



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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SPRING 2014

With today's meeting I have completed my first year as President of BQSIMB, and I am pleased to present this report to the membership.

In looking back - in these twelve months alone we've seen the impact of changes to the health care-based economy and the changing information environment has had on our profession: library closures, reductions and layoffs are all too common and resource price increases have strain budgets passed the breaking point. So the need to *Innovate, Collaborate* and *Transform* is even more necessary than ever.

My answer, then, is that the role of the medical librarian in the future is whatever we can prove we have the ability to do well; the future is, to this extent, ours to see.

Estelle Brodman, 1957

Dr. Brodman came to this conclusion in her introduction to a review of our profession in "*Medical Librarianship, A Mid-Century Survey: A Symposium*". *BMLA* 45(4) 1957.

And how we continue to participate and lead in the future is as true today as nearly 60 years ago. From Michael Schrage we learn, "Librarians are the easy access ambassadors to information resources...They need to position themselves as the value-added layer: becoming the 'app', the 'mash-up'." *NextSpace* (9) 2008.

At the turn of the 20th century, librarians took differing concepts to create a 'mash-up' and a new service: children's services, open stacks and interlibrary loan are a few examples. I think that, if we haven't already, we must learn to rethink and re-link our library services to events throughout the organization in new ways, add our expertise in new forums and publicize what the library and its programs can accomplish for hospital staff. We've always purchased and delivered 'product' to meet the needs of our end-users but now we are more and more constrained in purchasing those resources that we can supply directly. We may even have to reduce immediate access to products; but have we gone further to think how to integrate and extend the reach of the library to make sure library services reflect our value-added entrepreneurship? In today's overloaded media-saturated environment can we 'mash-up' our services with enhanced content to get it noticed? Perhaps adding a Google Map to a requested article on cancer hotspots or adding an OCR to emails that links to the library webpage can enhance our products to a new more visible level. Or, perhaps it's as simple as starting a library Twitter account or Blog.

It's thinking in new ways about what we do and how we do it that will link the value of the library to our end-users. It's something we've always done: ***we're librarians....it's what we do.***





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Now to highlight our activities since our Fall 2013 Meeting:

- ❖ I am delighted to welcome **RIE SMETHURST**, the librarian from Hospital for Special Surgery, to the BQSIMB Membership.
- ❖ Special recognition goes to **Irina Meyman, Lorraine Tursi** and **Deborah Bonelli** for their presentations made at conferences during the year.
- ❖ BQSIMB members continue to participate in the HSLANJ Group Licensing Initiative which has now been rolled out to serve the entire NN/LM MAR Region. Other vendors are listed in the Cooperative Purchasing Committee report and are willing to work with BQSIMB members.
- ❖ At this meeting you will be asked to approve Bylaws changes to allow for a Special Election for the Office of Vice-President/President-Elect; include the qualification of "member in good standing" to all nominees, elect-officers and committee chairs; and to authorize the name change to BQSIMB.
- ❖ At our Fall 2013 meeting we were very honored to meet and listen to **CYNTHIA WADE**, an OSCAR winning documentary film director whose films often deal with health issues and the health industry. I want to thank our colleagues at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Library and the Evelyn Lauder Breast Cancer Center for their hospitality. I also want to thank Ann Gardner of SWETS for her presentation of the SWETS Medical Searcher and for sponsoring our meeting.
- ❖ Today, our Spring 2014 meeting is being jointly held with our colleagues in MEDLI. And plans are proceeding for the Fall 2014 meeting to be held with our friends in the NY-NJ Chapter, MLA.
- ❖ Finally, I want to especially thank Yelena Friedman for all the incredible work she has done on revising and updating the BQSIMB Website. We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude. She also worked with the graphic designer to come up with an excellent new logo for our organization. It's eye catching!

I also want to thank the BQSIMB Board, committee chairs, committee members and all of you for a great year and I'm looking forward the next 12 months and all that we can accomplish together.

Bill

William Self
President, BQSIMB Health Sciences Librarian