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Lenny Rhine Profile

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For the past two years, all workshops have included a cross-program training module titled “**Research4Life** Programmes — Similarities and Differences.” The **HINARI**, **AGORA**, and **OARE** Web interfaces are reviewed, as are the different databases and search tools. This is most useful for participants from universities where there is access to multiple **Research4Life** programs. By the end of 2014, all the programs will have the same search tool (SUMMON) and this will increase the similarities among the programs. Also, during the past year, the **HINARI** training staff has developed better tools to evaluate the impact of training besides the post-workshop surveys that are now used. This includes evaluating pre- and post-workshop usage of the **HINARI** resources and sending an “outputs” survey six months after a workshop is concluded.

Challenges

Some challenges for the e-library training program have been Internet and Wi-Fi access and the availability of laptops. The speed of Internet access has slowly but surely increased in many countries although bandwidth and minutes still can be expensive. For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the increase often is the result of access via cables strung to East and West Africa with less reliance on satellite links. Also, the eligible institutions have increased bandwidth as there is a better understanding of the potential of the Internet as a source of academic and research information.

Approximately three years ago, participants began bringing laptops to workshops. In most cases, the host institutions have also added Wi-Fi access. Consequently, participants can bookmark Internet links and save files directly to their laptops. Also, bibliographic management software such as Zotero or Mendeley can be downloaded directly onto these laptops.

Finally, a continuing challenge is to maintain funding for the program. We hope to continue to work with the **Elsevier Foundation** and several other partners to continue this very valuable program.

Conclusion

The **MLA/Librarians Without Borders** e-library training initiative has successfully worked for the past six years in partnership with a variety of other organizations to train health and health-related professionals, including librarians, to effectively access and use health-related databases. The program has also trained U.S. health sciences librarians to be trainers of their international colleagues. This global outreach project has not only renewed **MLA's** historic international commitment to assist people anywhere in the world, but in a practical sense has demonstrated a consistent ability to work with a diverse group of individuals and funding organizations to build in-country capacity for improved health of all participants. 🌱

against the grain people profile

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Lenny Rhine, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Coordinator of the **MLA/LWB** e-library training initiative since 2006. The project's principal activities are conducting workshops and the developing/updating training material for **HINARI** (www.who.int/hinari/) — a collaborative **WHO** and **Partner Publishers** project for access to 11,400 health e-journals, 18,500 eBooks, and 70 other institutions resources for institutions in low-income countries. Since 2007, I have conducted 51 workshops in 29 countries and developed more than 20 training modules. I also update the training material for the **Research4Life** and am the compiler of the “Essential Health Links” gateway that contains over 800 annotated links for health professionals in low-income countries (www.healthnet.org/essential-links/). A **University of Florida** emeritus librarian, I have worked with libraries and health information professionals in low-income countries since 1990, concentrating on the delivery of electronic information, (www.research4life.org/) partner programs in agriculture research and environmental research.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Maybe I should address where I think the **Research4Life** programs will be in five years. Currently, the **Research4Life** partner publishers are committed to the project through 2019. These publishes will need to renew their commitment for the activities to continue. The programs regularly add content as more publishers participate. The mix of countries and territories eligible for the **R4L** programs will continue to change as some will graduate while others may go up or down in category (free access vs. low cost access). The platform for all the programs also will continue to evolve as currently a new authentication system is being installed and the **Summon** search engine is being piloted. Each technological change should result in enhancements to accessing the resources. 🌱



Endnotes

1. **Medical Library Association** Librarians Without Borders. <http://www.mlanet.org/resources/global/> (Accessed on January 4, 2014).
2. **Medical Library Association** Librarians Without Borders E-Library Training Initiative. http://www.mlanet.org/resources/global/twb_elibrarytraining_workshops.html (Accessed on January 4, 2014).
3. **Research4Life**. <http://www.research4life.org> (Accessed on December 31, 2013).
4. About **HINARI**. <http://www.who.int/hinari/about/en/> (Accessed on December 12, 2013).
5. **Medical Library Association** Librarians Without Borders CE Courses. **HINARI** (Programa de Acceso a la Investigación en Salud): Curso Corto, **HINARI** Access to Research in Health Programme: Train the Trainers Course, **HINARI** Access to Research in Health Programme: Short Course, <http://mla.mrooms.org/> (Accessed on January 4, 2014).
6. **HINARI** Training. www.who.int/hinari/training (Accessed on December 12, 2013).

Rumors from page 12

Speaking of which, one of the books reviewed in this issue is *Reinventing the Library for Online Education* by **Frederick Stielow**. See this issue, p.44.

Reinventing the library operation(s) is being explored everywhere we turn. The work

that **Outsell** is doing to survey the information industry gives us a longitudinal snapshot of our end users. In this issue, we have a look at **Outsell's End-User Study of Faculty and Students**. Interesting that faculty are more loyal to print than expected and both faculty and students find digital textbooks more difficult to work with than with their print counterparts. See this fascinating summary, this issue, p.90.

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