

HYPOTHESIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBRARY RESEARCH SECTION OF MLA

SPRING 1996

Research Section Home Page

by Ann McKibbon, Secretary/Treasurer

The Research Section is pleased to announce the availability of its own Home Page. Try it out at <http://www-hsl.mcmaster.ca:80/lrs/index.html> or by pointing from the MLA Home Page (URL:<http://www.kumc.edu/mla/>), then click on "Sections" under the heading of "How is MLA organized?" We want to serve you better so please let us know what you would like add to the page - the sky is the limit. At the same time, try out the Mentoring Service and take a look at the Section Membership Profile Database.

We are in the process of adding a link to make the Research Resources Committee's research bibliography available, and we are waiting for more suggestions from you.

Special thanks go to Dorothy Fitzgerald and Liz Bayley in the Health Sciences Library at McMaster University, Canada.

Editor's note:

We are so glad to know about the release of the Research Section's home page. Also, I am pleased to announce that the Section Newsletter will also be published in the Section home page starting with the next issue. The back issues will be added to the page in the summer. Stay tuned.

-M. Emily Fang



Library Research Section Chair's Message

Jocelyn Rankin, Ph.D.

I am looking forward to a great program at MLA this year in Kansas City! Zoe Stavri has done a wonderful job with our Section programming, organizing and coordinating a full range of educational and sharing opportunities. (see p. 3)

It has been a good year and I have certainly appreciated the honor and enjoyed the opportunity to work with such a great group. There is much talent in this Section. Thanks to a very energetic Executive Committee, we have implemented the following:

- * Section Award Recognition Program
- * Section Home Page (URL:<http://www-hsl.mcmaster.ca:80/lrs/index.html>) (see lead story)
- * E-mail-based Research Mentoring Service (see *MLA News* 1/96)
- * MLA Newsletter Research Spotlight series (see *MLA News* 11-12/95)
- * Groundwork for the Section's history at the MLA Centennial
- * Online Research Bibliography in the Section database
- * Expanded newsletter
- * Review of Section by-laws
- * Project to increase Section membership

See Message, page 2

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HYPOTHESIS

The Newsletter of the Library
Research Section of MLA

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The Library & Center for Knowledge
Management
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Hypothesis is the official newsletter of the Library Research Section of MLA. It is published three times a year. Spring (March), Summer (July/August) and Fall (November) by the Section. Items to be included in Hypothesis MUST be received by the editor by the 15th of the preceding month. Copy format is preferred by e-mail. Send to fang@library.ucsf.edu. If e-mail is unavailable, please send a disk.

Deadlines: February 15 for Spring issue;
June 15 for Summer issue; October 15 for
Fall issue.

Chair:	Jocelyn Rankin, Ph.D.
Chair-Elect:	Zoe Stavri, Ph.D.
Section Council Rep.:	Gary D. Byrd, Ph.D.
Section Council Altern.:	Julia Ann Kelly
Secretary & Treasurer:	Ann McKibbin
Newsletter Editor:	M. Emily Fang
Layout Editor:	Miriam Hudgins

Message, from page 1

As we continue to move forward in our efforts to support and help implement the MLA Research Policy Statement, there are a number of major issues before us. The Section can serve as an important enabler, increasing researchers' visibility, encouraging new researchers, and providing opportunities for collaborative efforts to evolve. Your ideas on ways to accomplish our goals are always welcome!

Looking forward to seeing you in Kansas City!

(rankin.ja@gain.mercer.edu)

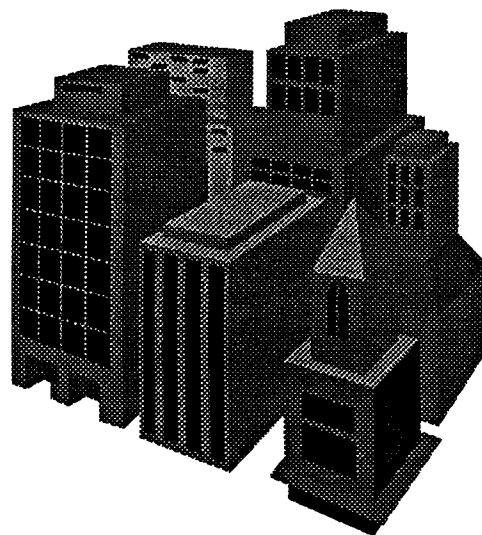
MLA announces Kansas City, Missouri, as Site for 1996 Annual Meeting

The MLA will hold its 1996 annual meeting in Kansas City, MO, the week of June 1-5, at the Kansas City Convention Center. The Association's 96th annual meeting acknowledges the exponential growth of computer use and the Internet with the theme of "The Information Frontier."

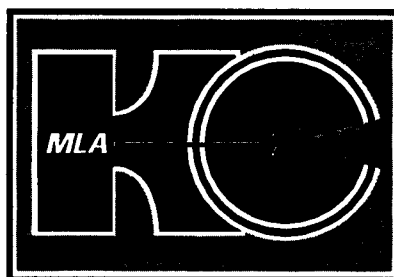
One of the keynote speakers will be Clifford Stoll, Ph.D., an astrophysicist and Internet expert who expresses concern over invasions of cyberspace into libraries. He cautions against being over-sold by the lures of the virtual world and information super-highway.

In the tradition of MLA's commitment to professional development, over forty continuing education courses will be presented. Participants can choose among numerous full and half-day courses on subjects such as Internet training and library management.

Other events will include Section programs, plenary sessions on intellectual property issues, and an awards luncheon and ceremony.



"Change is the key word for us in this rapidly evolving era, and our knowledge of the new information frontier is critical to the success of the profession of health sciences librarianship. MLA '96 will provide the opportunity to come together in exploring and staking out our professional roles in this new frontier," note Jacqueline Doyle, chair, and Julia Sollenberger, associate chair, of the 1996 National Program Committee.



For more information or a copy of the Preliminary Program, contact MLA at 312-419-9094; or visit the annual meeting Web site at <http://www.kumc.edu/MLA/MLA96/>.



The Research Section's presence will be undeniable at 1996 MLA meeting: we have our own poster section; an invited panel discussion co-sponsored with the Research Policy Implementation Task Force; and two contributed papers sessions, one co-sponsored with the Research Policy Implementation Task Force, and the other co-sponsored with the Public Services Section.

Selection criteria were developed for the contributed paper and poster sessions and competition was stiff. We had to turn away many good papers, in the end taking only papers which scored 90 points out of a possible 100! Papers and posters which were not selected went back to National Program Committee and many were accepted for other program areas. It was a rewarding experience to have so many submissions. Many thanks to Joyce Backus and Leah Anderson who helped score the papers.

Panel Discussion:

"Library Research Methodologies: Consultation with the Experts"
Monday, June 3, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Gary Byrd has put together a top-notch panel discussion for the program slated for Monday June 3, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM called: "Library Research Methodologies: Consultation with the Experts." Invited speakers and topics are: Alexandra

Dimitroff, Survey Research; Beryl Glitz, Focus Group Research; and Sherilynne Fuller, Metaanalysis Research. The panel, which Gary will moderate, will be followed by a general question and answer section as well as a breakout session in which the experts will be available for individual consultation.

Contributed Paper Sessions:

1. "Evidence-Based Practice for Librarians: Practical Examples of Usable Research" Tuesday, June 4, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

The contributed paper session we are co-sponsoring with the Research Policy Implementation Task Force is called: "Evidence-Based Practice for Librarians: Practical Examples of Usable Research" slated for Tuesday June 4th 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Zoe Stavri will be moderating this session. For brevity's sake, only the speaker for each of these papers is listed below. Other authors will be listed in the program.

Lisa A. Eicholtz, et. al. "Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Interlibrary Loan: A Study Comparing ARIEL, Photocopying, and Telefacsimile."

Pascal V. Calarco, et. al. "Workflow and Cost Impacts of WWW-Based Electronic Forms in Document Delivery."

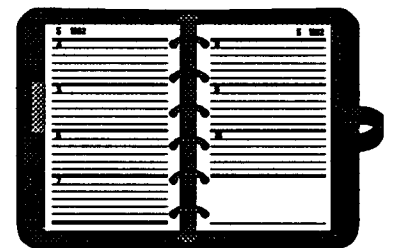
Judy F. Burnham, et. al. "Comparison of CINAHL, EMBASE, and MEDLINE for the Physical Therapist Researcher."

Nunzia B. Giuse, et. al. "Developing Integrated Support of Molecular Biology Research Needs."

Jan LaBeause, et. al. "An Analysis of Search Request Topics: GAIN Study on Health Professionals' Use of Information, Phase I - Physicians' Clinical Information MEDLINE Requests Correlated with Continuing Education Needs."

**Mark your
 MLA Calendar Now!**

**Library Research Section
 Business Meeting**

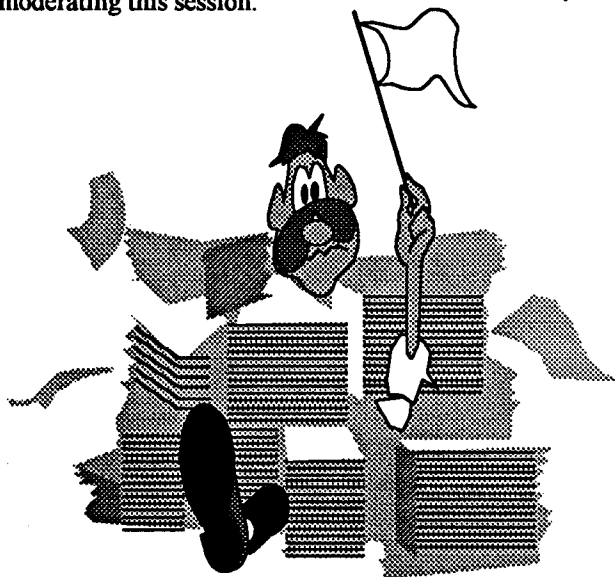


**Special Presentation and
 Open Forum on the
 MLA Research Policy
 Implementation Task Force**

by Joanne Marshall
Monday, June 3, 1996
4:00-5:30 p.m.

2. "Using Scientific Evidence to Improve Public Services in the New Information Frontier" Tuesday, June 4, 4:30 - 6 PM

Our jointly sponsored session with the Public Services Session is entitled "Using Scientific Evidence to Improve Public Services in the New Information Frontier" and will be held on Tuesday June 4th, 4:30 - 6 p.m. This session had the most submissions, most of them excellent. The final selection was difficult: we ended up with the intersection of MJ Tooley's panel and our section's panel top choices. Phyllis Lansing will be moderating this session.



Mori Lou Higa, et. al. "Identifying and Assessing Client Needs in a New Facility."

"Carol G. Jenkins, et. al. "Information Needs in Community-Based Practice and Educational Setting: A Pilot Study."

Karen L. Curtis, et. al. "Information-Seeking Behavior of Health Sciences Faculty: The Impact of New Information Technologies."

Cheryl Dee, et. al. "SC/MLA Journal Usage Study."

David S. Ginn "Library Participation in the Problem-Based Learning Curricula of Medical Schools: Perceptions of Associate Deans and Library Directors."

**Poster Session:
"Forging Ahead Through Research Results"**

Following up on Jocelyn Rankin's great idea from last year, we will also have our own poster session. We were allotted five slots, and while most all the submissions were of high quality, there were not as many as they were for paper sessions. This may have been because posters needed to have been designated specifically as Research Section posters to have come my way. Nevertheless, they all met the criteria for selection and it is my understanding that the ones we did not select found slots in the general poster session nonetheless! Our poster theme was: "Forging Ahead Through Research Results."

Kathryn S. Connell, et al. "Solving Problems Through Research: A Document Delivery Case Study."

Gwynneth T. Heaton. "Does the Proximity of an Information Desk Affect the Questions Received at the Reference Desk?"

Bill Maina, et al. "The Cost of Monographic Cataloging: Two Methods of Calculation."

Mitchel Walters, et al. "A Comparison of the Durability of Two Methods of Journal Binding."

Carol G. Jenkins, et al. "Questions Asked and Answered in Community-Based Practice and Educational Settings: Preliminary Results."

Please plan to attend these sessions and stop by the posters. Due in no small part to the work of the Research Policy Implementation Task Force and to the efforts of the Library Research Section, the high caliber work which is being



**Note from Leah Anderson,
Section Bylaws Chair:**

The changes to the Section Bylaws will be voted upon at the 1996 MLA Annual Meeting. Please read the proposed changes (pages 9-11) and note the texts with double lines are required by MLA Bylaws Committee.

performed by MLA members will be publicized. I was pleased that several new names and organizations are on the final program doing research!

Stay tuned for information about the first annual research awards being given for best Research Paper and best Research Poster.

**Election Results
by Julie Kelly, Nominating
Committee Chair**

Chair-elect (1996-1997) -
Julie McGowan

Candidate for the MLA
Nominating Committee -
Pam Bradigan

Dues increase (to \$12 per
year) - passed

Section name change (to
"Research Section")-
passed



Research Spotlight

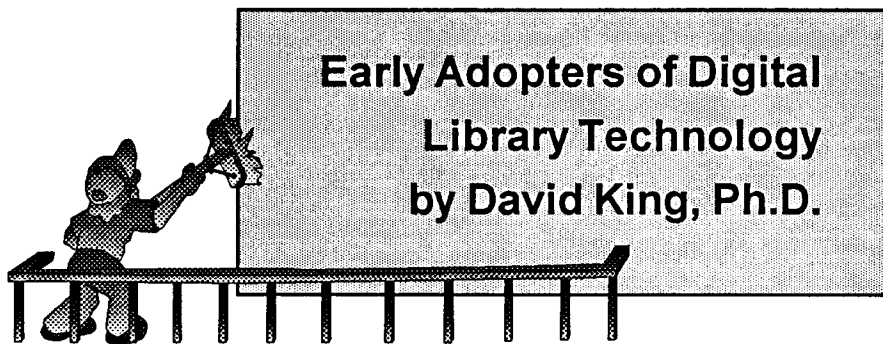
I. Introduction

Digital library technology represents a potentially dramatic innovation in the dissemination of knowledge in the health sciences. Access to the published literature and other knowledge-based resources from the desktop may substantively alter the information-

seeking behavior of clinicians, health sciences educators, and biomedical researchers. This study presents an initial look at one of the more advanced implementations of digital library technology, Red Sage.

Red Sage is a project begun two years ago as a collaboration between the UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management, AT&T Bell Labs, and 20 publishers of the biomedical literature. The current Red Sage collection of 70 electronic journals includes 3 years of high-impact titles such as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Nature*, *British Medical Journal*, and *Research in Nursing and Health*. The journals are presented as bit mapped images of pages exactly as

See *Spotlight*, page 6



Editor's note:

David King, Special Assistant for Informatics Education, The Library & Center for Knowledge Management, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), has been actively involved in library education and research, both in academic and medical settings, throughout his career. He worked in reference and instruction at Auburn University Libraries and developed a large education program for undergraduate students at University of Illinois. His evaluation of that program, which was his first study [1], was published in *College and Research Libraries* and is still considered one of the most significant contributions to research on user education programs.

During the early 1980s, as Information Services Librarian and Head of Education at Houston Academy of Medicine—Texas Medical Center Library, he published several papers on evaluation methods [2] and was among the founders of Information Management Education. During the late 1980s, as Research Associate to Herbert Goldhor at the University of Illinois Library Research Center, he conducted the

influential "Chicago Study" on the contributions of hospital library information services to patient care [3]. Also worth noting is a subsequent national study which utilized a modified Critical Incident Technique similar to the current study [4]. During the early 1990s, he was on the teaching faculty at University of Kentucky College of Library and Information Science. In 1994, after receiving his Ph.D. from University of Illinois, he became Special Assistant for Informatics Education at UCSF.

David has more than 35 conference papers and over 25 publications in the areas of user education, evaluation of library services, information technology, and the impact of libraries on clinical decision making.

I am thankful to have David's article describing his current research project "Early adopters of digital library technology." The purpose of this study is to identify and explore factors associated with the adoption and diffusion of digital library technology as implemented in the experimental Red Sage project at UCSF Library & Center for Knowledge Management. He discusses the theo-

retical foundation and research design of the study in the following article. Data were collected starting in 1995. First results of the findings will be presented on the program of the Medical Informatics Section at the coming MLA Annual Meeting.

1. King DN. *Effects of library instruction on library research: a case study. College and Research Libraries* 1981 Feb;42(1):31-41.

2. King DN. *Introduction and evaluation and its uses. In: Evaluating bibliographic instruction: a handbook. Chicago: ACRL, 1983:1-21.*

3. King DN. *The contribution of hospital library information services to clinical care: a study in eight hospitals. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* 1987 Oct;75(4):291-301.

4. King, DN. *Clinical search effectiveness: an assessment of the contribution of the computer-assisted information services of hospital libraries to clinical decision making by physicians.* PhD Thesis. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois, 1994.

Spotlight, from page 5

they appear in print, preserving the look and feel of the paper documents, with an easy to use graphical interface. System users can browse issues, perform searches, subscribe to titles, and receive alerts of articles that coincide with their interests.

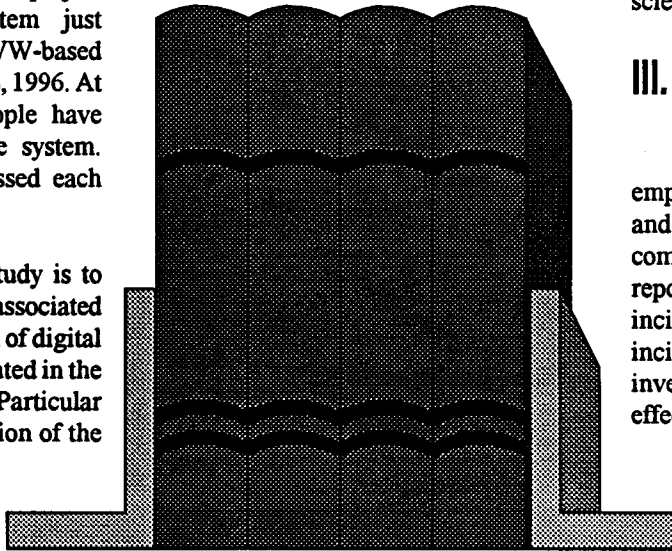
Unix platform access for public use on campus and at clinical sites and research labs was introduced in 1994. Mac client software was made available early in 1995 and UCLA joined the project shortly thereafter. The system just migrated to the Library's WWW-based system, GALENII, on March 18, 1996. At present, more than 1500 people have been issued passwords to the system. About 6000 articles are accessed each month.

The purpose of this study is to identify and explore factors associated with the adoption and diffusion of digital library technology as implemented in the experimental Red Sage project. Particular emphasis is given to examination of the relationship between: (1) the characteristics of those health professionals who use Red Sage, (2) their uses for the system and perceptions of its attributes, and (3) the behavioral impact of adoption of the technology.

II. Theoretical Foundations

Research on the diffusion of innovations provides a solid conceptual foundation for examining the adoption and impact of digital library technology. The process modeled by a leading researcher in the field, Everett M. Rogers, identified five stages in the adoption process: (1) knowledge of the innovation, (2) perceived characteristics of the innovation (persuasion), (3) the decision to adopt or reject, (4) implementation of the innovation, and (5) continuation or abandonment of the adoption decision (confirmation) [1]. Classic diffusion of innovation research has been found useful in predicting the initial decision of individuals and organizations to adopt

new technologies. However, classic methodologies tend to focus on the decision to adopt, rather than upon the implementation of technological innovation by adopters. As a result, they often fail to account for factors associated with abandonment of innovations and offer little insight into the behavioral changes that occur among adopters. More recent methodological recommendations by Rogers and others suggest the importance of shifting the focus beyond the decision stage of adoption to that of



implementation. These recent approaches to investigation are exemplified by Joanne Gard Marshall's study of the adoption and implementation of online information technology by health professionals in Canada [2].

Rogers delineated five types of adopter categories: (1) innovators, (2) early adopters, (3) early majority, (4) late majority, and (5) laggards. Individuals who explore the potential of a technology before its widespread availability, and especially during its initial development stages, as is the case in this study, are considered to be in the innovator or early adopter categories. Innovators in the diffusion of innovation are the risk takers, launching a new idea or technology into an established social system. Early adopters are individuals who have shorter adoption periods once a technology is available. They are often considered more "respectable" by

colleagues than innovators and serve to decrease uncertainty about the innovation by adopting it. Rogers has found that early adopters are often in a position of opinion leadership in which their assessments of the innovation influence colleagues. Thus, the assessments of early adopters of Red Sage digital library technology could be predictive of the diffusion of the particular design implemented in the Red Sage project, and may be suggestive of the success of the digital library in general as a viable technology within the broader health sciences community.

III. Research Design

The approach for this study employs a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. The central component of the methodology is case reports obtained by means of critical incident technique (CIT). Critical incident technique is a qualitative investigative strategy for exploring the effectiveness and/or impact of specific behavior which originated with the work of John C. Flanagan over 50 years ago [3]. Since that time, the results of more than 700

studies using the methodology have been published, many in the health sciences. The basic assumption underlying the methodology is that records of circumstances and behavior surrounding single events are more reliable and informative than are people's generalizations about their patterns of behavior. As with most qualitative research methodologies, critical incident studies do not test hypotheses, but rather systematically explore and describe events and behavior. A framework for collecting and recording pertinent information, which may employ interviews, questionnaires, or both, is predicated by the phenomena under investigation and guided by interrogatory questions. The technique typically asks individuals to recall the details of one incident, usually the most recent, of



the type being investigated. Analysis of incident records is primarily logical rather than statistical and attempts to discern whether or not, and to what extent, an individual's behavior effected the achievement of the purposes toward which it was directed. When the purposes are achieved, the activity is considered effective; when they are not achieved, the activity is considered ineffective. The incident is judged critical when the behavior plays an important role in achievement of purposes or determining outcomes. Failure analysis of ineffective incidents, which entails scrutiny of the evidence concerning the circumstances and behavior, identifies possible reasons why the activity failed to achieve the purposes toward which it was directed.

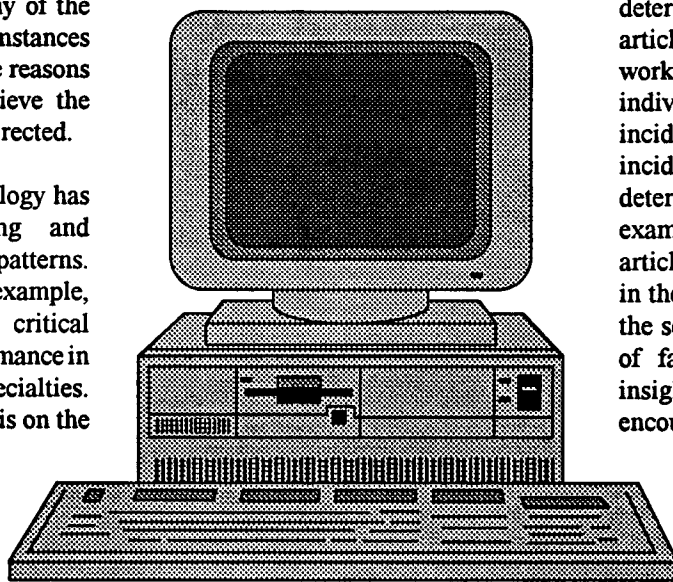
Critical incident methodology has proven value for identifying and categorizing optimal behavior patterns. In the health professions, for example, CIT has been used to define critical requirements for effective performance in various medical and nursing specialties. However, because of its emphasis on the purposive behavior of individuals, CIT incident reports offer empirical evidence about performance that is useful for evaluation and assessment of outcomes. Martyn and Lancaster noted that the technique is especially suited to study of purposive information seeking by individuals [4]. The American Institutes for Research, under NLM contract, employed CIT methods to examine the use of MEDLINE by physicians [5-6].

As with other purely qualitative research methodologies, limitations are inherent in classic critical incident studies. Despite the richness of incident reports, the data collection and reporting procedures employed in classic CIT methodology often do not yield data amenable to quantitative analysis. An approach for studying the effectiveness of information seeking for clinical decision making developed by King incorporated quantitative methods into basic CIT methodology [7]. The methodology remains primarily qualitative and exploratory, preserving the richness of

qualitative case report methodology, but the results are enhanced by quantitative insights into the patterns revealed in the incidents.

IV. Questions Addressed by the Study

The questions posed in CIT methodology seek to elicit discussion of instances in which a particular behavior



occurred. In this study, the behavior investigated is use of the Red Sage system. The individual is typically asked to talk about a single instance in which the behavior occurred. In this study, it entails the most recent instance in which the individual successfully accessed and used the Red Sage system.

The basic reason for use of Red Sage in an incident is treated as an "objective." It is anticipated that one of four objectives will dominate the incidents reported: (1) Known Item Searching, which would involve seeking an article that the individual already had reason to believe existed; (2) Subject Searching, which would involve seeking articles on a particular topic; (3) Alert-Subscription Follow-up, which would involve looking at items identified by the system that might be of interest; and (4) Browsing, which would entail uses of the system

that were less specifically goal directed and more serendipitous.

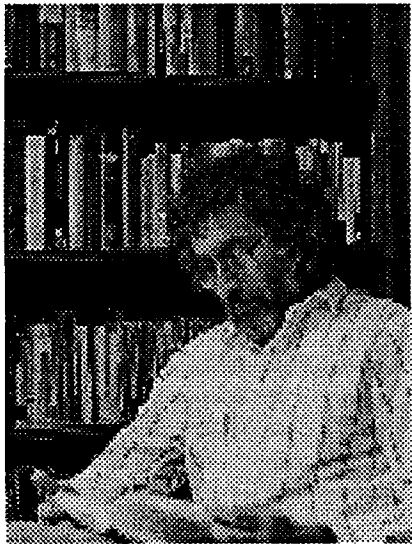
The effectiveness of the interaction with Red Sage is a judgment based on the success of the individual achieving their objective. For example, if an individual uses the system for known item searching, effectiveness is based on whether the person found the item sought. If the item was found, the incident would be judged effective; if it was not, the incident would be judged ineffective. If the incident was effective, an attempt to determine outcomes is appropriate. If the article was important to the person's work or led to some outcome the individual considered important, the incident would be judged critical. If the incident is ineffective, an attempt to determine why is appropriate. For example, if the individual did not find the article, was it because the article was not in the database or because of an error in the search strategy employed? This sort of failure analysis provides valuable insight into the difficulties people encounter using systems.

Change in information-seeking behavior that results from use of the system is among the specific information sought during the conversation. For example, if the individual successfully located an article in a known item search of Red Sage, it is appropriate to ask whether the person would have come to the library to obtain the article had it not been found in the system. If the search was unsuccessful, it is appropriate to ask whether the person was able to obtain the article through another means and if so, where (e.g., the library, a colleague, document delivery, etc.), or whether another article was identified as a substitute, or another source of information found, etc. Questions concerning the perceived value of the system are also appropriate. A good behavioral indicator of perceived benefit by an early adopter is whether the individual had ever recommended use of Red Sage to a colleague, provided a colleague access to the system, or mentioned it in a letter, paper, or publication.



References

1. Rogers, EM. Diffusion of innovations. 3rd ed. New York: Free Press, 1983.
2. Marshall, JG. The adoption and implementation of online information technology by health professionals. Toronto, CAN: University of Toronto, 1987.
3. Flanagan JC. The critical incident technique. Psychol. Bull. 1954;514:327-358.
4. Martyn J. and Lancaster FW. Investigative methods in library and information science: an introduction. Arlington, VA: Information Resources Press, 1981.
5. Wilson, SR., Starr-Schneiderkraut N, and Cooper MD. Use of the critical incident technique to evaluate the impact of MEDLINE: Final report. Palo Alto, CA: American Institutes for Research, 1989.
6. Lindberg DA , Seigel ER, Rapp BA, Wallingford KT, and Wilson SR. Use of MEDLINE by physicians for clinical problem solving. J.A.M.A. 1994;269:3124-29.
7. King DN. Clinical Search Effectiveness. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois, 1994.



David King, Ph.D.

RESEARCH SECTION, A SECTION OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC. BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Research Section, a Section of the Medical Library Association, Inc. (hereafter referred to as MLA).

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purposes of the ~~Library~~-Research Section are to foster research related skills of individual health sciences librarians; to promote interest in research and an awareness of research need among members of MLA; to recommend and promote ~~Association~~-MLA programs and policies which advance research development and excellence; and, further, in concert with other MLA groups and committees, to serve as an action group for the advancement of library related research.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility Members

Membership in the ~~Library~~-Research Section is open to all classes of MLA membership all and only members of MLA with an interest in the purposes of this Section.

Section 2. Rights and Privileges

All Sections members may vote on matters relating only to the Section and for elective officers of the Section. Appointment to committees and voting Section recommendations to the Association is limited to voting members of MLA, i.e., Regular Members, authorized Institutional Member Representatives and Fellows. Only Voting Members of MLA shall be qualified to move or to vote on recommendations to the Section Council regarding MLA policies or actions, to vote on the selection of a candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee, or to vote on the selection of the Section's Representative and Alternate Representative to the Section Council.

Section 3. Dues

A. The amount of dues shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and determined by a majority of the votes cast in a mail ballot conducted thirty (30) days prior to the Section's Annual Business Meeting. Section dues may not be determined by a majority of the votes cast in a mail ballot conducted thirty (3) days prior to the Section's Annual Business Meeting. Section dues shall not exceed MLA membership dues for Regular Members.

B. Section dues shall be payable on joining the Section and thereafter at the same time as are MLA dues.

C. Dues shall be assessed on an annual basis for the period of the calendar year.

D. If dues are unpaid by the MLA Annual Meeting, the dues shall be considered in arrears and without further notice the member shall be suspended from all rights and privileges.

Section 4. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Library-Research Section shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings

Section 1. Meetings

At least one meeting shall be held in each fiscal year. Additional meetings may be held provided notice of such meetings is disseminated to the membership at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting date. ~~The annual Business Meeting shall be held at the same time and same place as the MLA Annual Meeting, except that no Section meeting may be scheduled in conflict with MLA General Sessions for Business Meetings.~~ The Section's Business Meeting shall be held during the same period and at the same location as the Association's Annual Meeting. No Section meetings shall be held at the same time that General Sessions of Business session of the Association's Annual Meeting are conducted.

Section 2. Quorum

A quorum of 10 percent of the Section members shall be required for the transaction of business. [The model prefers an absolute number here.]

ARTICLE V. ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. Election Officers and Term of Office

A. Elective officers of this Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past-Chair; a Secretary-Treasurer; a ~~candidate~~ nominee for nomination to the MLA Nominating Committee; a ~~Representative~~ Representative to the MLA Section Council; an Alternate Representative to the MLA Section Council. All elective officers shall be Regular Members or Fellows of MLA.

B. The term of office of the Chair shall be one year as Chair-Elect, the next year as Chair, and a third successive years as Immediate Past-Chair to take effect on July 1 following election and ending on June 30 of the year in which the individual serves as Immediate Past-Chair. No one may serve more than two full or partial successive terms as Chair or Chair-Elect.

C. The term of office of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be one fiscal year. ~~There is no limit to the number of terms and an individual may serve as Nominee except that if elected to the MLA Nominating Committee the person is not eligible for election as Section Nominee again for five (5) years following such service as a voting member.~~

D. The term of office of the Section Nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee shall be one fiscal year. There is no limit to the number of terms ~~and an individual may serve as Nominee except that if elected to the MLA Nominating Committee the person is not eligible for election as Section Nominee again for five (5) years following such service as a voting member.~~

E. The term of office of the Representative to the Section Council of MLA shall be three years beginning on the July 1 immediately following election and ending on June 30 three years later, except

that if the Section Representative's term be made shorter by action of the ~~e~~Council or the Bylaws of MLA ~~the Association~~, the term will coincide with that action.

F. The term of office of the Alternate Representative to Section Council shall be identical to that of the term of the Representative.

G. Elected officers shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting following their election and serve (unless they resign, die, or are removed) until the close of the Annual Meeting at the end of the terms of office, or until their successors have been chosen and have assumed their duties.

~~H. A vacancy in the office of Chair shall be filled by the Chair-Elect who will serve until the end of the normal term of the vacated office, and through one additional term. Vacancies in all other offices shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of the vacated term by the Chair in consultation with the Executive and Nominating Committees.~~

Section 2. Duties

A. The duties of the Chair are to preside at all meetings and to represent Section at all times and on all occasions not in conflict with other officers' defined duties and responsibilities, and to prepare the Annual Report of the Section for the membership and the MLA Headquarters by ~~April 1 of each year~~ the date requested.

B. The duties of the Chair-Elect are to serve as Chair whenever the Chair is not able to do so, and to plan the Section's program activity at the Annual Meeting.

C. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer are to be responsible for the correspondence, the minutes of all meetings, Section membership and financial records, distribution of dues notices, receipt, disbursement, and accounting for all monies due the Section, and preparation of ~~and an~~ annual financial report for the Section to be sent to the Chair by April 1 of each year.

D. The duties of the Representative to the MLA Section Council are to attend all section council meetings and to represent the Research Section in the conduct of Council business, to report back to the Research Section decisions and issues discussed by the Section Council, and to ensure the selection of an MLA Nominating Committee nominee and the submission of 26 copies of the biographical form to the Elections Committee Chair before the meeting at which the vote is taken. The Representative should serve on at least one Section Council committee, but no more than two at a time, and to submit to the Council Chair the committee's objectives, mid-year report, and an annual report by the assigned date.

E. The duties of the Alternative Representative of the MLA Section Council are to attend, if possible, all Section Council meetings and to carry out the duties of the Representative when he/she is unable to attend.

Section 3. Vacancies

A. A vacancy arising in the office of Chair shall be filled by the Chair-Elect, who shall cease to be Chair-Elect, shall serve out the unexpired term of the Chair, and shall continue as Chair for the full succeeding terms to which he or she was elected.

B. A vacancy arising in the office of Representative to the Section Council shall be filled by the Alternate Representative, who shall cease to be Alternate Representative, and shall serve out the unexpired term of the Representative. A new Alternate from the Section shall be selected by the Executive Committee to serve the remaining term of the Alternate who is being replaced.

C. A vacancy arising in any other elected office shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

Section 3 4. Candidate for Nominating Committee Membership

A. The name of one Regular Member or Fellow of the Medical Library Association- MLA chosen by the Members in the same manner as Section officers, shall be submitted each year to the Section Council as a potential candidate for membership on the MLA Nominating Committee; this submission is to be made to the Council before its final assembly at the MLA Annual Meeting. The potential candidate shall prepare a biographical statement and a signed statement of willingness-to-serve if elected as a member of the Nominating Committee. This statement shall accompany the name submitted.

B. No person shall consent to being a potential candidate for membership on the Nominating Committee who is already a similar candidate from some other unit of MLA; no candidate for membership on the Nominating Committee shall also be a candidate for and an elective office of MLA.

C. The term of Candidate for Nominating Committee Membership shall be one year. There is no limit to the number of terms and an individual may serve as nominee except that if elected to the Nominating Committee the person is not eligible for election as the Section Nominee again for five (5) years following such service. No one shall serve on the MLA Nominating Committee as a voting member for more than one term during a period of five (5) years.

Section 4 5. Time and Manner of Elections

Election of Section officers and the Candidate for Nominating Committee Membership shall be conducted by secret mail ballot at least thirty (30) days prior to the Section annual Business Meeting. Election to office shall be by a majority of eligible votes cast. In the event of ties, the Chair-Elect shall draw lots to determine the result.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

A. Standing committees of the Section shall be the Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Membership Committee, and the Research Resources Committee.

B. The Executive Committee shall consist of all elective officers and committee chairs of the Section and shall conduct the business of the Section between regular membership meetings. The Section Chair calls and presides at meetings of the Section Executive Committee and shall conduct the business of the Section Executive Committee between regular membership meetings. The Section Chair calls and presides at meetings of the Executive Committee.

C. The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Section Chair with the advice of the Executive Committee. The Committee presents a slate by March 1 each year for election prior to the annual meeting. The slate shall include candidates for each office falling vacant on June 30 of the current year.

D. Duties of other standing and special committees are set by charges from the Section Chair with advice and approval of the Executive Committee.

E. Members and chairs of standing committees must be Regular Members, Institutional Member Representatives, or Fellows of MLA.

~~D. Section 2. Committee Chairs~~

Chairs of other standing and special committees are appointed the Section Chair with the advice of the Executive Committee.

~~E. Members and chairs of standing committees must be Regular Members, Institutional Member Representatives, or Fellows of MLA.~~

Section 2 3. Other Committees

A. The Section Chair shall appoint such other committees and MLA Committee liaisons as are necessary with the advice of the Executive Committee.

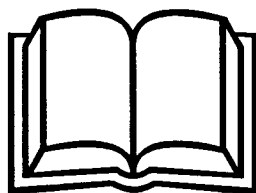
B. Members and chairs of ad hoc or other committees must be Regular Members, Representatives of Institutional Members or Fellows of MLA.

ARTICLE VII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Rules in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Section in all parliamentary cases that are not provided for in these Bylaws or in the MLA Bylaws which govern Sections of the Association MLA.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended or rescinded by a majority a two-thirds votes of those voting attending at any regular meeting of this Section. A copy of the text of any proposed amendment must be given to the Section's Secretary-Treasurer at least five weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Members unable to attend the Section meeting shall have the option of voting by absentee ballot, to be included with the notice sent to members. Absentee ballots must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer at least seven (7) days before the meeting at which voting takes place.



Constantinou C. Destruction of Knowledge: A Study of Journal Mutilation at a Large University Library. College & Research Libraries 1995 Nov;56(6):497-507.

The purpose was to identify the extent, rate and nature of journal mutilation for a five year period. Damage was identified through user and staff reports. Data were collected from 1264 ILL requests for copies to replace missing or damaged pages.

A year by year analysis was done. Since damage could have taken place before the year in which it was reported, the year by year analysis doesn't really indicated the amount of damage for a particular year. Furthermore, there probably is additional damage which was not reported.

Analysis by subject category showed that the dance collection was hard hit, perhaps calling for consultation with the chair of that department. Identification of specific titles highly mutilated also might lead to a specific group of perpetrators enrolled in particular courses.

Rate of mutilation is calculated in relationship to mutilated pages, volumes, and incidents. Hence, it is not a measure of the rate of mutilation vis a vis the library collection as a whole.

This study does uncover some useful information about the nature of mutilation of this particular collection. It does not, however, give an accurate indication of rate and extent of mutilation. This study adds little to the body of knowledge.

Findlay K and Thomas F. The Relative Roles of Knowledge and Innovativeness in Determining Librarians Attitudes Toward and Use of the Internet: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach. Library Quarterly. 1996 Jan;66(1):59-83.

Drawing on the literatures of online searching and consumer behavior, the authors designed a study intended to "measure and examine the main and interactive effects of knowledgeability and innovativeness on attitudes toward and use of the Internet." Subjects were 101 users and non-users of the Internet from three Canadian libraries. Use was divided into frequency of use and variety of use. Subjective and objective knowledge were measured. Three types of analysis were

done—analysis of covariance, hierarchical multiple regression, and structural path modeling, using LISREL, on two path models.

Knowledge was clearly related to attitudes toward and use of the Internet. Innovativeness had a more complex effect. Having a supportive environment was also important to enhanced use.

This article uses higher level statistics than most articles in the library science literature, enabling a more detailed examination of the relationships between variables. Also, more attention was given to checking the validity and reliability of the scales used. Extensive notes on the statistical procedures are provided in the article.

Lang WP. Trends in Students' Knowledge, Opinions, and Experience Regarding Dental Informatics and Computer Applications. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association 1995 Nov-Dec;2(6):374-382.

Nearly all first- and fourth-year dental students at the University of Michigan in 1990 and 1993 responded to a 74-item questionnaire designed to assess knowledge, opinions, and experience concerning informatics and computer applications in dentistry. Five items of demographic information were also gathered.

Computer ownership by D1s increased markedly from 1990 to 1993. 1990 D4s were low in knowledge at the completion of dental school. 1993 D4s scored twice as high on knowledge as they had as D1s, perhaps due to having taken a new information management course. The 1993 D4s showed an increase in computer experience over what they had had as D1s. This was particularly true for information access and retrieval applications. Opinion about computers was high for all four groups.

Although a control group wasn't used, there is reason to think that the information management course and various experiential activities did have an effect. This result should prove heartening to instruction librarians.

Romero L. An Evaluation of Classification and Subject Cataloging in Entry-Level Cataloging Copy: Implications for Access and Instruction. Journal of Education for Library and Information Science 1995 Summer;36(3):217-229.

This paper concerns entry-level errors in subject cataloging and classification. Twenty library science students cataloged ten books on a variety of subjects and at varying levels of difficulty in a simulated cataloging environment. The method for counting errors is explained.

For subject headings, MARC tagging was a problem for personal name, topical, and geographic subject headings. For topical subject headings, mistakes in the form or choice of heading were accounted for the majority of errors. Not surprisingly, there was a relationship between errors in subject headings and errors in classification. In many cases, students were unable to assess the subject content and to convey the subject in proper subject headings and classification.

The results should be of interest to those training beginning catalogers. The author provides enough detail to enable a replication using beginning medical catalogers.

Su S., Feng, Lancaster FW. Evaluation of Expert Systems in Reference Applications. RQ 1995 Winter;35(2):219-228.

Two expert systems—Reference Expert and Source Finder—were compared against the standard of what an experienced reference librarian would have done. A third group answered questions without the aid of either system, to provide control. Sixty library science students were divided into students with no reference experience and those with some experience. Each participant was asked to answer two reference questions under one of the three conditions. Sources were considered to be correct if they gave information comparable to what the experienced librarians had found.

No student group performed as well as the experienced reference librarians. Reference Expert outperformed Source Finder. Students with experience could perform as well without an expert system as they could with it. Students with no experience were helped by Reference Expert.

The methods used in this study could be used to compare expert systems under consideration for purchase.