

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

Report of the Publications Committee

1979-1980

The Publications Committee held two meetings - one in October 1979 to plan the contents of MHSLA News, issue no. 1 and the second in August 1980 to complete work on issue no. 2.

The Publications Committee solicited news stories from MHSLA members who had indicated on our survey form that they were interested in writing on particular subjects for the newsletter. We were partially successful and published three such articles. In addition, we published eight short articles. Some of these were submitted by members, others were solicited and a few were written by members of the Committee. Each issue included a calendar of events and a President's column. The Chairman of the local groups appointed a reporter for the newsletter and their news items appeared in issue no. 1. The second issue carried news items of general interest. We listed the MHSLA Executive Board in the first issue and plan to include this feature each year in the issue published immediately following the annual conference.

We ordered 200 copies of issue no. 1 from Wesserling Printing Company of Harper Woods in February 1980. An over-run allowed us to distribute 240 copies in early March. Besides the 115 MHSLA members, the mailing list included non-members who had attended the Ann Arbor Conference and a group of small hospitals, which, to our knowledge, has not developed dependable library service. We hope someone at the hospital will be interested in learning about MHSLA. A membership application form was included in each issue, and a number of memberships were gained for the Association as a result. We suggest that this plan be followed for the winter issue to be distributed in January 1981. The total cost of issue no. 1 was \$155.44. Masthead design and production cost \$145.00 and distribution was \$10.44.

We ordered 300 copies of issue no. 2 from Abbey Press in Lansing in August 1980. We distributed 220 in mid-September. Besides the 131 MHSLA members, our mailing included a different group of the small hospitals mentioned above and persons (chosen at random) who are not members of MHSLA. The total cost of issue no. 2 was \$154.99. Production cost was \$145.08 and distribution, \$9.91.

In general, comments concerning the newsletter have been favorable. Issue no. 1 was more expensive than our budget had proposed. Printing the newsletter in Lansing will, no doubt, prove to be the least expensive. Also, there was criticism that the name of the organization did not appear on the masthead. This was corrected in issue no. 2. When MHSLA acquires an official logo, we recommend that the masthead be re-designed.

I wish to thank the members of the committee for their assistance and cooperation during the first year of publication.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Helbers  
Jae Walker  
Margo Dix  
Mary McNamara, Chairman