



**Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island,
Manhattan and the Bronx
HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS**
<http://www.bqsimb.org/>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FALL 2014

The phase 'ever-changing healthcare environment' seems to be everywhere: from newscasts to middle-management staff meetings. So how can we as librarians and as library directors take this concept make it work for us to ensure our library and library services survive? Is there a way we can benefit from this uncertainty and create building blocks instead of running into a brick wall? How do we keep our feet on the ground when library resources are in the cloud?

Plans for the future seem to morph into new methodologies as quickly as a new cell phone is introduced. And as we've seen with cell phone companies, to craft a strategy to survive no longer means relying on the traditional approach of "if A, then B, then C"; instead, we must now think "if A, then maybe C, why not E, or even B" in order to give ourselves the flexibility to understand that complex internal and external scenarios, events and potential results don't necessarily follow the rules.

Worrying about the next 8 hours and insufficient thinking about the future will only leave us vulnerable. After all, each department in our organization is fighting for their piece of the pie – and they are often the ones bringing in the cold hard cash. Without a strategy in place to show our worth – the library will certainly be left behind. How many of us must now convince an administrator that the "indirect patient care" our library provides is a very essential part of the hospital's mission?

We can and must look back in pride in what we, as a profession, have accomplished. Don't forget – the Medical Library Association was formed as a professional organization 16 years before the American College of Surgeons established surgery as an independent specialty.

In the end, while we build on the past and think about the future, we are still librarians – whether there are physical books on the shelf or virtual ones on the cloud; library user in a chair or on our social media link. We still are there to provide to our users the assistance they need to meet the demands of patient care, continuing education, and research.

Think it forward! Be a vanguard! Be a Librarian!

Highlights since our Spring 2014 Meeting:

- ❖ You will find updates from our Committee Chairs on our 'new and improved' website.
- ❖ At our Spring 2014 Meeting we joined our colleagues in MEDLI and were honored to hear from Julie Sollenberger speaking about her work on and publication of the value of libraries study. In addition, Sheryl Ramer reviewed libraries use of podcasts in the hospital setting. Finally, we thank Ted Tyson and Browzine for sponsorship of the meeting.
- ❖ Today we are pleased to be joining our colleagues in the NY-NJ Chapter, MLA for a joint meeting: *Creating Collaborations*. The meeting features Carla Funk, Executive Director of MLA speaking on the Association's "Librarians Without Borders" initiative. Following the meeting we will adjourn to JOE FRESH for an evening of refreshments and shopping. This event honors National Medical Librarians Month and the members of NY-NJ Chapter, MLA and BQSIMB.
- ❖ If you haven't seen it yet – please take a look at our new website. Thanks Yelena!

And once again, I must thank the BQSIMB Board Members, committee chairs and all of you for a great year!

Bill

William Self
President, BQSIMB Health Sciences Librarians