



BQSIMB President's Report

Spring 2015

I now make my last presentation to you as President of BQSIMB:

As a profession, all librarians constantly see attempts to limit access to or ban “undesirable” materials. But far from removing Langston Hughes, Maurice Sendak, “Catcher in the Rye” or even online “dirty words” via software programs, in the electronic age as hospital librarians also see an indirect challenge to keeping material available to our users.

Meeting the incredibly high costs of electronic journals, textbooks and reference resources needed in our libraries, is a battle that we constantly face. Despite what our administrators may still think, not everything is on the Internet and free. We live in dread of the next renewal notice from publishers and vendors; how much more could they possibly be charging for a journal or resource. And we must deal with those financial officers who often don’t understand the costs of or see the need for the type of indirect patient care the library so critically provides.

Over the last 40 years we have banded together and worked to successfully share this expense and reduce costs by providing copies of articles to each other and even taking advantage of group purchase discounts. In this way we are able to help each other meet the information needs of our users by providing access to knowledge-based information supporting the areas of patient care, clinical decision making, quality improvement, continuing education and research while keeping our budgets under control.

In 1953, President Eisenhower remarked that access to information preserves freedom; today access to information remains just as critical to our individual and collective health. As librarians we have played and continue to play an important role in healthcare by that ensuring access. But as healthcare changes how we provide that access must change to, we must reinvent ourselves and our libraries to meet the challenges within our profession and institution as well as the ongoing and evolving needs of our users.

Think it Forward! -----Be a Vanguard! ----- Be a Librarian!



Today we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of BQSIMB and a quick look back at the archives on our website will give you a very good idea of all that this group has accomplished over the years. And we cannot forget how influential our activities have been on our profession. Thanks the leadership of Lydia Friedman and others, BQSIMB's concept of the free interchange of articles amongst its members provided the basis for what became BHSL as implemented across the nation. Look over the landscape of the last number of years and see how many consortia are (and are not) still around.

On our website and in your packets, you will see that BQSIMB was honored by Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker of the New York City Council. I am thrilled that in her letter, the work we do at our institutions and as a group has been recognized.

On a personal note, this has been a rather eventful 2 years. Much more so than I planned! I especially want to thank Sheryl, Irina, the Board Members and Committee Chairs, and all of you who have pitched whenever needed. Reviewing my past reports to the membership, there were many things accomplished and my appreciation to everyone is endless.

I am looking forward to the rest of the meeting and hearing from our Keynoter.

With sincere thanks to all.

Bill