



## LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1989

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### LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION MID-WINTER PROGRESS REPORT

The Library Research Section held its annual business meeting on May 23, 1988 during the national meeting in New Orleans. Nancy Woelfl reported that the contributed papers session "Unanswered Questions: Evaluation-Environment-Emerging Issues" sponsored jointly with the Medical School Libraries Section was very successful. The members accepted the report of the nominating committee, voted to participate in centralized dues collection, decided to sponsor a contributed papers session at the 1989 annual meeting and agreed to explore the possibility of sponsoring a symposium at the 1989 meeting. Reports were received from the chairs of four newly-established committees: Karen Hackelman (CE Liaison), Jackie Bastille (MLA Research Issues), Phyllis Lansing (Research Resources) and Ann Weller (Membership). Elizabeth Wood agreed to serve as Newsletter Editor.

In conjunction with the Committee Chairs, the Section Chair established sixteen specific objectives for the year. Substantial progress has been made on many of these objectives:

- (1) A newsletter was published in August.
- (2) Kathlyn Reed of the Research Resources Committee developed an annotated Research Bibliography which will be distributed at Chapter meetings by the Membership Committee and to Library Research Section members with the Spring newsletter.
- (3) Ruth Fenske of the Research Resources Committee created a list of MLA members who have Ph.D.s or who are doctoral candidates. The list is being used to designate research mentors in each region of the country.

(4) Patricia Gibson issued a call for papers for the Boston program, "Research: Foundation for the Future."

(5) A Research Report form to gather information about medical library research activities and resource persons was distributed to all Section members, and will be sent to other MLA members through Chapter and Section newsletters and the MLA News. Neil Rambo of the Research Resources Committee is collecting and organizing the results.

(6) The Section is co-sponsoring with the Hospital Library Section an all-day symposium at the 1989 annual meeting. The title is: "Evaluation in Health Sciences Libraries: Measuring Our Contribution and Our Value."

(7) The Research Issues Committee is presently working on a list of high priority research issues to submit to the MLA Board as suggestions for the MLA Research Agenda.

(8) The Research Issues Committee is preparing an announcement for the MLA News asking for information on existing academic sabbatical or release time programs for librarians to perform research.

(9) A tutorial on how to prepare a Case Study has been partially completed by Peter Vigil of the Research Issues Committee.

(10) Nancy Fazzone of the Research Issues Committee and new member Jacqueline Doyle are writing an article on research for hospital libraries which will be published in the next Hospital Library Section newsletter.

(11) In response to a request from the new editor, the Section conducted a survey to determine the feasibility of publishing a research-oriented column in the Bulletin. The chair prepared a report based on the results.

(12) The CE Liaison Committee is developing a questionnaire to assess the interest of MLA members in research and to see how well their needs are being met. The Committee submitted an application to MLA for \$500 to help pay the costs.

The Section has 98 members including 18 who joined since May and \$357.00 as of October 17, 1988.

#### **MOTION**

This report is informational and requires no action by the Board of Directors.

Carol H. Fenichel, Ph.D.  
Chair

Date: October 21, 1988

**SECTION OFFICERS:**

Carol H. Fenichel, Chair  
Patricia Gibson, Chair-elect  
Erika Love, Past-Chair  
Ann C. Weller, Secretary/Treasurer  
Trudy Gardner, Section Council Representative  
Carolyn Ann Reid, Section Council Alternate  
Karen Brewer, Government Relations Committee Liaison  
Elizabeth H. Wood, Newsletter Editor

**BOSTON '89 CONTRIBUTED PAPERS PROGRAM**

Be sure to attend our Section's program on Sunday, May 21, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.!

The theme is "Research: Foundation for the Future." Erika Love will moderate our contributed papers session, which promises to be excellent.

Peter Vigil will present a philosophical paper, "Research and Problem Solving: the Medium and the Message Revisited;" and Nancy Woelfl, Ph.D., will react to Vigil's paper.

Then, Suzanne Grefsheim and Diana Cunningham will report on their Biotechnology Awareness Study funded by the National Library of Medicine. A biotechnologist, John Alexander Smith, M.D., Ph.D., of the Department of Molecular Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital, will react to their papers.

Our Section business meeting will follow the program session on Sunday.

**"EVALUATION IN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES" -- SYMPOSIUM  
MEASURING OUR CONTRIBUTION AND OUR VALUE**

Co-Sponsored by the  
Hospital Libraries Section and the  
Library Research Section

As cost constraints on the healthcare industry increase it will become more necessary than ever for medical libraries to provide data to justify support of their programs and use of resources. This symposium will provide practical help for those who want to undertake an evaluation project in a health sciences library. The goals are to help participants understand the basics of good evaluation design and to give enough specific information to enable them to design and carry out an evaluation project in one of the topical areas covered. The symposium will also provide a forum for inquiry for individuals interested in evaluation and applied research in health sciences libraries.

Who Should Take this Course? The course is intended for librarians who have no experience with formal evaluation, as well as those who have carried out evaluation projects but would like specific advice on carrying out a hospital quality assurance project or undertaking a formal evaluation in one of the other specific areas covered. CE credits have been applied for.

## **PROGRAM**

**8:00AM - 8:45AM Registration & refreshments**

**8:45AM - 9:00AM Welcome & Introductions**

Jacqueline D. Doyle, Director of the Health Sciences Library, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Phoenix  
Chair-elect, Hospital Libraries Section

Carol H. Fenichel, Ph.D, Director of the Library  
Hahnemann University, Philadelphia  
Chair, Library Research Section

**9:00AM - 10:00AM Keynote Address: Values and Evaluation: Assessing Contributions of Health Sciences Libraries to Clinical Care**

David N. King, Assistant Professor  
College of Library and Information Science  
University of Kentucky

**10:00AM - 10:45AM Panel**

**King Study Replication Experiences: Why Replicate? Methods & Modifications, Results, Problems & Issues, What to do Next**

Tamara A. Turner, Director of Libraries  
Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Seattle

Kay E. Wellik, Manager, Health Sciences Library  
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix

**10:45AM - 11:10AM Break**

**11:10AM - 12:30PM Brushup Your Evaluation Skills**

Joanne G. Marshall, Assistant Professor  
University of Toronto

**12:30PM - 1:30PM Lunch**

**1:30PM - 2:45PM Part 1: Concurrent Discussions**

**1. Hospital Library Quality Assurance Plans**

**Leader: Christiane J. Jones, Chief Library SVC  
Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Biloxi**

**2. Measuring the Library's Effect on Patient Care**

**Leader: David N. King, Assistant Professor  
School of Library and Information Science  
University of Kentucky**

**3. Journal Collection Evaluation**

**Leader: Daniel T. Richards, Collection Development  
Officer  
National Library of Medicine**

**4. Evaluation of Reference Services**

**Leader: Ruth E. Fenske, Ph.D., Health Sciences  
Librarian (Urbana), Library of the Health Sciences-  
Urbana, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**5. User surveys**

**Leader: Prudence Dalrymple, Ph.D., Assistant Profes  
sor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science,  
University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign**

**6. Evaluation of Online Services**

**Leader: Nancy Woelfl, Ph.D., Director, McGoogan  
Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical  
Center**

**2:45PM - 3:00PM Break**

**3:00PM - 4:15PM Part 2: Concurrent Discussions (continued)**

**4:15PM - 4:45PM Wrap-up**

The afternoon discussion groups will be limited to 15 persons, including speakers. The discussions will cover the possibilities for carrying out these projects, including the pros and cons of various approaches. Chalkboards or easels will be available for working through ideas. Participants are encouraged to bring their ideas, instruments and questions for feedback from the group. Sample survey instruments and other data gathering tools collected from health sciences libraries will be provided. It is necessary to sign up for a topic at the time of registration and attend both parts of the same topic. See the registration form.

## **EVALUATION INSTRUMENTS CALL FOR SAMPLES**

The aim of the symposium outlined above is to provide practical help for MLA members who want to undertake a formal evaluation project. The keynote address will present a brushup session which will review the basic steps in evaluation of library collections and services.

To help focus the discussion and to give attendees a starting point for their projects we plan to distribute sample survey forms and other data gathering tools which have been used by health sciences libraries. We are asking MLA members who have developed questionnaires and other evaluation instruments in these subject areas to contribute the samples. If you have materials you have used and would be willing to share (and subject to constructive criticism) send copies to:

Carol H. Fenichel, Ph.D.  
Chair, MLA Library Research Section  
Library M.S. 449  
Hahnemann University  
245 North 15th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Deadline: February 25, 1989

Sometimes we learn as much from projects that are only partially successful as from our smashing successes, so do not feel that your materials need to be perfect to be useful.

All forms which are selected for use in the discussion groups will be acknowledged in the program handouts. All libraries sending sample instruments for consideration will receive free of charge the complete set of instruments distributed at the symposium whether or not they have staff who attend.

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Please find the 1989 Ballot enclosed. DO NOT PHOTOCOPY the ballot. It is printed on colored paper deliberately, to authenticate responses. Thank you.

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION  
RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

Prepared by Kathryn L. Reed, Ph.D., MLIS

August, 1988

BOOKS ON RESEARCH

Books for the Consumers of Research

- Kooser J, Cook JG, Crouch WW. (1981) Evaluation Information: A Guide for Users of Social Science Research. 2nd ed., Reading, MA, Addison-Wesley, H 62 K19e  
-The purpose of the book is to teach people to understand and evaluate published research reports.
- Loody PD. (1981) How to Read Research and Understand It. New York, NY, Macmillan, Q 180.55 M4 L484h  
-The author discusses how to read a research article and understand its content in non-technical language.
- Jaffe AJ, Spher HF. (1987) Misused Statistics: Strife for Technical Numbers. New York, NY, Marcel Dekker, HA 39 J23m  
-The goal of the text is to help people become critical observers of statistics and to understand how statistics can be used correctly or incorrectly to support a point of view.

Books on Research Methods

- Babbie, ER. (1983) The Practice of Social Research. 3rd ed. Belmont, CA, Wadsworth, H 62 B113p  
-A good general text on the fundamental logic and skills of research.
- Brenner M, Brown J, Center D. (1985) The Research Interview: Uses and Approaches. Orlando, FL, Academic Press, BP 76.5 R432  
-Interviewing is used frequently to gather data for research projects but usually is given scant attention in basic research texts. This text is a useful and comprehensive reference for anyone using an interview format as part of the methodology in a research project.
- Busha CH, Hunter SP. (1980) Research Methods in Librarianship: Techniques and Interpretation. New York, NY, Academic Press, Z 669.7 B978p  
-This textbook is an introductory account of the rationale and methods for research in library and information science. Its goal is to provide insight and discuss technical skills needed to plan, conduct, and analyze research data.
- Cook TD, Reichardt GS. (1979) Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Evaluation Research. Beverly Hills, CA, Sage Publications, H 62 A1094  
-The authors describe the differences between qualitative and quantitative research methods and include several brief chapters on various types of qualitative methods.
- Freeman J, Demos FS. (1986) The Relationship of Theory and Research. Norwalk, CN, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Q 180 A1 F278r  
-The purpose of the book is to present a detailed discussion of the relationship between theory and research to provide information needed for the analysis and evaluation of research reports and proposals for new studies.
- Isaac S & Michael WB. (1981) Handbook in Research and Evaluation. 2nd ed. San Diego, CA, EdITS Publishers, BP 76.5 I73h  
-This book provides an overview of major methods of research, statistical analysis and measurement instruments. It provides very useful summaries of common problems and solutions in designing, conducting, analyzing and communicating the results of research projects.

MLA Library Research Section Research Bibliography August, 1988

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- Kerlinger PV. (1986) Foundations of Behavioral Research. 3rd ed. New York, NY, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, BP 181 K39f  
-An excellent general textbook on research. It is one of the most frequently cited texts on the nature and purpose of research in the behavioral sciences.

- Merritt J, Lancaster FW. (1981) Integrative Methods in Library and Information Science: An Introduction. Arlington, VA, Information Resources Press, Z 669.7 M388l  
-The purpose of this book is to describe the major investigative techniques relevant to research and evaluation in the fields of library and information services and to suggest which techniques seem most appropriate to examine specific problems in library research.

- Powell RB. (1985) Basic Research Methods for Librarians. Norwood, NJ, Ablex, Z 669.7 P885b  
-A good general textbook on the research methods used most frequently by librarians.

- Swisher R, McClure CR. (1984) Research for Decision Making: Methods for Librarians. Chicago, IL, American Library Association, Z 669.7 S979s  
-The book discusses the concept of "action research" which is designed to increase the practicing librarian's skills in making decisions and improving the overall effectiveness of libraries. Several chapters on statistical analysis are included.

Books on Statistics

- Carpenter RL. (1978) Statistical Methods for Librarians. Chicago, IL, American Library Association, HA 39 C296c  
-The text is aimed at providing a basic understanding of statistics, statistical analysis and its usefulness to library researchers.
- Fingerman J, Lyden R. (1986) Applied Statistics for Librarians: A Primer in Statistical Techniques and Library Applications. Houston, TX, Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors, Z 669.8 F497a  
-Text is particularly useful in analyzing and interpreting data gathered from a survey or questionnaire. It was prepared as an adjunct to the Annual Statistics of Medical School Libraries in the United States and Canada.
- Howell DC. (1987) Statistical Methods for Dr librarians. 2nd ed., Boston, MA, Butterby Press, BP 39 H485s  
-One of many good general textbooks on statistics. The author stresses understanding why the statistical method is used as well as how to do it.
- Oulton M. (1986) Statistical Inference: A Commentary for the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Chichester, England, John Wiley & Sons, HA 39 O11b  
-This text is aimed at the person with some knowledge of statistics who needs more advanced information.
- Struss A. (1987) Qualitative Analysis for Social Scientists. Cambridge, MA, Cambridge Press, H 61 S912q  
-This book presents a systematic method for interpreting qualitative data whether derived from interviews, field notes, or documentary materials. Also included are the tools for doing qualitative analysis such as codes, memos, memo sequences, theoretical sampling and comparative analysis and diagrams.

ARTICLES AND BOOKS ON SPECIFIC RESEARCH METHODS

Books of Book Concepts

- Allen GC. Management and the conduct of in-house library research. Library and Information Science Research 1986;8:155-62  
-Identifies and discusses three major reasons for conducting in-house library research: planning, problem solving, and staff development. Also included are ten proposed stages of a research project and the role or attitude that management must adopt at each stage to encourage success.

Marchette L. Research: The levels of research framework. Parasitization Nursing Quarterly 1986;2(3):76-83. -Identifies three levels of research: descriptive, correlational, and experimental, and discusses the approach, goal and method associated with each level. Also differentiates between the levels and describes the uses for each level in the framework of research methodology. Although written for nurses it is an excellent summary.

Marchette L. Research: Design. Parasitization Nursing Quarterly 1987;3(1):67-71. -Discusses three types of experimental design studies (cause and effect): true experimental, quasiexperimental, and pre-experimental; differentiates between the three types and gives examples.

Zaker MC. Research: From concept to variable. Parasitization Nursing Quarterly 1985;1(3):73-7. -This paper describes the process of identifying the variables in a research problem and operationally defining the variables within the research format.

Chisman EA. Field research: Methodological themes. Library and Information Science Research 1984;6:425-38. -An overview of field research as it relates to library literature. Differences between field research (qualitative) and quantitative (correlational or experimental) are discussed.

Duffy ME. Quantitative and qualitative research: antagonistic or complementary? Nursing & Health Care 1987;8(6):356-7. -Author compares and contrasts the difference between quantitative and qualitative research designs.

Marchette L. Research: The literature review process. Parasitization Nursing Quarterly 1985;1(4):69-76. -Outlines the process through which a person should go to review the literature relevant to a research project topic.

Marchette L. Research: Selecting an instrument. Parasitization Nursing Quarterly 1986;2(4):76-81. -Article outlines the criteria which should be used to evaluate an instrument or test which is being considered for the collection of data in a research project.

Hawthorn PJ. Principles of research: A checklist. Nursing Times 1983;79(23):41-3. -Author provides a useful checklist of issues to consider when undertaking a research project and when evaluating a research report.

#### Theory/Model Building Research

Grever R, Glazier J. A conceptual framework for theory building in library and information science. Library and Information Science Research 1986;9:227-42.

-This article suggests a model for theory building which proposes relationships among phenomena and various levels of theory and research. The result is a taxonomy intended to provide a framework for researchers and theorists to conceptualize research for building and testing theory in library and information science.

Pegmann B. The five-axis theory of indexing and information supply. Journal of the American Society for Information Science 1985;36(2):116-29.

-The proposed theory is based on chemical information which is believed to rest on five axioms: definability, order, sufficient degree of order, representational predictability, and representational stability. Use of the axioms may be of assistance in the design of information systems and research projects.

Michel HS. A Millietonic distribution which really works. Journal of the American Society for Information Science 1985;36(5):314-21.

-This article discusses a mathematical model called the Generalized Inverse Gaussian-Poisson Distribution which can be used to explain bibliometric frequency distributions.

#### Qualitative Methods

Grever R, Glazier J. Implications for Application of Qualitative Methods to Library and Information Science Research. Library and Information Science Research 1985;7:247-60.

-The purpose of the article is to analyze the qualitative research methodology in relation to its application in library and information science.

Walker CL. Qualitative research methodology. Journal of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses 1987;4(1 & 2):51-5.

-Author discusses the purposes of qualitative research and describes some collection methods, and approaches to data analysis.

#### Historical Research

Molynus RE. Patterns processes of growth, and projection of library size: A critical review of the literature on academic library growth. Library and Information Science Research 1986;8:5-28.

-Reviews the relative growth of libraries from the turn of the century and uses the information to project library growth in the future.

Shaffer RJ. Guide to Historical Method. (A). (1980). 3rd. ed., Homewood, IL, Dorsey Press. D 16 G946

-Author discusses historical concepts, methods of research, access to literature, writing results and communicating the findings.

Luzman ME. Historical research: one step back...Two steps forward. Journal of Post Anesthesia Nursing 1988;3(1):49-52.

-Author discusses the basics of how to plan and conduct a historical research project.

#### Literature Summaries

Feehan RE, Gragg WL, Haverer WM, Kester DD. Library and Information Science Research: An analysis of the 1984 Journal literature. Library and Information Science Research 1987;9:173-85.

-A report of a project designed to survey, analyze and characterize issues and trends in library and information science research published during 1984 in 91 English language journals devoted to library and information science concerns.

Bergman CL. Why are online catalogs hard to use? Lessons learned from information-retrieval studies. Journal of the American Society for Information Science 1986;37(6):387-400.

-User problems with both the mechanical and conceptual aspects of system use are reviewed. Also discussed are potential sources of the problems and suggestions for alleviating some of those problems.

#### Case Study Method Research

Fidel R. Online searching styles: A case-study-based model of searching behavior. Journal of the American Society for Information Science 1984;35(4):211-21.

-A model was developed based on the observation of five experienced online searchers doing their searches and on the analysis of the searches conducted by the searchers. The observations were divided into operational and conceptual searches and subdivided into the preparation stage, the search proper and quality controls and assessments.

Fidel R. The case study method: A case study. Library and Information Science Research 1984;6:273-88.

-The case study method was used to develop a model of online searching. The case study method is feasible. Data gathering and analysis are determined primarily by the subject matter and specific procedures are decided upon by the nature of the study.



Survey/Questionnaire Research

- Berle DR, Anderson JR, Niebuhr MA. (1986) Questionnaires: Design and Use. 2nd ed. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press. BP 39 B463q
- The purpose of this book is to assist the researcher to design a good questionnaire and get people to fill out and return the questionnaire.
- Lee, MB (1982). Library Success: An Introduction to Their Use, Planning, Procedures and Presentation. 2nd ed. Lanham, Clive Bingley.
- This book discusses use and planning of surveys, collecting the information, processing and analyzing the data, and presenting the results.
- Schmidt KA. The acquisitions process in research libraries: A survey of AUL libraries' acquisitions departments. Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory 1987;11:35-44.
- A survey of acquisitions departments in AUL libraries in the United States and Canada was conducted in 1985 to describe the organizational structure, investigate the processes included in acquisitions, discern the level of personnel performing various tasks and ascertain the salary levels of acquisitions librarians. The response rate was 91%.
- Boaden A. Questionnaire research in a library setting. Journal of Academic Librarianship 1985;11(1):24-28.
- Article discusses some of the fears or problems with questionnaires as a means of gathering data. Discussion is based on two studies which attempted to assess the degree to which people differed in their interpretations of questions dealing with library services.
- Development/Testing of Scale Research
- Dunn-Rankin P. (1983) Scaling Methods. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. BP 39 D922a
- This text addresses the needs of researchers who are interested in the measurement and representation of attitudes, values, interests, perceptions etc. A variety of scaling methodologies are presented.
- Pingree VL. Development and evaluation of a measure of library automation. Library and Information Science Research 1986;6:67-83.
- This paper discusses the development and testing of a scale designed to measure the extent to which automation is utilized in public and academic libraries. Construct validity and reliability estimates are included.
- Correlation Research
- Auster E, Lawton SB. Search interview techniques and information gain as antecedents of user satisfaction with online bibliographic retrieval. Journal of the American Society for Information Science 1984;35(2):90-100.
- The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between techniques used by search analysts during preliminary interviews, the amount of new information gained by the user as a result of a search and the user's subjective satisfaction with the quality of the items retrieved. The findings are discussed.
- Peavel RB. Library use and personality: The relationship between locus of control and frequency of use. Library and Information Science Research 1984;6:179-90.
- The study explores the relationship between personality, as represented by Rotter's Internal versus external control and frequency of public library use.

Meta-analysis

- Theaker SA. Meta-analysis: a quantitative approach to research integration. AMA 1988 (March 18):259(11):1685-89.
- Meta-analysis is a technique which attempts to improve on traditional methods of narrative review by analyzing information from several studies and quantifying the results. Combining data from several studies using meta-analysis can increase statistical power, provide insight into the nature of relationships among variables, and increase generalizability of results.
- Duffy ME. Meta-Analysis: A quantitative approach to synthesizing research findings across studies. Nursing and Health Care 1988;9(6):287-9.
- Author briefly discusses the technique of meta-analysis, the approaches used, the goals and some concerns about meta-analysis as a research technique.
- Experimental Design
- Greenwood L & McKean H. Effective measurement and reduction of book loss in an academic library. Journal of Academic Librarianship 1985;11(5):275-83.
- The article describes a multiphased project to measure and reduce book loss due to theft. The study compares results before and after changes were made in the entrance and exit passages to the library.
- Evaluation or Outcome Research
- Schwartz DG, Rubin D. Reference service standards, performance criteria, and evaluation. Journal of Academic Librarianship 1986;12(1):7-8.
- The study reports the effort of the University of Michigan Library system to establish measurable criteria for the performance evaluation of reference/information service librarians. The standards are included.
- Other Issues in Research
- Marchette L. Research: Getting funding. Reference Services Quarterly 1987;3(2):71-6
- Outlines and discusses eleven steps in the research funding process.
- Cobb AK, Hagemanor JM. Ten criteria for evaluating qualitative research proposals. Journal of Nursing Education 1987;26(4):128-43.
- Authors present some guidelines for evaluating or critiquing a qualitative research proposal.
- Magill BK. Publishing of research in librarianship. Library Trends 1984;32(4):557-77.
- Author explains the sources of published literature in library research. Article is useful both in planning for a literature review and in deciding where to submit a manuscript ready for publication.
- Hansen SM. Collaborative research and authorship credit: Beginning guidelines. Nursing Research 1988;37(1):49-52.
- Article examines the literature on guidelines for deciding who should be the primary and secondary authors when a paper is prepared for publication.