

JACQUELINE RAPHELSON

PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 13, 1983

TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THESE ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCES SPONSORED BY OUR ORGANIZATION. OUR MEETINGS HAVE OCCURRED IN A PERIOD THAT HAS BEEN AMBIVALENT FOR OUR PROFESSION. IN THIS SPAN OF TIME WE HAVE WITNESSED THE GOOD AND THE BAD EFFECTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ROLES AND POTENTIALS OF OUR LIBRARIES. WE HAVE LIVED THROUGH RECESSIONS, HAVE LEARNED TO ACCOMMODATE OUR BUDGETS TO THE INFLATIONARY TRENDS, AND OUR PERSONNEL TO ADMINISTRATIVE CUTBACKS. DURING THESE TIMES, OUR CONFERENCES HAVE HELPED CONSIDERABLY TO LESSEN THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS WE WERE ALL EXPERIENCING. WE CAME TO THEM FOR NEW KNOWLEDGE AND NEW TECHNIQUES. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF NEWS ABOUT LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL MEETINGS. WE HAVE SHARED IDEAS WITH EACH OTHER AND HAVE RETURNED TO OUR LIBRARIES BETTER PREPARED TO MEET OUR PROBLEMS, SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE WERE NOT ALONE. WE REMAINED CONFIDENT ABOUT OUR LIBRARIES AND OPTIMISTIC WITH OUR PROFESSION. THIS, IN ITSELF, HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR MHS LA TO HAVE PLAYED.

OUR MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS REFLECT A GROWTH THAT IS ALSO HEARTENING. OUR TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FOR THIS YEAR IS A HIGH OF 146, UP FROM LAST YEAR'S 127. THIS GROWTH, SURELY INDICATES THAT HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIANS ARE FINDING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REWARDS IN THIS ASSOCIATION.

BUT MHSLA NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERS FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT THE NEXT DECADE MAY BRING. TO GAIN THE SUPPORT FROM OUR COLLEAGUES WE MUST PERIODICALLY UPDATE AND SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES THAT REFLECT OUR MEMBERS' NEEDS. WE MUST NOT LIVE ON PAST LAURELS BUT MUST KEEP INFORMED ABOUT THESE NEEDS AND BE RESPONSIVE TO THEM. THIS IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WE MUST TAKE THE TIME TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN OTHER LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATIONS. THIS INVOLVEMENT SHOULD ALSO EXTEND TO COLLEAGUES IN OTHER PROFESSIONS WITH WHOM WE WORK. IN THIS WAY WE WILL INSURE THE FLOW OF ONGOING IDEAS ON THOSE ISSUES THAT ARE OF VITAL CONCERN TO OUR MEMBERS. FOR MORE AND MORE OUR WORK IS BECOMING STRONGLY INTERRELATED WITH THE OTHER PROFESSIONS AROUND US. WE ARE BECOMING MORE DEPENDENT UPON THEM AND THEY UPON US.

LAST YEAR I MADE MENTION OF THE FACT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DATA AVAILABLE TO USE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS PUT TO US BY THE MICHIGAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ABOUT THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARY SCENE. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO REMEDY THAT SITUATION. THE KOM "DEVELOPMENT OF A HOSPITAL LIBRARY SURVEY: REPORT NO. 19", WAS PUBLISHED LAST MAY. MY THANKS TO HOLLY BUCHANAN AND JIM WILLIAMS FOR A COPY OF THE PUBLICATION. NO DETAILED ANALYSES ARE PROVIDED IN THIS PRELIMINARY SURVEY SO NO FINAL CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES.

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE DATA FROM THAT REPORT THAT I DO FIND OF INTEREST. 77 OUT OF 118 HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES LISTED IN MICHIGAN RESPONDED TO THE STUDY.

THE MEDIAN SALARY FIGURE FOR THE RESPONDING LIBRARIES IS APPROXIMATELY \$19,500.

ON THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL, 52% OF THE LIBRARIANS HAD AN M.A. AND LESS THAN 4% HAD ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE.

AS FOR THE MEDIAN FTE'S, 35% OF THE LIBRARIES HAD ONE FULL TIME EQUIVALENT AND 25% HAD 2 OR MORE FTE'S.

THE AVERAGE BUDGET WAS APPROXIMATELY \$34,000, BUT 18% OF THE HOSPITALS HAD LESS THAN \$5000, AND 31% HAD MORE THAN \$57,000.

IN ALLOCATED SPACE, OVER 50% OF THE LIBRARIES HAD LESS THAN 1000 SQ. FT. AND ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 2% HAD 5000 SQ. FT. OR MORE.

63% OF THE HOSPITALS HAD LESS THAN 200 BEDS AND 44 OF THE 77 RESPONDEES WERE IN HOSPITALS WITH RESIDENCY PROGRAMS.

THIS IS JUST A SAMPLING OF THE DATA CONTAINED IN THE REPORT AND THOUGH IT IS ONLY PRELIMINARY, IT DOES BEGIN TO DESCRIBE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES ACROSS THE STATE.

WHEN I BEGIN TO VIEW THE STATEWIDE SITUATION FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE AND MY OWN EXPERIENCE THIS PAST YEAR, I FIND MYSELF NOT AS PESSIMISTIC AS I WAS THE LAST TIME I WAS BEFORE YOU. IT DOES APPEAR THAT MICHIGAN'S ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS AT THE WORST "BOTTOMED OUT" AND THE ECONOMY HAS BEGUN TO GROW AGAIN. THIS HAS BEEN APPARENT IN OUR OWN ORGANIZATION. ALTHOUGH OUR TRAVEL FUNDS SEEM TO BE RESTRICTED OUR BUDGETS REFLECT A GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBERS OF HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES HAS SLOWED THIS YEAR. THIS MAKES ME MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE. I DO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE WEATHERED THE WORST OF THE STORM.

FINALLY, LET ME SAY THAT THE ONE ACTIVITY OF THE PRESIDENCY THAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING FOR ME HAS BEEN HOLDING MEETINGS IN LIBRARIES IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE STATE. THROUGH THESE MEETINGS I HAVE MET MANY OF OUR MEMBERS, SEEN THEIR LIBRARIES, ENJOYED WARM HOSPITALITY, AND SHARED ALONG WITH THE BOARD SOME OF THEIR SUCCESSES AND CONCERNS. I WAS AGAIN IMPRESSED BY THE DEVOTION, HARDWORK AND ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT BY THE BOARD MEMBERS TO FURTHER THE GOALS OF THIS ORGANIZATION. AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO HAVE SERVED AS YOUR PRESIDENT WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM MANY PEOPLE. ALL OF YOU WHO SERVED AS COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR CHAIRPERSONS OR RESOURCE PERSONS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF MHSLA IN 1982-83. MY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.

WITH GREAT PLEASURE, AND A GOOD DEAL OF RELIEF, I TURN THE GAVEL OVER TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT--KAY KELLY, AND WISH HER, OUR ORGANIZATION, AND ALL OF YOU A VERY GOOD YEAR.