

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

FROM Faith DATE 9-8-77

TO Jim

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Please Summarize |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Per Your Request |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please Give Your Opinion | <input type="checkbox"/> Please Return |
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THANK YOU.

REMARKS: Mary's paper on MDMLG
in the MLA Bulletin V.55,
pp. 42-7, January 1967.

I have no minutes
from the last State Group
meeting.

Faith

Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group.

The history of the Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group (MDMLG), while neither shrouded in mystery nor yet veiled by the mists of time, is nevertheless vague. Like Topsy, MDMLG was not "made"; it "grew". From World War II until 1960, it was an informal association of biomedical librarians, some of whom met regularly under the auspices of the Biological Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association and less regularly on their own for social and professional reasons. The Group, by 1962, had grown coherent and responsible enough to warrant a concerted effort, under the leadership of Wayne State University's Medical Librarian, Vern Pings, to issue the first edition of the Selected List of Biomedical Serials, the celebrated SLOBS. Interlibrary loan activity and other needs to share resources in an orderly fashion were the underlying forces to weld the group together with a constitution and a set of by-laws. The Interlibrary Loan Agreement among Biomedical Libraries further formalized the association ^{for} those of the Group who signed it. The contributors to SLOBS and the Signatory institutions of the Agreement, however, did not constitute the entire membership of MDMLG, which continued to count as members all health science librarians who attended its meetings or who expressed interest in any way.

An association grown out of mutual need, MDMLG survived because it served. Early on, the very looseness of its structure was an asset in that it allowed the Group to respond quickly to the full breadth of needs of biomedical librarians in the metropolitan Detroit area. As the Group's role evolved,

however, guidance and subsidies received from both the University and from the National Library of Medicine through KOMRML forced standardization and continuity where needed but MDMLG was still free to continue its cooperative efforts in union lists of both serials and monographs and to initiate various educational projects such as the sponsorship of the first Michigan Health Conference in 1973. The same looseness of structure proved a liability, however, in its creation of ambiguities. A case in point is that of the Signatories to the Interlibrary Loan Agreement which was ". . . adopted by those members of MDMLG who engage in interlibrary loan activity . . ." Since MDMLG membership was not defined and Signatory membership was, each group had to have separate elections and even meetings. The lack of a defined membership also made it difficult to assess or collect money at a time when the growth of inflation and the decline of subsidies made it mandatory that MDMLG support itself.

In 1974 and in 1976, two revisions of the MDMLG constitution and by-laws marked a major change in the way the Group regarded itself. For the first time, a dues-paying structure was initiated and institutional and personal memberships established: the Group could count on regular monies and support from a recognizable and accountable membership. In 1975, the new constitution opened the way for MDMLG to assume responsibility for the biomedical portion of what had now become the Detroit Area Union List of Serials (DAULS). The Group recognized this responsibility when it undertook to guarantee a minimum number of subscribers, when it took initial steps to monitor MDMLG holdings in the List, and when it established educational programs designed to preserve the integrity of the List at maximum cost efficiency.

With the constitutional revision of 1976, the DAULS Committee was made a standing committee of MDMLG as was the Interlibrary Loan Committee in order to maintain continuity of responsibility. Other constitutional revisions, including a change in the MDMLG calendar year and provision for the direct election of the Group President, were effected and a real effort made to align MDMLG structure with that of the Medical Library Association. Most important of all, MDMLG has now assumed a new identity; *I*t is no longer a protectorate; it is an independent state with all due rights and concomitant responsibilities.



—Edna Lee Jolliff