



Chapter Council Presents

Sharing Roundtables

MLA Annual Meeting

Chicago IL

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## Final Report Form

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### Table 23a New & Emerging Roles for Medical Librarians

E-science, e-research, or networked science will provide new roles for medical librarians. Science is no longer being done alone in a laboratory. E-science, e-research, or networked science, are all names for the concept of collaboration, production, and sharing of data across a network will provide new roles for librarians. Librarian's next frontier will be working with the data. Librarians will have opportunity to organize, store, curate, preserve and redistribute the data in different formats. This data is all "downstream." Librarians will also have opportunity to work "upstream" or setting up a structure before the data is produced, thus making it easier to organize and access. ARL web site on e-science at:

[http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/ARL\\_EScience\\_final.pdf](http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/ARL_EScience_final.pdf)

Good two-part article on librarian roles with e-science at:

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september07/gold/09gold-pt1.html>

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september07/gold/09gold-pt2.html>

Other new roles include serving on IRB committees. University of Massachusetts has a librarian as a permanent member of IRB committee.

It was acknowledged that this role takes a librarian out of his or her comfort zone and requires a great deal of time and preparation.

Bioinformatics will also provide new roles for librarians, but additional training and a background in bioinformatics will be required. Experiences of four institutions/libraries with bioinformatics collaborations are reported in JMLA article:

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=16888668>

Librarians can provide IT technical support, video conferencing, media centers, CME, and hospital/healthcare management roles.

Metadata specialists will be needed in organizing Web 3.0. While Web 2.0 is social aspect of the web; Web 3.0 is the "Semantic Web.

As librarians take on new roles what are we prepared to give up? What can we stop doing?

Flexibility is important and librarians should take advantage of opportunities as they arise. The key will be in building partnerships with the right people and units and collaborate. Librarians are the perfect facilitators for such collaboration since the library is seen as a neutral place.

Recorder: Please send your report (MS Word file attachment preferred) by Monday, June 9, 2008 to:

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