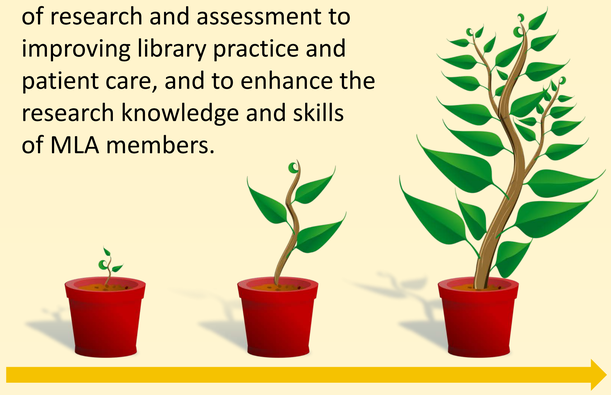
MLA Research Section: Engage and Promote Research in Health Sciences

RESEARCH SECTION
research begins in the library

MLA Medical Library Association

History

Purpose: To promote the importance of research and assessment to improving library practice and patient care, and to enhance the research knowledge and skills of MLA members.



1978
Ad hoc Committee on MLA's role in library research

1980
Research & Evaluation Committee becomes Standing Committee

1982
Library Research Section - Provisional status

1983
First election of officers!

1987
1st Issue of *Hypothesis*

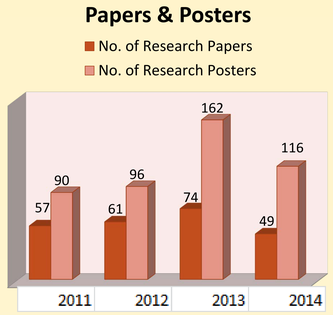
1996
Name changed to **Research Section**

1998
Launched awards for Best MLA Annual Meeting Presentations

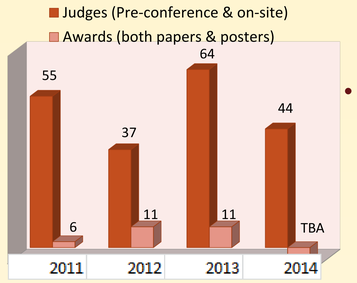
2013
Over **250** members and growing strong!!

Awards Program

Papers & Posters



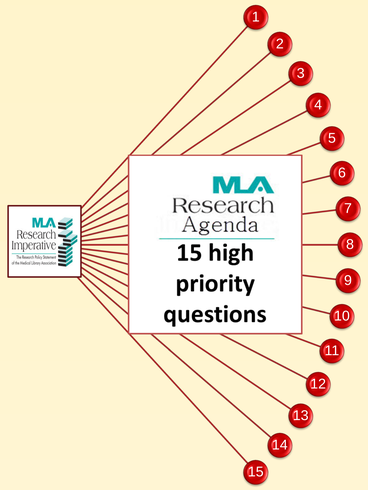
Judges & Awards



Purpose:
- Recognize high-quality research papers and posters at MLA.
- Motivate librarians to engage in research activities.

Process:
- Volunteer judges evaluate MLA Annual Meeting research papers and posters.
- Cash awards presented for best papers and posters; best research presented by a hospital librarian may also be awarded.

MLA Research Agenda



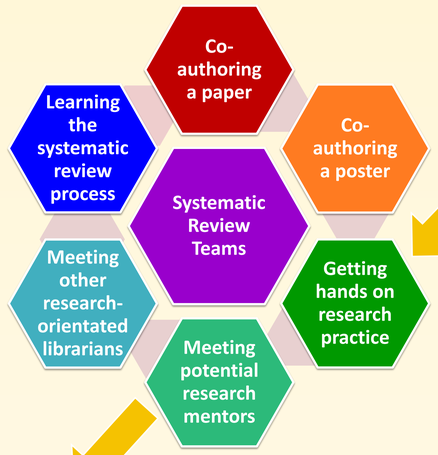
Examples of some of the 15 questions

Is there quantifiable evidence that the presence of a medical librarian improves patient outcomes?

What is the role of medical librarians in improving health literacy rates among the public?

Systematic Review Teams were formed in 2013 to determine what research had already been done on these **15 questions**

Individuals interested in joining the teams had the opportunities and benefits of:

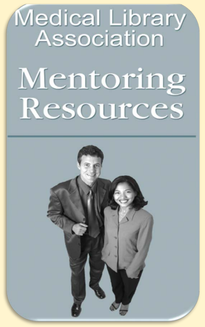


How do you become INVOLVED?

Respond when called or…

Contact the Research Section!

Mentoring



Are you interested in conducting research with others or have questions about the process?

Do you have prior research experience and want to share your knowledge while earning AHIP points?

If so, you should consider Research Mentorship.

Mentorship is a rewarding experience that benefits both participants. Mentors give back to the profession and mentees benefit from experienced guidance in their research journey.

Research mentorships may focus on any of several research expertise areas listed in the MLA Membership Directory.

- **Become a Mentor:**
  To become a research mentor, update your MLA Membership Directory contact information to show your area(s) of research expertise.
- **Find a Mentor:**
  To find a research mentor, look for the research area closest to your interests in the MLA Membership Directory.

Benefits

- **EXPAND** your network with colleagues actively building and applying research skills.
- **DISCOVER** research you can use–read *Hypothesis*, attend Section programming, and learn from award-winning studies evaluated by your peers.
- **ENHANCE** your research toolkit—use the Section's Survey Monkey subscription for research.
- **CONNECT** with potential collaborators or a research mentor to act on your ideas!
- **ENRICH** your career and the profession through section leadership while earning points for the Academy of Health Information Professional.
- **PRODUCE** or contribute to health sciences and library and information science knowledge.
- **SPEAK** your thoughts through surveys, feedback, and advocacy for research funding.

Hypothesis Journal

Be Informed | Inform Others

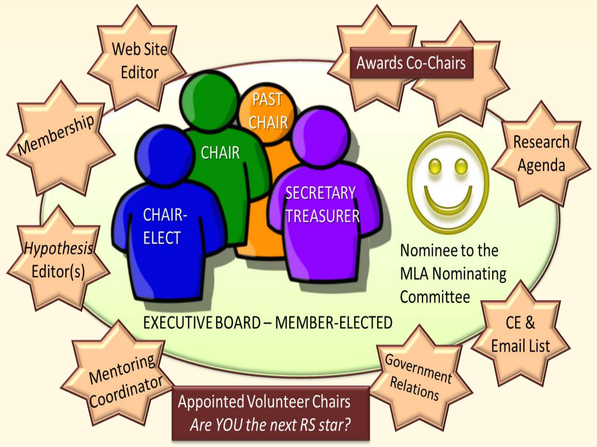
Our field continues to grow and change
Be at the cutting-edge with *Hypothesis*: the official peer-reviewed journal of the MLA Research Section

OPEN ACCESS | Indexed in CINAHL

***Hypothesis* aims to:**
- Promote innovation and learning in our community.
- Provide a platform for mentoring and grant-writing discussions.
- Encourage the use of solid evidence to inform decisions in our organizations.
- Supply objective evaluations of software and other resources.
- Foster the sharing of research and new ideas among all LIS colleagues.
- Stimulate participation in our culture of inquiry.
- Advance the practice of research and evaluation in our community.

Read *Hypothesis* | Contribute to *Hypothesis*

Leadership Opportunities



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Acknowledgements

Kristine Alpi, Tara Brigham, Gisela Butera, Lori Fitterling, Angela Hardi, Erla P. Heyns, Susan Lessick, Elisabeth Marrapodi, Emily Mazure, Debra Revere, Jennifer Staley, Donghua Tao

RESEARCH SECTION
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