Resource Description and Access (RDA)
After the implementation of RDA on March 31, 2013, NLM continued to hold weekly cataloger meetings to discuss questions and problems. In September these meetings were scaled back to biweekly. Beginning this month the meetings will be held on a monthly basis. Cataloging production roughly decreased 10% this past year, reflecting time needed by staff to learn and understand RDA, and the increase in authority work time. NLM is upgrading all access points used on RDA records to RDA, requiring a significant amount of NACO mod time, even if the only change is to the 008 and 040 codes.

NLM has shared with the community some of the local documentation used by NLM catalogers when creating RDA records. In general, as a member of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), NLM is following the BIBCO and CONSER guidelines developed for RDA. The NLM Metadata Application Profile (MAP) is based on the MAPs developed by the Library of Congress and the PCC as a quick reference tool for catalogers and provides guidance on recording all RDA elements considered to be “core” by NLM. There is a great deal of similarity between the PCC RDA BIBCO Standard Record (BSR) Metadata Application Profile and the NLM Metadata Application Profile. However, the NLM MAP includes instructions for serials as well as monographs and also records some local practices that may be unique to NLM. The MAP is intended to be used in conjunction with the document MARC 21 Coding to Accommodate RDA Elements while NLM is still working in a MARC environment. Both documents, as well as additional materials, are available on the NLM Cataloging Section page.

Technical Services Division Strategic Planning and Reorganization
Since May 2011 the Technical Services Division (TSD) has been engaged in an extensive operational analysis of NLM cataloging and acquisitions activities. The Division’s goals are to streamline operations by better aligning staff with current and anticipated workloads; expand the Division’s ability to acquire, license and process electronic and digital resources; support more technology to automate routine work while also undertaking development of new or enhanced services; push tasks to lower level staff and contractors where appropriate so managers can focus on strategic issues; and increase data driven decisions for the operation and collection building.

The methodology used and projects undertaken to perform this operational analysis have previously been reported on. These efforts have resulted in a number of outcomes, including a reorganization of the Division, effective as of January 26, 2014. The new TSD structure consists of the Office of the Chief and three sections:

1. Collection Development and Acquisitions. The merger of the former Selection and Acquisition Section and the former Serial Records Section will be devoted to the selection, licensing and acquisition of all material formats. A merged section will facilitate streamlined payment processing, simplified management of the literature budget, and more cohesive management of vendor accounts.

2. Cataloging and Metadata Management. The former Cataloging Section will assume a name change to Cataloging and Metadata Management and continue to provide a range of bibliographic services.
Metadata services are expected to grow and contribute to projects that will enable the library community to move to a new bibliographic environment beyond MARC.

3. Library Technology Services. This new section will manage bibliographic and digital library systems and coordinate the maintenance, development, and testing for the Voyager ILS, online public access catalogs, the NLM Digital Collections repository, electronic resources management systems, documentation and workflow systems, reporting and statistical software, and systems to support NLM indexing and citation creation activities.

These sections will better enable TSD to focus on these three distinct activities while the Office of the Chief can focus more broadly on Division-wide planning and administration, management issues, strategic efforts and collaborations. In addition, TSD staff in the reorganized areas have started and will continue to implement numerous workflow changes, either suggested by R2 Consulting in their May 2011 operational analysis report or recommended by the TSD Working Group on Workflow Analysis, a large group of staff that subsequently recommended areas for change and improvement.

As noted below NLM will shortly be recruiting for new positions to support the reorganization. See the Technical Services Division Fact Sheet for more information about the Division.

Space
To more effectively utilize space and support the reorganization, the Technical Services Division is implementing a phased plan to consolidate its staff to the first floor of NLM building 38. A mail receiving and distribution operation for literature acquisitions will remain on the basement level of building 38. Over the years the number of staff in Library Operations, which includes TSD, has gradually decreased. Space plans call for additional conference or collaborative space for small groups and more consistent assignment of space based on position responsibilities, including offices for all TSD staff that handle personnel functions.

Digital Initiatives and Services
In December NLM reached the milestone of providing access to over 10,000 digitized resources in its Digital Collections repository most recently including over 500 NLM publications and productions dating from the 1860s to the 1990s. This new digital collection encompasses all printed monographic publications produced by the National Library of Medicine and its earlier incarnation as the Library of the Surgeon General's Office. The collection also includes a wide variety of other materials including books, catalogs, indexes, prospectuses, policy statements, planning documents, ephemera, technical reports and nearly three dozen audiovisual productions produced by the NLM during the past six decades.

NLM added the papers of Sir William Osler to Profiles in Science. Sir William Osler (1849-1919) was a Canadian physician often called "the father of modern medicine" for the central role he played in revolutionizing medical education via the internship and residency system at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. With this launch NLM also begins a new effort to share with the world the richness of its vast historical collections, including those on Profiles in Science, using the social media platform Pinterest. Now visitors can freely explore and share Profiles in Science collections organized around themes such as "Women in Science" and "Life outside the lab."

In partnership with the Library of Congress (LC) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NLM is hosting a National Digital Stewardship Resident, Maureen McCormick Harlow, a 2012 graduate of the
University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, to develop a thematic Web archive collection. This project builds on a pilot Web archive collection completed by NLM last year and featured in LC’s The Signal in October 2012. The final Web archive collection will become part of the permanent collection of NLM.

NLM released about 1,800 new high quality pill images, taken at high resolution, but also available in smaller sizes if desired for certain applications. Researchers and product developers may obtain the images and accompanying metadata via an applications programming interface (API) at http://RxImage.nlm.nih.gov. NLM also makes the images available for interactive Web searching via its Pillbox and RxNav sites.

NLM enhanced MedlinePlus Connect, a service for patient portals and electronic health record systems, with a connection to Genetics Home Reference, another NLM product that provides consumer-oriented information about genetic–related health issues. With this enhancement, MedlinePlus Connect can respond to requests from the SNOWMED CT code system (a code for patient diagnoses, medications and laboratory requests) with information from Genetics Home Reference, as well as information from MedlinePlus.

**Collections and Access**

The History of Medicine Division has launched a blog – now exceeding 81,000 followers - Circulating Now, to encourage greater exploration and discovery of the NLM history of medicine collections. Encompassing millions of items that span ten centuries, these collections include books, journals, photographs, motion picture films, film strips, video tapes, audio recordings, pamphlets, ephemera, portraits, woodcuts, engravings, etchings, and lithographs. The NLM’s historical collections also include items from the present day - born-digital materials and rich data sets - that can be used for exploration through traditional research methods and new ones that are emerging in the current climate of "big data" and the digital humanities.

In November, NLM activated its Emergency Access Initiative (EAI) to support those responding to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and surrounding areas. The EAI is a collaborative partnership between NLM and participating publishers to provide free full text access to over 650 biomedical journals and over 4,000 reference books. It serves as a temporary collection replacement for libraries that need to serve medical staff in a disaster, or for medical personnel who are responding to a disaster. This is the fifth time NLM has activated EAI.

Throughout the spring and summer, public services staff worked to streamline and improve services in the Main (contemporary) Reading Room. Although foot traffic and requests from the closed stacks are down, this service point remains very important for visitors who travel to use the collections – sometimes from foreign countries. After studying the usage of public PC workstations in the Main Reading Room and making reductions, staff began piloting a combined service desk in lieu of the present split services represented by separate Reference and Circulation Desks.

**Library Systems**

NLM released several enhancements to Digital Collections, the free online archive of biomedical resources, at the end of September. The release included significant changes to the back-end infrastructure and public website, including the replacement of the Muradora front-end application with Blacklight, an open-source discovery interface. Upgrades were made to all major software components supporting the repository, including the underlying Fedora Commons framework and new hardware,
resulting in a more responsive website. These upgrades keep the repository’s technology within active community support and development and provide improved security.

In December a new IndexCat at http://indexcat.nlm.nih.gov/, was launched, replacing the Ex Libris Group ENCompass software system. IndexCat can now be searched using the IBM InfoSphere Data Explorer product and the DuraSpace Fedora platform will be used to manage the permanent data. The data for the Index-Catalogue collection residing on the ENCompass server was exported and migrated to an NLM DTD and into NLM XML format.

In an effort to further modernize and replace aging software NLM has undertaken investigations to replace its Ex Libris Group Meridian electronic resources management system (ERMS) and WebVoyage Classic online public access catalog, known as LocatorPlus. Staff are investigating how a new ERMS will serve current and emerging needs and integrate with Voyager 8.2, NLM’s integrated library system. NLM is also looking for a new discovery and delivery platform to replace LocatorPlus and provide search, browse, presentation and delivery of the wide range of NLM collection resources. Staff have been testing products currently utilized at NLM, open-source Blacklight and IBM’s InfoSphere Data Explorer (DE and formerly called Vivisimo) to determine if one of them could fulfill the requirements. DE is IBM’s search engine service that has been used at NLM for searching NLM web sites. Blacklight has just been implemented as a front-end search interface for the NLM Digital Collections repository. It was recently determined that both of these products would require substantial programming to implement and therefore NLM will examine commercial offerings for comparison.

Exhibitions
In cooperation with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, NLM launched a new exhibition entitled From DNA to Beer: Harnessing Nature in Medicine and Industry which explores some of the processes, problems, and potentials inherent in technologies that use life. It is a special display available through April 18, 2014 in the History of Medicine Division Reading Room on the Bethesda, Maryland campus of the National Institutes of Health, as well as a traveling banner exhibition available for booking by cultural institutions across the country and around the world.

NLM launched a traveling banner exhibition and online adaptation of Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture, an exploration of the rise of AIDS in the early 1980’s and the evolving response to the epidemic over the last 30 years. The Website includes an extensive selection of NLM’s diverse poster collection about HIV/AIDS. This exhibition is also available for booking through the traveling exhibition services Web site.

Organization Milestone
The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) celebrated its 25th Anniversary November 2013. Established in 1988 as a division of NLM, NCBI has grown into a leading source for public biomedical databases, software tools for analyzing molecular and genomic data, and research in computational biology. NCBI’s resources rank among the most heavily used government Web sites in the United States, with approximately 3 million users every day. At the recognition program NCBI Director David Lipman, MD, was awarded with the Jim Gray eScience Award, a Microsoft Research annual award recognizing researchers who have made outstanding contributions to the field of data-intensive computing.

Personnel
Appointments:
Recruitments underway:
- Head, Collection Access Section, Public Services Division
- Head, Preservation and Collection Management Section, Public Services Division

Upcoming recruitments:
- Head, Serials Acquisitions Unit, Collection Development and Acquisitions Section, Technical Services Division
- Head, Library Technology Services Section, Technical Services Division

Please contact Jennifer Marill, Chief, TSD (marillj@mail.nlm.nih.gov) or Beth Weston, Deputy Chief, TSD (westonb@mail.nlm.nih.gov) for information about either position. Jennifer and Beth will be attending Midwinter and are available to meet and discuss the positions.

NLM and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) announced the jointly sponsored 2013-2014 Leadership Fellows Program Participants. They are: Debra R. Berlanstein, Associate Director, Hirsh Health Sciences Library, Tufts University; Renée Bougard, Outreach Librarian, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, NLM; Tara Douglas-Williams, Division Head for Information Services/Library Manager, Morehouse School of Medicine; Deborah L. Lauseng, Assistant Director, Academic and Clinical Engagement, Taubman Health Sciences Library, University of Michigan; Alexa Mayo, Associate Director for Services, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland; and Dongming Zhang, Associate Director for Advanced Technologies and Information Systems, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Budget
A federal spending bill for FY14 was signed, financing the U.S. government through September 30. The bill will restore some of the FY13 sequester cuts and provide a 1 percent pay raise for federal employees. The bill continues conference and travel restrictions government-wide.

Most NLM staff were furloughed during the 16-day government shutdown in October 2013. The shutdown prevented staff from representing NLM at meetings and delivering presentations. A number of services didn’t happen, including 4,000 customer inquiries not answered and 10,200 interlibrary loan requests unfilled by NLM. While services are generally back to normal roughly 31,000 MEDLINE citations weren’t added to PubMed, 4,125 journal issues couldn’t be delivered and checked in and 833 titles were not cataloged, among many other delays. However, while the shutdown was in place NLM Web sites continued to deliver with September 30 information, APIs and web services continued to provide responses, and the Regional Medical Libraries continued serving health professionals.

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