

Hypothesis

The Newsletter of the Library Research Section of MLA

SUMMER 1991

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MLA Research Issues Cmte

To be appointed.

SECTION GOALS FOR 1991-92

The goals of the Library Research Section for 1991/92 are incorporated under the following Areas of Priority for MLA for 1992.

1. The Library Research Section plans to identify and provide continuing education opportunities that support credentialing for Academy members at all levels.

Program Objectives:

To co-sponsor with the Medical Informatics section a contributed papers session at the 1992 annual meeting.

To sponsor a poster session on new research which would showcase work in progress. This session would have a later deadline to facilitate dissemination of the very latest findings.

The Library Research Section of MLA plans to pursue alternative continuing education delivery systems.

Managing Objectives:

To survey the members of the Library Research Section on their needs for continuing education. (Liaison to CE Committee: Joan Stoddart)

To ensure that research courses are taught at the annual meeting in 1992, and to explore the feasibility of developing a long-term program of research-related courses which would be offered on a regular and continuing basis. (Section Chair: Prudence Dalrymple)

To establish liaison with Chapter/Section research committees, and to explore the possibility of mutual coordination and support of activities. (Section Chair-elect: Mark Funk)

To complete the report tentatively entitled "Health Information Research: Imperatives for Continuing Education." (Liaison to CE Committee: Joan Stoddart and Karen Dahlen)

2. The Library Research Section plans to promote a dynamic research agenda for MLA.

Program Objective:

To develop method(s) for completing, publicizing, and maintaining the Research Agenda. (Section Chair: Prudence Dalrymple)

Problem-Solving Objective:

To develop new idea for assisting MLA members in their research endeavors. (Research Resources Committee)

To develop a broadened charge for the Research Resources Committee. (Research Resources Committee)

Resource Objective:

To complete the evaluation of the research mentors program and implement its recommendations. The evaluation will also include a redesign and revision of the research mentors list. (Research Resources Committee)

3. The Library Research Section of MLA plans to increase dues and non-dues income.

Problem Solving-Objective:

To manage fiscal resources more effectively by applying for an employee identification number and explore the possibility of having an interest-bearing checking account. (Secretary/Treasurer: Anne Wood Humphries)

4. The Library Research Section of MLA plans to increase the marketing and promotion of publications.

Problem Solving Objective:

To publish two issues of Hypothesis, the Library Research Section Newsletter. Issues will appear in the summer of 1991 and in the spring of 1992. The newsletter will be distributed to all section members, using mailing labels obtained from MLA headquarters. The spring issue will include the ballot for the 1992-93 section officers. This will be mailed in time for the ballot to be counted by the date set by MLA regulations. The editor will request for reimbursement for mailing estimated at \$60. per issue (\$120. total) assuming that membership and postage rates remain stable. (Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Wood)

Resource Objectives:

To prepare a new edition of the Research Bibliography. The Research Resources Committee will undertake this task on a timetable developed by the chair, Ruth Fenske. The bibliography is distributed as a benefit of membership to all section members, and to others as requested. (Research Resources Committee)

To maintain the Research Projects database, and publicize its existence among MLA members. (Research Resources Committee)

BUSINESS MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO

Minutes of the 1990 meeting were approved and Ann Weller, chair, briefly summarized activities of the previous year. She also reported that the Library Research Section-sponsored Symposium on the Research Process to be held Thursday, June 6 following the MLA conference, had a registration of 38 and participants would be given 6 hours of CE credit. In response to a recommendation from the section, the MLA board has approved an increase of the association's research grants from \$500 to \$1,000. This change will take effect next year.

Section Council Report (Trudy Gardner). MLA will institute an electronic jobline in July of 1991 and an electronic bulletin board in the fall. A joint project with Faxon to automate the exchange is currently being tested in 85 libraries. Plans to develop a code of ethics for MLA are underway. Section Council has asked for suggestions on additional organizations with which MLA should have a formal liaison. Plans for section participation in both the 1992 and 1993 annual conferences were described and discussed briefly. The section members indicated willingness to participate in a section evening open house but were not enthusiastic about the proposal. The 1992 program committee's suggestion to incorporate

a CE course during the regular conference met with no general agreement. Section Council's proposal to formalize a process for special interest groups within MLA was endorsed. Section members expressed ambivalence about the need to have a board member attend all or part of section business meetings.

Bylaws (Justine Roberts). The Library Research Section bylaws are now in compliance with MLA requirements. Changes were made to avoid the section bylaws being more restrictive than MLA. The new bylaws were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Dottie Eakin). The current balance in the section account is \$2,350.76. With the increase in the administrative costs subtracted by MLA headquarters to cover centralized dues collection, the \$5.00 membership fee would be inadequate to support the section newsletter and activities. The section approved a recommended increase in dues to \$7.00, effective with 1992 renewals.

Resources Committee (Ruth Fenske). The research bibliography and compilation of research in progress have been updated. The projects database currently has 56 entries. Laura Wilder will be taking over management of the database. Forms for contributors to the database are being sent to chapters in the fall and sections in the spring. The committee also reviewed abstracts for the contributed paper session. The poster session was reported to be very successful, highlighting some of the projects in process, and distributing copies of the bibliography. It was suggested that a representative is needed from each chapter to serve as a contact person for the research section. The mentors list is now three years old and should be updated. It is being evaluated by Alexandra Dimitroff and Nancy Woelfl. Suggestions for increasing the visibility of mentors included wearing buttons at the annual meeting, providing information for chapter newsletters, creating regional lists, and offering a research consultation session at the national meeting. Information on mentors will be distributed to the RML's.

Karen Hackleman Dahlen reported that a paper reporting the results of the survey of Continuing Education for research has been submitted to the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.

The Nominating Committee (Phyllis Lansing, Phyllis Self, and Pat Gibson) made recommendations for new officers. The 1992-92 section officers are Prudence Dalrymple, Chair; Mark Funk, Chair Elect; Ann Carol Weller, Immediate Past Chair; Anne Humphries, Secretary-Treasurer; Joanne Marshall, Section Representative; Karen Hackleman Dahlen, Alternate; Joan Stoddart, Liaison to the Continuing Education Committee; Dottie Eakin, nominee for the Nominating Committee. Elizabeth Wood agreed to continue as newsletter editor.

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO

A highly successful and enjoyable symposium was held on June 6 at the MLA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Participants heard lecture presentation and participated in break-out discussion groups.

The symposium, entitled, "The Research Process: From Proposal Writing to Publication" was organized and moderated by Ann C. Weller, Section Chair for 1990-91. The goal was to give participants practical advice from experienced researchers and writers. Sessions included:

"Research and practice: a productive alliance" by Miranda Lee Pao; "Grants: promises and pitfalls" by Virginia M. Bowden; "Grant writing: guidelines for success: by Nancy Fazzone; "Finding funding: where to go" by Elizabeth H. Wood; "Getting into print: give your article a good start in life" by Pat L. Walter; "Why authors fail" by Trudy K. Landwirth; and "Playing with a full deck: combining library research and practice" by Jocelyn C. Rankin.

During the course of the day, participants devised potential research proposals and critiqued a manuscript submitted to the MLA Bulletin.

DOC-KIT FOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS

From: Van Afes and Virginia Lingle

A packet of job description for non-professionals is being prepared for publication as a new MLA Doc-Kit. It will consist of representative position descriptions for all non-professional staff in all types of health sciences libraries (hospital, academic, and corporate) and all levels of specialization (interlibrary loan, circulation, reference, technical services, media center, etc.)

The editors invite all interested institutions to submit single, legible, and clean copies of their current non-professional job descriptions to be considered for publication. Descriptions selected for inclusion in the Doc-Kit will reflect the broad range of MLA member libraries and will show a diversity of format and content for each type of position. Descriptions will be reproduced as submitted except for the deletion of individuals' names. Submission of job descriptions to the editors will be considered as copyright clearance for publication.

Sample job descriptions should be submitted no later than October 30, 1991 to Van B. Afes, Head, Technical Services, Louis Calder Memorial Library (R-950), University of Miami School of Medicine, P.O. Box 016950, Miami, FL, 33101.

To help the editors categorize the descriptions, please indicate whether your library is an academic, hospital, corporate, or other type of institution; the institution's subject specialty; the FTE professional staff and total FTE library staff; and the name and telephone number of a contact person.

CALL FOR PAPERS

MLA 1992--WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Library Research Section
Medical Informatics Section**

The Library Research Section and the Medical Informatics Section invite contributed papers for presentation at the 1992 MLA meeting in Washington, D.C. Submit an abstract of not more than 250 words describing a research project in medical informatics by October 1, 1991.

Reports of research project either completed or ongoing will be considered. The following statement of scope may be helpful in determining whether a topic is appropriate: linking of patient data to medical literature, development and use of expert systems or other computer aided decision supports, evaluative and descriptive reports of medical informatics training activities, development and evaluation of intelligent information retrieval systems such as COACH, research and development in UMLS, and so forth. Because medical informatics is an emerging field, reports of development and demonstration projects, as well as ongoing research projects are welcome.

Abstracts should include a brief description of the project's objectives, the methods used to achieve the objective, results or expected results and implications and importance of findings.

Submit abstracts in electronic form or hard copy to either:

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