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People Profile: Maria E. Collins

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health sciences eBooks (across platforms), the success of a **University of Pittsburgh** “home-grown” solution is often mentioned. 🌱

Special Issue Editor’s Note: Thank you to all of the special issue authors who took time away from their busy, frontline jobs to share their thoughts, insights, and experience. The contribution of **Shana Potash**, Public Affairs Specialist at NLM, should be acknowledged. Though she didn’t seek authorship credit for the introduction to her colleagues’ texts, it was thanks to her coordination that a timely and pertinent contribution was specifically customized for *Against the Grain*. A thank you should also be extended to **Katina Strauch** for once again seeing a need for such a special issue. The 2011 collection of articles provides a snapshot view of a few areas. A comment made in 2008 still holds true, “someone will likely need to revisit information and collection trends in the health and biomedical sciences again soon.” There are still other themes that have not yet been addressed, and representatives from various health and biomedical information-related sectors who have not yet voiced their thoughts. — **RK**

against the grain people profile

Technical Information Specialist, Public Services Division
National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894
Phone: (301) 496-5511 • <maria.collins@nih.gov>

Maria E. Collins

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Worked in the **UCLA** library system, at VTLS, and KPMG. At NLM, I am the team lead for **DOCLINE** and the Emergency Access Initiative.

PHILOSOPHY: “The ideal man bears the accidents of life with dignity and grace, making the best of circumstances.” **Aristotle**; “Great is the man who has not lost his childlike heart.” **Mencius**; “Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.” **Leonardo da Vinci**; and “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.” **Philo**

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Increasing move to electronic only publishing and use of electronic resources. The electronic environment provides great advantages, but also will pose increasing difficulty in resource sharing due to publisher license restrictions, elimination of print collections, and tightened collections budget. Overall, reduced budgets will result in additional library consolidations and prioritizing of services, and innovation to meet user needs. 🌱



The National Library of Medicine: 175 Years of Information Innovation

by **Maria E. Collins** (Technical Information Specialist, Public Services Division, National Library of Medicine)

and **Martha R. Fishel** (Chief, Public Services Division, National Library of Medicine)

and **John Doyle** (Technical Information Specialist, Systems Office, Technical Services Division, National Library of Medicine)

National Library of Medicine

The year 2011 marks the 175th anniversary of the **National Library of Medicine**. NLM started as a small collection in the office of the U.S. Army Surgeon General. Today, NLM, as part of the **National Institutes of Health**, is the world’s largest medical library and the producer of electronic information resources used by millions of people around the world every day.

NLM has changed the way scientific and medical information is organized, stored, accessed, and disseminated through its technical innovation, partnerships, and early adoption of the Internet. For example, the library has developed databases and software tools that make it easy to find medical literature and health information; enable scientists to study genes and their roles in the disease; and provide emergency responders with critical information to handle disasters. NLM’s leadership of the **National Network of Libraries of Medicine**, with nearly 6,000 members, brings high-quality information

services to health professionals and the public across the country, regardless of where they live or what level of access they have to computers.

The library is committed to making its remarkable resources available to users around the world to support scientific discovery, enhance clinical care, and improve public health.

Partnerships

NLM – Publisher partnership provides free access to medical literature following a regional disaster — by Maria E. Collins

The Emergency Access Initiative (EAI) is a collaborative partnership between NLM, participating publishers, and the **National Network of Libraries of Medicine** to provide free access to full-text articles from over 230 major biomedical serial titles, three online databases, and over 2,000 books to healthcare professionals and libraries affected by disasters.

The idea for the **Emergency Access Initiative** developed in regular meetings between NLM and a small group of publishers following the widespread devastation in the Gulf Coast caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Access to medical literature and information resources was lost or severely restricted by the damage to hospital and academic medical libraries which serve healthcare professionals in the region.

The primary goal of the Emergency Access Initiative is to provide free, full-text access to key medical and scientific journals most useful to healthcare professionals and libraries responding to a disaster, and to serve as a temporary replacement to library collections damaged or rendered inaccessible following a disaster. EAI can also be used by healthcare professionals responding to disaster and post-disaster medical issues of the affected population. The Emergency Access Initiative is not an open-access collection — it is intended only for those affected by the disaster or assisting the affected population.

continued on page 18