

MCMLA Research Committee

Annual Report, 2003-2004

Members: Cynthia Schmidt (Mc Googan Library, University of Nebraska), Jeanne LeBer (Eccles Library, University of Utah) , Michelle Beattie (UMKC Health Sciences Library) , Betsy Kelly (Becker Library, Washington University) , Cam Gentry (Via Christi Libraries, Wichita KS), E. Diane Johnson (J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, Univ of MO - Columbia); Ex officio: Roz Dudden, Benchmarking Educator

Priority: Increase the visibility of research within the chapter, and involve more members in research activity. Serve as a catalyst for research within the chapter.

Objective: Raise awareness and level of knowledge of members regarding research in librarianship.

Action 1: Communicated to members regarding research results pertinent to them by distributing brief news items to members on Chapter List-serve.

Shared information via MCMLA listserv, including a new book on evidence based library practice, and conference announcements.

Action 2: Developed criteria and will coordinate judging for awards for the best paper and poster presented at the Kansas City meeting. The awards are funded by the NNLN-MR.

Action 3: Convened an electronic journal club. Research committee members participated in a series of live chat journal club sessions on "evaluation tools for library advocacy" using AOL Instant Messenger. This served a twofold purpose: to test live chat as a vehicle for journal club discussions; and to provide a way for research committee members to educate themselves about evaluation tools librarians can use to prove their worth to administrators.

Objective: Keep MCMLA members involved as appropriate in MLA Benchmarking activity.

Action: The following research committee members (plus Pat Hamilton of SD) assisted Roz Dudden, the Benchmarking Educator on promoting participation in benchmarking within their respective states: Cindy Schmidt -- NE; Jeanne LeBer - Utah; Cam Gentry - KS; Michelle Beattie - MO; Roz - Colorado and Wyoming.

Action: Roz Dudden contributed an article to the MCMLA Express Winter 2004 issue on the benchmarking initiative.

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2005 Objectives, MCMLA Research Committee

Objective: Continue to raise awareness and level of knowledge of members regarding research in librarianship.

Objective: Keep MCMLA members involved as appropriate in MLA Benchmarking activities

Objective: Plan and investigate the availability of grant and logistic support for a research project that would involve multiple and varied institutions served by MCMLA members.

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2005 Budget Requests, MCMLA Research Committee

1. Telephone expenses -- \$50.00
2. Postage if mailings are planned -- \$40.00
3. Printing/duplication (for surveys, etc.) -- \$10.00
4. Other supplies that might be necessary -- \$0

#### Budget Explanation

The MCMLA Research Committee did not expend MCMLA funds during 2003-2004. However, during the coming year, the Committee hopes to layout plans for a chapter-wide research project. Planning this project will involve contacting those who might wish to participate, contacting potential consultants, etc. Some contacts will be made by e-mail, but it is likely that mail and phone contacts will also be necessary especially as plans for the project solidify.

MCMLA Research Committee midyear report

1. Claire Hamasu contacted the committee on behalf of the NNLM. The NNLM is sponsoring a \$100 cash award for the best research paper or poster presented at the Kansas City MCMLA meeting this fall. The committee is developing criteria for judging based on the criteria used by the MLA research committee.

2. Ex-officio research committee member/ benchmarking chapter educator Roz Dudden submitted an article to the MCMLA Express on the MLA benchmarking initiative.

3. The research committee used AOL IM chat to conduct a virtual meeting, and is in the midst of using AOL IM to facilitate a journal club on using evaluation methods to prove our worth.

E. Diane Johnson

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