

THE ROUND-UP

Newsletter of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, Region 3

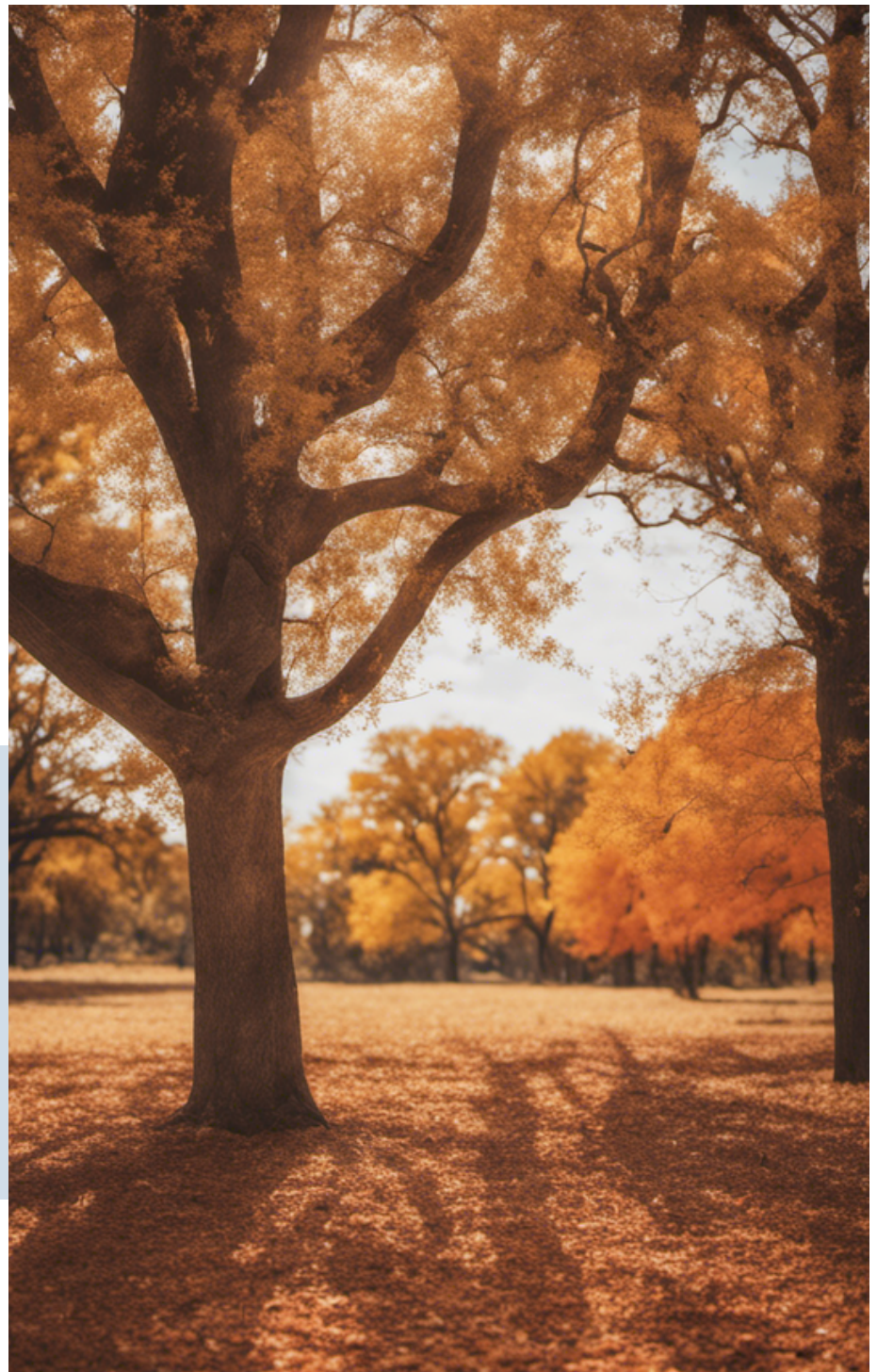
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STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Students from NNLM Regions 2 and 3 showed up and showed out at SCC/SCMLA and MCMLA's chapter conferences this year! Read their thoughts.

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A Note from the Executive Director

This note and cover art were generated with help by Bing AI and DreamStudio respectively. Edited manually for length.

As we wrap up another year of collaboration and innovation, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for your continued support and engagement with the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) Region 3. You are the driving force behind our mission to advance the progress of medicine and improve public health by providing access to trusted health information and data for our diverse and dynamic region.

Some of the achievements from this year include:

- Celebrating the halfway mark of our five-year performance cycle as NNLM Region 3, which serves Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. We have grown our membership to over 1,200 organizations, representing libraries, health care providers, community-based organizations, and more.
- Developing and delivering our Health Bytes with Region 3 webinar series, which covers topics such as health equity, data science, health literacy, and NLM resources. We have reached over 2,000 participants through these webinars, and we have archived them on our YouTube playlist for your convenience.
- Awarding over \$300,000 in funding to support projects that address health disparities, promote health equity, and support community engagement. We have funded 35 projects across our region, ranging from health outreach programs, to data management training, to COVID-19 information dissemination.
- Supporting our members in obtaining MLA specializations, such as the Consumer Health Information Specialization and the Disaster Information Specialization. We have sponsored over 100 members to complete these specializations, and we have offered several courses and webinars to help them prepare.

As we look forward to 2024, I am excited about the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We will continue to provide high-quality programs, services, and support for our members and partners. We will also explore new ways to connect and collaborate with you, such as peer learning councils, virtual events, and social media.

I want to thank you for your commitment and contribution to the NNLM Region 3. You are the heart and soul of our network, and I am grateful for your partnership. Together, we can make a difference in the health and lives of our region and beyond.

Warm regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B'.

*Brian Leaf
Executive Director
NNLM Region 3*

(as channeled by Bing AI)





NNLM REGION 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS DIGEST



NNLM Region 3 is excited to introduce Ciara Seals, our new part-time Data Reporting Tech! Ciara is a former LIS Fall Development Award Winner and a previous student intern with us, so we are thrilled she will continue to be part of our team here.

Ciara Seals graduated from the University of North Texas this year with a M.S. Information Science, Health Informatics degree. She also works as an epidemiology liaison in Houston, TX and has spent the last few years focusing on data management, surveillance, and public health compliance. In her free time, Ciara likes to work on a family genealogy project and has recently become deeply interested in horticulture.



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Arlington, TX

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[Associate Librarian or Librarian - Executive Director, NNLM Region 5](#)

University of Washington
Seattle, WA



National Library
of Medicine

Network of the National
Library of Medicine

Learning Opportunities

[Bridging the Digital Divide: Telehealth's Double-edged Sword](#)

Dec 5, 2023 - Noon CT

Telehealth, defined as the “use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to provide healthcare,” offers the promise of increased access to medical care, especially when barriers to care include resource and time scarcity. Despite its promise, telehealth has become a “double-edged sword”: the technology with potential to reduce health inequities by increasing access to healthcare also holds the capacity to exacerbate structural inequities. Community leaders have the capacity to work towards solving these divides.

HEALTH **BYTES**
with REGION 3

A free monthly webinar for anyone
interested in improving health outcomes



[Expanding Claire's Community Y2 Project: Creating a Partner Violence Prevention Education Program](#)

December 13, 2023 - 10am CT



Check out the new data curation primer on CARE Data Principles, Indigenous data, Data related to Indigenous Peoples and Interests. The primers are peer-reviewed, living documents that detail a specific subject, disciplinary area or curation task and that can be used as a reference to curate research data. Similar to the FAIR data principles, the CARE data principle

urges people to consider the Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics of data. Librarians, data curators, and researchers can use the primer to learn more about the CARE principles and how to ethically collect, share, use, and archive Indigenous data.

Find the primer here: [CARE Data Principles, Indigenous data, Data related to Indigenous Peoples and Interest](#)

SCC/SCMLA in Review



We had a great time at the joint conference of the South Central and Southern Chapters of the Medical Library Association earlier this fall. We connected with friends and colleagues, enjoyed the culture of New Orleans, and (as always) learned so much from our peers and students from across the country. Thank you to all the wonderful people who arranged this remarkable meeting and - let's be honest - the great parties! See the highlights from our time at the conference below.

“One of the best parts about attending SCC is getting to see all the great people we’ve come to know well over the years. As this is the one time of year many of us from different states in the chapter get together (this time, 2 chapters!), I made it a point to say hi to as many new and known faces as I could. I was very glad to see our Southern and South Central chapter ‘frolleagues’ this year!” - *Debbie Montenegro, Deputy Director*



“I’m excited to be co-chair with Sandra D. for ECLI this year! We had such a great turnout for new members and students. SCC is always so welcoming and supportive, no matter if you’re a student or a retiree, or somewhere in between.” - *Katie Pierce Farrier, Data Science Strategist*



“My favorite part [of the conference] was of course getting to finally meet all my amazing coworkers and colleagues in person. I also really loved learning about the history of New Orleans’ cemeteries during one of the luncheons.” - *Brandon Kennedy, Health Information Strategist*



“This is my favorite conference all year! We are privileged to work with so many brilliant and dynamic librarians across the country. Of course, the real standouts for me this year were the amazing student presentations on NLM products - many attendees learned something new from these up-and-coming information professionals!” - *Bailey Sterling, Student Engagement and Marketing Strategist*



Reflections from Region 3 Students

NNLM Regions 2 and 3 teamed up to bring 4 students to the SCC/SCMLA joint conference in NOLA. Students worked with NNLM staff over the course of several months to learn about NLM, network with information professionals, and build presentations to deliver in person in NOLA as well as virtually at the MCMLA chapter meeting in October. Here you will find reflections on their experience in NOLA. Thank you to everyone who makes all of our student programs possible, and a special thanks to our colleagues in NNLM Region 2 for collaborating on this project.



Sarah Villere
Emporia State University

Now that the SC/SCCMLA conference is behind us, I've had time to reflect on what a wonderful and worthwhile experience it was not just to attend, but also present, as a Student Development Award winner through NNLM Region 3. This was both my first library conference and first time presenting at any conference, and I walked away feeling renewed and grateful. Renewed, because it reminded me why I had chosen this career path, validating my pivot from clinical care to information science. Grateful, because I was given this opportunity by others who saw potential in me and believe in my future as a health sciences librarian. More than ever, I am excited about

entering this field and know that this is the career I want. I give my sincerest thanks to the NNLM Region 3 for sponsoring me for this opportunity, the SC/SCCMLA for hosting a wonderful event, and for every single person who attended and made this an invaluable experience.

For me, the highlight of the conference was meeting so many welcoming and warm people. It was a reminder that there are other students and professionals in all stages of their career who are eager to help and share their knowledge. Every networking opportunity was incredibly valuable, including the formal discussions and courses; conversations between sessions or at the coffee table in the morning; or even the informal settings like the Dine Around or the Farewell Party dance floor. I loved hearing from others about their careers, current and past roles, and all the different settings health sciences librarians find themselves in. While every session was memorable, some of my other highlights from the weekend include the Paper Sessions and the opening Keynote Speaker's talk. New Orleans, as a place, was the perfect setting, rich with history and culture, walkable sightseeing, and incredibly good food. —>

Presenting on the Common Data Elements Repository was a chance to move outside my comfort zone, and helped to develop new skills in teaching and instruction as well as public speaking. Despite months of preparations and virtual meetings with my coach, other NNLM staff, and even Lewis Health Science Library leadership, coming into the weekend I was still

nervous to teach about an NIH product in front of a room of experts. However, by the time it came to actually present, I already felt so welcomed by the community and other student presenters that instead, it felt like I was proudly sharing my knowledge with interested peers and future colleagues. As my coach, Brian Leaf, emphasized during our sessions, presenting is a type of storytelling, and by the time I was on my last slide, I felt like I was wrapping up a story I had spent months creating.

This experience has given me self-confidence and skills in teaching and presenting information that will absolutely carry over into professional work. Overall, the conference gave me new ideas for how to best prepare to enter the field and approach my remaining time in the MLS program. I will continue to take advantage of continuing education opportunities outside of the classroom, select research and project topics related to health sciences, stay involved with professional organizations, and actively seek out networking opportunities. I left New Orleans as a better student with great memories, new friends, a larger professional network, and 5 extra pounds from amazing meals. If I could do it all again, I would not change a thing, except perhaps to bring a larger suitcase for all the sponsors' swag.



Annisija Hunter
University of Missouri

The joint SC and SCC/MLA conference proved an excellent opportunity for an MLIS student like me to explore different aspects of medical librarianship, network with fascinating people, and present some of my own work. The fact that the conference took place in the center of New Orleans also made the experience a culturally enriching delight! Before attending the conference, I knew that medical librarianship was something I wanted to consider as a career. Meeting many different kinds of medical librarians and learning about their jobs and research confirmed my interest. I especially enjoyed attending the poster —→

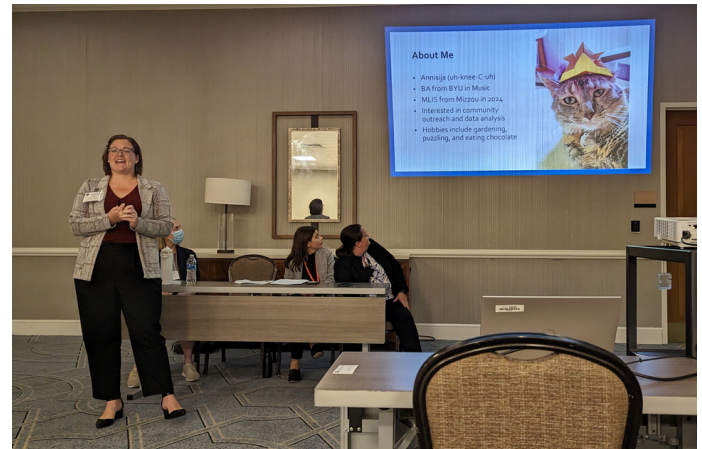
sessions because each presenter clearly demonstrated how libraries and librarians can tailor their work to meet the needs of their unique user populations. I felt inspired as I asked questions in a one-on-one setting and saw the passion that each librarian brought to their work. I also appreciated the posters geared toward or presented by students and early-career librarians. Their inclusion made me feel seen, appreciated, respected, and needed.

I also felt personally and professionally supported by many of the people I met. As a nontraditional student, I sometimes feel out of place, but I quickly discovered that medical librarians come from diverse backgrounds, and many choose this profession as a second career. In and between CE classes, I discussed with many librarians their wandering paths into medical librarianship. I related to many of their experiences, and felt encouraged. The conference also provided great opportunities for socializing outside of classes. During dine arounds, I shared some amazing New Orleans cuisine with several seasoned and wise librarians. They gave valuable advice about job hunting and even suggested we reconnect after the conference and review my resume. While I greatly appreciated the professional guidance and encouragement, I also enjoyed how much fun we had joking and laughing about our lives. From this dinner, and all the other social gatherings at the conference, it became obvious that the people in both the Southern and Southern Central Chapters genuinely care about each other. I feel lucky that I was able to connect with such a welcoming community.

Near the end of the conference, I gave a brief presentation about the NLM database, MedPix. I felt well prepared, thanks to my mentor and coach, Katie Pierce Farrier. Still, it was slightly nerve-wracking; but I felt excited to share what I had researched, and grateful for the practice. I imagine there is a lot more teaching and presenting in my future as a medical librarian.



*Student Development Awardees, 2023 - L to R:
Melissa Rice (R2), Sarah Villere (R3), Annisija Hunter
(R3), Kaitlyn Ritacca (R2)*



I graduate in May 2024, and truly appreciate the Student Development Award and the opportunities and experiences that came with it. I feel more certain in my choice of career, more confident in my knowledge and skills, and more connected to the medical librarianship community. I am excited to start applying for jobs and jump into this field of work.



Conference Photos

We loved seeing all of you in September! Here's a few fun photos from our week in NOLA.



Projects We Love

Check out these updates on cool projects from around Region 3! Want to have your project featured in the next newsletter? [Email us](#) and let us know what you're up to!



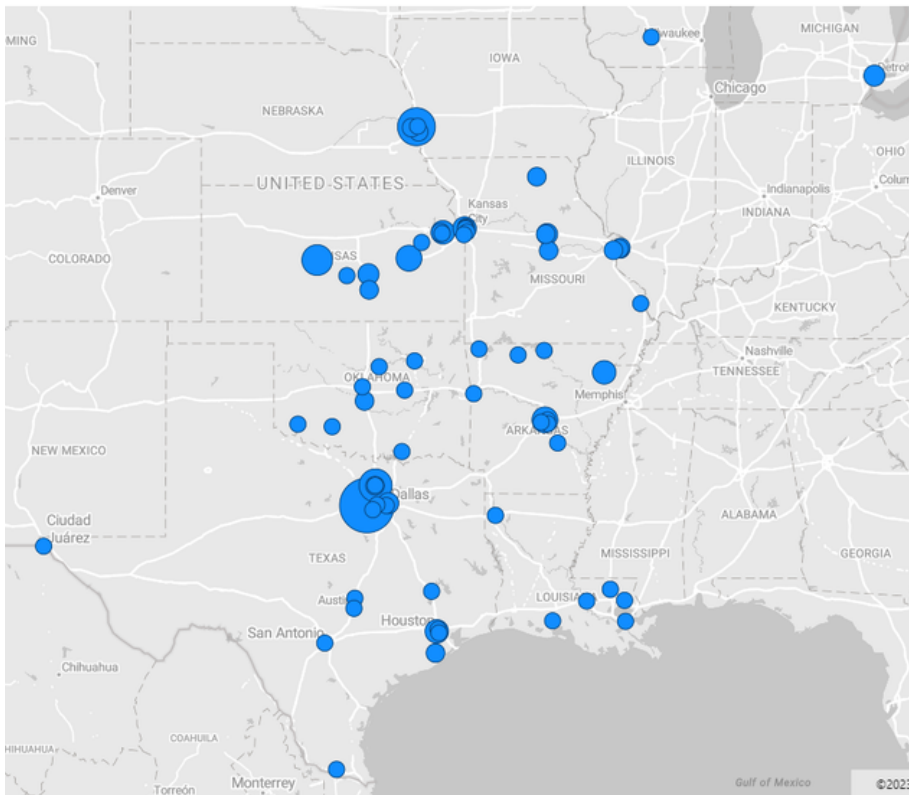
TTUHSC Libraries social work intern draws a pumpkin patch to be filled in with faces by library patrons. Submitted by Amy Faltinek

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Libraries are collaborating with the Texas Tech University (TTU) Master of Social Work Program (MSW) to provide social work services through an intern. The library social work position is one that has seen increasing fulfillment in libraries nationwide. The intern will meet the relevant needs of all students, staff, and faculty, whether in person or virtually, thanks to a TTUHSC Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) grant. The intern will connect patrons to resources and bring beneficial social work training to library employees. Through this position, TTUHSC Libraries will strive to maintain and enhance the quality services it provides.

Webster University Library is proud to host [The Zwerdling Postcard Collection: Pictures of Nursing. A National Library of Medicine Traveling Exhibit](#) from from November 13 - December 23, 2023. The National Library of Medicine produced Pictures of Nursing: The Zwerdling Postcard Collection, guest curated by historian and educator Julia Hallam, PhD (University of Liverpool). The traveling exhibition and companion website present a selection of postcards that span a century of images of nursing and nurses and investigates the hold these images exert on the public imagination—then and now.



Submitted by Holly Hubenschmidt



Region 3 has been busy this year!

This bubble map shows our activities across the region since May 1, 2023.

Whether it's presenting at conferences, offering classes, visiting in person, or catching up over email we've been in touch with people from the southern border of Texas all the way up to Omaha, Nebraska! The bigger the circle, the more activities have taken place there.

Developed by Katie Pierce Farrier



Submitted by Margie Sheppard. Image via Unsplash.

Is your organization's membership expired? Let us check for you! [Email NNLN Region 3](mailto:nnlmregion3@unthsc.edu) with your organization's name and we will do the rest!

We want to connect with you!



UNT HSC Region 3 Landing Page: <https://library.unthsc.edu/nnlmregion3>
 NNLN Website: <https://nnlm.gov/about/regions/region3>



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