

# Professional Health Science Library Organizations in Wisconsin: An Overview

Get to know about the professional health science library organizations that are available to libraries and librarians in Southeastern Wisconsin.

	SWHSL	WHSLA	MWCMLA	MLA
<b>Geographic reach</b>	Southeastern WI: Milwaukee & surrounding counties	Wisconsin	Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Wisconsin	National
<b>Membership type</b>	Health science libraries in the seven counties of SE WI	Librarians and others engaged in health science library work or interested in health science libraries	Members and non-members of MLA; all memberships are personal, not institutional	Individuals and institutions; institutional dues are based on the number of FTEs that serve health science patrons
<b>Membership size</b>	7 health science libraries w/ 30 employees	30	180	2,500 individuals
<b>Dues</b>	Tiered, \$20-\$100/library	\$20	\$40	\$255 standard for individuals; \$383-\$1,530 for institutions
<b>Organizational structure</b>	Presiding officer role is rotated among institutions.	Elections held for executive board	Elections held for voting board members.	Elections held for voting board members.

	Each institution has one vote			
<b>Major activities</b>	3 meetings/year Networking & professional development Funds a PD award	Annual business meeting Wisdom chats held several times per year Listserv Funds a PD award	Listserv Annual conference and business meeting Networking & professional development	Annual conference and business meeting Networking & professional development Supports EFTS

## SWHSL: Southeastern Wisconsin Health Science Library Consortium

<https://swhsl.org/>

**Geographic coverage:** Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, Racine Counties.

**Membership:** 7 member libraries, with around 30 library staff between all libraries

**Dues:** are tiered based on number of health science librarians, ranges between \$20-\$100

### Activities/membership benefits:

- 3-4 meetings per year with a mix of in-person and virtual meetings.
- Members are eligible to apply for an annual [professional development grant](#)

### Governance structure:

- [SWHSL GUIDELINES December 1996 \(Revised September 1998\)](#)
- Board: President (rotates annually), Recording Secretary and Treasurer (both positions are volunteer and have no term limits)
- Members hold authority for decision making. Each member institution shall designate one representative for voting

**Primary Purpose:** The primary purpose of the organization is to foster the development of medical libraries in Southeastern Wisconsin in accordance with professional standards, to inspire and educate medical library personnel, and to implement the exchange of library

materials and services. This includes, but is not limited to, interlibrary loan, formal and informal educational sessions, or other means of professional development and communication.

**History:** Created in 1991 (as seen in the guidelines)

## WHSLA: Wisconsin Health Science Library Association

<https://www.whsla.org/>

**Geographic coverage:** Wisconsin

**Membership:** 30 members

**Dues:** \$20

### **Activities/membership benefits:**

- Annual meeting
- Eligibility for Professional Development stipends (two at \$500 each)
- Weekly blog
- Networking with other Wisconsin health science librarians (priceless!)
- Selected MLA webinars free of charge

### **Governance structure:**

- [Bylaws & Guidelines - Wisconsin Health Science Library Association](#)
- **Board:** president, president-elect, secretary, and a treasurer.

**Primary Purpose:** promote the development of health science libraries and librarianship in Wisconsin

- provide a forum for the discussion of mutual problems and the exchange of ideas and information among members
- encourage the continuing education of all health science library personnel by sponsoring appropriate educational programs
- serve as a liaison to other organizations desiring input from WHSLA

**History:** [History of WHSLA - Wisconsin Health Science Library Association](#)

## MWCMLA: Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association

<https://mcmla45.wildapricot.org/>

**Geographic coverage:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

**Membership:** 180 active members

**Dues:** \$40 (members do not need to also be members of MLA)

### **Activities/membership benefits:**

- Annual conference featuring CEs, research, updates from MLA and NLM
- Annual business meeting
- Active listserv
- Member networking opportunities
- Members are eligible for [awards granted annually](#)

### **Governance structure:**

- [Policies and Procedures](#)
- Elected executive board; representation w/ MLA
- Chapter of the MLA

**Primary Purpose:** To bring together librarians who work or are interested in health sciences disciplines or health sciences librarianship. They aim to stimulate and foster interest in health sciences libraries and librarianship; increase the knowledge of its members by sponsoring educational programs and courses; encourage development of and cooperation among health sciences libraries; provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and the discussion of mutual problems and concerns; and acquaint persons interested in health sciences libraries and librarianship with MLA.

**History:** [History of the chapter](#)

## MLA: Medical Library Association

**Geographic coverage:** National

**Membership:** 2,500 members

**Dues:** \$255 standard rate

### **Activities/membership benefits:**

- Annual conference featuring CEs, research
- Annual business meeting
- Active listserv
- Member networking opportunities

**Governance structure:**

- [Board of Directors](#)
- The board includes one Chapter Council Chair who is elected by representatives from the MLA Chapters

**Primary Purpose:** To recruit, retain, and educate a strong community of well-informed and connected health information experts, and to be advocates for excellence in the field while furthering the aims of the Medical Library