

**Chapter Council Presents**  
**Sharing Roundtables**  
**MLA Annual Meeting**  
**Chicago IL**  
**Sunday, May 18, 2008**  
**Facilitator:** Doris Wisher – Touro University,  
Nevada [dwisher@touro.edu](mailto:dwisher@touro.edu)  
**Recorder:** Marie Elias – Montefiore Medical  
Center, Bronx, NY [melias@montefiore.org](mailto:melias@montefiore.org)

**Table # 8**  
**Table Topic: Electronic Libraries**

**Additional Participants:**

Teresa Coady - [teresa.coady@va.gov](mailto:teresa.coady@va.gov)  
Britt-Nicole Peterson – [bpeterson2@sjm.com](mailto:bpeterson2@sjm.com)  
Anne G. Turner – [resource@xculture.org](mailto:resource@xculture.org)

Brian McFerron was absent.

**Topics discussed and ideas shared:**

Doris Wisher, the facilitator, opened the session by introducing herself and asked the participants to introduce themselves and tell why they had signed up for this table. After the introduction, the participants took turns to share their interest in the topic and express their concerns. The following ideas were shared.

Doris shared her experience in opening a virtual library at Touro University, Nevada, where she is currently the Library Director. It took her 7 weeks to convert the library from traditional to electronic. It was very challenging for Doris, but she did it. Now the physical space of the library is small, but its electronic resources are growing. The library's holding is 98% electronic and 2% print, which include more than 15,000 electronic journals and about 40,000 E-books. Ranging from College of Medicine, Physician Assistant, to Education, Physical therapy and Autism, the library supports a variety of programs. The library's users include 14,000 students and about 90 faculty members.

Teresa Coady, a solo librarian at the VA in Des Moines, IA is in the process of transforming her library from print to electronic. Teresa has no budgeting issue; she can obtain anything for the library. However, her main concerns were weeding the old collection and reaching out to the electronic users.

Anne Turner, Director of Northwest Resource Center, CCHCP, Seattle, WA is too a solo librarian. Since her library is self-funded, she was wondering if she can generate revenues for the library by providing electronic access. In addition, Anne needed help in identifying E-resources to buy.

Britt Nicole Peterson is a librarian at St. Jude Medical, Sylmar, CA. Her vision is to move the library's resources from print to electronic, as much as possible. Britt Nicole concerns were keeping the existing collection and digitize it, and providing remote access.

I too, Marie Elias, the recorder, Associate Librarian at Montefiore Medical Bronx, NY expressed concerns about moving my library towards more E-resources. Whenever possible if a title is available in electronic format and the difference is not substantial, my library will get the electronic. My main concerns were as more titles become available online, the number of print will decrease. Therefore, there will be less title to check in and circulate. So when a library becomes fully electronic, do we cut staff and/or library hours?

Many issues were discussed. Participants have raised concerns about physical space, weeding old collection, digitization, identifying E-resources, funding and remote access. Several suggestions were made. Participants have suggested looking at hits and output reports to identify how resources are being used. Participants have also suggested looking at contracts and licensing agreements in providing remote access. Many sources were suggested. Doody's Core Title, MDConsult, R2 Library were among those suggested.

The participants had showed great interest in the topic in sharing their experiences and expressing their concerns. One can conclude that all the participants had one thing in common, which is to move their libraries toward more electronic resources. Although one person was absent, all the participants that were there had found the session very helpful.