

# Hypothesis

## The Newsletter of the Library Research Section of MLA

Summer 1992

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### Library Research Section of the Medical Library Association

#### 1992/93 Objectives

To sponsor a program at the 1993 Annual Meeting.

To update the annual Research Bibliography, a selected and annotated list of useful articles and books on performing library research.

To explore possible publication options to provide the widest possible distribution of the Research Bibliography. While Section members receive this automatically, it would be extremely useful for non-Section members.

To distribute the Research Mentor's Directory as widely as possible to MLA members.

To publish at least two issues of the Section newsletter, Hypothesis.

To maintain contact with Chapter's research activities by having the Chair-elect represent the Section at the Chapter Roundtable luncheon.

To work closely with the MLA Research Task Force as it works to implement Goal III of the Strategic Plan. This goal states: MLA is dedicated to improving health through professional excellence and leadership in research in health information science.

Mark Funk  
Chairman, Library Research Section

## **MLA'S RESEARCH GOALS - ACTION AT LAST?**

Way back in 1987, when MLA's much-discussed Strategic Plan was published, one of the three stated goals was devoted to research: "MLA is dedicated to improving health through professional excellence and leadership in research in health information science." It has been a long time coming, but it appears that things will start moving on this front at last.

After the close of the 1992 Annual Meeting in Washington, a special Research Initiative Think Tank met for an entire day to brainstorm on MLA's research goals. The main organizer of the Think Tank was our own Pru Dalrymple, last year's Section Chair. And of course, many if not all of the Think Tank members also belong to the Section. After a long day, the following recommendation was written and forwarded to MLA's Board of Directors.

It is recommended by the Library Research Section and the Research Initiative Think Tank, that a Research Task Force be formed and charged with:

Designing an action plan (using the format of the Platform for Change) to develop an MLA Research Program, which will include, but not be limited to the following objectives:

### **I. Creation of a Research Program infrastructure which will:**

- \*be institutionalized under the Professional Development umbrella;
- \*include Association-wide involvement and participation (including, as apropos, chapters, sections, program staff, and committees);
- \*state the Association policy of its support for research.

### **II. Identification & development of educational activities, including:**

- \*a curriculum or array of research-related continuing education offerings in a variety of alternative formats;
- \*roster, and new perspectives courses which can become roster courses;
- \*annual meeting programming;
- \*increased collaborative activities and planning, with such organizations as NLM, graduate library schools, and other associations;
- \*activities such as a mentor program, database of research projects, doctoral fellowship support, etc.

### **III. Increased awards, funding, and recognition:**

#### **A. Funding**

- \*more dollars;
- \*more awards;
- \*more and different sources of funds, e.g., corporate members;
- \*for example, a "new investigator" award, funds for doctoral fellowships

#### **B. Recognition**

- \*more, new awards;
- \*AHIP recognition for research needs modification and more publicity.

### **IV. Increased marketing and promotion**

- \*Publishing research results;
- \*Publishing articles about research;
- \*More, general publicity on library research.

Stay tuned during the year as details are worked out as to how this recommended action plan will be implemented.

Mark Funk  
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