The Library Research Section held its annual business meeting on May 23, 1989 during the national meeting in New Orleans. Nancy Woelfl reported that the contributed papers session "Unanswered Questions: Evaluation-Environment-Emerging Issues" sponsored jointly with the Medical School Libraries Section was very successful. The members accepted the report of the nominating committee, voted to participate in centralized dues collection, decided to sponsor a contributed papers session at the 1989 annual meeting and agreed to explore the possibility of sponsoring a symposium at the 1989 meeting. Reports were received from the chairs of four newly-established committees: Karen Hackelman (CE Liaison), Jackie Bastille (MLA Research Issues), Phyllis Lansing (Research Resources) and Ann Weller (Membership). Elizabeth Wood agreed to serve as Newsletter Editor.

In conjunction with the Committee Chairs, the Section Chair established sixteen specific objectives for the year. Substantial progress has been made on many of these objectives:

(1) A newsletter was published in August.

(2) Kathryn Reed of the Research Resources Committee developed an annotated Research Bibliography which will be distributed at Chapter meetings by the Membership Committee and to Library Research Section members with the Spring newsletter.

(3) Ruth Fenske of the Research Resources Committee created a list of MLA members who have Ph.D.s or who are doctoral candidates. The list is being used to designate research mentors in each region of the country.
(4) Patricia Gibson issued a call for papers for the Boston program, "Research: Foundation for the Future."

(5) A Research Report form to gather information about medical library research activities and resource persons was distributed to all Section members, and will be sent to other MLA members through Chapter and Section newsletters and the MLA News. Neil Rambo of the Research Resources Committee is collecting and organizing the results.

(6) The Section is co-sponsoring with the Hospital Library Section an all-day symposium at the 1989 annual meeting. The title is: "Evaluation in Health Sciences Libraries: Measuring Our Contribution and Our Value."

(7) The Research Issues Committee is presently working on a list of high priority research issues to submit to the MLA Board as suggestions for the MLA Research Agenda.

(8) The Research Issues Committee is preparing an announcement for the MLA News asking for information on existing academic sabbatical or release time programs for librarians to perform research.

(9) A tutorial on how to prepare a Case Study has been partially completed by Peter Vigil of the Research Issues Committee.

(10) Nancy Fazzone of the Research Issues Committee and new member Jacqueline Doyle are writing an article on research for hospital libraries which will be published in the next Hospital Library Section newsletter.

(11) In response to a request from the new editor, the Section conducted a survey to determine the feasibility of publishing a research-oriented column in the Bulletin. The chair prepared a report based on the results.

(12) The CE Liaison Committee is developing a questionnaire to assess the interest of MLA members in research and to see how well their needs are being met. The Committee submitted an application to MLA for $500 to help pay the costs.

The Section has 98 members including 18 who joined since May and $357.00 as of October 17, 1988.

**MOTION**

This report is informational and requires no action by the Board of Directors.

Carol H. Fenichel, Ph.D.
Chair

Date: October 21, 1988
SECTION OFFICERS:

Carol H. Fenichel, Chair
Patricia Gibson, Chair-elect
Erika Love, Past-Chair
Ann C. Weller, Secretary/Treasurer
Trudy Gardner, Section Council Representative
Carolyn Ann Reid, Section Council Alternate
Karen Brewer, Government Relations Committee Liaison
Elizabeth H. Wood, Newsletter Editor

BOSTON '89 CONTRIBUTED PAPERS PROGRAM

Be sure to attend our Section’s program on Sunday, May 21, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.!

The theme is "Research: Foundation for the Future." Erika Love will moderate our contributed papers session, which promises to be excellent.

Peter Vigil will present a philosophical paper, "Research and Problem Solving: the Medium and the Message Revisited;" and Nancy Woelff, Ph.D., will react to Vigil’s paper.

Then, Suzanne Grefeheim and Diana Cunningham will report on their Biotechnology Awareness Study funded by the National Library of Medicine. A biotechnologist, John Alexander Smith, M.D., Ph.D., of the Department of Molecular Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital, will react to their papers.

Our Section business meeting will follow the program session on Sunday.

"EVALUATION IN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES" -- SYMPOSIUM
MEASURING OUR CONTRIBUTION AND OUR VALUE

Co-Sponsored by the
Hospital Libraries Section and the
Library Research Section

As cost constraints on the healthcare industry increase it will become more necessary than ever for medical libraries to provide data to justify support of their programs and use of resources. This symposium will provide practical help for those who want to undertake an evaluation project in a health sciences library. The goals are to help participants understand the basics of good evaluation design and to give enough specific information to enable them to design and carry out an evaluation project in one of the topical areas covered. The symposium will also provide a forum for inquiry for individuals interested in evaluation and applied research in health sciences libraries.
Who Should Take this Course? The course is intended for librarians who have no experience with formal evaluation, as well as those who have carried out evaluation projects but would like specific advice on carrying out a hospital quality assurance project or undertaking a formal evaluation in one of the other specific areas covered. CE credits have been applied for.

PROGRAM

8:00AM - 8:45AM Registration & refreshments

8:45AM - 9:00AM Welcome & Introductions
   Jacqueline D. Doyle, Director of the Health Sciences Library, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Phoenix
   Chair-elect, Hospital Libraries Section

   Carol H. Fenichel, Ph.D, Director of the Library
   Hahnemann University, Philadelphia
   Chair, Library Research Section

9:00AM - 10:00AM Keynote Address: Values and Evaluation: Assessing Contributions of Health Sciences Libraries to Clinical Care
   David N. King, Assistant Professor
   College of Library and Information Science
   University of Kentucky

10:00AM - 10:45AM Panel
   King Study Replication Experiences: Why Replicate? Methods & Modifications, Results, Problems & Issues, What to do Next
   Tamara A. Turner, Director of Libraries
   Children’s Hospital and Medical Center, Seattle

   Kay E. Wellik, Manager, Health Sciences Library
   St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix

10:45AM - 11:10AM Break

11:10AM - 12:30PM Brushup Your Evaluation Skills
   Joanne G. Marshall, Assistant Professor
   University of Toronto

12:30PM - 1:30PM Lunch
1:30PM - 2:45PM Part 1: Concurrent Discussions

1. Hospital Library Quality Assurance Plans
   Leader: Christiane J. Jones, Chief Library SVC
   Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Biloxi

2. Measuring the Library's Effect on Patient Care
   Leader: David N. King, Assistant Professor
   School of Library and Information Science
   University of Kentucky

3. Journal Collection Evaluation
   Leader: Daniel T. Richards, Collection Development Officer
   National Library of Medicine

4. Evaluation of Reference Services
   Leader: Ruth E. Fenske, Ph.D., Health Sciences Librarian (Urbana), Library of the Health Sciences-Urbana, University of Illinois at Chicago

5. User surveys
   Leader: Prudence Dalrymple, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

6. Evaluation of Online Services
   Leader: Nancy Woelfl, Ph.D., Director, McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center

2:45PM - 3:00PM Break

3:00PM - 4:15PM Part 2: Concurrent Discussions (continued)

4:15PM - 4:45PM Wrap-up

The afternoon discussion groups will be limited to 15 persons, including speakers. The discussions will cover the possibilities for carrying out these projects, including the pros and cons of various approaches. Chalkboards or easels will be available for working through ideas. Participants are encouraged to bring their ideas, instruments and questions for feedback from the group. Sample survey instruments and other data gathering tools collected from health sciences libraries will be provided. It is necessary to sign up for a topic at the time of registration and attend both parts of the same topic. See the registration form.
EVALUATION INSTRUMENTS
CALL FOR SAMPLES

The aim of the symposium outlined above is to provide practical help for MLA members who want to undertake a formal evaluation project. The keynote address will present a brushup session which will review the basic steps in evaluation of library collections and services.

To help focus the discussion and to give attendees a starting point for their projects we plan to distribute sample survey forms and other data gathering tools which have been used by health sciences libraries. We are asking MLA members who have developed questionnaires and other evaluation instruments in these subject areas to contribute the samples. If you have materials you have used and would be willing to share (and subject to constructive criticism) send copies to:

Carol H. Fenichel, Ph.D.
Chair, MLA Library Research Section
Library M.S. 449
Hahnemann University
245 North 15th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Deadline: February 25, 1989

Sometimes we learn as much from projects that are only partially successful as from our smashing successes, so do not feel that your materials need to be perfect to be useful.

All forms which are selected for use in the discussion groups will be acknowledged in the program handouts. All libraries sending sample instruments for consideration will receive free of charge the complete set of instruments distributed at the symposium whether or not they have staff who attend.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please find the 1989 Ballot enclosed. DO NOT PHOTOCOPY the ballot. It is printed on colored paper deliberately, to authenticate responses. Thank you.
- Identifies three levels of research: descriptive, correlational, and experimental, and discusses the approach, goal and method associated with each level. Also discusses differences between the levels and describes the uses for each level in the framework of research methodology. Although useful for nurses it is an excellent summary.

- Discusses three types of experimental design studies (causes and effect): true experimental, quasi-experimental, and pre-experimental; differences between the three types and gives examples.

- This paper describes the process of identifying the variables in a research problem and operationally defining the variables within the research format.

- An overview of field research as it relates to library literature. Differences between field research (qualitative) and quantitative (correlational or experimental) are discussed.

Dally MJ. Qualitative and quantitative research: antagonistic or complementary? *Nursing & Health Care* 1987;8(4):356-7.
- Author compares and contrasts the difference between quantitative and qualitative research designs.

- Outlines the process through which a person should go to review the literature relevant to a research project topic.

- Article outlines the criteria which should be used to evaluate an instrument or test which is being considered for the collection of data in a research project.

- Author provides a useful checklist of items to consider when undertaking a research project and when evaluating a research report.

**Theory/Model Building Research**

- This article suggests a model for theory building which proposes relationships among phenomena and various levels of theory and research. The result is a taxonomy intended to provide a framework for researchers and theorists to conceptualize research for building and testing theory in library and information science.

- The proposed theory is based on chemical information which is believed to rest on five axioms: definability, order, sufficient degree of order, representational predictability, and representation fidelity. Use of the axioms may be of assistance in the design of information systems and research projects.

- This article discusses a mathematical model called the Generalized Inverse Gaussian-Poisson Distribution which can be used to explain bibliometric frequency distributions.

**Qualitative Methods**

- The purpose of the article is to analyze the qualitative research methodology in relation to its application in library and information science.

- Author discusses the purposes of qualitative research and describes some collection methods, and approaches to data analysis.

**Historical Research**

- Reviews the relative growth of libraries from the turn of the century and uses the information to project library growth in the future.

- Author discusses historical concepts, methods of research, access to literature, writing results and communicating the findings.

- Author discusses the history of how to plan and conduct a historical research project.

**Literature Summary**

- A report of a project designed to survey, analyze and characterize issues and trends in library and information sciences research published during 1984 in 91 English language journals devoted to library and information science concerns.

- User problems with both the mechanical and conceptual aspects of system use are reviewed. Also discussed are potential sources of the problems and suggestions for alleviating some of these problems.

**Case Study Method Research**

- A model was developed based on the observation of five experienced online searchers doing their searches and on the analysis of the searches conducted by the searchers. The observations were divided into operationalist and conceptualist searches and sub-divided into the preparation stage, the search proper and quality control and assessments.

- The case study method was used to develop a model of online searching. The case study method is flexible. Data gathering and analysis are determined primarily by the subject matter and specific procedures are decided upon by the nature of the study.