

# A Guided Tour of Issues and Trends: The Thirteenth Annual Health Sciences Lively Lunch

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**Presenter Information**

Wendy Bahnsen, Deborah D. Blecic, Robin Champieux, Elizabeth Ketterman, Ramune K. Kubilius, Marysue Schaffer, Anneliese Taylor, and Andrea Twiss-Brooks

## **A Guided Tour of Issues and Trends: The Thirteenth Annual Health Sciences Lively Lunch**

*Wendy Bahnsen, Executive Director, Library Services, Rittenhouse Book Distributors, Inc.*

*Deborah D. Blecic, Bibliographer for the Life and Health Sciences and Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago Library*

*Robin Champieux, Scholarly Communication Librarian, Oregon Health and Science University*

*Elizabeth Ketterman, Assistant Director for Collections, Laupus Health Sciences Library, East Carolina University*

*Ramune K. Kubilius, Collection Development and Special Projects Librarian, Galter Health Sciences Library, Northwestern University*

*Marysue Schaffer, Associate Director, Collection Management, Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University*

*Anneliese Taylor, Assistant Director, Scholarly Communications and Collections, University of California, San Francisco*

*Andrea Twiss-Brooks, Co-Director, Science Libraries, University of Chicago*

In this year's sponsored but no holds barred lunch, the conference theme, "Too much is not enough", resonated. Lunch host Wendy Bahnsen from Rittenhouse offered a brief greeting and Ramune Kubilius provided a traditional "year in review/developments" synopsis that included a list of articles by some of this year's panelists (available on the conference web site). Moderator Andrea Twiss-Brooks set the scene for the session, providing a brief introduction to issues of current interest in the health sciences information arena, and then she introduced the speakers. She pointed out trends and pressures: data management plan and funder requirements, library space scrutiny, increasing interdisciplinary research, and more complex researcher support needs. While many libraries may be giving up control in space and budget, at the same time they have new opportunities for collaboration in areas such as health care policy and global health.

The discussants guided participants on a tour that featured short updates and ideas on different topics. After each presentation, a "rest stop" allowed discussion by all participants before the session moved on to the next theme.

Deborah Blecic provided a brief synopsis of her recent research and publication in the area of journal usage statistics. A study of health sciences

journals found a high correlation between link-resolver, citation, and vendor data. The results suggest that easy-to-obtain link-resolver data can be used as a first step for journal retention decisions, identifying titles with low link counts for further evaluation with vendor data. Link-resolver data can also be used to help make decisions if vendor data are unavailable. A second study reported on methods to evaluate "Big Deal" journal packages. At University of Illinois at Chicago, while health sciences journals made up between 24–33% of the journals in each "Big Deal" studied, they accounted for 50–61% of the use in each package. The study also found that, in one case, a significant amount of use occurred in full-text databases rather than on the publisher's platform. Blecic also reported on recent articles by others that discuss the impact of platform design on use statistics.

Robin Champieux described scholarly communication "across the cycle and beyond PDF". Activities of librarians in this arena have evolved across the research cycle and in the formal and informal ways they are conducted. She addressed three themes: the profiling of research and researchers (tracking productivity and expertise); new ways to measure impact (altmetrics, data, stories, and social media that offer quicker results and may offer credit for

contributions that may not be traditional publication-based); and the reproducibility and reuse of research (open access is not just a “public good,” there is a need to increase access to data standards and methodologies).

Elizabeth Ketterman shared her institution’s experience in developing a shared collection development policy and plan for the multidisciplinary area of neuroscience. Duplication of online serials had been addressed previously (and is under a single line of funding), so the purpose of this endeavor was to expand into e-books. Polling of faculty ensured buy-in. The main and health sciences libraries share IP ranges but use different classification schemes. The existence of varying approval plans was addressed by selecting one e-book platform for selections that recognized the two libraries’ selections. E-book and print book circulation per title proved to be comparable, so format was not a problem for users. Future plans include analyzing costs/cost savings, looking into implications for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation, and measuring faculty satisfaction.

Anneliese Taylor addressed the successes and challenges of e-books in the health sciences. She posed the question: is there too much or not enough? Challenges include multiple platforms, publisher and aggregator, and access rights that may be different. Patron-driven acquisition (PDA) and demand-driven acquisition (DDA) offer a nice option, but not all approval plans can accommodate this, and it definitely impacts budget planning. Devices and formats provide challenges as mobile options are not always built in. An experiment with the currently popular iPad

device as a “reserve book” (loaded with e-books) proved it is hard to scale. Bundled content is a challenge when budgets are stretched. Interesting open-content experiments hold promise, including open textbooks (such as those of University of Massachusetts Amhurst), crowdsourced funding of commercially published books to make them openly available (such as the Knowledge Unlatched pilot), and open learning platforms (such as OPENPediatrics of Boston Children’s Hospital).

Marysue Schaffer shared highlights from her library’s 10-year experience with addressing the information needs of basic scientists. Currently there are two doctoral degree bioinformaticists on staff who maintain the “people connections”—outreach, training, collaboration. They are seen as having credibility and ability to understand complex research questions. Their user groups include researchers at all levels: faculty, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and laboratory administrators. Activities revolving around statistical tools take up a large portion of time as do visualization tools. Activities include finding tools out there (viewing the landscape), determining who might use them, and “talking them up” across isolated laboratories. The library is never in the background, since that is where the research pod is housed, for testing and trialing of products under consideration (trials usually run 6 months). Referrals to librarians are made for systematic review searching, for example, and other more “traditional” library services. Vendors are happy to deal with one customer (the library) rather than licensing products across multiple laboratories, and the laboratories help pay for some of the products.