

Hypothesis

The Newsletter of the Library Research Section of MLA

Fall 1993

OFFICERS FOR 1993-94

Chair

Beth M. Paskoff
Louisiana State University
School of Library and Information Science
267 Coates Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(504) 388-1480
FAX (504) 388-1465
lspask@lsuvm.bitnet

Chair-Elect

Nancy N. Woelfl
McGoogan Library of Medicine
University of Nebraska
Medical Center
600 S. 42nd Street
Omaha, NE 68198-6705
(402) 559-7079
FAX (402) 559-5498

Past-Chair

Mark E. Funk
Samuel J. Wood Library
Cornell University Medical College
1300 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021-4896
(212) 746-6073
FAX (212) 746-6494
mark-funk@qmcumc.mail.cornell.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

K. Ann McKibbin
Health Information Research Unit
McMaster University
Room 3H7, HSC
1200 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8N 3Z5, Canada
(416) 525-9140 ext.2733
FAX (416) 546-0401
mckib@sscvox.cis.mcmaster.ca

Section Council Representative

Karen T. Hackleman Dahlen
Library of the Health Sciences
University of Illinois at Chicago
1750 West Polk Street
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 996-8993
u47668@uicvm.bitnet

Section Council Alternate

Joanne G. Marshall
University of Toronto
Faculty of Library & Info. Sci.
140 St. George Street
Toronto ON, M5S 1A1, Canada

****EDITOR'S NOTE****: I have produced this newsletter for six years and feel it is time to pass on the responsibility. It is not onerous: two issues per year, with material usually supplied by our many very active members. If you are interested, please let me know (address on back cover). Elizabeth H. Wood.

SECTION DATABASE

At our annual business meeting, it was decided that an online "Registry" of our members, their involvement in Section work and their research interests and activities would greatly strengthen and enhance the Library Research Section's communication channels.

Our new Chair, Beth Paskoff, charged the Membership Committee with the task of generating this online registry.

Included in this issue is the form we are asking you to complete - with a typewriter, because the completed forms will be scanned into the database. We need your responses no later than November 15, if possible. The Registry will be online and accessible to Section members via the Internet.

We are counting on you to help us with this worthwhile project!

See you on the Internet!

The Membership Committee

Anna Cleveland
Nancy Woelfl
Erika Love, Chair

**NOTE: the forms will be scanned
and must not be hand-written!**

****Please return the form promptly!****

MLA RESEARCH SECTION DATABASE

Please TYPE information as dark as possible. This information will be scanned into the database and our scanner does not accept hand-writing or hand-printing.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Initial: _____

I. Business Address

Institution: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Internet Address: _____

FAX: () _____

Telephone: () _____

Preferred mailing address (if different from above)

Street: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

II. Type of Library ("X" one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health/Psychiatric Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical School Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing/Allied Health Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dental Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Medical Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Society Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

III. Expertise/Professional Background

Highest Degree: _____ In: _____

Specialty Degree (if any): _____

Professional Specialization (Administration, Technical Services, Public Services, Online, etc.):

Research Interest: _____

Research Project (past and ongoing): _____

IV. Research Section Activity

Office(s) held: _____

Title/Appointment

Year(s)

Title/Appointment	Year(s)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please return this completed form to: Erika Love
Medical Center Library
University of New Mexico
North Campus
Albuquerque, NM 87131 - 5686

APPLYING RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

The UIC Library of the Health Science Experience
by Karen Dahlen, Head of Information Services

First Year Medical Students

For the past three years, the UIC Library of the Health Sciences (LHS) and the Department of Medical Education have been surveying the computer knowledge and skills of first-year medical students. Last year (1992) medical schools at Northwestern and the University of Michigan joined us to see if there were similarities or differences that existed among students. Results of this study have been used in a variety of ways: to support grant applications, to determine goals (for both the Library and the College of Medicine), and to strengthen the Library's plan in support of educational reform.

An article is underway for publication.

Consumer Health Study

The LHS expects the number of consumer requests related to health to increase significantly over the next few years. To better understand current practices in relation to potential roles for libraries in delivering health information, Information Services librarians completed a pilot study during 1993. Large public libraries were surveyed to determine trends, such as basic composition of collections, referral policies, and service policies. The results of this pilot study were presented at the Midwest Chapter Meeting in Louisville. After the survey instrument is revised, plans are underway to sample both public and health sciences libraries.

Gerontology Needs Assessment

The LHS and the Illinois Geriatric Education Center (IGEC) have developed a collaborative working relationship to better understand knowledge and use of databases by gerontology practitioners. In 1991 and 1992, needs assessments were conducted during the IGEC Summer Institute. Findings revealed that practicing gerontologists spend excessive time seeking information. More than 50% said they spent from one hour to more than one day satisfying information needs. In both cohorts more than 60% reported no familiarity with databases on aging. Outcomes of the study include the need for more participation on behalf of the library, demonstrations of databases as part of training programs, and an information services proposal as part of the funded IGEC grant. Results of that survey were presented at the AGHE (Association for Gerontologists in Higher Education) meeting in Baltimore (February 1992) and at the Annual Meeting of GEC's in St. Petersburg, Florida (August 1992).

Metropolitan Information Referral Network

The purpose of this project is to design a database of policies endorsed by health sciences libraries and information centers in the greater Chicago area to improve referral service. Currently, a prototype database has been designed to capture the data, guidelines have been established for collaboration, and semi-annual meetings have been held to collaborate with members.

Executive summaries and survey instruments are available upon request.