



library research section update

SUMMER 1987

88TH ANNUAL MEETING - NEW ORLEANS - MAY 1988

CALL FOR PAPERS !

Unanswered Questions: Evaluation, Environment, Emerging Issues...

The contributed paper session sponsored by the Research Section at the Portland meeting was a rousing success! Presenters, whose papers were both excellent and provocative, enjoyed an overflow audience throughout. This coming year the Research Section joins forces with the Medical School Section to co-sponsor a similar session. The Joint Planning Committee's theme, broad enough to stimulate a host of creative investigators, invites the study of issues vital to us as health sciences librarians, regarding our changing environment, the emergence of new challenges and options, and the need to better evaluate what we are doing.

We invite you to submit your abstract and to encourage your colleagues to do the same. Each entry will receive careful review by a joint selection panel. Those which examine a substantive issue using a definable methodology will receive preference. Additional criteria and instructions will be furnished to those whose abstracts are accepted. Panelists are:

For Medical School Section	For Library Research Section
David Boillard	Ann Weller
David Curry	Nancy Woelfl

Abstracts are due Sept. 15, 1987. Completed papers are due Dec. 4, 1987. Please mail to:

Lila Pedersen, Joint Session Coordinator
Harley French Library of the Health Sciences
University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, ND 58202

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE !

Appointments to the Section's Nominating Committee must be made by October. The committee will identify a slate of candidates for the following officers:

Chair-elect	7/88 - 7/89
Council Representative	7/88 - 7/91
Council Alternate	7/88 - 7/91
Section Nominee to MLA Nominating Committee	7/88 - 7/91

Indicate your willingness to serve by completing and returning this form:

TO: Erika Love, Chair, Library Research Section

I wish to serve on the Section's Nominating Committee.

I nominate _____ for _____
(specify name) (specify office)

Signature _____ Institution _____



SECTION NEWS FROM PORTLAND

During the business meeting, members:

1. Approved unanimously changes in the Section's bylaws to conform with those of the national MLA bylaws.
2. Approved unanimously annual Section dues of \$5/year effective in 1988. Beginning in 1989, \$1.88 per dues-paying member fee will go to headquarters when management of membership and mailing lists as well as dues collection is centralized. Membership lists and mailing labels will be furnished to all sections by headquarters.
3. Approved unanimously to co-sponsor a contributed paper session with the Medical School Section in 1988.
4. Asked that meetings of Library Research and Medical School Sections be scheduled on separate days or time slots.
5. Heard Chairman's report--all four objectives were met: develop procedure manual, compile membership list, sponsor contributed paper session, conduct membership survey (see results in MLA News, Nov/Dec 1986).
6. Endorsed objectives for 1987/88:
 - a) develop closer liaison with CE Committee to strengthen research component therein, b) identify course developers for research-related courses, c) continue bibliography project, d) explore development of an ongoing research register to identify institutions and researchers in an effort to stimulate networking, e) solicit volunteers for item-writing workshop on research-related questions for certification examination, f) establish a members' communication tree to facilitate legislative liaison and other Section business.

-- Ann Weller, Secretary

WE'RE PART OF AN ACTION TEAM

The Government Relations Committee has developed a legislative action network including all Sections to improve communication between MLA members and that committee. A strong network can swiftly organize letter-writing campaigns and/or trigger contacts with key legislators on local and national issues important to medical librarians.

Currently, the committee is working on two major action items: a) appropriations for NLM, and b) creation of a biotechnology center under NLM's wing. Funding to support research is part of both proposals. Sample letters addressed to Senators Kennedy and Chiles and to Representatives Waxman and Natcher are available and both librarians and health care practitioners are urged to join in this effort. Contact me for copies of these letters for use in the mailing campaign or for a copy of the MLA position statement.

Because Section members should help to support the committee when asked, a telephone tree may be devised within the Research Section for more rapid communication with you about legislative issues. Meantime, we invite you to submit your ideas for relevant research issues that might be brought up for action. You will be kept informed of future developments.

-- Karen Brewer
Government Relations Liaison

OFFICERS 1987/88

CHAIRMAN	ERIKA LOVE
CHAIR-ELECT	CAROL FENICHEL
SECRETARY/TREAS	ANN WELLER
COUNCIL REP.	PHYLLIS LANSING
COUNCIL ALT.	MARK FUNK
GOVT.REL.LIAISON	KAREN BREWER

Medical Library Association
Library Research Section

Selected Bibliography on Research
(Revised 1987)

At the 1984 MLA Annual Meeting in Denver, the Library Research Section decided that a short reading list on research would be useful. The following items are fundamental readings for the person who wants to do research in the field of Library and Information Science. The criteria for selection were 1) to cover the general concepts of research, 2) to cover the basic techniques and methodologies, and 3) to be a short list of "readable" items.

- Beveridge, W.I.B. The art of scientific investigation. N.Y.: Random House, 1957. This classic is a general introduction to the foundation of research. It should be required reading for the novice researcher.
- Bookstein, Abraham. How to sample badly. Lib Q 1973 Apr; 44:124-32. This paper deals with three basic faults that may occur in sampling. These faults are considered by examining a number of simplified examples of faulty sampling techniques.
- Bookstein, Abraham. Questionnaire research in a library setting. J Acad Librarianship 1985 Mar;11(1):24-8. Discusses the traps that an unsuspecting researcher might fall into when using questionnaires.
- Bundy, Mary Lee and Paul Wasserman, eds. Reader in research methods for librarianship. Washington, D.C.: NCR Microcard Edition, 1970. A collection of readings dealing with various aspects of research.
- Busha, Charles H. A library science research reader and bibliographic guide. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1981. This reader's goals are to: stimulate more interest in systematic inquiry; to help potential researchers in selection of analysis and evaluation studies; to acquaint readers in studies relating to planning and obtaining studies and funding sources; and to provide a list of additional sources of information about research.
- Busha, Charles H. and Stephen P. Harter. Research methods in librarianship: techniques and interpretation. N.Y.: Academic Press, 1980. This is a comprehensive guide for planning, conducting, and evaluating research in library and information science. It examines numerous completed research projects that are relevant to librarianship and could serve as models for research.
- Campbell, D.T. and J.C. Stanley. Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for research. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1963. Discusses experimental design and gives detailed examples which demonstrate how things can go wrong.
- Goldhor, Herbert. An introduction to scientific research in librarianship. Champaign, IL: Illini Union Bookstore, 1969. Deals with the nature of the scientific method of research and tools and techniques. Chapters

on survey research, direct observation, statistical methods, sampling, experimental research and analysis, interpretation and presentation.

Katzer, Jeffrey and Kenneth H. Cook, et al. Evaluating information: a guide for users of social science research. 2nd ed. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1981. The purpose of this text is to teach students how to understand and evaluate published research reports. The bulk of this book is devoted to the principles underlying the criteria for evaluation. Aimed at non-researchers.

Line, Maurice B. Library surveys. 2nd ed. London: Clive Bingley, 1982. "It is merely an elementary and highly derivative introduction to the subject, for the librarian who may be interested in conducting his own survey or who wishes to gain a critical if superficial understanding of the survey of others."

Martyn, John and F. Wilfrid Lancaster. Investigative methods in library and information science: an introduction. Arlington, VA: Information Resources Press, 1981. Information techniques relevant to research and evaluation in the fields of library and information services. Concentrates on useful investigative techniques instead of statistics or experimental design.

Orr, R.H., et al. Development of methodologic tools for planning and managing library services. Bull Med Libr Assoc 1968 Jul;56:235-67. Describes a project by the Institute for Advancement of Medical Communication aimed at developing methods for collecting objective data suitable for planning and guiding local, regional, and national programs to improve biomedical libraries and the biomedical information complex.

Sudman, Seymour and Norman M. Bradburn. Asking questions: a practical guide to questionnaire design. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1983. A comprehensive guide for producing statistically valid questionnaires. Includes formulating the questions, recording responses, the order and format of the questionnaire, and designing questionnaires for mail and telephone surveys.

Swanson, Rowena W. and Joseph Mayer. Performing evaluation studies in information science. JASIS 1975 May;26:140-56. The state-of-the-art of evaluation study is analyzed with respect to 1) the scope of evaluation studies, 2) the use of laboratory-type environments, 3) the use of surrogate judges, 4) selection of variables, 5) frequency of study, and 6) comparability of study results.

Swisher, Robert and Charles R. McClure. Research for decision making: methods for librarians. Chicago, ALA, 1984. "The book" is an introduction to the principles of action research and basic statistical concepts. It offers the reader essential information, necessary both to conduct and to understand research.

Tufte, Edward R. The visual display of quantitative information. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press, 1984. Clear, clean, and unbiased graphs are a necessity for good research. This is an interesting and informative look at statistical graphics. Includes history, theory, and very practical advice. Hundreds of examples, and actually fun to read.