

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1975 - 1985



**A Continuation Of
MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1900 - 1975**

By

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MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1975 - 1985

During the 1975-1985 decade one of the major efforts of the Missouri Library Association was the continuation of its interest in obtaining legislation favorable to libraries, the same interest that prevailed in the first seventy-five years of its history. Although the legislative package varied from year to year the main area of interest were aid to public libraries and issues on taxation.

It became evident early in this period that in spite of the dedicated and tireless efforts of MLA members that a legislative consultant (lobbyist) would be of great assistance if such a position could be funded. On July 25, 1980 the Executive Board voted to hire a legislative consultant if money could be found. In November 1981, Randy Scherr was chosen as legislative consultant to represent MLA in Jefferson City.

The achieving of the funding of this activity is in itself a story of cooperation and self-sacrifice on the part of MLA members. An effort was made to hold Annual Dewey Day Dinners in each of the seven network areas; the first annual legislative fund raiser (party) was held on Thursday, September 28, at the 1982 Annual Conference in Kansas City. The third source of financing for this continuing legislative effort has been the contribution of members, personal and institutional, for this purpose.

The wisdom of using a legislative consultant in assisting MLA achieve its objectives was never more evident than in the passing in 1983 of House Bill 300, the Network Bill, giving legality to the established seven networks in the State and creating the opportunity for State funding of the network effort.

One index of the vitality of an organization like MLA is its committee work. In the 1975-1985 period the committees of MLA have been active and effective. New committees have come into being, inactive committees dropped, and groups have moved from committee to round table status.

During the 1975/76 year the Archives Committee took the important action of depositing MLA records in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-Columbia. This will insure the continuation of the current excellent records of the Association as well as the preservation of the somewhat sketchy records of its first fifty years. It will also place

MLA records in the same collection as personal papers of individuals associated with libraries in Missouri. The Executive Board has approved from time to time a budget item to continue the microfilming of these records. Individual MLA members are encouraged to leave their personal papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

The Government Documents Committee was instrumental in obtaining the establishment of the Missouri State Document Depository System in the spring of 1976. The committee has continued to push for the establishment of a regional depository in Missouri for Federal Documents. Unique proposals have been put forth which hopefully will one day bear fruit.

The Legislative Committee has continued to present the Annual MLA Legislative Program, since 1981 working with the legislative consultant in an effort to achieve passage of legislation deemed necessary by MLA.

Several new committees were established during the ten year period; including the Reference and Information Services Committee in October 1975, Women in Libraries Committee and Computer Information Technology Committee in 1978/79, and the Library Employees Committee which met for the first time on February 7, 1981 at Daniel Boone Regional Library after being approved on December 6, 1980. The Small Libraries Committee was approved by the Executive Board as a special committee on May 10, 1985.

The Young Adult Services Committee was elevated to round table status as the Young Adult Services Round Table on December 6, 1980.

Although the Adult Education Committee was dropped as a committee in 1985, as was the Social Responsibilities Round Table, other committees such as Awards, Grievances, and Library Education & Manpower remained constant. A special committee on Dues & Structures was in existence at various times with the current one to report at the MLA Conference in Columbia in October 1985.

From 1975 to 1985 the Divisions of MLA have remained strong and healthy. The Public Library Division sponsored provocative programs and workshops, at the same time filling many of the positions of leadership in the Association. A resurgence of interest in the spring meetings of the Missouri Association of College and Research Libraries resulted in an increase of activity of that Division. The institution of a paper presenting session at the MLA Annual Conference also resulted in renewed interest.

The Trustees & Citizens Division gave birth in 1981 to a Friends of Missouri Libraries group which in 1984 won an American Library Trustees Association Honor Award for their activities. In 1981 the Friends began publishing The Exchange, a quarterly publication, which beginning with Volume 2, December 1982 began being issued with the Missouri Library Association Newsletter.

At this writing it appears that the basic structure of the Missouri Library Association will undergo modifications at the Annual Conference in October 1985. The Missouri Association of School Librarians which was spawned by MLA in 1935, and has been a division of MLA since 1951, apparently has evolved to the point where it is strong enough to exist as an independent agency.

In 1977 a joint MLA/MASL committee was appointed to study the relationships between the two associations. In the same year one of the goals of MASL was "to study relationships to other professional organizations including MLA." In June of 1978 this committee's report was accepted by the MLA Executive Board.

In the early eighties another joint committee studied the role of MASL "as a division of MLA in contrast to its role as a separate organization." During the 1982/83 year MASL set up its own central office in Butler, Missouri.

At the February 8, 1985 MLA Executive Board meeting, Curt Fuchs, President of Missouri Association of School Librarians, presented a resolution to the MASL Board "to disaffiliate with MLA, keeping certain liaison positions with MLA." This resolution was accepted by the MLA Executive Board with regrets. The membership of both groups will have to approve this disaffiliation. The membership of MASL did so in April 1985. MLA members will vote on the disaffiliation at their 1985 Annual Conference in October.

The Outreach Round Table and the Childrens Services Round Table continued to be very active from 1975-1985. The ORT sponsored many workshops through the years and either alone or in conjunction with other groups presented meaningful programs at the Annual Conferences. Their efforts focused the attention of all librarians on fulfilling the needs of varying types of patrons.

The Childrens Services Round Table continued the Annual Thusnelda Schmidt Lecture begun in 1974. A committee of CSRT members to establish a storytelling collection in honor of Thusnelda Schmidt resulted in the establishing of the Thusnelda Schmidt Storytelling Collection presently housed at the Missouri State Library.

The MLA Newsletter has continued to be the main vehicle of communication to the members of MLA. The format and contents have been somewhat reflective of the current Executive Secretary. The masthead of the publication was changed in 1980. After a contest in 1984, the name was changed to MO Info: The Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association. The new name was suggested by Linda Hyde of the Daniel Boone Regional Library. To the delight of serial librarians everywhere the new title continued the volume numbering of the former title.

Just as efforts of MLA led to the establishing of a graduate library school at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1966, the efforts of the Association were directed to saving the school when it was proposed on April 2, 1982 to eliminate the library school. An intense letter writing and calling campaign led to the Board of Curators decision on June 18, 1982 not to close the school. On May 18, 1984, the MLA Executive Board adopted a resolution praising the University of Missouri Curators for retaining the library school.

The Association continued to recognize outstanding contributions to literature and librarianship. The MLA Literary Award and the MLA Meritorious Achievement Award continued to honor recipients but were not awarded every year. The Thusnelda Schmidt Annual Lecture continued to be sponsored by the Childrens Services Round Table. The Beta Phi Mu, Excellence in Librarianship Award, established April 1, 1975 was given every year except 1981. The Outstanding New Librarian Award was established by the Junior Members Round Table in 1982. It was given the following two years but not in 1984. The Public Relations Achievement Award was approved March 4, 1983 and given at the Annual Conference that year for the first time. In the same year the Childrens Services Round Table Call to Conference Award for Children's librarian never having attended an MLA Annual Conference, was given for the first time.

The Mark Twain Award established in 1972 as a joint award of the Missouri Library Association and the Missouri Association of School Librarians is no longer connected with MLA. Although, in the beginning a joint award, it originally was funded by MLA. In the late seventies the award was funded jointly by MLA and MASL. Then in 1980 MLA participation in the award was dropped so that now it is strictly a MASL Award.

The decision of the membership in 1971 to employ a fulltime Executive Secretary has been shown over the years to have been a sound one. Coordinated, consistent records, program and conference planning, committee consistency have been some of the advantages of such a position.

As the period for this ten year history begins, Marilyn Lake was MLA Executive Secretary. In June 1977 the position title was changed to Executive Coordinator by vote of the Executive Board. In November 1977, the MLA office was moved from the MSTA Building on Sixth Street to their building at 402 South Fifth Street. On July 31, 1979, Ms. Lake resigned to accept a position with the Missouri Association of Junior Colleges. On August 15, 1979, Frank Wranovix became Executive Coordinator serving until August 31, 1981.

To replace Mr. Wranovis the Executive Board chose Marilyn McLeod, who had first been employed in September 1979 as a secretary and moved to administrative assistant in April of 1980.

On May 12, 1982 the Executive Board approved the search for new headquarters for the MLA office. Space was found and in August 1982, the MLA office was moved to its present location, Parkade Plaza, Suite 9, Columbia, 65203.

As an aid to libraries and librarians the MLA office established the Jobline in November 1983. Originally operating only the hours the MLA office was closed the Jobline was extended to a 24-hour service effective December 31, 1984. This service operated in conjunction with the Missouri State Library and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has proven to be beneficial to individuals and institutions alike.

Probably the single most important development of the 1975-85 decade was the emergence, adoption and legalization of the "Network Plan" to develop and bring library service to all the citizens of Missouri. Although the results are due to the energies of the various members of MLA, it must be remembered the part the Missouri State Library played in the development of this plan by underwriting the various surveys that were conducted over the years relating to the development of library services in the State.

The current Network organizational structure had its aegis way back in 1962 when at the Annual Conference in Joplin in October of that year the so called "Schenk" report was presented to and accepted by the membership. Public Library Service in Missouri: A Survey was a study financed by the Missouri State Library; conducted by a team of national library leaders, headed by Gretchen Schenk. A follow-up study, again financed by the State Library, Missouri Library Service: A Guide to its Improvement and Standards of Service appeared two years later. Over the years other studies followed as well as intense efforts by committees such as the Library Development Committee.

At its meeting on September 6, 1977, the MLA Executive Board accepted the Missouri State Network Plan and recommended its adoption by the MLA membership. At its meeting in Columbia on September 30, 1977, the MLA membership approved the recommendation to implement a Missouri Library Network. The MLA Newsletter of October 1977 called this action "a milestone in Missouri library history."

The newly established Missouri Library Network had its first meeting May 16, 1978. On September 26, 1979, action was taken to have a representative of the Missouri Library Network Board serve as an ex-officio member of the MLA Executive Board.

Soon after its creation the Network Board began steps to legalize the networks, ultimately to lead to state funding. A network bill was introduced in the January 1982 General Assembly. This was the same bill that had been introduced twice previously. This time the Coordinating Board for Higher Education included the bill in its legislative package for 1982, but still passage was not secured. The CBHE made the Network bill one of its priority items for the 1983 General Assembly. Through the cumulative efforts of many individuals and groups, success was achieved with the Governor Christopher S. Bond signing HB 300 on June 9, 1983. And so an effort that began over twenty years earlier was complete; complete except for state funding.

This indeed was an MLA "milestone". Future generations of Missourians will reap the benefits of the long efforts of all involved.

It is doubtful that those members at the 1972 meeting in Kansas City who recommended that the Missouri State Library be placed in the Department of Higher Education were aware of how significant that decision would be. The closeness of the instructions between the Missouri Library Association and the Coordinating Board began in the seventies when Virginia Young was chair of CBHE. This relationship has blossomed particularly since 1982 when Shalia R. Aery became Commissioner of Higher Education.

In 1980 the CBHE appointed a Library Planning Committee with Virginia Young as chair. Other members were: Lela H. Bell, Charles Churchwell, Joan Collett, Susie Donnelly, George Hartje, Carolyn Lenhart, Denny Pilant, Nancy Stiegemeyer, Marilyn Stone, Isaac D. True, A. N. Wilkins, Stan Koplik, Charles O'Halloran, James Moulder, and Alice Windom.

Before issuing its report Planning Document to the CBHE on February 4, 1982, the Planning Committee had a number of position papers published and held hearings across the State. Many of its broad recommendations provided basic guidelines to develop and improve library service to the citizens of Missouri. Some were already being acted on before the issuance of the report. The Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) was established and had its first meeting on October 19, 1981. The Library Advisory Committee to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education held its first meeting on September 11, of the same year. Both have proven their viability in the short time of their existence, the former on a service level, the latter in an advisory and planning capacity.

The members of MLA continued their outstanding record of participation in national library activities, with many serving as members and officers of ALA Committees, Divisions and Round Tables, during the ten year period being covered. Several members served on ALA Councils. Nancy Stiegemeyer served as President of the American Library Trustees Association.

In appreciation of her many state, national and international library activities, Virginia Young was awarded an honorary membership in the American Library Association on July 6, 1985. She was only the eighty-sixth person so honored in the one hundred and eleven year history of ALA.

This brief ten year report would not be complete without noting that Charles O'Halloran has resigned his position as Missouri State Librarian as of December 31, 1985. The past twenty years of his tenure has demonstrated the close relationship between the Missouri State Library and the Missouri Library Association. The Association has relied heavily on the State Library for the financial support to conduct the numerous surveys to enable it to achieve its goals.

Yet Chuck's leaving also serves to illustrate the close relationships that have developed between the librarians (MLA) and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Commissioner Aery has appointed a screening committee, chaired by Susanna Alexander and composed mainly of librarians to advise the CBHE on the selection of a new State Librarian.

Best wishes to both Chuck and MLA for the future.

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1975 - 1985

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OFFICERS

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 1976-1985

1975/1976

President	Sharon Willis
Vice-President	Dr. Jane A. Miller
Secretary	Paul A. White
Treasurer	Andrew Alexander

1976/1977

President	Dr. Jane A. Miller
Vice-President	Harold R. Jenkins
Secretary	Kay Madden
Treasurer	David Doennig

1977/1978

President	Harold R. Jenkins
Vice-President	Judith Armstrong
Secretary	Sue Ann Schlosser
Treasurer	Robert C. Miller

1978/1979

President	Judith Armstrong
Vice-President	Marilyn Stone
Secretary	Beth Arnett Belt
Treasurer	Maggie Johnson

1979/1980

President	Marilyn Stone
Vice-President	Philip Tompkins
Secretary	Virginia Terry
Treasurer	Betty Schramm

1980/1981

President	Philip Tompkins
Vice-President	Sallie Henderson
Secretary	Charaline Ezell
Treasurer	Valerie Darst

1981/1982

President	Sallie Henderson
Vice-President	Paul A. White
Secretary	Pat Kern
Treasurer	Sheila Merrill

1982/1983

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Paul A. White
Martha Maxwell
Marsha Parker
Beth Eckles

1983/1984

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Matrtha Maxwell
Helen Wigersma
Dorothy Sanborn Elliott
Nancy Bragg/Maggie Preiss

1984/1985

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Helen Wigersma
Ray Riddle/Joel Robinson
Barbara Winans
Anita Steele

CONFERENCES

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1976 - 1985

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
76	Springfield	436	October 13-15, 1976
77	Columbia	444	September 28-30, 1977
78	Kansas City	381	September 28-30, 1978
79	Springfield	406	September 26-28, 1979
80	St. Louis	498	September 25-27, 1980
81	Columbia	403	September 30-October 2, 1981
82	Kansas City	426	September 22-24, 1982
83	Springfield	398	October 19-21, 1983
84	Cape Girardeau	277	October 3-5, 1984
		+65 School Librarians	
85	Columbia		October 2-4, 1985

MEMBERSHIP

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1975 - 1985

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>INSTITUTIONAL</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
1975	1,272	1,211	61	
1976	1,193	1,129	64	
1977	1,175	1,114	61	
1978	1,189	1,098	91	
1979	1,167	1,082	85	
1980	1,261	1,175	86	
1981	1,345	1,253	91	
1982	1,349	1,245	104	
1983	1,303	1,190	113	
1984	1,139	1,044	95	
1985				

ALA COUNCILOR
MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1974 - 1986

1974/75	Sylvia Oliver
1975/76	Sylvia Oliver (January-June) Paul A. White (July-December)
1976/77	Paul A. white
1977/78	Paul A. White
1978/79	Paul A. White
1979/80	Paul A. White
1980/81	Paul A. White
1981/82	Bruce H. Collins
1982/83	Bruce H. Collins
1983/84	Bruce H. Collins
1984/85	Bruce H. Collins
1985/86	

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1975 - 1985

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
1975	Joseph C. Shipman
1976	None
1977	Virginia Walfon
1978	Paxton P. Price
1979	Lucille Adams Anderson
1980	None
1981	None
1982	Gladys Deever
1983	Sylvia Oliver
1984	Congressman E. Thomas Coleman
1985	

LITERARY AWARD
MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1975 - 1985

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
1975	Gertrude Bell
1976	William Peden
1977	Jack Conroy
1978	Dr. David DeArmond March
1979	Dr. Loren Reid
1980	None
1981	None
1982	None
1983	Lanford Wilson
1984	Mona Van Duyn

BETA PHI MU

PSI CHAPTER

Excellence in Librarianship

(Established April 1, 1975)

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1975 - 1985

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
1975	Ralph Parker Leola Miller
1976	Sharon Willis
1977	Friends Chapter University City Public Library
1978	Susanna Alexander
1979	Nellie Holmes
1980	Virginia Young
1981	None
1982	Ruth Fleming Jewell Smith
1983	Francis Flood
1984	Esther Gilman
1985	

THUSNELDA SCHMIDT MEMORIAL LECTURE
Children's Services Round Table/Missouri Library Association

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1974 - 1985

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	
1	1974	Eve Merrian (poet)
2	1975	Marguerite Henry (author)
3	1976	Jean George (author)
4	1977	Arnold Lobel
5	1978	Sharon Bell Mathis (author)
6	1979	Marilyn Sachs (childrens author)
7	1980	Steven Kellogg (author)
8	1981	Virginia Haviland (Chief, childrens literature center, LC)
9	1982	Trina Schart Hyman (author & illustrator)
10	1983	Glen Rounds (author & illustrator)
11	1984	Seymour Simon (science bookks for children)
12	1985	

JUNIOR MEMBERS ROUND TABLE
Outstanding New Librarian Award
MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1982 - 1985

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT .</u>
1982	Ray Riddle
1983	Alan Engelbert
1984	None
1985	

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1983 - 1985

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
1983	Cape Girardeau Public Library
1984	Daniel Boone Regional Library
	Special Achievement
	Mid-Continent Public Library
1985	

MLA/CSRT CALL TO CONFERENCE AWARD

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1983 - 1985

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>
1983	Martha Radginski (St. Louis Public Library)
1984	Connie Gilman (Nipher Middle School, Kirkwood)
1985	