

**MAC/MLA 2005 ANNUAL MEETING  
ROUND TABLES  
DISCUSSION SUMMARIES**

The 2005 Mid-Atlantic Chapter Round Table Discussions were held during lunch on October 6, 2005. The participants covered eleven timely topics: AHIP; Best Practices for Electronic Reference; Collaboration/Consortia/Partnerships; Consumer Health; Go-Local Endeavors; Health Literacy; Informationist; Is Paper Passé?; Mobile Technology; Recruitment Issues; and Turf to Worth. Because of high interest, there were two tables each for Turf to Worth and Is Paper Passé? Below are summaries to some of the discussions.

**Informationist**

Jean Shipman, Facilitator

After introducing ourselves, Jean Shipman provided a definition, background, and brought us up to date on the Informationist concept including the activities of various institutions such as NIH.

We discussed who would certify the informationist (AHIP?) and whether there would be more requirements to achieve certification. Karen mentioned that we need to develop our clinical knowledge. Specifically, we could focus on learning about important health topics (heart disease, diabetes, etc...). Karen wondered if people would attend a clinical CE class at MLA or MAC.

Jean discussed that we might need to increase salaries if requiring more education. Who would pay for this new role? Insurance, Medicaid payments?

Some of us mentioned a fear that physicians will take whatever information is handed to them. Jan mentioned that if presented with conflicting information, the physician has a responsibility to determine the best course of action. Ann said that we have lost some of our expertise by not knowing the top five journals or information sources in a field.

Future

Jean feels strongly that we need to do research to show the effectiveness of the library. MAC and MLA need to keep attention focused on this concept.