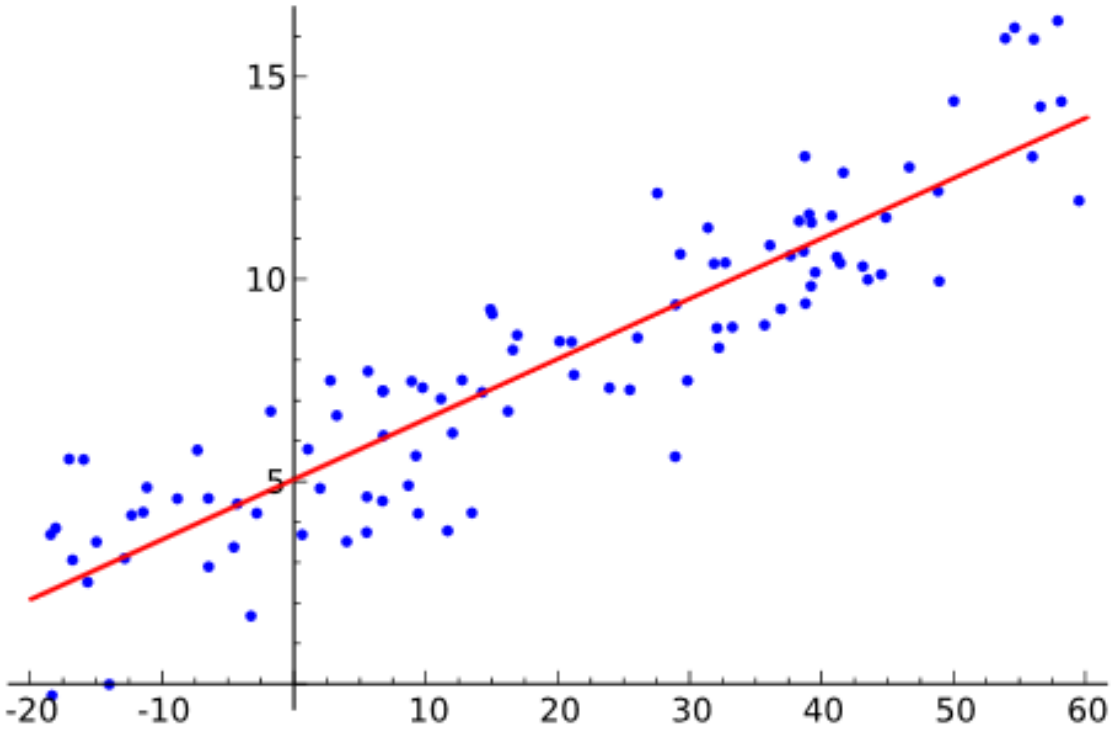
Volume 28, No 1
Fall 2016

Hypothesis

The Journal of the Research Section
of the Medical Library Association



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EDITORIAL

Introducing the new *Hypothesis*
Christine Marton.....4

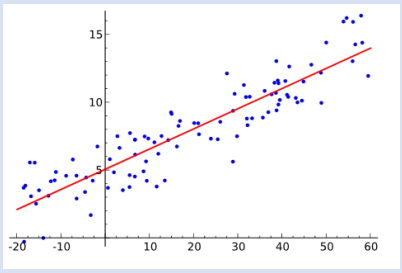
ORIGINAL RESEARCH

An examination of research topics in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* and the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*: quantifying the importance of research to medical librarians over time
Christine Marton 6

Customizing the iPad to Support a Clinical Fellowship in Radiology: a Qualitative Study
Antonio P. DeRosa and Delia M. Keating.....23

RESEARCH SECTION NEWS

MLA 2016 Annual Meeting Research Award Winners
Sandra De Groote, Jennifer Lyon, Terry Henner, & Kim Powell 33
MLA 2016 Annual Meeting Research Section Programs and Meetings
Christine Marton and Marie Ascher.....45



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HYPOTHESIS (ISSN 1093-5665) is the official journal of the Research Section of the Medical Library Association.
HYPOTHESIS is indexed in the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature™ (CINAHL).
HYPOTHESIS is available online at http://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=503.

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Introducing the new *Hypothesis*

Christine Marton

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to a new issue of *Hypothesis*! As the profession of health sciences librarianship continues to undertake new roles – informationist, data librarian, research librarian – among others, it becomes more embedded in the biological and health sciences. Working alongside clinicians, health sciences librarians are increasingly becoming researchers in their own right, both within their profession and within the professions in which they are embedded in their workplaces: universities, healthcare institutions, governments, and biopharma corporations.

The new *Hypothesis* reflects this reality, both in the composition of the new editorial board and in the topics of the research articles presented in this issue. Like many of my MLA colleagues, I have a dual background in health sciences and library and information science. As an academic and a former high school science teacher, I have taught many courses over a twenty-year period. I have also been actively involved in research in several disciplines and have utilized several approaches (experimental, observational, and textual) with several types of study designs (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods). The members of the editorial board share with me these characteristics – they are both teachers and researchers. Beyond the classic and still vital librarian roles of collection development and management, preparation of library guides, hiring and managing staff, and liaising with department heads, health sciences librarians act as instructors by teaching clinicians and clinical students how to effectively search the journal literature and distinguish quality information sources from less reputable publications. Health sciences librarians act as researchers by performing literature reviews and co-authoring systematic reviews of the health sciences literature required by clinicians to write grant proposals and keep track of key findings in their fields.

It is only appropriate that I take this opportunity to introduce my co-editor, Erin D. Foster, MSLS. Erin Foster is the newly appointed Data Services Librarian at Indiana University School of Medicine's Ruth Lilly Medical Library. She is a former National Library of Medicine Fellow where she spent time at the National Library of Medicine, on the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda MD, and Oregon Health & Science University in Portland OR. Erin received her

master's in library science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and worked as a graduate research assistant at the university's health sciences library. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research interests include data curation and management practices within health sciences communities, the development of standards and technologies to enable public access to research, and the promotion of open science efforts. Erin Foster's academic background and work experience exemplifies the new breed of health sciences librarian. Please welcome her onboard!

The new *Hypothesis* editorial board also deserves a hearty welcome. I would like to introduce to you our hard working editorial board members, several of whom have been actively involved in reviewing the contributions to this issue. Listed in alphabetical order, they are: Abby Adamczyk, Brooke Billman, Krystal Bullers, Susan Fowler, Ayaba Logan, and Carol Perryman. Representing both the geographic range of the United States of America and the many roles undertaken by health sciences librarians and academics, they collectively offer a comprehensive knowledge base to this publication. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing editorial board, who have contributed extensively to past issues of *Hypothesis*: Kristine Alpi, Leslie Behm, Ellen Detlefsen, and Jonathan Eldredge. As well, thanks are due to the outgoing editorial team of Brooke Billman and Emily Mazure for the 2015 issue of *Hypothesis*.

In this issue of *Hypothesis,* two original research articles are presented. Both were reviewed twice by a minimum of three reviewers with the author names and institutional affiliations removed to minimize reviewer bias. The first article is a quantitative bibliometric study of research topics in the highest ranked health sciences librarianship journal – the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, formerly known as the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.* The second article is a survey study of the use of iPad mini tablets pre-loaded with apps/resources/websites/tools by clinical fellows in the Breast Imaging Service (Department of Radiology) at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. As well, this issue features extensive coverage of the Research Award winners at MLA'16 in Toronto and the Research Section's conference programs. I hope you find the content informative and are inspired to submit an article about your current research to *Hypothesis*. As Fall turns into Winter and the polar vortex approaches, we wish you joy and happiness for the holiday season. We look forward to your participation in making *Hypothesis* a success in 2017.