

**ALA Annual Meeting, June 2022**  
**National Library of Medicine (NLM) Combined Update**  
CORE Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries  
CORE Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries

### **COVID-19**

There is a new [fact sheet](#) highlighting NLM's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn how NLM made data and literature more accessible, supported research, led outreach and engagement efforts, and facilitated collaborations and partnerships with other government agencies and the private sector.

### **NIH Data Management and Sharing**

NIH is working to implement the new [NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy](#), set to take effect on January 25, 2023. The broad intent of the policy is to build a culture of data sharing and reuse in the biomedical research community. The policy requires NIH funded researchers to develop explicit data management plans and methods for sharing their scientific data.

### **Library Systems**

The Alma Library Services Platform (LSP), which went live on June 8, 2021, has now been in production for one year. The LSP replaced NLM's Voyager ILS and several locally developed standalone systems. As part of the Alma implementation project, NLM negotiated with Ex Libris to load the LCNAF (Library of Congress Name Authority File) daily instead of weekly in the Alma Community Zone, allowing NLM staff to perform cataloging more efficiently in Alma. NLM also worked with Ex Libris to update MeSH more frequently in the Alma Community Zone to better sync with NLM MeSH updates.

The Lyrasis-based Fedora Leadership Group selected TSD staff member Jennifer Gilbert to be part of the Fedora Steering Group, which provides Fedora repository oversight, strategic direction to the project, and guidance to the Project Manager and ensures that the priorities of the Leadership Group are met. The three-year term began November 30, 2021. She will first serve a one-year term as Chair-Elect, and then serve a one-year term as Chair. NLM utilizes the Fedora software in [NLM Digital Collections](#).

### **Cataloging and Metadata Management**

The Winter 2022 Edition of the NLM Classification was issued in February. More information about the [scope of the 2022 Winter Edition](#) is available.

The NLM PCC Wikidata Pilot group concluded its work and submitted a report with recommendations for continuing activity in Wikidata going forward. NLM will distribute the final report and action plan via the PCC Wikidata Pilot. NLM will continue limited activity with Wikidata through the end of 2022 and will consider expanding that activity in 2023.

The implementation of Alma and the power and flexibility of Alma analytics has allowed NLM's cataloging and metadata management staff to identify and correct large batches of bibliographic and holdings records to improve the overall quality of our bibliographic and holdings data. Some examples of this work include identifying incorrect fixed field coding in both bibliographic and holdings records and correcting them with batch updates and identifying and correcting serial records with duplicate NLM Title Abbreviations. Additionally, we have developed validation checks and tools within Alma that will allow us to prevent such errors in the future.

NLM is collaborating with the Galter Health Sciences Library at Northwestern University to create and maintain a cooperative set of mapping files between LCSH and MeSH.

### **Collections, Collection Development, and Acquisitions**

The [PubMed Central \(PMC\)](#) digital archive—a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal articles – has an updated user interface. The fresh look is the first step in an ongoing effort to modernize PMC, create a more accessible user experience across NLM literature databases, and enhance the long-term stability of the PMC infrastructure. More information on the [changes is available](#).

October 2021 marked the [50th anniversary of MEDLINE](#), NLM's premier bibliographic database that contains 30 million references to journal articles in the life sciences with a concentration on biomedicine. In related news, NLM has transitioned to automated MeSH indexing of MEDLINE citations in PubMed. Automated indexing provides users with timely access to MeSH indexed metadata and allows NLM to scale MeSH indexing for MEDLINE to the volume of published biomedical literature. For more information, see [MEDLINE 2022 Initiative: Transition to Automated Indexing](#).

The NLM Web Collecting and Archiving Working Group continues to [identify and select web and social media content](#) documenting the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as part of NLM's [Global Health Events web archive collection](#). The collection now includes more than 14,000 publicly available Seed URLs representing 3.9 terabytes of data. For an overview of the collection, see this [February 2022](#) blog post on *Circulating Now*. The Working Group continues to engage with the Office of NIH History, the Federal Web Archiving Working Group, the Society of American Archivists Web Archiving Section, and the Archive-It community on ongoing COVID-19 collecting efforts.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to expand diversity and inclusivity in the NLM collection and at NLM:

- In response to a proposed new initiative to include more U.S. public health content in PMC and [Bookshelf](#), selectors identified and reviewed approximately 75 state-level journals, bulletins, and other serial publications, representing all regions of the U.S.
- In support of collection development activity in the areas of public health, COVID-19, grey literature, digital medical humanities, and the history of medicine, selectors have been identifying and selecting research works including open access public health reports produced by WHO regional offices for Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Western Pacific, and open access doctoral dissertations in the history of medicine.
- NLM is evaluating the capability of enabling Spanish language journals to apply for archiving in PMC. Under PMC's current language guidelines, the full-text content of a non-MEDLINE journal must be in English to be eligible to apply to the archive.
- A Grey Literature Working Group was established to further NLM's mission to collect and archive materials representing diverse perspectives in health and medicine, often found in the grey literature. This cross-divisional working group is surveying current grey literature selection and archiving efforts for Digital Collections, Bookshelf, and NLM's web collections, developing cross-divisional workflows, and coordinating archiving efforts. Related, NLM will be hosting the [Twenty-Fourth International Conference on Grey Literature](#), December 5-6, 2022. TSD staff members Esther Lee and Kristina Womack are featured in the video, "[Welcome to NLM in 2022](#)," prepared for conference attendees.

- Through our long-standing partnership programs, including the [Network of the National Library of Medicine](#) and the [Environmental Health Information Partnership](#), NLM is helping to build research capacity that can impact the diversity of the research workforce. Training in proposal writing, research data management, and literature searching is offered through local services, close to where the investigator works.

### **Exhibitions**

[Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture](#) / [Sobrevivir y Prosperar: Sida, Política y Cultura](#), a new English and Spanish language online adaptation of a 2013 exhibition, explores the rise of HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and the evolving response over time. The exhibition draws on photographs, documents, and ephemera from the NLM collection and other cultural institutions to present important stories of community care, scientific discovery, and activism against discrimination and political inaction.

[Emotions + Disease](#) examines our evolving understanding of the connection between physical health and mental state and points to a promising future that includes integrative medicine, a field incorporating science-based mind-body treatments into all aspects of medical care. The new online exhibition reimagines the popular physical installation presented in the NLM Rotunda Gallery 25 years ago.

### **Other Programs, Initiatives, and Partnerships**

NLM Library Operations (LO) began the implementation of a 2036 Long Range Plan that has identified emerging trends and provides steps on how LO will innovate and evolve to improve access to health information and health equity. Goals of the plan are to create a modernized organizational structure, unify and transform NLM collections, support and promote health data standards and terminologies, provide customer design experience support, and know and equitably engage our users. All five LO divisions are participating, including the Bibliographic Services Division, History of Medicine Division, Office of Engagement and Training, Public Services Division, and Technical Services Division.

NLM welcomes applications to its [Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine for 2023](#). The Fellowship provides selected individuals with up to \$10,000 each to support research in the historical collections of the NLM. Applications are due September 30, 2022. The 2022 DeBakey Fellows, [announced in December 2021](#), are Ogechukwu Williams, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Department of Medical Humanities, Creighton University, and S.J. Zanolini, LAc, PhD candidate, Johns Hopkins Medical School, History of Medicine.

Tune in for the remainder of the [2022 NLM History Talks](#) which promote awareness and use of NLM and related historical collections for research, education, and public service in biomedicine, the social sciences, and the humanities.

### **NLM Budget**

NLM received its FY 2022 appropriation in March 2022 of \$479.4 million, which represents an increase of \$15.6 million over FY 2021 and is above its FY 2022 budget request of \$474.9 million.

NLM's FY 2023 [Congressional Budget Justification \(CJ\)](#) was released on March 28. The CJ describes NLM's mission and programs and summarizes accomplishments in FY 2021. The CJ features color images and a two-page [fact sheet](#).

## Staff Transitions

### *In the Technical Services Division:*

- Tina Shrader was appointed head, Cataloging and Metadata Management Section (CaMMS), effective April 10, 2022. Tina served as the head of Unit 1 in CaMMS since 2013, supervising staff responsible for original and copy cataloging of monographs, serials, and audiovisuals. She coordinated serials cataloging policy and workflows, ensuring the accuracy of bibliographic data for serials that is used by NLM products such as PubMed and PubMed Central, and that is distributed to the wider library community. Tina's previous professional experience includes several positions at the National Agricultural Library from 2005-2013.

### *Elsewhere in the Library:*

- Dr. Stephen Greenberg, head of the History of Medicine Division Rare Books and Early Manuscripts Section, retired on July 3, 2021, following 29 years of federal service. He worked as a rare book librarian in the History of Medicine Division since July 1992 and served as the head of the Section since 2017.
- Amanda J. Wilson, chief of the Office of Engagement and Training, Library Operations, was appointed acting deputy associate director of Library Operations, June 2021.
- Patricia Tuohy, head of the History of Medicine Division Exhibition Program, retired on January 31, 2022, following 23 years of federal service. She led the Exhibition Program since 1996, responsible for dozens of onsite, traveling, and online exhibitions which have reached millions of viewers around the world.
- NLM selected five fellows to join its [2022-2023 class of Associate Fellows](#). The Associate Fellowship Program will start July 1, 2022 and will be conducted remotely. The program offers an educational and leadership experience, ranging from formal lectures and presentations to projects in operations, research and development, policy, and data analysis. Selected fellows are Mya Ballin, Carlette Dennis, Leah Everitt, Ellen Thieme, and Kelly West.

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