

HYPOTHESIS

The Newsletter of the Library Research Section of MLA

SPRING 1991

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LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION PROGRESS REPORT

This Section held a business meeting in Detroit on May 22, 1990. Approximately 35 people were in attendance.

The Section has 160 members with a balance of \$1,847.47 in the treasury.

During the year, a number of objectives have been achieved through the Section's committee structure:

a. CE Liaison Committee

The results of the survey of MLA member interest in research education was presented at the Information Services Track at the MLA meeting in Detroit. The Committee is preparing a paper for submission to the Bulletin and preparing a final report to the CE Committee.

b. Research Resources Committee

The Committee will sponsor a poster session at the MLA meeting in San Francisco. The Research Bibliography will be updated before the meeting. The Research Projects database now has 56 records. The research mentors program is being evaluated. The Committee reviewed abstract for the joint Library Research Section/Technical Service Section contributed papers session.

c. Research Issues Committee

The Research Agenda was discussed at an Open Forum at the Research Section's business meeting and at an Ad Hoc Think Tank at the annual meeting in Detroit. A revised Research Agenda has been written. A mechanism for updating needs to be developed along with a process for identifying new research issues.

d. Bylaws Committee

Proposed revisions to Section Bylaws incorporating changes recommended by the MLA Bylaws Committee will be mailed to all Section members before the MLA meeting in San Francisco.

Additional Activity:

One issue of the Section Newsletter, "Hypothesis", has been published; a Spring issue will be distributed before the annual meeting. [Editor's note: here it is.]

The Library Research Section is sponsoring a one day post-conference symposium on "The Research Process: From Proposal Writing to Publication." CE credit of six contact hours has been approved for the symposium. [See page 3 for further details.]

The Library Research Section is sponsoring a contributed papers session with the Technical Services Section at the San Francisco meeting.

The Section sent a motion to the Board of Directors to request that the MLA Research, Development, and Demonstration Projects Grants be increased to a maximum of \$1,000. The motion passed at the December Board Meeting.

Ann Carol Weller
Chair

LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION IN SAN FRANCISCO '91

LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION SYMPOSIUM IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Section is sponsoring an all-day symposium at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The symposium, entitled, "The Research Process: From Proposal Writing to Publication," will take place on Thursday, June 6, 1991, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PLEASE REGISTER DIRECTLY THROUGH MLA. Registration is \$110, including lunch. Speakers are NLM grant recipients, writers, editors, and researchers. Highlights include Research and Practice: A Productive Alliance, Grants: Promises and Pitfalls, Grant Writing: Guidelines for Success, Finding Funding: Where to Go, Getting Into Print: Give Your Article a Good Start in Life, Why Authors Fail, and Playing with a Full Deck: Combining Library Research and Practice.

Support the Section and further your professional career by attending this instructive and practical program. Mark your calendar and register without delay!

BUSINESS MEETING - TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Wednesday June 5, 1991

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Executive Session & Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting

Agenda

Approval of 1990 meeting minutes - D. Eakin
Summary of 1990/91 Activities - A. Weller
Section Council Report - T. Gardner
Government Relations Liaison Report - C. Doms
CE Liaison Committee Report - K. Dahlen
MLA Research Issues Committee Report - J. Bastille
Research Resources Committee Report - R. Fenske
Bylaws Committee Report - J. Roberts
(Motion to Amend Bylaws)
Treasurer's Report - D. Eakin
(Motion to increase Section dues)

PROPOSED RESEARCH SECTION BYLAWS CHANGES

The major change in our proposed Bylaws, as requested by the MLA Bylaws Committee, is removal of the candidate for MLA Nominating Committee from the category of Section officer. Description of this position remains in the Article on Officers (as it does in LAM's Model Bylaws), but is moved to a separate section of (3) of its own.

A second change is the addition of term-of-office provision, "or until a successor is elected", included in a new Section 1F. Definition of the term of office is moved to this section, and is changed from our present definition (July 1 - June 30) to "at the close of the Annual Meeting following their election." - This change more closely reflects our actual practice.

MLA RESEARCH AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

Goal III of Shaping the Future: the Strategic Plan of the Medical Library Association states that MLA is dedicated to improving health through professional excellence and leadership in health information science (Objective C under goal III). The strategy is to create and to implement a research agenda for MLA.

The rationale for such an agenda is to suggest major problem areas in need of systematic investigation and to encourage research in these areas or any others of interest to members. The agenda should serve as a catalyst for both basic and applied research and for the practical application of the findings of these studies. It must be anchored in existing knowledge and look toward the changing role of health sciences librarianship. As this role changes, the research agenda will also change.

Key areas of concern in medical librarianship were used to derive a conceptual framework for the agenda. Research agendas and long range plans of other library organizations were reviewed. The MLA Research Issues Committee, working with members of the Library Research Section, has developed the Agenda, which is evaluated annually for changes and revisions.

The Agenda is presented under two potential areas for inquiry, with a brief definition and examples of research questions for each. These examples are intended to stimulate thinking and are not to be interpreted as prescriptive by MLA.

INFORMATION USE

The continued growth and accumulation of published health care literature form a potential barrier between vital information and users of that information. Before improvements in health information delivery can be made, health professionals need a basic understanding of who needs health information, why they need it, when they need, how they find it, and how they use it.

For example:

1. What are health care professional's patterns of seeking information?
2. How can library service be designed to facilitate and improve these patterns?
3. How is information used by the health care professional?
4. How do integrated library computer systems affect information delivery to health professionals?
5. How do electronic information systems, such as knowledge bases, expert systems, or bibliographic data bases, change the health care professional's pattern of information seeking?
6. What is the impact of enduser systems on the patterns of seeking information and information retrieval?

EVALUATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES

The library serves a bridging and mediating role between units of information and information seekers. As demand grows and budgets

shrink, it is imperative that we evaluate the degree to which library services satisfy information needs, the worth of library services for the institution's primary activities, and that we also evaluate new methods of managing library resources. This involves inquiry into the impact, efficiency, and value of health sciences information services. Inquiry is also important into the impact of various management techniques on staffing, resource allocation, and provision of information.

For example:

1. What is the value of library information services for patient care, teaching or research?
2. What impact does the quality of the library have on the health institution's success in recruiting health care professionals for patient care, teaching or research?
3. What are bench mark costs for providing library and information services; for collection development and the acquisition of print and electronic resources; for processing, organizing, and controlling resources; for electronic library information systems?
4. What are effective cost containment measures for health sciences libraries?
5. What are the most effective quality assurance mechanisms for health science information services? What are effective productivity standards for health sciences librarians? What is an optimal collection for various types of health sciences libraries?

**MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
CHAPTER COUNCIL**

FOCUS GROUP REPORTS ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND

Focus groups were held in twelve of the fourteen chapters between September 1989 and June 1990. There were 112 participants, plus 25 facilitators and recorders. Members of Chapter Council or the MLA Membership Committee facilitated and recorded the discussions.

By design, participants represented a wide variety of "types" of librarians -- hospital, academic, corporate, nursing, public, federal, and medial society. There were long-time MLA members, new members, members in Association or chapter leadership positions, and members who were not currently active at either the chapter or national level. Some non-MLA members also participated. The focus groups included librarians from all levels of professional responsibility, from entry-level to administrative.

The following questions were sent to each facilitator, to help guide the discussions: (Some facilitators used only a few of them, others covered each question).

1. What program or service does MLA provide that you personally benefit from the most?
2. Which MLA program or service do you think needs to be changed or improved? What change would you make?
3. How responsive is MLA to the needs and concerns of members? How could the association be more responsive to the membership?
4. What has been the greatest benefit, to you personally, or the MLA strategic plan? What has been the greatest benefit to your chapter? To the profession?
5. Many of you may be members of MLA and other professional associations. What do you get from MLA that if not available from other organizations? What do other groups offers that MLA does not?
6. What do you think should be MLA's top priorities for the 1990's?
7. Is there anything MLA is doing that is not important -- programs or services that could be dropped or discontinued?

PRESS RELEASE

IMAGE EMPOWERMENT: STRATEGIES FOR THE HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIAN

Your image--does it make a difference? You'd better believe that it does! Kaycee Hale will tell you WHY. She will also tell you HOW to enhance your image by providing you with techniques that will make your more effective as a library professional. WHEN and WHERE will she do this? She will be the speaker at the 1:30 p.m. session at the MLA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 1991, in San Francisco. WHO will be there? Everyone who would like to learn the skills to communicate effectively, to build self-esteem, to be EMPOWERED, is welcome to attend. Ms. Hale will discuss guidelines to accentuate the verbal, vocal, and visual components of a professional image.

THE BOOKS PANEL WANTS YOU TO PUBLISH...

The MLA Books Panel actively solicits ideas and/or proposals for publications. Sections are often forums for discussing ideas and issues of importance to the profession. Many of those ideas and issues can be the basis of successful publications. The Books Panel wants to remind sections that MLA provides a channel for, and encourages, publication by members.

BALLOT 1991

****THE BALLOT ITSELF IS A SEPARATE, COLORED SHEET**** Listed here are biographical details of the candidates to remind you of who people are, and to help in your selection.

CHAIR-ELECT

Mark E. Funk

Present position: Head, Collection Development, Cornell University Medical College.

Library Research Section activities: Research Issues Committee, 1990- . Research Mentor, 1989- . Section Council Alternate, 1985-88. Section Council Representative, 1983-85. Vice-Chairman, 1982-83.

Other MLA activities: MLA Alternate Representative to Documentation Abstracts, 1991- . Louise Darling Medal Jury, 1990-91. Chair, Research, Development and Demonstration Project Award Jury, 1989-90; member, 1988-90. National Program Committee, 1988-90. Chair, Section Council Task Force on Centralized Dues Collection, 1986-88. Chair, Section Council Eligibility Committee, 1984-85; member, 1983-86. Chair, Publishing and Information Industries Relations Committee, 1984-85; member, 1982-86.

Other professional activities: Reviewer for Clinical Chemistry, 1990- . Reviewer for JASIS, 1985- .

Research interests: bibliometrics; applied research in information utilization.

Trudy A. Gardner, Ph.D.

Present position: Assistant Dean, Educational Resources, Rush University , Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Chicago.

Library Research Section activities: Section Council Representative, 1988-91.

Other MLA activities: Status and Economic Interests Committee, 1989-92. Chair, Continuing Education Committee, 1988; member, 1985-88. Chair, Medical Library Education Section, 1983-84; also Secretary/Treasurer, Section Council Alternate and Chair, Bylaws Committee.

Research interests: relevance studies--subject v. citation, enhanced catalog record.

SECTION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Karen Hackleman Dahlen

Present position: Head of Information Services, Library of the Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Library Research Section activities: Chair, Liaison-to-CE Committee, 1988- .

Other MLA activities: Credentialing Committee, 1988-91.

Other professional activities: MLA CE Instructor, "Health Information for the Lay Person" and "Geriatrics and Gerontology Information Resources."

Research interests: health informatics, information technology, evaluation of references services.

Ruth E. Fenske, Ph.D.

Present position: Health Sciences Librarian, Library of the Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Library Research Section activities: Chair, Research Resources Committee, 1988- . Nominating Committee, 1989-90. Section Candidate to the MLA Nominating Committee, 1989.

Other MLA activities: Credentialing Committee, 1990- . Chair, Scholarship for Minority Students Jury, 1989-90; member, 1988-90. Chair, Standards and Certification Exam Review Committee, Technical Services Section, 1986-88. Chair, Editorial Committee for the MLA News, 1983-89. Chair, Medical Library Education Section, 1984-85; Chair-Elect, 1983-84. Committee on Surveys and Statistics, 1980-83. Chair, Continuing Education Committee, 1977-78; Chair-designate, 1976-77. Nominating Committee, Health Sciences Audiovisual Group, 1978 and 1975-76.

Research interests: motivation of library staff and library school faculty; health sciences librarianship, especially as it is distinguished from other types; research on research.

SECTION COUNCIL ALTERNATE

Joanne G. Marshall, Ph.D.

Present position: Assistant Professor, Faculty of Library and Information Science, University of Toronto.

Library Research Section activities: Chair, 1985-86. Library Research Committee, 1982-84.

Other MLA activities: Consulting Editors Panel, Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 1989- . Nominating Committee, 1989-90. Chair, Relevance Group, 1978-79. Canadian Representative, Membership Committee, 1975-76.

Other professional activities: Canadian Health Library Association: Board of Directors and CE Coordinator, 1988-90; Chair, Consumer Health Committee, 1981-84.

Research interests: evaluation of health sciences libraries and information systems; database end-users; diffusion, adoption and social implications of information technologies; application of social science research methods to library and information science.

Joan M. Stoddart

Present position: Assistant Director for Public Services, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah.

Library Research Section activities: Chair, Liaison-to-CE Committee, 1990-91; member, 1988- .

Other MLA activities: Chapter Section Support Subcommittee, 1990- . Frank Bradway Rogers Award Jury, 1988-90. Chapter Council Alternate, 1987-90. Chair, Membership Committee, 1985.

Research interests: performance measures; library education.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Anne Wood Humphries

Present position: Head Reference Librarian, The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, Univ. of Virginia Health Sciences Center. Library Research Section activities: member since 1987.

Other MLA activities: presentations at Annual Meetings, 1989 and 1991.

Other professional activities: Beta Phi Mu, Friends of NLM.

Research interests: quality assurance; health sciences management issues.

Kathlyn L. Reed, Ph.D.

Present position: Education/Information Services Librarian, Houston Academy of Medicine--Texas Medical Center Library.

Library Research Section activities: Research Resources Committee.

Other professional activities: American Occupational Therapy Association, National Rehabilitation Association, American Library Association, Special Libraries Association, Council for Exceptional Children.

Research interests: development of research proposals.

CANDIDATE FOR MLA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dottie Eakin

Present position: Director, Medical Sciences Library, Texas A&M University.

Library Research Section activities: Secretary-Treasurer, 1989-91. Research Resources Committee, 1988-89.

Other MLA activities: Section Council Alternate, 1989-92. Consulting Editor, Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 1985-89, 1990-. Associate Editor, Handbook of Medical Library Practice, 1982-85; Advisory Committee, 1990-. Publication Panel, 1985-90. Chair, Medical School Libraries Section, 1988-90.

Other professional activities: Journal review editor, JAMA. Literature Selection Technical Review Committee, National Library of Medicine, 1988-91.

Research interests: collection development; client needs.

Nancy N. Woelfl, Ph.D.

Present position: Director, Leon S. McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center; and Director, Midcontinental Regional Medical Library Program.

MLA activities: Representative to the National Information Standards Organization, 1984-86. Representative to the American National Standards Institute, 1975-83. Representative to the American Society for Information Science, 1974-76. Consulting Editor, Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 1983-. Chair, Committee on Library Standards and Practices, 1978-80. Chair, Program Committee,

Other professional activities: Editor, AAHSLD News, 1988.