task they can take on. When we have the next elections, the next membership chair will receive a list of these suggestions.

h. **SYNAPSE**

Robert and Emma have received most of the reports and articles. We delayed publication slightly so we could include today's minutes and so Inga could include today's meeting in the president's column. *Synapse* will be out in the next day or two

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2012 (cont.)

i. Nominations

Michael Fitts has agreed to be vice president/president elect for the rest of this term. We also need to nominate and elect directory and membership chairs. Sylvia suggested James Gilbreath as membership chair. We'll vote on the VP at next meeting.

j. Board Members at Large

Nothing to report at this time.

k. Website

We are considering a redesign of the site. Currently there is no committee but one will be formed one if there is interest. Inga will put a call out to the membership and to gauge interest level and recruit a committee.

l. Listserv

Nothing to report. There was a suggestion to remove people from the listserv if they do not renew their membership to encourage more timely responses.

II. Unfinished Business

a. Executive Committee

Nothing to report

b. Meeting issues

Inga asked if there were any problems with Fuze. Andrea, who organized the trial is open to suggestions for other platforms. Fuze is affordable when compared with some of the other options and allows 25 simultaneous attendees. We discussed the issues with VoIP which is unreliable, however the call-in options and Skype seemed sufficient. The annual cost is \$500. Susan brought up that Fuze also charges an additional \$0.08 per minute for use of the toll-free number. If meeting attendees used the toll-free number this would significantly raise costs. Skype and VoIP will not add cost to the yearly fee. Andrea will cancel the current trial and request another using ALHeLA's information. This will give us more time to evaluate the product. Andrea will send a pros/cons list to listserv to help us decide and will set up trials for other products where there's interest. Andrea will invite us to test the different products.

c. Annual Meeting

There has been a fair amount of interest in partnering with another organization. Georgia has been mentioned as a possible partner and they usually meet in the spring. This will give the new VP in Nov time to plan. We will still need to have a business meeting this fall (Oct/Nov). Nelle pointed out that this would also be a good time to approve the new bylaws. Georgia doesn't have anything posted for their 2013 meeting but Inga will try to contact them about the possibility of a joint meeting and a timeframe.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2012 (cont.)

- III. **New Business/Other**
None

News from the Lister Hill Library

Changes to the Library Building

There has been a tremendous amount of construction going on around the library over the last semester. Most of it has little to do with Lister Hill. Nevertheless, it's exciting, especially on the 4th floor which has empty for so long. It will now be home to the School of Public Health's "Edge of Chaos," a collaborative space for UAB faculty, staff, students, and members of the Birmingham community.

Though the Edge of Chaos is almost complete, there's more construction to come at Lister Hill. The building where the UAB Archives are currently located is being razed to make way for the City of Birmingham's new downtown baseball park and therefore the Archives are moving to Lister Hill Library. We're looking forward to having the whole of the Historical Collections unit of LHL, which includes the archives as well as the Reynolds Historical Library and the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, in one location by mid-summer.

We've been hoping to buy some new furniture for some empty space on the main floor of the library building for quite a while now and it looks as if we'll have that this summer too. The best part about this process was getting feedback from our library users. We were able to bring in chairs for students to test-drive and vote on as well as a collaboration station that allowed students to connect multiple devices and project to share with their group. Users seemed to really appreciate that we solicited their opinions and we hope to continue to involve them in any future library improvements.

News from the Lister Hill Library (cont.)

Scott testifies to congress

On March 29th Lister Hill Library Director T. Scott Plutchak testified at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. The subject was “Examining Public Access and Scholarly Communication Interests.” Plutchak says, “It was a fascinating look into how Congress goes about its business. The subject of public access to articles based on federally funded research is something I’ve been involved with for a long time. I was very pleased to have an opportunity to share my views with Congress in this kind of public forum.”

Plutchak was a member of the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable, a group convened by the House Committee on Science in the spring of 2009. The Roundtable issued its report to Congress and to the White House in January of 2010. Subsequently, language from the recommendations was included in the re-authorization of the America COMPETES Act, which was signed in December 2010. That language instructed the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to convene an interagency committee to coordinate the development of public access policies among the major federal granting agencies. A report from that group was released in early April. Plutchak goes on to say, “Enabling scientists and the public to have easy access to the peer-reviewed results of federally funded research is a critical issue, but it’s a complex one. The Roundtable members recognized that a multi-faceted approach, that involves all stakeholders and recognizes the differences among different disciplines, would be the most effective, and I’m pleased to see that OSTP is following that path.”

Other news and notes

This past January, we dropped our Web of Science subscription in exchange for the database Scopus. There were a number of factors that contributed to the decision to switch from one product to the other, not least of which was that Scopus provides us with content useful to the entire campus rather than just the sciences and health sciences. And although we know it was an adjustment for some of our long-time WOS users, the change has gone well. We were encouraged by our users’ understanding and openness to the new database and were reminded of the importance of openness and communication with our users.

We also purchased a yearlong subscription to Fuze Meeting, an online meeting, video conferencing and collaboration software package, in January. This has allowed us to begin offering weekly “Express Training” classes online. We’ve found that these classes are more popular than our in-person weekly classes. We seem to be reaching not only distance students, but also clinicians who just don’t have the time to

News from the Lister Hill Library (cont.)

leave the hospital or clinic to attend a class in the building. A secondary use has been for consultations with distance students. Librarians can then give the student control of the computer, allowing the librarian to watch how the student performs a task and also helping us to quickly recognize misunderstandings or poor searching habits. This has been a great help in communicating with students who are off campus.

Over the past year we've tried to become more mobile friendly at Lister Hill. We've been offering a number of classes that focus on mobile technology. These classes included Express Training classes specifically for medical applications as well as some fun classes about mobile apps in general. These classes were either designed as 60 apps in 60 minutes, or, when we're feeling less ambitious, 50 apps in 60 minutes. These classes were quite popular with students, faculty, and staff (though we know the free pizza helped). We've developed a [Mobile Technology LibGuide](#) to link our users to medical applications. It has also served as a place to provide users with needed information and instructions when these apps allow you to authenticate through an institutional subscription. But the most exciting component of our growing emphasis on mobile technology is our new [mobile site](#). Using LibGuides' great mobile website tool, Nicole Mitchell created a fantastic, streamlined version of our website with only the most relevant and needed information. We were also excited to be able to link our new mobile site to the University's new mobile app, which was developed using the Blackboard platform.

The Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences was pleased to be able to create a show based on the research of 4th year UAB School of Medicine student, Valerie Gribben. Gribben gave a gallery talk and book signing in March based on her research of Victorian era author Mary de Morgan (1850-1907). The exhibit, titled *The Charm was Broken: Illness and Injury in the Fairy Tales of Mary de Morgan*, will be on display in the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences through September. During the talk, Gribben elaborated on her research and how she found that Miss de Morgan incorporated medical themes in much of her writings. Read her [op-ed in the New York Times](#) about how Victorian fairy tales helped her better understand her experiences as a medical student.

The Kirklin Clinic Patient Resource Library (TKC PRL) opened its doors on November 1, 2006. The TKC PRL came about through collaboration between the TKC, UAB's Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences. On October 27th, library staff celebrated the 5-year milestone with a birthday party at the library. Since opening, the TKC PRL has hosted over 27,000 visitors and the librarians have responded to almost 8,000 information requests. We are looking forward to many more years of providing quality health information to UAB patients and their families at the point of care!

News from the Baugh Biomedical Library

Flodin Donation

Dr. Nestor Flodin, former member of the USA COM Department of Biochemistry, left a donation in his will of \$25,424.98 for the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library. Dr. Flodin passed away in April 2011 at the age of 96. He is remembered fondly by several of the Biomedical Library staff members as being very kind and being faithful in donating journals to the Biomedical Library. He was a frequent user of our interlibrary loan department as he worked on various research articles. PubMed includes 17 articles published by Dr. Flodin, while Scopus includes 24. His most recent article was published in 1997 and as of March 2012, his articles have been cited 186 times, with a 1975 article cited seven times in 2011 alone. His research will have an impact for years to come.

Information from an article about Dr. Nestor in the Mobile Press Register in 2005 indicated that when he moved to Fairhope in 1974, he was anxious to “check out the medical school in Mobile and see what kind of library they had.” We are glad that the Biomedical Library resources were able to help him in his research endeavors.

After considering the options and opportunities made available by the gift a decision was made to direct the funds to the opportunities with the greatest impact.

Our first priority will be a wireless printing system. Many of the health science departments require that their students have a laptop and more and more users are coming to the library with either a laptop or a mobile device. With this system, users will be able to print not only from their laptops, but also from their phones and tablets. I think this will be a very welcomed addition to our services as more and more of our users have laptops and/or mobile devices.

We also plan to develop a collaborative learning center to replace the current computer lab. As mentioned, more and more students have their own computing device and fewer are using the computer lab as it is currently configured. At the same time, there is a push in the health sciences for collaborative and inter-professional learning. A collaborative learning center will allow students to work together on projects that will enhance their learning process, both within their college and with health science students from other colleges.

The Biomedical Library is very grateful for these funds which will allow improved services for faculty and students. The generous gift from his estate will benefit the education and research of USA faculty and students. If you would like to make a contribution to the Biomedical Library, contact Judy Burnham, Director of the Biomedical Library or the USA Office of Development.

News from the Baugh Biomedical Library (cont.)

Summary of Value of Library and Information Services in Patient Care Study

March-May 2011, the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, along with 56 other health science libraries (representing 118 hospitals) participated in a survey-based study to determine the value of library and information services in patient care. Below is a summary of the results of that study.

Executive Summary

Data from USA participants was equivalent in most areas to that from the national data. USA data indicates that information made a difference in how a clinical situation was handled and had a positive effect on patient care. Data indicates the information was valuable and saved the clinician time and that adverse effects were avoided as a result of the information. Data indicates that the library/information resource is more important to physicians than discussion with colleagues or lab tests. Of the top five resources, the Biomedical Library provides access to three resources and the hospital provides access to the remaining two. Of the top ten resources listed, the Biomedical Library provides access to seven. Data indicates areas of educational need concerning other resources available from the Biomedical Library and also indicates the need for education on library web page versus search engine. The overall participation for USA was 10%, which was comparable to the national rate.

National Library Week Book Drive for USA Children's and Women's Hospital



As part of our celebration of National Library Week, the Biomedical Library organized a book drive for the USA Children's and Women's Hospital to support their book programs, including Reach Out and Read, through which they give out books to kids and teens at well and sick visits.

Throughout National Library Week, April 8-14, 2012, donation boxes were placed at Biomedical Library sites, University Library sites, and other populous areas around campus. Over 2400 books were collected for the program.

News from the Baugh Biomedical Library (cont.)

All Hospital Library Staff are Consumer Health Information Specialists

Geneva Staggs, librarian, Nancy Pugh, library supervisor, and Heather Hoven, library technical assistant, have all received the Medical Library Association's designation as a specialist in Consumer Health Information (CHIS). This designation recognizes the completion of course work in the consumer health information field. Courses focus on the administration of consumer health services and resources to assist patients and patient families in making informed health care decisions in conjunction with their doctors and other health care providers.



The goals of MLA's CHIS program are to improve health information services for consumers, create partners in the delivery of consumer health information, and increase access to consumer health information courses. This program is open to medical library staff, public library staff, staff working in consumer health libraries and health professionals. For more information about the program visit the MLA website at: <http://www.mlanet.org/education/chc/>

Having all three of the hospital library staff achieve CHIS designation ensures that patients and families referred to the library for information on health concerns are receiving quality assistance. Health care providers may also request information from the library staff to give to their patients.

Health InfoNet Survey of Public Librarians

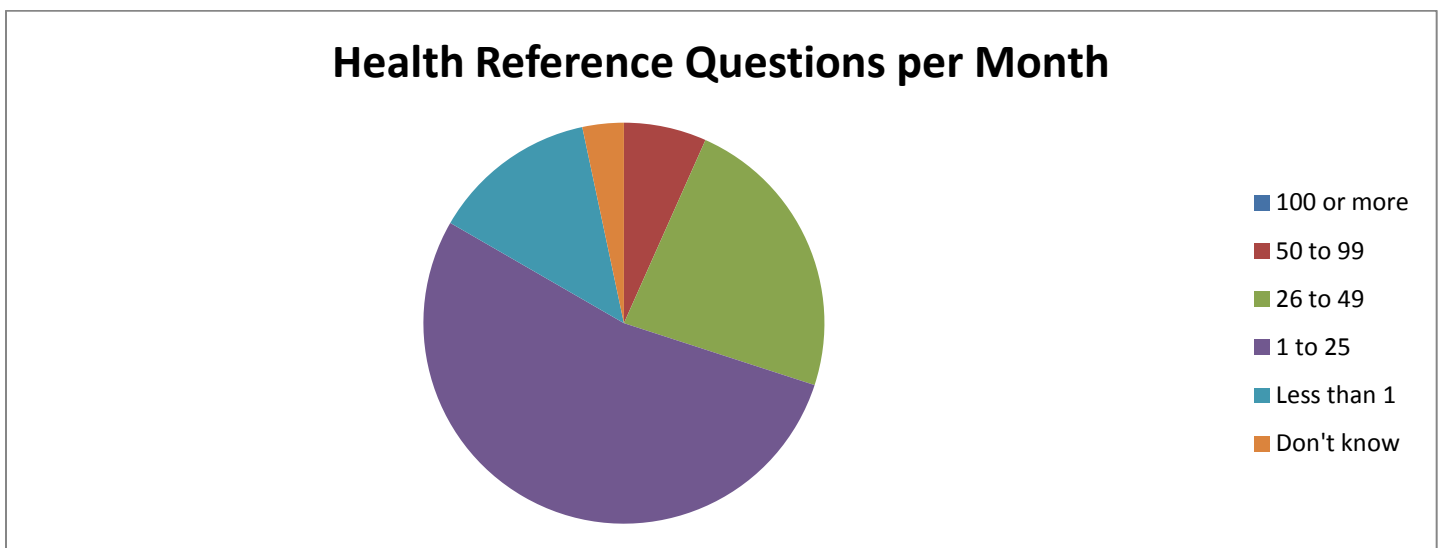
by Kay Hogan Smith

Introduction and Background of Survey

Health InfoNet of Alabama project director, Kay Hogan Smith, conducted a survey of public librarians and their staff in March 2012 via Survey Monkey. The purpose of the survey was to assess the library personnel's familiarity with InfoNet and their satisfaction with the services. There were only a relative handful (about 30) responses out of the 1700+ people employed in public libraries. However, the information this handful provided gives us a good glimpse into their use of the service—or the lack thereof—and why or why not.

Results Summary

The first question asked respondents to estimate how many reference questions related to health were fielded in their libraries per month. As the chart below indicates, most respondents (16) calculated that number between 1 and 25 per month.

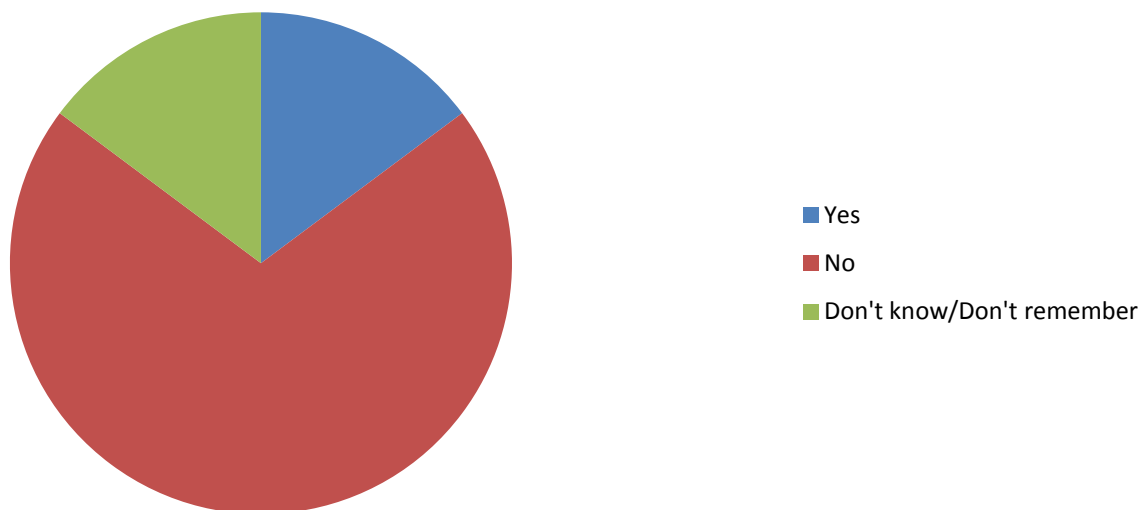


The response to the next question was discouraging. The outcome indicated that about 83% of respondents had not visited the site in the past year. Of those that had, most (64%) hadn't looked at the "Health InfoNet Resources for Librarians" page (<http://healthinonet.org/Pages/Librarians.aspx>). Likewise most (79%) had not found Health InfoNet on Facebook.

Questions about medical library services to public libraries via Health InfoNet were similarly, if not unexpectedly, answered by the respondents. A vast majority (89%) had never consulted with any medical librarians about health questions. Most (77%) had never received consumer health information service training via InfoNet either. Even the most popular service to the public librarians (based on anecdotal evidence, admittedly), the regularly updated core list of recommended health resources for collection development, was not often used. Only 15% of respondents had ever used the core list.

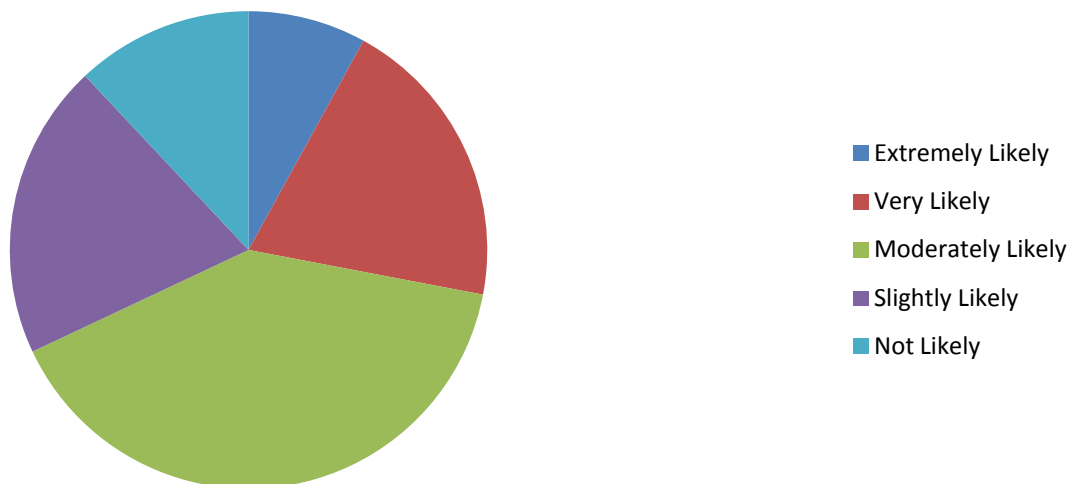
Health InfoNet Survey of Public Librarians (cont.)

Core List Use



One encouraging note could be found in the fact that the vast majority of respondents were moderately likely to extremely likely to visit the InfoNet site, Facebook page, consult with the medical librarians, or the core list of recommended materials or other services in the future.

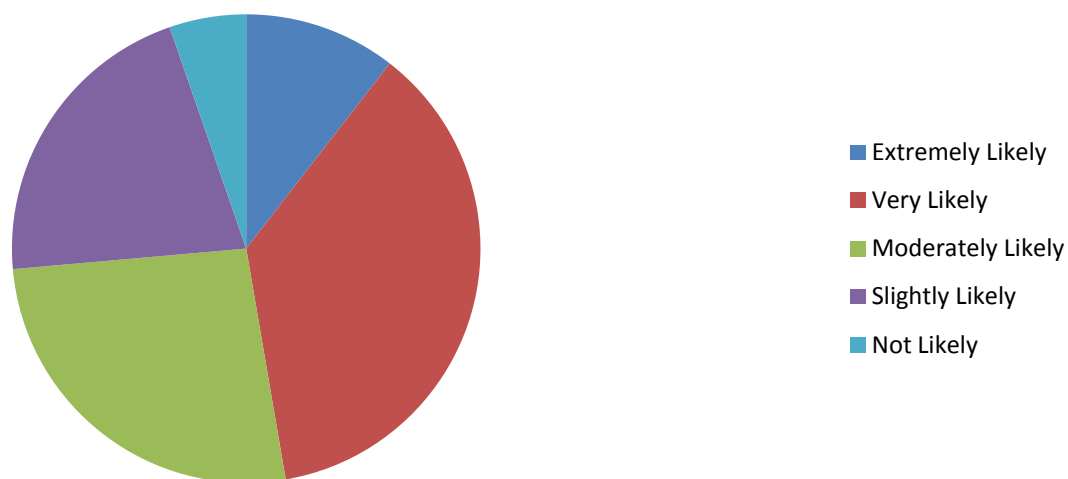
Likely to Use InfoNet in Future



In addition, of those who responded to the question (19), "How likely would you be to recommend Health InfoNet to other librarians and users?" most were at least moderately likely to do so.

Health InfoNet Survey of Public Librarians (cont.)

Likely to Recommend



As usual, the most interesting results were in the comments and open-ended questions responses. While more respondents skipped the question “What do you like most about Health InfoNet of Alabama?” there were 12 respondents who provided comments. After the “haven’t used it/never heard of it” responses (7 of the 12), there were a number who liked the ease of access to reliable health information. One respondent who didn’t know about the service indicated that he/she would be making use of it in the future.

Other notable comments included the following:

- “We are not allowed to help patrons with medical issues. We can only show them the books referencing medical info and they have to take it from there.”
- “We are advised not to get involved with a patron’s health issues.”
- “[Consulting the core list of recommended materials] sounds like something I should do.”
- “More publicity will help, so that people know of the resources available to them.”
- “Now that I know, I am going to familiarize myself with the site, so I can better help our patrons.”

Many other comments indicated a general lack of familiarity with InfoNet and the services for public librarians.

Conclusion

It seems clear from these results that, despite our best efforts, the word about Health InfoNet is not getting out to our primary partners in this initiative, public librarians and staff. In order for this work to have value, we have to find ways to make the service known among those on the front lines of user services. Any and all ideas about how to do this would be welcome!

From the Editors

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to *Synapse* this year. Over the next year, please consider contacting us throughout with news, going-ons, and updates from yourself or your library. We hope to see you either at the annual business meeting next fall or at the annual membership meeting.

-Robert Britton and Emma O'Hagan