

Continuous Education Report
By
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It was a great privilege to attend the 2007 Joint Conference of Midwest/MidContinental Chapters of Medical Library Association. I was excited, re energized, and came back with many new ideas. In fact it was the highlight of my library life this year. What a great opportunity for education and networking!

Besides listening to great speakers like Rivkah Sass, Angela Ruffing, Mark Funk, Dr. John Schafer and Fred Lee, there were great classes offered for continuous education. From all the wonderful choices, I finally had to narrow down to two four-hour sessions that were most beneficial to my librarianship. I am a solo librarian at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings, Nebraska. My sincere thanks to ICON members for granting me the scholarship to attend both of these Continuing Education classes.

My first class was **Emerging Mobile Technologies**, taught by Melissa De Santis and Gaberial R Rios. Both of these instructors mentioned that many of the technologies changed soon after they prepared their presentation and the handouts. How true it is that we have to be versatile and constantly adapt to the change. The instructors emphasized that mobile technology is here to stay and our content should be portable or have the ability to become portable. Mobile technology is another vehicle for information. We also learned about Web2.0 services, pod casting, wireless ubiquity and emerging mobile services. Some of the devices using these technologies include iPods, smart phones, Blackberries, PDA's and Ultra Mobile PCs. It was such a learning experience and I am looking forward to integrating these technologies into various library services, especially in a rural setting. Although it was lot to digest in a four hour session, what an exciting future we have in medical libraries!

My second class was on **Expert Searching Nursing and Allied Health**, taught by Margaret Allen. With so much to choose from, I constantly look to improve my knowledge and skills in selecting databases and other resources appropriate to the information needs. The course content also focused on librarian's role for appraising search results and pointers for searching Evidence Based Practice database resources in CINAHL and MEDLINE.

I also took advantage of the free NLM PubMed hands-on training at Creighton Health Sciences library. I use PubMed all the time but in such a limited way. I am now able to get more out of PubMed.

I am constantly going over my materials, putting into practice all the expertise in searching and technology. I will be meeting with the Creighton Nursing faculty at

the Hastings campus and sharing my knowledge and the handouts. We will also talk about how we can pass this vital information to the nursing students.

I want to thank ICON again for giving me the opportunity to take these two classes. The conference met much more than my expectations. It was indeed a "License to Learn/License to Lead." What a great way to meet my colleagues, enjoy the conference and gain so much knowledge. It was indeed a terrific Conference. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make this conference a success.