

TRLN ANNUAL MEETING 2009: DIRECTORS' REPORTS

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The Most Exciting Things That Your Library Did Last Year

The Medical Center Library & Archives was awarded Duke University's **Blue Ribbon Teamwork Award!** This annual award is given to teams from the health system and main campus who foster cooperation, collaboration and open communication, and who have worked together on a project of significant efforts that advances departmental goals and/or the University mission. The Library & Archives was recognized for its outstanding work in quickly evaluating, moving and consolidating its collections to make way for the office of Duke Medicine Oncology, on its top floor. In less than four months, the staff evaluated the entire collection, tagged, counted and measured each volume according to its future disposition (discards, storage, or retention) and then supervised the consolidation of the collections and user spaces on the remaining library floors. The staff's energy, efficiency, effectiveness, collaboration, and positive attitude were recognized by this award.

The Library & Archives sponsored **two special events**, held in conjunction with each other. The Annual Tea for Trailblazers featured presentations by two African-American physicians who are clinical department chairs at Duke. Dr. Danny Jacobs (Surgery) and Dr. Haywood Brown (Obstetrics and Gynecology) have blazed trails for other physicians in their fields and at Duke. In conjunction with the Tea, the Library hosted the National Library of Medicine's traveling exhibit "Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons." The Library developed complementary exhibits for the hospital display cases which featured contemporary African-American surgeons and other trail-blazers at Duke. Another exhibit within History of Medicine focused on the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, which was initiated at Duke. In conjunction with the exhibit there was another presentation by Dr. Margaret Humphreys entitled "African American Physicians in the Civil War." These events were attended by members of the local community as well as by Duke faculty, staff and students.

A unique and rare historical work called "**The Four Seasons**" is now available online. The History of Medicine Collections had the digital images of these four seventeenth century copperplate engravings transferred from an existing CD-ROM to an interactive Web version available at <http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hom/exhibits/trent/fourseasons>. While the engravings depict the four "ages of man" and human anatomy, they also contain allusions to alchemy, astronomy, astrology, zoology, botany and many other subjects. Both the origin of the illustrations as well as the broad subject areas depicted have fascinated scholars across the world. Through the interactive site scholars can lift flaps and volvelles to expose the many layers of images within each of these rare and fragile engravings

The Biggest Challenges Facing Your Library in the Coming Year

Budget continues to be an ongoing challenge. With a reduction of 7.5% and rising journal and database costs of 6 to 8%, the Library is faced again with making difficult collection decisions and will have to consider journal as well as database cancellations.

The **early retirement** options offered by Duke will have a great impact. After the initial roll-out for paraprofessional/bi-weekly staff, the Library is facing a possible 25% reduction in its FTE. This will mean extensive restructuring of the Library and its services, even if a few positions can be filled. Library space remains both a challenge and opportunity over the next year. Additional space will be converted into a Faculty Center this summer. This will bring more faculty to the building in which the Library is housed, but it also requires relocating the service desk and computer clusters to new areas. However, the great opportunity for the Library is the new School of Medicine's "learning center". This new education building will be constructed adjacent to, if not touching, the current Mudd building where the library is located. There are plans to build bridges into the Library spaces, more fully integrating library and educational activities. The program plan has just started and is providing the library and the School with the opportunity to create a new vision for our facility.

Library hours will be a challenge due to reduced staffing. The Library has already eliminated Saturday hours in order to ensure coverage during our heaviest periods of use on weekdays. The Library may have to start restricting access to the Duke community on evenings and weekends, if it cannot maintain its current staffing levels during its current hours. We are also exploring the feasibility of have 24-hour access for the Duke Medicine community, but using a security service instead of staff during for evening and weekend hours.

Other Developments

A **new Student Advisory Committee** was established and provided us with excellent feedback on changes that were needed in the facility, as well as how students want to use the library and its services.

The Library was awarded a small technology grant to test the efficacy of **Kindles** in providing access to clinical information to students and physicians in clinical settings where access to computers and/or the Internet was limited.

A **new computer access policy** was implemented that limits access to most computers to Duke Medicine faculty, staff and students. A small cluster of computers for general access still exists but most computers require an ID and password to use them.

A new version of the main **Website** was released this year, bringing its look and feel more in line with the Duke Medicine guidelines, while streamlining the content and adding search boxes.

Archives has implemented **new software** that allows users to closely examine images. Archives is using this for images from the History of Medicine Collections, as well as historical photographs and clinical materials.

PastPerfect software was implemented to create a complete and easy to access inventory of all the historical artifacts. Digital images were added to the database along with descriptors.

The Library is sponsoring a **global health exhibit** in August and is working with Durham County Public Library on another exhibit from the National Library of Medicine, this time the "Harry Potter's World" display. The latter arrives in Durham in early September.