

## TRLN ANNUAL MEETING 2010: DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Duke University Medical Center Library & Archives

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<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu> <http://archives.mc.duke.edu>

### The Most Exciting Things That Your Library Did Last Year

With the expansion of health professional education programs to off-campus locations, the Library has worked with the faculty and students to **establish strong liaison programs and services** to those sites. Both the PA and DPT programs have a library liaison who participates in training, consults with students on programs, offers regular and virtual office hours, and ensures they are connected to resources and services. The Library is providing desk-top delivery of electronic copies of materials that are still in print format.

**Archives has acquired several major collections** including class composites and student-faculty shows from Development and Alumni Affairs, a new collection from Dr. Robert Jennings, the 'founding father' of ischemic biology, additional papers from Dr. Dale Purves, who is a national leader in cognitive neurosciences, and the Multicultural Resource Center's documents on their work with the Sullivan Commission on Diversity in the Healthcare Resource. Archives is digitizing the materials from Development so that they are available to the greater Duke community.

MCL&A librarians are **working with researchers in Duke's Evidence-Based Practice Center** to identify relevant research studies in the biomedical literature as well as information available through the gray literature for the identification of best practices in health care. The staff is also involved in supporting researchers in other departments who conducting systematic reviews of research results in the published literature. With the new health care reform emphasis on "comparative effectiveness", another name for evidence-based practice, the Library is well positioned to contribute to Duke Medicine's focus on maintaining and improving the quality of patient care through effective diagnostic tests and interventional treatments.

### The Biggest Challenges Facing Your Library in the Coming Year

With stretched university resources, it is important that the best decisions are made when **selecting paper or digital materials**. The Library needs to ensure that the materials will be used and not sit idle on the shelf or be neglected online. As part of its selection process the Library has started reviewing usage statistics down to the subject level of the materials and has been considering more patron-driven purchasing in the future instead of the traditional just-in-case approach.

Duke's early retirement offering meant **the loss of a lot of experienced and knowledgeable paraprofessionals**. The Library used this as an opportunity to review workflow, identify tasks that were essential to operations, eliminate redundancies and finds ways to more effectively use automated system. While budget reductions and early retirements reduced the overall staff size, the Library has found that it is still operating efficiently and effectively, having streamlined processes and focused on the truly essential tasks, that patrons need and want from the MCL&A.

The Library is surrounded by lots of new construction projects expanding the hospital, cancer center, and a new building for the School of Medicine. The construction just outside our doors is impacting not only traffic flow, but also how people will be accessing and using the library in the future. The new School of Medicine building will actually be connected to the Library facility, creating a natural flow between the learning spaces and library resources and services. The exciting challenge is

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working with the architects to think more creatively about the layout of the existing facility and how it can more fully support and **be integrated into the school's new and dynamic learning environment**. With family and patient resource centers right outside our doors, we are also taking a fresh look at our consumer health services and partnerships with patient educators.

Archives has been involved in an **exciting project that has made key documents** about the history and development of the Physician Assistant profession available on the Internet for students, faculty, scholars, and practitioners. In addition, Archives had been home to the Archivist for the Society for Preservation of PA History through special funding through national groups. The challenge during these tight economic times is to continue to demonstrate the value of the archivist's role in supporting educational and promotional efforts of the state and national societies that currently sponsor the project and ensure its long-term funding.

### Other Recent Developments

The Library has moved to **limited staff hours** in the evening, but provided on-going access to the library through the use of a security service.

The old reference and café area has been converted into a **Faculty Center** by the Chancellor's Office. The Center has become a place where faculty members can gather informally for coffee and conversations or just have a quiet place to get away from the clinical and research settings. In addition the space is being used for special receptions and events, all of which are bringing more and more faculty in through the library doors!

**Kindles, iTouch, iPhone, and iPads** are being explored as ways to bring information to students and faculty in clinical and research settings, and even in off-campus settings where computers and Internet access are limited. The Library was awarded a small grant to explore the use of books on Kindles for students in family medicine rotations at locations outside Durham County. The library staff also worked with the directors of clinical clerkships on medical applications and training for the iTouch and iPhone. Archives is also upgrading its digital repository to Vital5.1. This will allow for multiple site development and increased levels of access restrictions.

Several faculty groups have wanted to pull together resources on education, teaching, and resources for new faculty. The Library has been using their expertise and LibGuides to **build resource portals** customized to their needs.