Houston Conference on Health Informatics

On May 8, 2006, the HAM-TMC Library hosted the annual Houston Conference on Health Informatics. This year’s topic was “Vanishing Bits & Bytes: Preserving Information.” Presenting at the conference were nationally-known leaders in the area of information preservation and stewardship (Clifford Lynch, PhD, Victoria Reich, MLS, Geneva Henry, MA, and Jack Smith, MD, PhD) and active researchers who appreciate the need for that stewardship (Samuel Kaplan, PhD and Lynn Yeoman, PhD).

Focusing on the many challenges surrounding preservation of electronic information, the speakers covered topics such as preservation of biomedical research information by government agencies; the importance of preserving digital information from the viewpoint of institutions supporting research and scholarship; an increasing need on the part of the home institution to store databases and datasets of original research; and current best practices for replication and authentication.

HAM-TMC Library is especially pleased to have its sister research libraries, Rice University’s Fondren Library and The University of Houston Libraries, as conference co-sponsors. All educational and research institutions are faced with the same issues regarding preservation and management of electronic information, and it takes many players to solve the problems.

The University of Texas School of Nursing provided the host facility and also co-sponsored the conference. Generous support from the Brown Foundation was critical to the success of this year’s conference. The Friends of the Texas Medical Center Library provided additional support. We are also grateful to Elsevier, Hollinger Corporation and MetalEdge, companies that paid registration costs for several students in information sciences degree programs.

It is the Library’s hope that this conference helped awaken those who create information to the need for their own involvement in ongoing efforts to maintain and preserve their academic and research data locally. We will continue our commitment to help the TMC community save its research and course materials for the future, using avenues such as the Digital Commons. We will join with other libraries and archives wherever possible to make today’s academic and research material available for future scholars and researchers. We believe this conference helped to forge a bond among all those whose mission is to create, impart and safeguard the scholarly record.
National Network of Libraries of Medicine Regional Medical Library Contract Awarded

The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library has been awarded a five year contract from the National Library of Medicine to serve as the South Central Region of the Regional Medical Libraries. The Network consists of eight competitively-selected regional medical libraries, and over 5,700 health sciences and public libraries.

Since its original authorization by Congress in the 1965 Medical Library Assistance Act, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) has worked to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by providing health professionals and the general public with equal access to biomedical information. The goals of the 2006-2011 contracts are: to develop collaborations among Network members, community-based organizations and other institutions; to promote awareness of biomedical resources with a special emphasis on contributing to the Healthy People 2010 goal of eliminating health disparities; and to improve electronic access to health information for all U.S. citizens.

The NNLM SCR office is working to make information on new initiatives and plans for the upcoming year of the new contract available to you.

News in Health

The June issue of News in Health, a publication that includes practical health news and tips based on the latest NIH research, is now available at: http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/

Featured Stories:
• Ignore the Pain? Innovative Pain Management Ideas
• Good Vision: Millions Don’t See as Well as they Could

Health Capsules:
• Ability to Walk May Foretell the Future
• Stroke: Know the Signs, Act in Time

Featured Website: NIH Research Matters
A review of NIH research from the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health.

As the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research, NIH produces content that is not copyrighted. Copies can be downloaded and displayed free of charge.
Library Hosts Photographic Contest Reception

The HAM-TMC Library hosted a reception on June 8, 2006 to recognize the winners of the Texas Medical Center photographic contest. Robert Bartlett, Information Assistant at the HAM-TMC Library, received an Honorable Mention for his photograph of the Library stairwell. Congratulations, Bob!

Library Class Schedule

Attend one or more free classes offered by the Library during the months of July-August:
- CINAHL: August 22
- EndNote: July 25
- Evidence-based Medicine Databases: August 17
- Library Research for Office Assistants: July 17
- Navigating Full-Text Journals: August 28
- PubMed: July 19
- SciFinder Scholar: July 26, August 24
- TOXNET: July 25, August 22

For a complete class schedule, times and registration visit: http://resource.library.tmc.edu/class/schedule.php

Classes are offered in the Street Level Classroom.