



# LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1989

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## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 1989/90

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| <u>Chair</u><br>Patricia A. Gibson                            | <u>Chair-Elect</u><br>Ann C. Weller                                   |
| <u>Past-Chair</u><br>Carol Hansen Fenichel                    | <u>Secretary-Treasurer</u><br>Dottie Eakin                            |
| <u>Section Council Rep.</u><br>Trudy A. Gardner               | <u>Section Council Alternate</u><br>Carolyn Ann Reid                  |
| <u>Nominee to MLA Nominating Cte</u><br>Ruth Fenske           | <u>Government Relations Liaison</u><br>Karen Brewer                   |
| <u>Newsletter Editor</u><br>Elizabeth H. Wood                 |   |
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| <u>CE Liaison Committee</u><br>Karen Hackleman, Chair         | <u>MLA Research Issues Committee</u><br>Jacqueline D. Bastille, Chair |
| <u>Research Resources Committee</u><br>Phyllis Lansing, Chair | <u>Bylaws Committee</u><br>Justine Roberts, Chair                     |

## BUSINESS MEETING, BOSTON '89

The following reports are excerpted from the minutes of the business meeting chaired by Carol Fenichel in Boston, May 1989. Note that many committee reports do not appear here; in order to avoid fragmenting news about committees, their reports of past activity and objectives have been combined under Objectives.

Secretary-Treasurer (Ann Weller)

Membership: 143. As the primary effort of recruiting members has been accomplished and membership is relatively stable, the section's membership committee was discontinued.

Section Council Representative (Trudy Gardner)

1. Section Council has proposed to replace the current section compliance guidelines with a more formal set of section operating agreements and is seeking sections that would volunteer to test the pilot agreement; the Research Section declined.

2. Section status for the International Cooperation Section was approved.

Strategic Planning

Section Council has recommended that each section develop goals, strategies, and action plans for a 2-3 year period. At the council's pre-conference meeting, it was clarified that this was not a required action, but simply a suggestion. The Research Section felt that its goals have been sufficiently well defined and that further elaboration would not add anything at this time.

Symposium on Evaluation

The conference symposium sponsored jointly by the Research and Hospital Libraries sections was held on the last day of the 1989 Annual Meeting. With 157 registrants, the symposium was sold out by the end of March. Total profits are being shared with MLA headquarters and the Hospital Library section. A plan has been proposed to publish a selection of the evaluation instruments collected for the symposium. Joanne Marshall has agreed to edit the collection for a kit to be published by MLA. The proposal has been approved by the Publication Panel.

New business (Patricia Gibson, Chair 1989-90)

Some concern was expressed about the absence of opportunity for section-sponsored programs at the 1990 Annual Meeting, or a place for topics that do not fit the specified tracks [see Call for Presentations, page 5]. On the other hand, members welcomed the encouragement for sections to devote the business meeting time blocks to more thorough discussion of issues.

## OBJECTIVES 1989/90

Note that many objectives refer to the 1990 MLA Annual Meeting in Detroit which will be organized differently from past meetings. See the Call for Presentations on page 5.

### Bylaws (Justine Roberts)

A proposed revision of the Section bylaws, to add the past chair as a member of the Executive Committee, will be distributed to Section membership at least 30 days before the 1990 Annual Meeting. The revision will be voted on at that meeting.

### Continuing Education Liaison Committee (Karen Hackleman)

In preparation for recommending new MLA CE courses related to research, the committee undertook, in 1988-89, a project to assess the educational needs of the membership. A \$500 MLA grant helped fund the survey [for details of this grant funding, see page 4]. The results will be evaluated by October 1, 1989. By May 1990, the committee will have explored ways to report the survey results:

1. submit a paper to the Information Services track for the 1990 Annual Meeting program, emphasizing results of the survey;
2. submit a poster emphasizing methodology, particularly the survey form and process;
3. submit a paper to the MLA Bulletin prior to MLA 1990.

### Program Committee (Ann Weller)

The committee will work with the track managers as appropriate to facilitate the submission and evaluation of research papers for the 1990 MLA Annual Meeting program. [See Call for Presentations, page 5.]

### Research Issues (Jacqueline Bastille)

Three actions were reported at the 1989 business meeting:

1. In response to a request from the MLA board, the committee suggested that the direction for research should result from more substantial thinking about needs. A think tank approach was suggested.
2. A survey to ascertain the degree to which academic institutions provide librarians with support or release time for research showed that of 156 replies received, 73 institutions provided release time and 83 did not.
3. Nancy Fazzone published an article in the Hospital Libraries Section newsletter, promoting research efforts in the hospital library setting.

Plans for 1989-90 are to publish an article in the MLA News on the results of the survey, and to plan for a pre-MLA conference in 1990. The conference, organized and produced by the committee, will develop or define MLA's research program, the end result being a Research Agenda.

#### Research Resources (Phyllis Lansing)

Three projects were accomplished in 1988-89:

1. An updated research bibliography was published in the section newsletter and distributed at chapter meetings.

2. Neil Rambo created a database of 34 current research projects, which can be searched by research method, location, and name of principal investigator. New projects should continue to be reported to Neil.

3. A list of volunteer research mentors was compiled by Ruth Fenske. Mentors have volunteered for two years. The list will be distributed upon request to MLA headquarters and published in the MLA News and section and chapter newsletters.

Future plans include revision of the research bibliography as needed for distribution at chapter meetings, to be mailed to library school deans and research faculty, and for submission for publication in ACRL News.

The database of research projects will be further developed and promoted by sending a list of mentors to Section and Chapter newsletters and to library school deans and research faculty; a packet of support materials for the mentors will include the bibliography, research report form, and a form for recording mentor activity. The CE credentialing committee will be contacted to see if mentor responsibility would be recognized for Academy credit.

The committee will also explore the viability of a Research Forum to obtain feedback on research ideas during the Section's extended meeting period at the 1990 Annual Meeting; the idea will also be explored with the 1991 National Program Committee.

#### **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT GRANTS**

The Medical Library Association provides modest support for research, development, and demonstration projects. The purpose of these awards is to provide members with the opportunity to promote excellence in the field of health services librarianship and the information sciences. Grants range from \$100-\$500, and more than one grant may be offered in a year. Grants will not be given to support an activity that is operational in nature or has only local usefulness. Grant proposals are accepted twice a year - by February 1st and October 1st.

Applicants must hold a graduate degree in library science, be a practicing medical librarian with at least two years of

professional experience, be an individual member of the Medical Library Association, and be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada.

A grant was awarded to Mark E. Funk and Carolyn Anne Reid in 1986, who published the results of their research, "The Usefulness of Monographic Proceedings", in the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 1988 Jan;76(1):14-21. Audrey Powderly Newcomer and Robert A. Pisciotta described the results of their study, "Career Progression of Academic Medical Library Directors", in the Bulletin, 1989 April;77(2):185-195.

In 1989 two awards were made. Karen T. Hackleman is working with the Continuing Education Liaison Committee of the Library Research Section to survey the research interests and needs of MLA members. Virginia A. Lingle will explore the role of medical libraries in operating microcomputer training centers and in providing instruction on microcomputer-related topics.

For further information, contact: Professional Development Department, Medical Library Association, Suite 300, Six North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

#### **CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

Plans are well underway for the MLA Annual Meeting in Detroit in May 1989. As can be seen from the attached "Call for Presentations" from the National Program Committee, there are several changes in the format, notably:

- a much-enlarged poster session with time devoted solely to it, and plenty of space;
- exhibitors will also have more space and time devoted to them with no concurrent plenary sessions;
- instead of section-sponsored programs, a whole day will be divided into four "tracks."

The aim of the tracks is to focus activities so that attendees do not suffer from the usual "would-like-to-be-in-four-places-at-once" syndrome that results from many excellent concurrent programs that contain a wide variety of topics. Ideally, any single attendee will be content to stay in one track all day, enjoying a well-coordinated progression of material. One result of the track planning is that there will be fewer contributed papers but more poster opportunities.

The Library Research Section has been invited to work with both of the first two tracks. Program Committee Chair Ann Weller is working with the track managers to include appropriate research-related topics in the programs.

Note that Section members are already heavily involved in the program: Neil Rambo (Research Resources Committee) is a track manager and Marie Reidelbach (CE Liaison Committee) is Poster Session Manager.

The pages reproduced on page 7 are from the official "Call for Presentations" from the National Program Committee. Essential details from the cover of the official document are shown below, on this page.



Medical Library Association  
90th Annual Meeting  
May 18 - 24, 1990  
Detroit, Michigan

**CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The 1990 National Program Committee invites you to submit presentation proposals for the 1990 Annual Meeting in Detroit. Presentations at the Detroit meeting will be organized into four tracks. The National Program Committee, with the assistance of several MLA sections, is planning the activities within each track.

Track topics and track managers are listed below. (Sections that have indicated interest in working with them are shown in parentheses.)

**Acquisition and Organization: Retooling for the Future** (Collection Development, History of the Health Sciences, Hospital Libraries, Library Research, Public Services, and Technical Services)

**Track Manager:** Robert A. Pisciotto, Archie R. Dykes Library of the Health Sciences, University of Kansas Medical Center, 2100 W. 39th St., Kansas City, KS 66103; 913/588-7311

**Information Services** (Hospital Libraries, Pharmacy and Drug Information, Public Services, Dental, Library Research, Medical School Libraries)

**Track Manager:** Christine A. Chapman, UCSD Medical Center Library, 225 Dickinson St. H-828, San Diego, CA 92103; 619/543-6570

**Library Administration: Role of the Library Administrator in the Health Care Organization** (Federal Libraries, Hospital Libraries, Medical Library Education, Medical School Libraries, Medical Society Libraries, Research Libraries)

**Track Manager:** Neil Rambo, Houston Academy of Medicine, Texas Medical Center Library, 1133 M.D. Anderson Blvd., Houston, TX 77030; 713/797-1230

**Libraries and Society: Ethical and Economic Issues** (Cancer Libraries, Outpatient Libraries, Consumer & Patient Health Information, Dental, Hospital Libraries, Medical Library Education, Medical School Libraries, Mental Health Libraries, Nursing & Allied Health Resources, Public Health/Health Administration Libraries, Relevant Issues)

**Track Manager:** T. Scott Plutchak, Medical Center Library, St. Louis University, 1402 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104; 314/577-8405

You may select from a variety of presentation formats, including reports of current work, invited papers, panels, and sharing sessions. Using the following guidelines, submit your proposal for a paper, poster, or sharing session to the appropriate track manager.

### Current Work

Papers reporting on innovative work in the practice, research, or theory of health sciences librarianship as it relates to the individual tracks may be submitted. (Reminder: The *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* reserves the right of first choice for all papers presented at an annual meeting.)

### Sharing Sessions

Track Managers working with the Acquisition and Organization and Libraries and Society tracks are interested in soliciting ideas for sharing sessions from potential moderators. Individuals interested in moderating sharing sessions should be prepared to make an informal presentation to start things out and then lead the discussion for the remainder of the session. Proposals should include information on the moderator's background in the subject and a brief outline of the proposed approach to the topic.

### Posters

Posters need not be related to any of the tracks and can include various media, such as microcomputers, audiovisual aids, and handouts. Each booth will be equipped with a free-standing display mounting board and electricity at no cost. Presenters are responsible for all other equipment and furnishing expenses; materials may be obtained by MLA authorized vendors. (Your proposal should include a diagram of your exhibit, including expected equipment requirements.) Posters will be presented on May 21, 1990. Presenters must staff their booths at all times. Commercial exhibits are not eligible.

**Poster Session Manager:** Marie Reidelbach, McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 42d & Dewey, Omaha, NE 68105; 402/559-7077

### Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts/Proposals

Submit five copies of your abstract or proposal to the appropriate manager listed above. Abstracts and proposals should indicate the name, address, and daytime telephone number of the primary author.

### Deadlines

All abstracts and proposals must be received by September 15, 1989. Notice of preliminary acceptance will be made by October 27, 1989. Additional guidelines and instructions will be given at that time. Final copies of contributed papers must be received by December 22, 1989.