



**Chapter Council Presents
Sharing Roundtables
MLA Annual Meeting
San Antonio, TX
Monday, May 16, 2005**

Table 20A: Organization of Electronic Resources

Facilitator: Lee McCarley

Recorder: Pamela White

Additional Participants: Susan Foster-Harper, Patricia Greenstein, Heather Kish, Steven Mayo, Deanna Stevens

Topics Discussed and Ideas Shared:

Introductions

Five participants work in academic health sciences libraries, two in hospital libraries.

How are E-Journals organized and made accessible to users?

- OPAC
- Ebsco A-Z (title list)
- Home-grown A-Z list (database driven)
- SerialsSolutions (very pricey – mentioned as a possibility, but no one was using this)

No one was using a static web page to make E-Journals accessible.

Ebsco A-Z had several major advantages:

1. Ebsco creates the list from the journal titles supplied by the organization. The list includes pertinent information such as holdings and embargoes.
2. Subject searching is allowed
3. The list can be customized and branded
4. The cost is reasonable

In contrast, hand built or home grown lists, whether static web pages or database driven, have many maintenance headaches.

How are E-Books organized and made accessible to users?

- OPAC
- Through individual products such as MDConsult or StatRef
- Static web pages lists (both topic lists and A-Z title lists)
- Home-grown A-Z list (database driven)

Federated Searching

Federated searching is a hot topic. The main advantage for users is simplicity – they can search across many databases, including some they never would have considered searching, in one step. The major disadvantage is that the search is keyword driven, retrieving results based on the lowest common denominator. The question we as librarians wrestle with is “Will users get the information they need?”

Google Scholar is becoming more popular and some results are impressive. If libraries don't move ahead with federated searching, will Google Scholar fill a perceived void?

Promotion and Marketing

Regardless of how well e-resources are organized and displayed, promotion and marketing is essential. These efforts need not be elaborate, but should include not just what is available, but also *how* the e-resources can be accessed. Suggestions included:

- Give presentations at faculty meetings or lunches
- Write brief articles for faculty or staff newsletters
- Hold technology fairs
- Scan the literature for articles of interest to specific faculty/physicians, and email the full text article in pdf format. Include a note such as “thought you might be interested” and also mention that additional resources are available via the library's web site.

Interlibrary loan can also have promotional value. If you are able to forward ILL requests to users electronically, it might spark their interest in accessing the library's e-resources, once they see how convenient and easy e-access can be. (Note: NLM awards technology grants for document delivery.)

Sharing Electronic Resources

RefWorks is a web-based citation management product. A new component of this is RefShare, which allows users to share bibliographic citations, and can also be used to point to e-journals owned by the library. Participants felt this could potentially be very useful and was worth further investigation.