

Minutes From the October 17, 2003, 4:45 PM, Meeting of MCMLA Research Committee in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Members Present: Michelle Beattie, Jeanne Le Ber, Cindy Schmidt  
Also Present: Roz Dudden

The meeting was held to consider possible goals/tasks that the Research Committee might undertake during the coming year. Seven potential goals/tasks had been suggested by Committee Chairperson, Diane Johnson. One additional goal/task was suggested during the meeting. The eight potential goals/tasks were addressed as follows:

1. Continue MCMLA-L e-mail updates on research-related topics.
2. Promote mentoring directory.  
Members present appreciated Diane's willingness to continue sending research-related updates/news/reminders to MCMLA-L and felt that the mentoring directory should be promoted through this means and perhaps also through a link to the directory from the MCMLA Research Committee web page.
3. Update MCMLA Research Committee web page.
4. Update Hot Quotes.  
Jeanne agreed to look over the MCMLA Research Committee web page and compare it to the MLA Research Committee web page. She may either work with Liz to update the page or request MCMLA Research Committee feedback about future page content/etc. Those present at the meeting felt that it might be best to replace the hot quotes with an "archive" of Diane's recent messages to MCMLA-L and wondered what other Committee members might think of this idea. If an archive was created, Diane could add a link to the archive to her e-mails.
5. Write an article for the MCMLA newsletter.  
Roz Dudden kindly volunteered to write an article describing the methods for conducting a regional/statewide Docline Survey. She may also include information on LibQual – what it is and how our region's participants are broken out of the general data.
6. Convene an electronic journal club.  
Cindy and Jeanne volunteered to co-convene a journal club. The use of Brenda's bibliography as a source of articles for the journal club was suggested. Michelle volunteered to look into the technology options available – perhaps including relay chat and Web CT. Cindy will ask whether use of Blackboard is an option. We will, hopefully, conduct the next meeting in relay chat, or another of the potential options, to try out the technology. The members present asked that Diane schedule another meeting, preferably to be held on or before November 14<sup>th</sup>. The tentative start date for the journal club is the first week in February. It was suggested that we market the journal club on MCMLA-L after Jan 1 as a way to keep a New Year's

resolution (learn something new). A guilt-free way to give up on that “losing weight” resolution.

7. Promote benchmarking and/or integrate most/all benchmarking promotion and education into research committee activities.
  - a. Research Committee members promote participation of eligible hospital libraries and other libraries in their states.

All those present agreed that Committee members should help with promotion in their states. The following responsibilities were suggested:

Roz – Colorado and Wyoming

Pat Hamilton – SD

Cindy -- NE

Jeanne – Utah

Michelle – MO

Cam – KS

To produce a list of people to contact, Roz suggests the following:

1. Use the MLAnet directory to find MLA members from your state. Any MLA-member librarian at an appropriate library is eligible. It is not necessary to work at an MLA-member institution.
2. Cross out those working at AHSL-member libraries. (Only non-AHSL member libraries can participate since data from a similar survey of AHSL libraries is available. Michelle volunteered to send out a list of MCMLA region AHSL libraries, but Roz said that crossing out those working at medical schools would work)
3. Cross out retired librarians
4. Cross out librarians without libraries
5. Pick one librarian to contact when a single library has more than one librarian.

Roz will send out a timeline and guidelines for communicating with librarians.

She suggests:

1. e-mailing potential participants
2. waiting for information about those libraries that have participated so far (Roz will send this information out),
3. e-mailing non-participants again,
4. repeat this cycle until time is short and then call those who haven't yet participated.

- b. making chapter educator an ex-officio or full member of MCMLA Research Committee

Roz indicated that it would be best to make the Chapter Educator an ex-officio Committee member. In that way the Educator can contribute to the Committee's

discussions and integrate benchmarking promotional activities without taking on other Research Committee responsibilities.

- c. consider training new educator to help or take over from Roz.

Roz would like Committee members to “send out feelers” in their regions. She would like to train someone else to take over the position of Chapter Educator. Committee recommendations of hospital librarian/s that would be good candidates for the job should be made to the president-elect of MCMLA and would need to be made by June. Roz can supply a job description.

- 8. One additional goal, not suggested by Diane, was discussed. Awards for chapter research projects were mentioned. Members present thought it would be best to consider project ideas this year with the goal of doing a project next year.