

HEALTH INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATED

hira

July 2, 1985

Dear Library Director,

Have you or other librarians on your staff ever had difficulty in locating audiovisual materials for use by the employees of your health care facility? If so, you may be interested in learning about, or rediscovering, the existence of the Michigan-based Health Instructional Resources Associated or HIRA.

HIRA is a "cooperative, non-profit association of institutions and individuals" whose purpose is to "share informational resources in the health sciences in order to achieve quality health care through education". This purpose is achieved by:

1. Promoting the exchange and interloan of audiovisual materials and books and journal articles related to audiovisuals
2. Sharing information about in-house production and encouraging joint efforts with other departments and hospitals
3. Providing consultation services for joint use of talent and expertise
4. Conducting educational seminars and workshops.

General membership meetings, which are of an educational nature, are held at least four times per year. Recent program topics include: electronic mail, AV maintenance, patient education cable television, and free or inexpensive audiovisual services. Generally, one or two workshops are sponsored during the year.

The most concrete achievement and continuing project of HIRA is the production of an Audiovisuals Software Catalog. Arranged by title and subject, the HIRA catalog facilitates the interloan of audiovisual programs. The holdings contained in this catalog are supplied by HIRA members which submit bibliographic information about the audiovisuals that they own and are willing to lend to other institutions. HIRA membership does not mandate that holdings information be submitted by its members but it is highly encouraged so that the Catalog is as useful a locator tool as possible. Membership in HIRA automatically entitles an institution to a copy of the current edition of this catalog, the 4th edition of which is due shortly. (This catalog sells for \$25.00 to non-HIRA members.)

If providing audiovisual resources is an important part of your library's services, or if you would like it to be, then HIRA is the organization for you. A membership application is enclosed for your convenience. Won't you join us?

Questions concerning HIRA membership can be directed to:

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