

## **MLA 2007 Annual Meeting Update on Google Co-op for Health**

Submitted by Howard Fuller, CAPHIS chair and Team Leader for the MLA Google Co-op for Health Project., May 2, 2007

As of March 2007 this project has been in, what I've labeled, a transitional phase. It is expected the MLA Board will approve the continuation of this project, at which point it will once again move into a growth phase. The Co-op team has annotated few additional sites during this period which I've attributed to most Team members dealing with end-of school year activities and deadlines, preparing for the various national library conferences offered this time of year, planning for vacations, and the completion of their original project commitment. A broader overview of the entire project will be discussed in the forthcoming edition of the (June/July) MLA News.

One common question asked of me by other large entities, and by the MLA Board, considering participation in Google Co-op concerns the time it takes to add one annotation into Co-op. If you are adding annotations from an established list of reviewed (deep) web links, it takes 30 – 60 seconds to add one site. As has always been the case in collection development, finding the best resource is usually more labor intensive than purchasing or cataloging it. Our subscriber base, the number of users who track annotations added to Co-op by MLA, has increased by approximately 100 to a total of 719 (from 622 on January 3, 2007). Our annotation (deep web links added to Co-op) growth has leveled off during the transition phase with just under 100 web site annotations added to bring our total number of annotated web sites to 1783.

To prepare for the anticipated project approval, Eric Rumsey who is responsible for the highly regarded and well known HardinMD web site at the University of Iowa, will be leading the project for the forthcoming year. Eric has increasingly gained recognition in the area of image search and will bring that lens with his leadership. Image search is increasingly becoming more problematic for front line librarians and educators. I feel fortunate that someone of this caliber has volunteered to lead this effort under the MLA banner.

More information about Google Co-op for Health can be found at <http://google.com/coop/topics/Health>