**Purpose of CAPHIS**
- To provide a forum for librarians in the area of consumer health information
- To encourage leadership among librarians in the area of consumer health information
- To promote the education of librarians in the provision of consumer health information
- To encourage the development of standards for the provision of consumer health information

**About CAPHIS**
CAPHIS, the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section, is a section of the Medical Library Association, an association of health information professionals with more than 5,000 individual and institution members.

MLA fosters excellence in the professional achievement and leadership of health sciences library and information professionals to enhance the quality of health care, education, and research.

**Membership Guidelines**
Annual fee
Must be a member of MLA to be a member of CAPHIS

![A consumer health library of today](image1.png)

**History of CAPHIS**
The Consumer and Patient Health Information Section (CAPHIS) of the Medical Library Association was formed as a provisional section at the Montreal MLA annual meeting in 1981. It was formally recognized by MLA in 1986. Katherine Lindner was the first official CAPHIS chair.

The first issue of the section newsletter, CAPHIS Connections, was produced (on a typewriter) in the fall of 1984. The CAPHIS web site was first launched in 1996, and the listserv in 1997.

**Unique Projects**
- Consumer Connections Newsletter
- Managing a Consumer Health Information Service
- Top 100 List
- National Consumer Health Library Directory

**Key Publication**
"The librarian’s role in the provision of consumer health information and patient education."

**Leadership Opportunities**
CAPHIS officers include the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate-Past Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Most officers serve for one or two years.

The Chair presides over all meetings and represents the Section. She or he appoints committee chairs and prepares reports on CAPHIS activities for MLA.

The Chair-Elect has primary responsibility for planning the Section programming at the annual meeting and serves as Chair when the Chair is unavailable.

The Immediate-Past Chair represents the Section at MLA Section Council. He or she also chairs the CAPHIS Nominating Committee and prepares for election of new officers.

The Secretary is responsible for recording minutes of all meetings.

The Treasurer keeps track of CAPHIS finances and accounts, writes checks on behalf of the Section, and prepares the annual Section budget.

**CAPHIS Awards**
There are two CAPHIS awards:

- **CAPHIS Professional Development Award**
  Need funding to continue your professional development as a consumer health librarian?
  Apply for this award before April 1st of each year!
  You should be a CAPHIS member in good standing with at least 2 years experience in consumer health librarianship.

- **CAPHIS Consumer Health Librarian of the Year Award**
  Nominate an exemplary consumer health librarian colleague for this prestigious honor from CAPHIS!
  Nominations and accompanying documents (CV and letters of recommendation) should be submitted no later than April 1st of each year.
  The recipient is acknowledged at the CAPHIS Business Meeting at MLA.

Details are available on the CAPHIS web site [caphis.mlanet.org](http://caphis.mlanet.org)