



MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

STATE COUNCIL AND REGION 3 RML

With the reconfiguration of the Regional Medical Library program, Michigan now belongs to the Greater Midwest Regional Medical Library Network. The new RML is headquartered in Chicago.

Part of the requirements of the new structure is that Michigan form a State Council. An organizational meeting was held in January, 1983, at Hurley Medical Center in Flint to discuss guidelines for the Michigan State Council. The primary purpose of the State Council is to serve as a communications link with the 10-state RML program (Region 3). The RML has certain guidelines which each State Council within the Region must follow. These guidelines include (1) One representative from each designated Resource Library which would be Wayne State and University of Michigan. (2) One representative from an unaligned basic unit health science library. (3) Representatives from consortia/local groups, which number 9 in Michigan.

The guidelines also state that the Council may also include: State Health Science Library group, State Library agencies, Multi-type Library groups, Consumer groups, and other related library agencies.

The meeting resulted in much discussion concerning the philosophy and the possible composition of the Michigan State Council. After the discussion, a chairperson pro tem was elected, and a committee formed to work on by-laws for the council. The committee has met and is currently working on the by-laws. There will be another meeting to ratify the by-laws soon. If there are questions concerning the Council or the by-laws, please contact the chairperson pro tem, Barbara Kormelink, or the president of the MHSLA, Jackie Raphelson.

UPDATE—MLA CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

The Certification Examination has been offered six times since its inception in 1978 with the following results:

Date	No. of persons taking exam	Number Certified	Percent Certified
April 14, 1978	77	63	82% <sup>1</sup>
November 10, 1978	113	48	42% <sup>2</sup>
November 9, 1979	120	79	65% <sup>3</sup>
November 7, 1980	155	64	41% <sup>4</sup>
November 6, 1981	206	86	86% <sup>5</sup>
November 5, 1982	187	125	67% <sup>6</sup>

The figures trend toward a larger number of certification candidates taking the examination, with a resultingly larger

number of medical librarians being certified. A quick survey of several recent issues of *MLA News* "Positions Available" columns indicates that approximately 24% of the advertisements listed mentioned MLA Certification as desirable or preferable.

On January 1, 1978 when the present certification code went into effect, 3,217 librarians were "grandfathered in" to certification. In 1982 one-third of these librarians applies for and received recertification based on attendance at MLA approved continuing education courses.

The examination is often described as tough and challenging; questions are intended to simulate realistic job situations. Unfortunately, each applicant has a different job experience with possible gaps in particular areas. To reinforce the area of Public Services, two new monographs from MLA may be helpful, as follows:

Roper, Fred W. and Boorkman, Jo Anne: *Introduction to Reference Sources in the Health Sciences*, MLA, Chicago, 1980.

*Handbook of Medical Library Practice*. 4th edition, volume I. Louise Darling, ed., David Bishop and Lois Ann Colaianne, Associate Editors, MLA, Chicago, 1982.

Fred W. Roper is presently Chair-Designate of the Certification Examination Review Committee, and Jo Anne Boorkman is also a member of the Committee.<sup>7</sup> Volume I of the *Handbook* is devoted entirely to Public Services in Health Science Libraries. Volume II explains Technical Services, and Volume III covers Administration and Health Science Librarianship; unfortunately, the last two volumes are as yet unpublished. This three-volume work divides the skills of librarianship into public and technical services, plus administration—the same designations used in the certification examination.

Other helps are AACR II, NLM Classification, the introductory material in the annotated MESH, a general work on budgeting, plus the Online Services Reference Manual which should be consulted for the contents of the individual NLM databases.

<sup>1</sup>Bull Med. Libr. Assoc. 1979 Jan: 67:125

<sup>2</sup>MLA News 1979 Feb: (111):7

<sup>3</sup>Bull Med. Libr. Assoc. 1981 Jan: 69:139

<sup>4</sup>MLA News 1981 Feb: (132):7

<sup>5</sup>MLA News 1982 Feb: (142):8

<sup>6</sup>MLA News 1983 Feb: (152):10

<sup>7</sup>MLA News 1982 Sep: (148):1

Lucie Beard  
Detroit Osteopathic Hospital  
Highland Park

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## **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS— 1982 ANNUAL MEETING**

After reviewing the progress of MHSLA, Jackie Raphelson mentioned several things which should be of concern to our membership.

Recently Michigan Hospital Association asked our organization for a fact sheet that describes the health science libraries in our state. In trying to gather information for this fact sheet, the following types of questions arose which could not be readily answered.

1. How many health science libraries are there in the state of Michigan?
2. What is the size of their institutions?
3. What is their background?
4. What type of services do they offer?
5. What kinds of shared services or resources do they have?
6. How do they cooperate with other non-health science libraries?
7. What type of career or job information is available and from whom?

There is not an organization or group in Michigan that is gathering such information. There is a recent survey by KOM that will answer some of these questions but their data is not specifically gathered for libraries in Michigan nor is it readily available. Perhaps the reason for the lack of data is that no one has believed that such information is important. We in the Library field are usually more concerned with disseminating information than gathering it. Perhaps we need to take an organizational perspective. If we do not know about ourselves, we cannot become a strong voice for our profession.

The role of this organization as the representative of health science libraries and librarians should encompass a concern for the overall picture of these same libraries, but the facts and figures which describe the reality in which we work are needed if such concern is to be translated into support of the profession.

Individually, we in our own libraries do not experience the cumulative effects of events that are occurring across the state and the nation. Some of these events are certain though, to have an effect on our libraries.

1. Libraries are being closed (I know of 5 health science and related libraries that have close within the year in Michigan.)
2. Librarians are being forced into alternative careers because there are no jobs.

3. The current attempts to downgrade federal library jobs, reduce the State of Michigan's State Library staff as well as the current administration's reluctance to release LSCA Title funds are a few of the events which are bound to send shock waves which we all will begin to feel.
4. The suits against NLM if won will greatly affect the quality of service we will be able to give our institutions.

And, of course, there is the depressed state of the economy which has caused many of us to rethink our services, our operations, and use our staff more effectively. "Quality control" is now a catchword for libraries. Caught up in this situation is our commitment to the library community—to be able to share our services but not at a cost to our institution. The dollar crunch has stimulated the competition for health science library resources. The difficult question now facing use is how to share and who to charge. The interrelations among libraries in times of prosperity is not a necessity but in times of economic constraints it becomes a must—and our survival may very well depend on it.

There are some bright spots. The new technological revolution is changing many of our institutions and, in my own view, for the better. There is need for dissemination among ourselves of the large amount of information that is available about computer software and hardware.

For our organization to play a definitive role in the health science library scene, it must begin to address issues that concern its members. Our organizational structure is sound; the issues are live and some are urgent. What is needed is action.

Input into the type and direction this action should take is a responsibility of us all and I hope will be part of our agenda for this coming year. The ultimate end is still the same—"To provide improved health science library services; to establish new health science libraries in Michigan; to implement the exchange of health science library materials and services; and to foster communication among the various health science libraries within the state."

With strong support from its membership MHSLA can become a public voice expressing our professional interests, achievements, and concerns.

## **REGIONAL MEDICAL LIBRARY PROGRAM GRANT**

The old KOMRML granted funds to all interested Regions of Cooperation to aid in inputting serial records of health science libraries into OCLC just before they went out of business in the NLM reconfiguration. The Regions of Cooperation have notified health science libraries in their areas of the grants and have encouraged participation. If you are not a part of this new union listing effort, contact Barbara Kormelink or Lynn Sorensen-Sutton for information.

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## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

SB 200, 201 Faust's bill to transfer the State Library from the Department of Education to the Legislature, was signed by Governor Blanchard on January 18, 1983, but he asked the state Supreme Court to rule on whether the transfer is constitutional under the constitution's separation of powers provision. If the Court does not rule this bill unconstitutional, it will become effective March 30. (State Library employees would no longer be under Civil Service).

Following is an update of the state of library legislation bills from the 1981-82 Session.

House Bill 4032—Became Public Act No. 18 for 1982.

House Bill 4672—Never got out of the House Committee on Appropriations.

House Bill 4681—Became Public Act No. 229 of 1982.

House Bill 4036—Became Public Act No. 70 of 1981.

Senate Bill 60—Never got out of Senate Committee.

Senate Bill 196—Never got out of Senate Committee on Education.

Senate Bill 369—Never got out of Senate Committee.

Senate Bill 496—Became Public Act. No. 202 of 1982.

Senate Bill 613, 716, and 717—Never got out of Senate Committees.

Senate Bill 792—Passed Senate but never got out of House Committee.

Details of these bills were in the Summer 1982 Newsletter. Federal Classification and Qualification Standards for Library and Information Services Positions: The Washington Post on January 6, 1983, reports that Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro (D-NY), Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) and Mary Rose Oaker (D-OH) "have asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct a major study of sex discrimination in government wage-setting, with top priority given to the situation of government librarians. Rep. Ferraro has been battling an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) proposal to set one entry-level grade for librarians, whether or not they have master's degrees. Ferraro has asked the OPM to delay making the changes until the study is completed, but OPM still plans to finalize the librarian standards soon. OPM Director Donald J. Devine said the GAO would go beyond job evaluations to focus on whether persons in comparable jobs are receiving comparable salaries."

## MICHIGAN LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Are you aware of the services of the Michigan Library Consortium? Not only do they sell and redeem MLC coupons for inter-library loans, but they also are busy providing a good many classes around the state. Most of the spring classes will have occurred by the time this newsletter appears. They have sponsored a BRS training session, a DIALOG training session, and a four session seminar on Automating the Library. If you would like to be on their mailing list to receive information concerning training sessions later in the year, write to them at Michigan Library Consortium, 6810 South Cedar Street, Suite 8, Lansing, MI 48910, and request to be on their mailing list. Sessions are held in areas around the state such as Detroit, Gaylord, Kalamazoo, and Lansing.

## MHSLA BY-LAWS REVISIONS

At the last annual meeting, MHSLA voted to change the by-laws in Article 3, Section 2 Area Group Representatives to add Thumb Area Medical Information Consortium to the board.

Article 4, Section 1 was amended by adding new subsections.

Section 1. Standing Committees

D. Designation and charge.

3. MLA Liaison Committee.

a. The President of MHSLA shall be the MLA representative.

5. Education Committee.

a. The chairman of the Education Committee shall be the representative of the MICCLE organization.

There was also added a new Article 7. Affiliation. This article reads: "Upon approval by a majority of the voting membership at an Annual Meeting, affiliation or disaffiliation with a common interest organization may be made, provided that:

1. The objectives of such organization shall be consistent with those of the Michigan Health Science Library Association.

2. The Activities of such organizations shall not be in conflict with the goals and activities of the Michigan Health Science Library Association.

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## LOCAL GROUP NEWS

The Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association met in December, 1982, and elected new officers

Brian Simmons..... President  
Shelia Hofstetter..... Vice-President  
Sara Hook..... Secretary  
Mary Loftis..... Treasurer

Mary Hanson was appointed as Area Representative to the MHS�A Executive Board and Conference Planning Committee. Marge Kars will replace Brian Simmons as Legislative Committee Representative for MHS�A.

Currently there are two surveys being conducted among WMHS�A libraries: one concerns the use of esoteric journals and the other, what libraries subscribe to which of the Saunders Clinics series.

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The Valley Regional Health Science Librarians elected new officers:

Cindy Anderson..... President

Janis Van Tiflin..... Vice President  
Barbara Kormelink..... Secretary-Treasurer

There will be a joint meeting of the Flint Area and the Valley regional groups in Saginaw on April 21, 1983. The program will be "Alternative Methods of Financing for Libraries" and the speaker will be Jannette Caputo, Ph.D.

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MHS�A dues for 1983 are past due. Please mail your check to the treasurer Doris Blauet at Flint Osteopathic Hospital. Deadline for inclusion in the MHS�A directory will be May 30, 1983.

Officers of MHS�A for 1983 are:

Jackie Raphelson..... President  
Hurley Medical Center, Flint  
Kay Kelly..... President-Elect  
Northern Michigan Hospitals, Petoskey  
Rosemary Carter..... Secretary  
St. Joseph Hospital, Flint  
Doris Blauet..... Treasurer  
Flint Osteopathic Hospital

MHS�A News is the official newsletter of the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association. Comments and inquiries may be sent to any member of the Publications Committee.

Barbara Kormelink, Chairman..... Bay Medical Center  
Lucie Beard..... Detroit Osteopathic Hospital  
Nancy Fitzpatrick..... St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac  
Carol Graham..... Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital  
Jackie Raphelson, Ex-Officio Member..... Hurley Medical Center, Flint

MHS�A  
6215 West St. Joseph Highway  
Lansing, MI 48917



CARTER, ROSEMARY  
ST JOSEPH HOSPITAL  
302 KENSINGTON

FLINT

104001249  
MI 48502