Resource Description and Access (RDA) Testing
Since ALA Midwinter, NLM U.S. RDA Test Coordinating Committee members have been working intensely with their counterparts at the Library of Congress (LC) and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) to analyze the test results and survey data of the U.S. RDA Test. By early May a final report and recommendations were completed and forwarded to senior management of the three libraries.

On June 14, 2011, LC, NLM and NAL issued a joint statement to “adopt RDA with certain conditions and that implementation will not occur before January 1, 2013.” The response of the three libraries and the Coordinating Committee’s full report are located at http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/rda/. The U.S. RDA Test and Committee’s recommendations will be discussed at multiple forums of the ALA Annual Conference.

NLM Classification (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/class/)
The online National Library of Medicine Classification has been issued in a newly revised edition as of April 28, 2011. Forty-six new class numbers were added and three class numbers were canceled. Sixty-nine MeSH terms were added to the index, including forty-one new to the MeSH vocabulary as of 2011; in addition, one hundred and seventy-eight class number captions or schedule notes and six hundred and six index entries were modified since the 2010 edition was published on April 29, 2010.

Operational Analysis of NLM Cataloging and Acquisitions Activities
NLM engaged the services of R2 Consulting to evaluate acquisitions and cataloging workflows with the goal of achieving greater efficiencies and better use of staff and vendor resources. R2 was onsite in March 2011 and interviewed more than 100 staff members. R2’s final report contained roughly 100 recommendations which will be evaluated and prioritized. Recommendations include using additional metrics to inform collecting priorities, establishing more standard workflow efficiencies, defining and prioritizing NLM user communities in order to derive program and project efforts, and engaging in increased systems thinking to minimize custom solutions.

NLM announced the release of "Medicine in the Americas," a digital resource encompassing over 300 early American printed books. Medicine in the Americas makes freely available original works demonstrating the evolution of American medicine from colonial frontier outposts of the 17th century to research hospitals of the 20th century. Drawing on the collections of NLM’s History of Medicine Division and including works from the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, this initial release of Medicine in the Americas encompasses monographs dating from 1610 to 1865. Additional titles, dating up to 1920 and drawing further upon NLM’s comprehensive collection of early American printed books, will be available on an ongoing basis in the future.

Digital files created for Medicine in the Americas reside in NLM’s "Digital Collections" (http://collections.nlm.nih.gov/), a repository for access to and preservation of digitized
biomedical resources. Medicine in the Americas joins the recently launched collection, “The Public Health Film Goes to War” (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/digicolls/phfgtw/index.html), as well as other digital resources, the digital files for which also reside in Digital Collections.

Medicine in the Americas is made possible in part through the participation of the National Library of Medicine in the Medical Heritage Library, a digital curation collaborative supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and administered by the Open Knowledge Commons. In related news NLM has been named a strategic advisor to the Medical Heritage Library (MHL) Digital Collaborative. The MHL project recently received a Level-One Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, to continue developing the MHL partnership and project. This grant will support planning activities among 10 of the partner institutions, with the NLM serving in an advisory capacity to the grant recipients.

**Systems Initiatives**
NLM is currently field testing Ex Libris’s Voyager release 8. If successful, the release is planned for production in early September. NLM recently implemented the SFX OpenURL link resolver in the NLM Main Reading Room.

NLM has launched a new Web site, "Emergency Preparedness and Response: How to Safely Stabilize Library Collections in the Event of a Water Emergency," that will assist responders with readily-accessible onsite training as they engage in disaster situations affecting cultural heritage items. The Web site includes links to short instructional videos that provide a visual training for institutional staff tasked with stabilizing collections affected by water. Building recovery, disaster preparedness, and health risks are also covered on the Web site.

NLM released its prototype History of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium, a search-and-discovery tool for archival resources in the health sciences that are described by finding aids and held by various institutions throughout the United States. The resource crawls existing Web content managed by several partner institutions, provides keyword search functionality, and results organized by holding institution. Links point to the holding institution's Web sites.

**Print Retention Program**
NLM is currently leading an effort to develop a national print retention program for biomedical journals. Working with the Regional Medical Libraries in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), the project will start with about 250 titles. Ideally distribution of the titles will be in all eight regions although it is recognized this may not be possible. The minimum number of copies to hold will be set at 12, and NLM will hold the 13th copy. The period of commitment is planned for 25 years. NLM is working on a memorandum of understanding to be used by participating institutions and NLM.

**NN/LM Regional Medical Library Contracts Awarded**
The National Library of Medicine announced the award of new five-year contracts to eight institutions to serve as Regional Medical Libraries in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). The NN/LM consists of the eight competitively selected Regional Medical Libraries, and over 6,000 health sciences and public libraries. Since its original authorization by Congress in the 1965 Medical Library Assistance Act, the NN/LM has worked to equalize and enhance access to health sciences information throughout the United States. Its mission is to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by providing health

The Emergency Access Initiative, a collaborative partnership between NLM, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and participating publishers to provide free access to biomedical literature, was activated in support of medical efforts related to tsunamis, earthquakes, and radiation events affecting Japan.

MedlinePlus Connect Wins HHSinnovates Award
The U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius named NLM’s MedlinePlus Connect a "Secretary's Pick" for the HHSinnovates award. MedlinePlus Connect is a free service that allows any electronic health record (EHR) system to easily link users to MedlinePlus, an authoritative, up-to-date information resource for patients, families and health care providers. More information about the award can be found at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/mplus_connect_award.html.

NLM & You: The Video: Contest Winners Announced
The National Library of Medicine recently conducted a video contest in which the public was invited to create original short videos, promoting awareness of NLM's products and services. Entries were submitted on YouTube and were then screened by a panel of judges from NLM and NIH. The winners were announced at the May NLM Board of Regents meeting and can be viewed from http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/video_winners.html.

NLM Celebrates 175 Years
2011 marks the 175th anniversary of the National Library of Medicine. The anniversary will be marked by a number of special programs in support of its mission. For details on NLM's history, its programs and services, and its anniversary year calendar, visit the 175th anniversary website: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/175.

Personnel
Joyce Backus was appointed Deputy Associate Director for Library Operations this month. The Technical Services Division is currently recruiting for a Deputy Chief. In the near term the History of Medicine Division will be recruiting for a Chief, and the Public Services Division will be recruiting for a Deputy Chief. Many other positions within NLM’s Library Operations are frozen due to budget constraints.

Budget
With the current uncertainties of the U.S. federal budget NLM’s Library Operations has been developing FY12 budget plans at reduced levels. Staff have been analyzing the impact of a reduced budget on the NLM literature collection, in particular, the journal collection as it comprises over 80% of the NLM literature budget. In anticipation of FY12 budget cuts it is expected that NLM will eliminate duplicate subscriptions as well as remove costly and/or low use materials from the NLM Reading Rooms.

NLM is now operating under PL 112-10, known as the “Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011.” FY11 funding levels will be approximately 1% below FY10 funding levels.

Prepared by Jennifer Marill, Chief, Technical Services Division, June 20, 2011.