



Affiliated Groups

Flint Area Health
Sciences Library Network
Metropolitan Detroit
Medical Library Group
Mid-Michigan Health
Sciences Libraries
Northern Michigan Health
Sciences Libraries Group
Thumb Area Medical
Information Consortium
Upper Peninsula Health
Science Libraries
Consortium
Valley Regional Health
Science Librarians
Western Michigan Health
Sciences Libraries
Association

MHS LA RESEARCH TASKFORCE 1990-91

The Research Committee contacted each MHS LA committee chairperson. Currently, there are no recommendations for research directly related to these committees. General research activities which were suggested are:


- o Costs to process an ILL on DOCLINE
 - Which staff member handles the request
 - Amount of time elapsed from the receipt of the patron's request to the time the patron receives the item

- o Impact of hospital libraries to physicians/allied health personnel who publish
 - Which libraries they rely on
 - Which library services they use

- o Does the time and effort to teach end-users how to search save the librarian time?
 - If so, how is that spare time use?

- o Editorial quality of journals
 - Number of correct/incorrect citations in article bibliographies

Respectfully,



Yvonne Mathis,
Research Chairperson



MHSLA RESEARCH COMMITTEE 1990-91

Affiliated Groups

- Flint Area Health Sciences Library Network
- Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group
- Mid-Michigan Health Sciences Libraries
- Northern Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Group
- Thumb Area Medical Information Consortium
- Upper Peninsula Health Science Libraries Consortium
- Valley Regional Health Science Librarians
- Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association

The Research Committee met six times. At the May meeting, the Committee met with Bo Synder, Strategic Planner, Bronson Hospital. The Committee also contacted David King, Bernie Todd Smith, and JoAnne Marshall regarding their research on the "Impact of the Library".

A survey for MHSLA was prepared. The purpose of the research is to measure the impact of mediated database searches on direct patient care. The approved survey will be conducted in January/February 1992 with the Final Report due by the MHSLA 1992 Annual Meeting. The research project will be limited to MHSLA member libraries and to database searches conducted by the library staff. Physicians, residents, and other allied healthcare professionals requesting searches related to direct patient care will be asked to complete a survey.

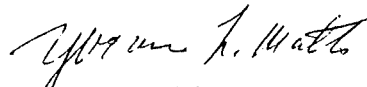
The Committee purchased a copy of DOCKIT from MLA. DOCKIT is a compilation of survey instruments used by MLA member libraries. It will be available for ILL to MHSLA members.

Other Committee activities include:

- o Compiling surveys used by MHSLA members.
- o Maintaining a list of Research Resources
- o Preparing a list of libraries who have recently conducted research or are planning research activities for 1991
- o Research Roundtable at the MHSLA Fall Conference.

Two members resigned. One member, Sandy Swanson, Butterworth Hospital, was added to the committee.

Respectfully,


 Yvonne Mathis,
 Research Chairman

November 1, 1991

Dear MHSLA Member:

Members of MHSLA are being encouraged to take part in a research project designed by the MHSLA Research Committee. We will be conducting a state-wide study of the perceived value of MEDLINE searches by those who provide direct patient care.

Those who agree to be involved will be asked to survey their patrons who request MEDLINE searches relating to specific patients. These patrons will be sent a survey one week after receiving their search results. They will be asked to indicate whether the information they obtained through the literature search affected how they treated their patient, whether they learned something new, if they received the search in time for it to have an effect, etc. Many of the questions are taken directly from the David King survey.

In order to analyze the results of this survey, we are asking participating librarians to provide demographics for their library and hospital. Each survey will be coded to identify the library which provided the search.

Please complete the attached form if you plan on taking part in this survey and return it by 12/1/91.

Along with the profile, we are sending you a sheet which lists all of the tasks involved for those taking part in this project and a timetable of goals. We have also enclosed a copy of an article which reports results of a similar survey.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact one of the members of the Research Committee. Their names and phone numbers are listed below.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

The MHSLA Research Committee

Yvonne Mathis, Chair	616/774-6243
Lois Huisman	616/774-7624
Sandra Swanson	616/774-1655
Mary Griswold	616/341-6318
Maureen Watson	616/592-2124
Beth Navalta	313/343-1619

If you are interested in participating in the state-wide study, please fill out this profile of your library and return it by December 1, 1991. The Research Committee will code each survey you hand out to your patrons using this information.

HOSPITAL NAME: _____

Number of beds: Under 100 100-299 300-499 500+

Teaching _____ or non-teaching _____ institution? (i.e., do residents rotate through your institution?)

Number of medical staff: _____

Number of residents: _____

Average number of searches run each month by library staff: _____

Estimated number of patient care searches run each month: _____

Number of journal titles in your collection: _____

Is fax service available for patient care interlibrary loans? _____

Number of paid FTE's in the Library:

Professional _____ Paraprofessional/Support _____

Searches are performed mainly by:

Professional Librarian _____ Paraprofessional _____

Please send to:
Yvonne Mathis
MHSLA Research Committee Chair
Saint Mary's Hospital Library
200 Jefferson SE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
or
fax to Mary Griswold at
Bronson Methodist Hospital 616/341-8828.

MHSLA RESEARCH PROJECT

PURPOSE: To determine the impact of mediated database searches on direct patient care.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE: All MHSLA member librarians are encouraged to participate.

WHO WILL BE SURVEYED: Health care personnel requesting database searches for care of a specific patient.

METHOD:

Instrument - survey

Time - Jan 20, 1992 to Feb 14, 1992

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES:

Prior to survey period:

Complete library profile.

Return profile to Research Committee.

Participating libraries will be sent surveys, log sheets, and return envelopes. Address labels will need to be affixed to the envelopes so that surveys can be returned to the participating library.

During survey period:

When health professional requests a search, inquire if the search is for direct patient care.

If the answer is YES, ask if he/she would be willing to complete a brief survey for the MHSLA research project.

If the answer is YES, list the name and other information on the log sheet.

One week after the search has been requested, send the patron the cover letter, survey and an envelope which will have a number corresponding to information on the log sheet. This number will be used to determine if the survey has been returned.

When the surveys are returned, update the log sheet, and send the sealed envelopes to the Research Committee by March 6, 1992.

Contact patrons who have not returned the survey within two weeks of receiving it.

End of survey period:

Complete the summary report at the bottom of the log sheet and mail or fax to the Research Committee.

Dispose of remaining surveys.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PATRONS:

Complete the survey.

Place completed survey in the envelope.

Return the completed survey to the library in the sealed envelope.

TIMETABLE FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

✓11-1-91	Library profiles sent to all MHSLA members.
12-1-91	Deadline for profiles.
1-6-92	Surveys, envelopes and instructions sent to participating libraries.
1-20-92 through 2-14-92	SURVEY CONDUCTED
3-6-92	Survey deadline.
7-1-92	Preliminary committee report due.
10-1-92	Final report by committee due.

3. Neville BC, Wilson J. Benign intracranial hypertension following corticosteroid withdrawal in childhood. *BMJ*. 1970;3:554-556.
4. Barbieri RL, Ryan KJ. Danazol: endocrine pharmacology and therapeutic applications. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 1981;141:453-461.

Financial Threats to Hospital Libraries

To the Editor.—Hospital libraries are continuing to be threatened as a result of a change in federal regulations passed in 1986 by the Health Care Financing Administration. This change eliminated the requirement that hospitals maintain a medical library in order to be eligible for Medicare and Medicaid funding.¹ As financial pressures on hospitals have increased, the New York State Department of Health has also eliminated the requirement for medical libraries. D.H. Philips, Jr, a representative of David Axelrod, MD, commissioner of the Department of Health, justified this decision to Jane Allen, president, Upstate New York and Ontario Chapter of the Medical Library Association, on the basis that the Department of Health could not find a "useful linkage" between the requirement for a hospital to maintain a medical library and any problems that occurred with the delivery of hospital patient care and services (written communication, March 20, 1989).

Professional associations such as the Medical Society of the State of New York and the American Medical Association (AMA House of Delegates. Reference Committee G. *Resolution 24: Elimination of Hospital Library*. Adopted June 1990;27:19-20) have expressed their opposition to these regressive regulatory changes; however, evidence about the impact of hospital library services on patient care is also required to effectively argue against such moves. The purpose of our letter is twofold: to alert physicians to the con-

tinuing threat to hospital library services posed by the regulatory changes and to present some new evidence about the nature and extent of the library's contribution to patient care.

In a recent study, 448 systematically sampled physicians in the Rochester, NY, area were asked to request some information from their hospital library related to a current clinical case and to evaluate its impact on the care of their patient. Over 50% of the physicians sent back the evaluation questionnaire, of which 95 (46%, n=208) were usable for the study. Senior medical staff or administrators acted as study facilitators in each of the 15 participating hospitals.

As a result of the information provided by the library, 166 (80%) of the 208 physicians said that they probably or definitely handled some aspect of the care of their patients differently than they would have handled it otherwise (Table). Changes in the following specific aspects of care were reported by the physicians: diagnosis (29%); choice of tests (51%); choice of drugs (45%); reduced length of hospital stay (19%); and change in advice given to the patient (72%). Physicians also said that the information provided by the library contributed to their ability to avoid the following: hospital admission (12%); patient mortality (19%); hospital-acquired infection (8%); surgery (21%); and additional tests or procedures (49%). The information provided by the library was rated more highly by the physicians than other information sources such as diagnostic imaging, laboratory tests, and discussions with colleagues. There were three groups of physicians among the respondents: active physicians in urban hospitals (n=113); residents in urban hospitals (n=52); and rural physicians served by a circuit librarian program (n=43).

While the results for each group showed that information from the library had a substantial impact on patient care, the residents were most likely to report that they handled some aspect of patient care differently, changed a diagnosis, and avoided additional tests and procedures.

The experiences reported by physicians in our study suggest that hospital libraries not only make a positive contribution to patient care, but that they also assist physicians in avoiding adverse events in hospitalized patients.

Robert J. Joynt, MD, PhD
University of Rochester (NY)
Medical Center

Joanne G. Marshall, PhD
University of Toronto (Canada)
Faculty of Library
and Information Science

Lucretia W. McClure
University of Rochester (NY)
School of Medicine and Dentistry
Edward G. Miner Library

The study was funded by the New York State Education Department, Division of Library Development, Hospital Library Services Program, which is administered in the Rochester area by the Rochester Regional Library Council. An additional grant was received from the Medical Library Association.

1. Medicare and Medicaid programs: conditions of participation for hospitals. *Federal Register*. 1988;51:22033-22034.

Impact of Information From the Hospital Library on Clinical Decision Making: Changes Reported by Physicians

Changes	Physicians, %*				χ^2	df	P
	All (n=208)	Residents (n=52)	Rural (n=43)	Urban (n=113)			
Handled situation differently	80.4	88.5	86.0	71.7	7.70	2	.02†
Changed diagnosis	29.3	38.5	14.0	31.0	7.14	2	.02†
Changed tests	50.5	59.6	55.8	44.2	3.98	2	.14
Changed drugs	45.2	42.3	48.8	45.1	.40	2	.82
Reduced length of stay	19.2	25.0	18.6	16.8	1.55	2	.46
Changed advice to patient	71.6	73.1	65.1	73.5	1.13	2	.57
Avoided hospital admission	11.5	7.7	14.0	12.4	1.08	2	.58
Avoided patient mortality	19.2	28.8	14.0	16.8	4.29	2	.12
Avoided hospital-acquired infection	8.2	15.4	7.0	5.3	4.92	2	.09
Avoided surgery	21.2	30.8	16.3	18.6	3.94	2	.14
Avoided additional tests and/or procedures	49.0	67.3	37.2	45.1	10.04	2	.00†

*The percentage represents the proportion of physicians who answered yes to the items. All no, not applicable, and missing values were coded as no.

†Results statistically significant at the .05 level or better.

Jama 9-4-91

MHSLA RESEARCH PROJECT

PURPOSE

To determine the impact of mediated database searches on direct patient care.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

All MHSLA member libraries are encouraged to participate.

WHO WILL BE SURVEYED

Health care personnel requesting database searches for direct patient care.

METHOD

Instrument - survey

Time - Jan 20, 1992 to Feb 14, 1992

Responsibilities of participating libraries:

Prior to survey period

- o Complete the hospital and library profile. This will permit reporting findings according to the size of hospital and library.
- o Return pre-survey to Research Committee.
- o Participating libraries will be sent a packet containing instructions, a log sheet, cover letters, surveys, return envelopes, and follow-up letter.

NOTE: If additional materials are needed, please make photocopies. For additional envelopes, please use your library's envelopes.

During survey period

- o Upon receiving your packet, place your mailing label (or stamp your library address) on the enclosed envelopes.
- o When the health professional requests a search, inquire if the search is for direct patient care (not a talk, paper, etc.)
- o If the answer is YES, ask if he/she would be willing to complete a brief survey for the MHSLA Research Project
- o If the answer is YES, list the name and requested information on the log sheet. Complete the questionnaire cover letter.

- o One week after the search has been requested, send the completed cover letter, the survey and an envelope (with your library's address on it) to the patron. The patron should return the survey to your library.
- o When the survey is returned to the library, check off the patron's name under "RET" and send the sealed envelope to the Research Committee.

NOTE: You may collect the envelopes and send them once a week.

- o Contact patrons who have not returned the survey by March 6, 1992.

NOTE:

The **COMPLETED SURVEY IS CONFIDENTIAL**. The Hospital Bed Code will be used to 1) determine if the survey has been returned 2) match information to hospital size and library size.

End of survey period

- o Send all returned surveys to the Committee.
- o By March 13, 1992, send a copy of the follow-up letter to any patron who has not returned his/her survey.

NOTE: Surveys will not be accepted by the Committee after April 17, 1992.

- o Complete the information at the bottom of the log sheet(s) and return it to the research committee.

Patron's Responsibility

- o Complete the survey.
- o Place the completed survey in the envelope.
- o Return the sealed envelope to the library.

The Research Committee will analyze the information and provide a preliminary report Summer 1992. The final report is due October 1992.



Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association

**MHS LA RESEARCH COMMITTEE
1992 ANNUAL REPORT**

Affiliated Groups

Flint Area Health
Sciences Library Network
Metropolitan Detroit
Medical Library Group
Mid-Michigan Health
Sciences Libraries
Northern Michigan Health
Sciences Libraries Group
Thumb Area Medical
Information Consortium
Upper Peninsula Health
Science Libraries
Consortium
Valley Regional Health
Science Librarians
Western Michigan Health
Sciences Libraries
Association

The Research Committee completed its research project and will report on the results at the MHS LA 1992 Fall Conference. The purpose of the research was to assist in documenting the value of the library and librarian to the hospital. In November 1991, the Committee contacted the MHS LA member libraries regarding the MHS LA research project. A profile of the libraries willing to participate was compiled. In January/February 1992, the Committee conducted a survey on "The Impact of Mediated Literature Searches on Direct Patient Care."

The Research Committee has submitted an application to MLA for the MHS LA Research to be presented in the 1993 MLA Poster Session and as a Contributed Paper. The Committee will also submit the report to the appropriate journals for publication.

The Research Committee would like to thank Bo Synder, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Ann Eward, Butterworth Hospital, and Fred Schwartz, Ferris State University for their advice and assistance.

Yvonne L. Mathis, Chair.
Mary Griswold
Lois Huisman
Beth Navalta
Maureen Watson

September 11, 1991

Dear MHSLA Board Member:


Since time didn't permit a discussion of the MHSLA research project at our last Board Meeting, Marge has ask me to send a draft of the project to Board members for any comments and suggestions. The project will also be discussed at the MHSLA Conference during the Research Roundtable and Annual Business Meeting.

The purpose of the research is to determine the "Impact of mediated database searches on direct patient care". The Research Committee would like to conduct the survey from Jan. 20, 1992 to Feb 14, 1992. The final report would be available by October 1992.

The committee's preliminary work has included discussions with David King, Joanne Marshall and Bernie Todd Smioth regarding their research as well as the MHSLA project. Marshall and Bearman recently completed the NY study on the "Impact of the library on patient care" (See attached-Sep 5, 1991, JAMA).

Please phone or send your comments to: Yvonne L. Mathis, Saint Mary's Hospital Library, 200 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Ph. 774-6243

Sincerely,


Yvonne L. Mathis,
MHSLA Research Chairperson

MHSLA RESEARCH PROJECT

PURPOSE

To determine the impact of mediated database searches on direct patient care.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

All MHSLA member libraries are encouraged to participate

WHO WILL BE SURVEYED

Health care personnel requesting database searches for direct patient care.

METHOD

Instrument - survey

Time - Jan 20, 1992 to Feb 14, 1992

Responsibilities of participating libraries

Prior to survey period

- o Complete pre-survey form regarding your hospital and library This will permit reporting findings according to size of hospital and library
- o Return pre-survey to Research Committee
- o Participating libraries will be sent surveys and return envelopes

During survey period

- o When health professional request a search, inquire if the search is for direct patient care (not a talk, paper, etc.)
- o If the answer is YES, ask if he/she would be willing to complete a brief survey for the MHSLA Research Project
- o If the answer is YES, list the name and requested information on the log sheet

The COMPLETED SURVEY IS CONFIDENTIAL. The code on the envelope will be used to 1) determine if the survey has been returned 2) match information to hospital size and library size

- o One week after the search has been requested, send the patron the cover letter, the survey and an envelope. The patron may return the survey to the library or send it to

the Committee

- o If the survey is returned to the library, send the sealed envelope to Research Committee
- o Contact patrons who have not returned the survey by the deadline

End of survey period

- o Send any remaining surveys to the Committee
- o Dispose of log sheets

Patron's Responsibility

- o Complete the survey
- o Place the completed survey in the envelope
- o Return the sealed envelope to the library or mail it directly to the Research Committee

The Research Committee will analyze the information and provide a preliminary report Summer 1992. The final report is due October 1992.

Date

Dear Librarian:

Please fill out this survey of your library and return it in the envelop provided by 11/1/91. We will code this information and the code will be placed on the surveys which you hand out to your patrons.

HOSPITAL NAME: _____

Bed Size: Under 100 100-299 300-499 500+

Teaching or Non-Teaching Institution (please circle one)

Number of medical staff: _____

Number of residents: _____

Average number of searches run each month: _____

Estimated number of patient care searches run each month: _____

Number of journal titles in your collection: _____

Is fax service available to your clients for patient care interlibrary loans?

Yes No

Number of paid FTE's in the Library:

Professional _____ Paraprofessional _____

Searches are performed mainly by:

Professional Librarian _____ Paraprofessional _____

**MHSLA RESEARCH COMMITTEE
TIMETABLE***

end of July or early August	Newsletter item re roundtable participation (bring ideas, questions, survey ideas). Conference Registration item
10-18-91	Mail cover letter and library presurvey.
11-1-91	Deadline for presurvey.
1-6-92	Send envelopes, coded surveys & procedures to participating libraries.
1-20-92 through 2-14-92	SURVEY CONDUCTED
3-6-92	Survey deadline.
3-16 to 3-20-92	Follow-up letter - thank you, please.
4-17-92	No more surveys taken.
7-1-92	Preliminary report due.
10-1-92	Final report due.

*revised 8/20/91

January 1992

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Thank you for consenting to participate in the Michigan Health Sciences Library Association (MHSLA) research project. The purpose of the MHSLA survey is to determine the "Impact of Literature Searches on Direct Patient Care".

You recently requested a literature search from your hospital library. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions on the survey regarding that search and the information you received. The completed surveys are confidential and will not be seen by your hospital librarian.

The MHSLA Research Committee request that you:

- o Complete the questionnaire
- o Place the completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope
- o Return the sealed envelope to your hospital library by February 28, 1992
(It will be forwarded to the Research Committee unopened)

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yvonne L. Mathis
MHSLA Research Chairperson

**MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION
ADDRESS**

DATE:

TO:

RE: MEDLINE SEARCH DATE _____

SUBJECT OF SEARCH _____

**WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
SEARCH YOUR LIBRARY STAFF PERFORMED FOR YOU RECENTLY.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING A FEW MOMENTS TO RESPOND TO THIS SURVEY.
PLEASE SEAL YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY FORM IN THE ATTACHED ENVELOPE
AND RETURN IT TO YOUR HOSPITAL LIBRARY.**

**DATABASE SEARCHES
AND PATIENT CARE:
A SURVEY**

1. Please indicate your status:

Medical Staff _____

Resident/House Officer _____

Nursing Staff _____

Medical Student _____

Pharmacist _____

Other (please specify):

2. How would you characterize the value of the information you received from this search?

It refreshed my memory of details and/or facts . . .	Yes	No
I found most of it irrelevant	Yes	No
It did/will contribute to higher quality care . . .	Yes	No
Some of it was new to me	Yes	No
I found little or nothing of clinical value . . .	Yes	No
It substantiated what I already knew/suspected . .	Yes	No
On the whole, it was inaccurate or out of date . .	Yes	No

3. As a result of the information you received from the library, did/will you handle any aspects of this clinical situation differently than you would have handled it otherwise?

Definitely _____

Probably _____

Probably not _____

Definitely not _____

4. Did the information reach you in time to make an impact on patient care:

yes _____

no _____

**THIS SURVEY IS SPONSORED BY
THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.
PLEASE RETURN IT TO YOUR LIBRARY SEALED IN THE ATTACHED ENVELOPE.**

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR TIME.

3. Neville BC, Wilson J. Benign intracranial hypertension following corticosteroid withdrawal in childhood. *BMJ*. 1970;3:554-556.
4. Barbieri RL, Ryan EJ. Danazol: endocrine pharmacology and therapeutic applications. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 1981;141:458-461.

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As a result of the information provided by the library, 166 (80%) of the 208 physicians said that they probably or definitely handled some aspect of the care of their patients differently than they would have handled it otherwise (Table). Changes in the following specific aspects of care were reported by the physicians: diagnosis (29%); choice of tests (51%); choice of drugs (45%); reduced length of hospital stay (19%); and change in advice given to the patient (72%). Physicians also said that the information provided by the library contributed to their ability to avoid the following: hospital admission (12%); patient mortality (19%); hospital-acquired infection (8%); surgery (21%); and additional tests or procedures (49%). The information provided by the library was rated more highly by the physicians than other information sources such as diagnostic imaging, laboratory tests, and discussions with colleagues. There were three groups of physicians among the respondents: active physicians in urban hospitals (n = 113); residents in urban hospitals (n = 52); and rural physicians served by a circuit librarian program (n = 43).

While the results for each group showed that information from the library had a substantial impact on patient care, the residents were most likely to report that they handled some aspect of patient care differently, changed a diagnosis, and avoided additional tests and procedures.

The experiences reported by physicians in our study suggest that hospital libraries not only make a positive contribution to patient care, but that they also assist physicians in avoiding adverse events in hospitalized patients.

Robert J. Joynt, MD, PhD
University of Rochester (NY)
Medical Center

Joanne G. Marshall, PhD
University of Toronto (Canada)
Faculty of Library
and Information Science

Lucretia W. McClure
University of Rochester (NY)
School of Medicine and Dentistry
Edward G. Miner Library

The study was funded by the New York State Education Department, Division of Library Development, Hospital Library Services Program, which is administered in the Rochester area by the Rochester Regional Library Council. An additional grant was received from the Medical Library Association.

1. Medicare and Medicaid programs: conditions of participation for hospitals. *Federal Register*. 1986;51:22033-22034.

Impact of Information From the Hospital Library on Clinical Decision Making: Changes Reported by Physicians

Changes	Physicians, %*				χ^2	df	P
	All (n = 208)	Residents (n = 52)	Rural (n = 43)	Urban (n = 113)			
Handled situation differently	80.4	88.5	86.0	71.7	7.70	2	.02†
Changed diagnosis	29.3	38.5	14.0	31.0	7.14	2	.02†
Changed tests	50.5	59.6	55.8	44.2	3.98	2	.14
Changed drugs	45.2	42.3	48.8	45.1	.40	2	.82
Reduced length of stay	19.2	25.0	18.6	16.8	1.55	2	.46
Changed advice to patient	71.6	73.1	65.1	73.5	1.13	2	.57
Avoided hospital admission	11.5	7.7	14.0	12.4	1.08	2	.58
Avoided patient mortality	19.2	28.8	14.0	16.8	4.29	2	.12
Avoided hospital-acquired infection	8.2	15.4	7.0	5.3	4.92	2	.09
Avoided surgery	21.2	30.8	16.3	18.6	3.94	2	.14
Avoided additional tests and/or procedures	49.0	67.3	37.2	45.1	10.04	2	.00†

*The percentage represents the proportion of physicians who answered yes to the items. All no, not applicable, and missing values were coded as no.

†Results statistically significant at the .05 level or better.

Jama Sept 5, 1991

Better-Informed Decisions Due to Library Information

Hospital libraries contributed to better informed clinical decisions, state 97 percent of 208 physicians participating in a study conducted in 15 urban and rural hospitals in the Rochester, New York area.¹

As a result of the information provided by the library, 80 percent of the physicians said that they handled some aspect of the care of their patients differently than they would have handled it otherwise.

On average, physicians rated the information provided by the library more highly than other information sources such as diagnostic imaging and lab tests.

Although the study did not query knowledge sources, Dr. Joanne Marshall, Research Director, states that there is the implicit assumption that most requests involved MEDLINE searches. Many were intermediary searches performed by a librarian; but in nine cases physicians especially noted in the comment section that they did their own searching.

The study was funded by the Hospital Library Program of the Rochester Regional Library Council, with an additional Development Grant from the Medical Library Association.²

1. Based on the results of "The Impact of Information on Clinical Decision-making Study" conducted between September 1990 and March 1991. For more information, contact: Dr. Joanne Marshall, Research Director, University of Toronto, 140 St. George St., Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 1A1. (416) 978-4664.
2. The study received support of the Medical Society of Monroe County and the Seventh District of the Medical Society of New York.

Doctors Reporting changes in care because of information provided by the library:

Change of advice	72%
Choice of Tests	51%
Choice of Drugs	45%
Diagnosis	29%
Reduced stay	19%



RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Affiliated Groups

- Eastern Regional Health Sciences Association
- Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group
- Mid-Michigan Health Sciences Libraries
- Northern Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Group
- Upper Peninsula Health Science Libraries Consortium
- Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association

The Research Committee distributed the MHS LA Survey Report, *Mediated Literature Searches: The Impact On Patient Care*, to institutional members. The Committee sent letters of inquiry to health education and health administrative journals regarding publishing an article based on the MHS LA Survey. Positive responses were received from Academic Medicine for a letter to the editor and from Healthcare Management Review for a "brief summary article". "Brief Communications" prepared by Lois Huisman and Sandy Swanson have been written and submitted for review to Academic Medicine. An article will be sent for consideration to the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.

Maureen Watson submitted a proposal to MLA for a Poster Session entry based on the MHS LA Research Project. Mary Griswold and Maureen Watson prepared the poster. The poster was presented by Mary Griswold at the Kalamazoo Nursing Research Co-operative. Maureen and the Committee presented the MHS LA Poster at the 1993 MLA Conference. Approximately 200 handouts (Report summary, bibliography, survey form) were distributed to Conference attendees. The full report was made available for \$12.00. The Committee's contributed paper was accepted by MLA. It was presented at the 1993 MLA Conference by the MHS LA Research Chair, Yvonne Mathis.

A request for permission to use the MHS LA Survey form was made by and granted to the West Virginia University Library (Carol Smith). MHS LA will be acknowledged on the survey.

Research Committee Procedures and Guidelines were prepared.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne L. Mathis, Chair
 Mary Griswold
 Lois Huisman
 Beth Navalta
 Sandy Swanson
 Maureen Watson