

# ISLAND REMEMBERS

1972-1987

**BY ROSARY S. GILHEANY**

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

## **HSLANJ REMEMBERS**

*A fifteen year retrospective  
on the occasion of its  
anniversary celebration*

By

Rosary Scacciaferro Gilheany

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## General Index

Topics	Pages
Beginning .....	1, 2
Bylaws .....	10, 11
Chronology .....	22 - 24
Committees .....	12
Consumer Education .....	17 - 18
Conclusion .....	20
Founders: People and Hospitals .....	1, 2, 14, 15
Influence/Outreach .....	16, 17
Interlibrary Loans .....	8
Legislation .....	16
Members .....	13 - 15
Middle Atlantic Health Congress .....	19 - 20
Newsletter .....	9 - 10
Network and Networking .....	5 - 9
Objectives .....	2, 20 - 22
Photographs: Officers .....	2, 15
Programs .....	18 - 19
References .....	24 - 25
Standards .....	3 - 5
Surveys .....	3

## HSLANJ, A FIFTEEN YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

### *When and Where, How, Why, and Who*

The Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey, a professional association of special librarians and libraries in the health care field, celebrates its official birthday and fifteen years of achievements on March 15, 1987.

*When and Where:* The organizational meeting took place on March 15, 1972 in the lounge of the School of Nursing, Marlland Hospital of the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

*How:* The Newsletter, funded by the Regional Medical Library, published the proposed bylaws and a mail ballot for the election of officers.

*Why:* The information explosion, the establishment of the state's first medical school, the closing of the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey, the largest medical library in the state, and the Medical Library Assistance Act all occurred between 1956 and 1971.

During this transition period, physicians turned to hospital libraries, most of which needed resources and trained librarians.

The Academy of Medicine, independently, and later through the Regional Medical Library Program, began to train librarians. The Program was dropped from the Federal budget in 1973.

*Who:* The Academy Librarian and the instructors from her program, the RML Consultant, a few professional librarians working in hospitals, the Librarian at the New Jersey State Department of Health and an informal group of medical librarians in the Trenton area.

NJHLA Board was:

Elizabeth McMullen, President
Jane McCarthy, President-elect
Marie Thompson, Secretary
Calvin Zamarelli, Treasurer
Sister Paschal Marie, Director
Bernice Donini, Director
Victoria Gonzalez, Director

The name of the association was the New Jersey Hospital Library Association.

The Officers worked together to develop the following Objectives:

1. Encourage utilization of health information.
2. Develop usefulness and efficacy of hospital and nursing school libraries.
3. Promote research in information science.
4. Promote high professional standards.
5. Provide members with channels of communication.
6. Help members in professional development and advancement.

The two achievements that have had a special impact on health care have been an Interlibrary Loan Network and the acceptance of the Librarian as a professional by the other members of the health care team.



Seated (left to right) Calvin Zammarelli, Elizabeth McMullen, Jane McCarthy  
Standing (left to right) Pat Regenberg, Kathy Moeller, Betsy O'Connor,  
Judith Schuback-Cohn, Michelle Volesko

## Surveys: Assessment for Improvements

As early as 1972, an assessment was done by the consultant in order to assess the feasibility of forming an association of libraries in hospitals.

In 1975 a formal survey/census was taken under the auspices of the New Jersey Hospital Association as part of the preparation for a grant application to the National Library of Medicine. There was an 80% response. The questions concerned the education of the Librarian, whether the library was a separate Department of the Hospital, was there a Library Committee, what did the Collection contain, were there any Audiovisuals, and did the librarian have any Assistants?

To prepare for a presentation, Profile--New Jersey Hospitals, at the 1976 annual Medical Library Association meeting in Minneapolis, R. Gilheany made an informal survey which included information on the size of hospital libraries in New Jersey.

In 1982, a sophisticated, computerized survey, with ten sections and seventy questions, was developed by a Committee chaired by Michelle Volesko, Librarian of the Health Research and Educational Trust (Hospital Association) Library. The results were to serve as a measurable baseline for discussing future evaluations, and for tracking any positive or negative economic trends prospective reimbursement might have on New Jersey libraries.

This survey discovered that 63% of the libraries reporting were separate departments in contrast to 5% in 1976. With regard to salaries, inflation makes complete comparison impossible, but in 1983 only 13% of the salaries fell below the salary considered to high in 1974. In 1983, 76% were earning more than \$16,000. Regarding the professional qualifications of the chief librarians, in 1983 56% had M.L.S. degrees compared to only 28% in 1976. In 1983, 24% had MLA certification.

The 1975 NJHLA Standards in their revisions recommended that there should be clerical assistants in the larger libraries. This had been conducted by administrators, but by 1983, about half of the hospital librarians had assistants.

## Standards

One of the original objectives of the NJHLA was to promote high professional standards. One of the first Committees was the Interlibrary Cooperation & Standards Committee, consisting of 14 members from hospitals in all parts of New Jersey. The Committee's Needs Assessment Questionnaire returned by the Association members had established the need for the development of standards for the hospital libraries.

By July of 1974, the "Provisional Standards for New Jersey Hospital Libraries and Interpretation for Hospital Administrators" was completed. These standards were designed to serve as guidelines for hospital, nursing school, and other health science libraries.

At this same time, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals' Standard for Professional Library Services consisted of only two sentences: "Library services shall be made available to the medical and hospital staff. There shall be books, periodicals and other materials appropriate to meet their needs." The interpretation consisted of eight short, general paragraphs. Some hospital administrators and librarians felt that these standards did not provide much guidance.

A second edition (1970) of the 1953 pamphlet, Hospital Libraries, retitled: The Standards for Library Services in Health Care Institutions published by the Hospital Libraries Division of the American Library Association had made more specific recommendations: These were:

The Librarian should be "a certified medical librarian".

The Collection "should conform to the most recent minimum standards established by the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons."

The librarian should be: "appointed and directly responsible to the medical director or administrator."

The salary "should meet the standards set by the American Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and the Medical Library Association".

This document, however, published by an association outside the health care field, had little impact on hospital administrators.

It was time the state health science library association made its own recommendations.

The NJHLA Standards, drawing on the previously cited document and others, were presented to the New Jersey Hospital Association in 1974, and appeared in the Newsletter of the NJHLA in November. Each individual hospital administrator was sent a copy, but the editor addressed her librarian readers: "it may be up to you to make sure that they read them, especially if discrepancies exist between your present situation and the guidelines set forth in the Standards."

The Standards were comprehensive in scope but specific in some details, with regard to *Organization*, *Library Committee*, *Library Staff*, *Salary*, *the Collection*. Special points of controversy were that the library should be "a line department of the hospital" with "its own independent budget". With regard to the *Library Staff*, a qualified professional librarian was to administer the library, and this was defined as "an individual with a

library degree and/or appropriate experience". The Salary median, based on the Special Libraries Association 1973 Salary Survey, was set at \$14,500. This last figure was a great deal more than most librarians were receiving at that time and it was particularly objected to by the Hospital Association. The Library collection should include audiovisuals. These had not been mentioned in the JCAH Standards.

In 1975 the Standards were revised, softening some of the more controversial issues. "In smaller institutions administrative responsibility may fall under an appropriate department such as Medical Education." The salary provision was removed, and so was the definition of the qualified medical librarian, but, in order to insure that a qualified person have some influence on the library, the following was added: "a library that functions without a medical librarian should have access to the regular consultative assistance of a medical librarian". With regard to the books in the Library Collection, there was a strengthening of the authority of the Librarian. These Standards were attached to the New Jersey Hospital Association's Hospital Library Grant Application.

The Standards were not formally accepted by the New Jersey Hospital Association, but they were used. Their influence was felt in New Jersey Hospital libraries and in successive revisions of the JCAH standards. The Joint Commission requires regular consultative visits by a qualified medical librarian when there is not a full time librarian. Many of the other provisions incorporate the NJHLA & ALA standards that were points of disagreement not too long ago.

The November 1976 issue of the Newsletter noted that at the Regional Medical Library meeting held at the New York Academy of Medicine on October 27 they discussed the letter from the Committee on Accreditation of the Medical Library Association. The letter requested that NJHLA endorse the MLA recommendations to the Joint Commission on Accreditation for changes in the standards concerning hospital librarians.

The Survey prepared by HSLANJ in 1982 reported that the status of the member librarians has improved.

It was not until 1982 that the Medical Library Association and the New York State Library Association published manuals regarding standards of health science libraries in hospitals.

## Networking

The second and the sixth objectives of the Association: Develop usefulness of hospital and nursing libraries, and Provide channels of communication are epitomized in the Networking function of HSLANJ, which is probably its most timely achievement to date.

The New Jersey Health Sciences Network, a model for other state groups, Medical Library Association chapters, and the newly reorganized multitype statewide New Jersey network, had its origins in necessity. Unlike other types of libraries, especially the public and academic, most (90%) of the interlibrary loans in health science libraries are of journals, or more specifically, of journal articles or photocopies.

As early as 1972, when NJHLA was founded, the unlimited interlibrary loan policy encouraged by the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965, had begun to be de-escalated. A restricted list of 100 titles not available for free loan was issued. Charges of \$2.50 per loan were instituted by the Region III Regional Medical Library having jurisdiction over the southern half of New Jersey. Region II soon followed suit and there were further restrictions.

Hospital and nursing libraries had to discover who had what and begin to share resources. At about the same time that NJHLA was being organized, a Union List of Nursing Periodical Holdings was published representing the holdings of five hospital libraries and a few nursing schools. The Regional Medical Library had encouraged the development of regional or local groups, primarily for the purpose of resource sharing. This latter development paralleled the growth of the statewide association and it was at this level that the union lists used as the later basis for networking, were developed.

During this period, 1974 to 1976, some libraries belonged to the local groups and not the state organization.

As these groups became more integrated into the Association and more libraries participated, the mechanics of cooperation were transferred or extended to the state organization. Of the six local groups, by 1976, three had Union Lists, three provided free copies on a library to library basis, three provided interlibrary loans, and two provided access to all the journals on the restricted list. Not all libraries could participate because many of the small libraries, especially those in rural areas, had limited collections.

The Bergen-Passaic Health Sciences Library Consortium surveyed interlibrary loan activity from November 1976 through October 1977. The survey, conducted by Dr. Sara K. Thomson of Bergen Community College, requested the libraries to tabulate the number of loans within and without the consortium. The results of this survey, reported in the September 1978 Newsletter, had far reaching effects. Before the survey, the libraries with the smallest holdings were listed first, on the assumption that their resources would be tapped first so the larger libraries would not be

overloaded with requests. In practice, this did not happen, so Dr. Thomson devised a requesting order based on the lend/borrow rates of each library for the period studied.

In 1979, HSLANJ Board members thought that the New Jersey Interlibrary Loan needs would be more specifically addressed by a HSLANJ Committee, and Dr. Thomson's hierarchy became the model for the statewide borrowing protocol on a consortium to consortium basis. In a letter to Elizabeth O'Connor, who was at the time President of HSLANJ, Duressa Pujat, the Committee Chair, described its purpose:

- (1) to understand how networking is presently taking place in New Jersey health science libraries
- (2) to consider the possibility of interconsortia lending
- (3) to discuss any problems arising between the medical schools and hospital libraries
- (4) to consider the possibility of a New Jersey State List for Health Science Journals and the possibilities of funding such a list.

The Committee, with representatives from each local consortium, the state medical school, the state library school and the N.J. state library developed information packets and procedure manuals. An Interlibrary Loan plan was presented at the March 1981 meeting of the HSLANJ, amplified by an audiovisual presentation developed by Kathleen Moeller. The Plan went into effect on June 1, 1981.

Network participation was not mandatory, but by 1982, only 28 of 145 members were non-participants; in 1983, there were 26 out of 146, and by 1985, 33 of 160 members were non-participants. None of these non-participants were hospital libraries.

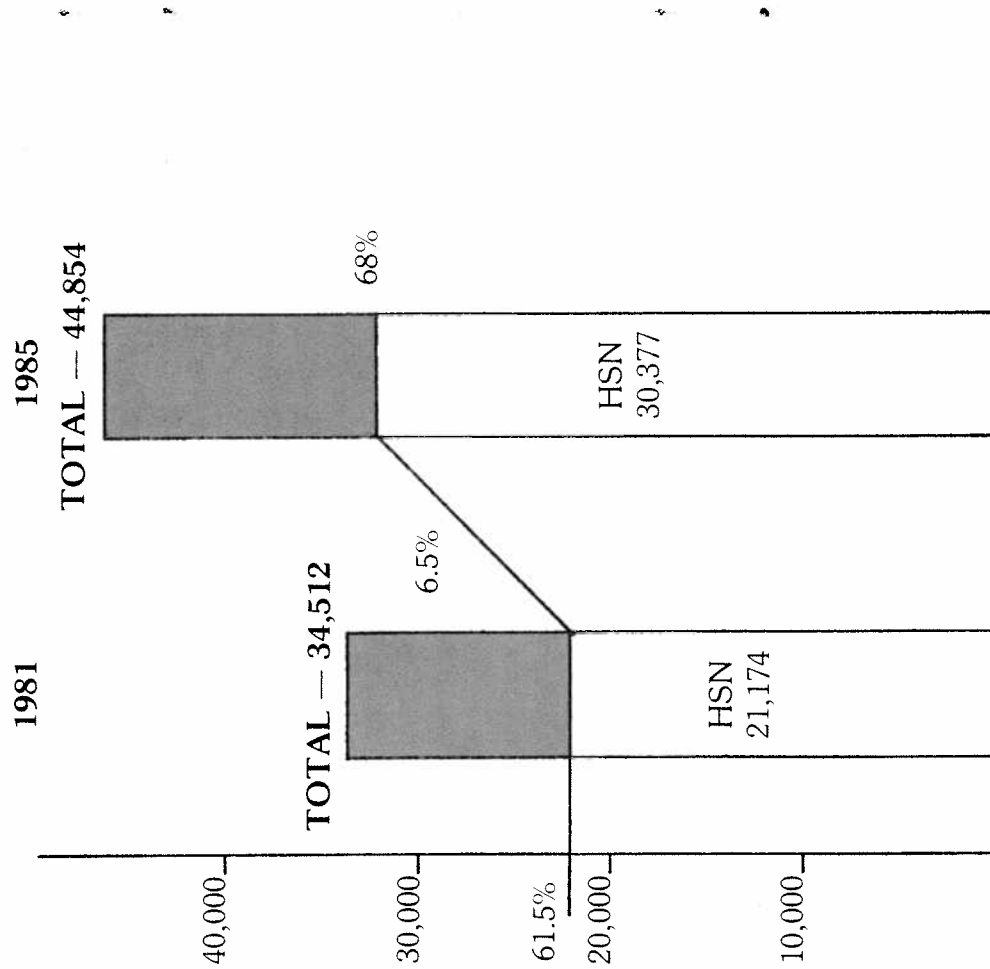
By 1983, 40,000 items were borrowed on a reciprocal basis, representing a savings of \$200,000 (@ \$5 per loan) to New Jersey health science libraries, averaging an annual savings to each institution of \$1,481.50, and representing an increase of 20% savings over the previous year.

In 1984 and 1985, under the chairmanship of John Conway, the borrowing hierarchy was simplified by establishing one single statewide hierarchy. Statistics were kept by each library, then reported to the consortium coordinator, who in turn reported them to the Networking/Interlibrary Loan Chair.

By 1986, following the work of Kathleen Moeller and Judith Schuback Cohn, the network had been expanded to include some out-of-state libraries as the Basic Health Sciences Library Network (BHSL). Loan statistics include audiovisuals and books as more borrowing is done of those materials.

More than half of the interlibrary loans needed by HSLANJ member libraries are filled free of charge within the network, as is illustrated by the following graph comparing 1981 and 1985 figures.

### INTERLIBRARY LOANS



The growth rate has continued although at a slower rate than in 1981-82. The savings in dollars has become more noticeable, however, as the charges for borrowing outside the network increase. In 1985 the \$6 per loan charge meant that the Libraries saved \$269,124 or an average of \$1,993.50 per library per year.

The National Library of Medicine's DOCLINE system has just begun in New Jersey. An estimated 50% of HSLANJ libraries are now or will be participants. It is too soon to measure the impact of DOCLINE on the HSLANJ network system.

### Newsletter

Claire Schultz, the RML Consultant, based at the medical school, worked with the new NJHLA Board and with the librarians to make NJHLA a cohesive organization. Most librarians had no travel allowance so Schultz communicated with the members via consultative visits and via the Newsletter which also enabled librarians to communicate with one another. The communicating force of NJHLA and the HSLANJ was the Newsletter. The Newsletter existed even before the association. It fulfilled objective #5: "to provide members with channels of communication." Originally it was produced by the New Jersey Regional Medical Library and written by the librarian based at the Medical School in Newark: first, by Claire Schultz, later by Jane McLeod and lastly by Phyllis Atkins. When funding stopped, the newsletter was edited by a member appointed by the NJHLA President.

For years, the Newsletter had no real name, and no numbering sequence. It was called either NJHLA Newsletter or Newsletter HSLANJ. Finally, in 1983, after a logo was officially adopted, a contest to choose a name was announced in the newsletter. The prize was a copy of the new edition of the Handbook of Medical Library Practice. Rosary Gilheany won the contest with the name "HSLANJ Speaks". That is now the publication's official name. In November 1978, the issues began to be numbered, beginning with #5. The latest issue, Summer 1986, was issue #28.

The earliest issues contained lists of journals the member libraries had available for exchange. One issue even printed the Union List of Nursing Journals. The Bylaws and the Standards and their subsequent revisions appeared in the newsletter as did profiles of candidates for office and ballots for the election of officers.

For several years a series, *Profile of a Library* was a feature. It introduced members to each other and described different types of libraries. Libraries profiled included: St. Peter's, West Jersey, Institute for Medical Research and the Monmouth County Board of Social Service.

Figure 1  
Credit: Kathleen Moeller

As New Jersey hospital libraries became unusually successful in receiving National Library of Medicine (and other) *Grants*, news of these grants appeared in the Newsletter in order to encourage others to do likewise. NLM grants were awarded for expansion and renovation, for collection building, for audiovisual libraries or for unique sharing arrangements such as Jane McCarthy's hospital & nursing homes consortium: CHARGE.

At times, members used the newsletter as a vehicle for their own surveys, in order to assess their possibilities for improvement by comparing their situation with that of their colleagues. Survey topics included: JCAH visits: expectations and follow-up, Loan policies, After-Hours access to the Library.

There were job announcements and personal news: news of marriages, births, promotions. A new series of articles: "Microcomputer Forum" was begun in 1986.

The publication was becoming more professional in appearance also, and in order to fund this, advertisements began to be included.

### **Organizational Structure: Bylaws, Committees, Manual, Elections, Etc.**

The proposed Bylaws had been developed by a steering committee, and were published in the February 25, 1972 issue of the Library Information News. The *librarians* who attended the first organizational meeting voted to adopt the *bylaws* and they elected *officers*. The New Jersey Hospital Library Association came into being.

There were several categories of membership: "Regular members, student members, retired members, and institutional members". The membership committee was the "authority on the eligibility of membership applicants".

The Bylaws were first revised in 1975. They limited the term of the officers, simplified the election process and began to fix on a location as the headquarters of the Association.

The officers were not to serve more than two consecutive terms.

The candidates' names as well as the ballots were to be published in the newsletter. Ballots were to be mailed to the Secretary and the results of the election were to be announced at the Annual Meeting.

The presiding President would decide on the headquarters location.

The New Jersey Hospital Association had included the Library Association as an affiliated organization from 1976.

In 1978, more changes to the Bylaws were made.

The most significant was a change in name from New Jersey Hospital Library Association to Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey. The "Purposes" of the original Bylaws were now to be "Objectives" and were slightly modified: "Encourage the utilization of health information" was expanded to read "Encourage and promote the utilization of health information" . . . "through the collection, organization and dissemination of information."

There were to be five elected officers of the Association: President, Vice President/President-elect, a Recording/Corresponding Secretary, a Membership Secretary and a Treasurer. The Secretary position had been split into 2 functions because the workload had become overpowering.

Regular members, now called active members, were defined: "are or were when at the time of application, in hospital, nursing, or medical school or allied scientific library work and have paid membership fees." Only active members could hold office.

In the 1980 Bylaws revision, the qualifications for the Executive Board were further defined to say: "voting members who are working in the State in a health related field."

That same year, the Bylaws provided for a new ex-officio member, on the Executive Board, the Librarian of the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), the education arm of the parent association, the New Jersey Hospital Association. A representative from the Medical School Library was added to the Board as an ex-officio member in 1982.

The Nominating Committee had consisted of the Past President and two other active members appointed by the Executive Board. By 1982, as the original "regional groups" had developed into working consortia, acting as sub-sets of HSLANJ, the Bylaws were changed to have the nominating committee consist of the immediate past President and the Chair of each of the seven consortia: Bergen-Passaic, Cosmopolitan Biomedical Library Consortium (CBLC), Medcore, Monmouth Biomedical Consortium (MBIC), Southwest New Jersey Consortium (SWNJ), Pinelands, and Central Jersey (Trenton Area).

Judith Schuback Cohn, Chair of the Bylaws committee, produced an Organizational Manual in 1982 as a supplement to the Bylaws, listing Committees and Job Descriptions for the officers. Since then, the manual has been updated periodically.



## Committees

The original Committees listed in the Bylaws, and appointed by the Board, were: Nominating, Membership, Publicity, Standards, Bylaws and “any other considered useful to further the aims and objectives of the organization”.

The 1978 revisions added Archival to the list.

In 1980 the Committee list now included Education, Finance, Interlibrary Loans and Networking, and Legislative.

The Board and the members wanted to assure that the meeting programs would provide official Medical Library Association Continuing Education credits. An Education Committee became necessary. Similarly, when the treasury began to have a respectable balance, having grown from \$0 to \$5,123 in seven years and when other organizations began to ask for support, the Treasurer recommended a Finance Committee to help with financial planning.

More recent additions to the Committees have been: HRET Liaison; the Interim Planning Committee (IPC), which became the Regional Library Cooperative Committee (RLC); the Consumer Education Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee.

A HSLANJ/HRET Liaison Committee had been established when the members proposed that the HRET Library be a source for hospital administration journals. Its first project was to select which titles were to be acquired. The first list was finished about 1978. The second project was the Survey of Members which was published in 1982. Both of these projects took about a year and involved questionnaires and interviews involving all the members.

The Long Range Planning Committee, added in 1982, oversees the progress of the association towards the objectives following goals set by the Committee. The first set of goals were general: Networking, Interacting with other associations, Standards, Continuing Education, Consumer Health Education and Publicity.

In 1985 the Strategic Long Range Planning Committee was mandated by the Board to examine the possibilities and difficulties of automating the HSLANJ's internal records. The areas to be considered “computerizable” were: Bylaws, the Organization Manual, the Newsletter, Membership Lists, Financial Records, and the Interlibrary Loan Network.

The Consumer Education Committee, added in 1981, has been the most visible to those outside the association.

The newest Committee, the RLC, formed in 1985, consists of HSLANJ members who are on the Boards or on Committees of the six cooperatives in the state. Its function is to see that the interests of the health science libraries are not ignored during the development process of this new statewide network of various types of libraries.

## The Members

Members began to join the Association, paying the very minimal \$5 dues. Some wanted training or help from more experienced colleagues. All wanted to increase their knowledge, share common problems and learn how to solve them. The membership grew from 120 libraries in 1972 to 158 libraries in 1986. The dues are now \$20.

Although many considered HSLANJ and NJHLA as an association exclusively of hospital librarians, even in 1973, its second year, there were seven other institutions represented. Six of these were educational institutions, ranging from schools in long term care facilities to a four year liberal arts college with a nursing program. The seventh member was the Treasurer of the County of Essex.

In 1974, the College of Medicine and Dentistry, which through its hospital consulting grant, was initially responsible for NJHLA, became an official member. In 1978 the new Library of the Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey joined. By 1979, there were 12 non-hospital member libraries, among which were pharmaceutical firms, a publisher, a subscription agent, Rutgers Graduate School of Library Science, and the State Department of Environmental Protection.

By 1985 many of the pharmaceutical firms had dropped association membership because of the obligations of the network. Most of them continued with the local consortia.

Of the original 120 libraries, 88 are still represented in the Association. Some of the hospitals have been absorbed by others, and some have expanded to become multi-hospital systems, reflecting the situation in the health care field.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH — HSLANJ

Year	# Members	# Institutions libraries identified:	# Network Non participants
1972	120	—	
1973	127	133	
1974	133	?	
1975	?	74	
1976		120	
1976-77		138	
1978	142	140	28
1979	145	139	26
1980	142		
1981	148		33
1982	137		52
1983	146		
1984	156		
1985	160		
1986	164		

Figure 2 Source: Directories 1972 - 1986

### A Personal Note

Librarians who were part of the group of founders and, still members of HSLANJ as of December 1986, are, alphabetically, according to their institution:

Barnert Memorial Hospital, Paterson	Sandra Zingler
Bergen Pines County Hospital, Paramus	Victoria Gonzalez
Clara Maass Memorial Hospital, (Nursing School), Belleville	Nan Rame
Elizabeth General Hospital, Elizabeth	Catherine M. Boss
Essex County Hospital, Cedar Grove	Elizabeth Guarducci
Mountainside Hospital, Montclair	Joanne Searle
Muhlenberg Hospital, Plainfield	Jane McCarthy
Newark Beth Israel Hospital, Newark	Lillian Bernstein
Riverview Hospital, Red Bank	Cheryl Newman
St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston	A. Christine Connor
St. Peter's Hospital, New Brunswick	Elizabeth McMullen
Somerset Hospitals, Somerville	Naomi Mallory
United Hospitals Medical Center, Newark	Rosary S. Gilheany
Veterans Administration Hospital, East Orange	Calvin Zamarelli

Elizabeth McMullen, one of the founders, and the first President of the Association, was the Library Director at St. Peter's Hospital until her retirement a few years ago. She continues her membership in HSLANJ.

Also on the original Board were Victoria Gonzalez, Treasurer and Jane McCarthy, President Elect and later President. Calvin Zamarelli was the Association's third President.

Joanne Searle was at Mountainside Hospital at the time the Association was formed. She has been Library Director of Morristown Memorial Hospital for the past nine years, and is currently the President Elect and Program Chairman of HSLANJ.

Coincidentally, the current President of HSLANJ, Patricia Regenber, is at present the Librarian at Mountainside Hospital, after having trained at St. Peter's under Ms. Mullen.

Naomi Mallory and Elizabeth Guarducci were trained by Jacqueline Picciano in the training program for hospital librarians sponsored by the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. Ms. Mallory retired from Somerset Hospital at the end of 1986.

Rosary Gilheany served as newsletter editor and as a Board member. Catherine Boss has been Secretary and Treasurer of HSLANJ, and Christine Connor and Cheryl Newman both served as President Elect.

Louise Geroulo served as President of HSLANJ in 1980 and 1981 after a very productive time as the first Bylaws Chair. She had been part of the Veterans Administration system for over 13 years. The Veterans Administration Hospital in Lyons, where she had been Chief Librarian, was one of the original members of NJHLA. Louise died in 1983 after a long bout with cancer.



Louise Geroulo

## **Influence/Outreach**

The unconscious impact and the conscious outreach of the HSLANJ are especially remarkable when we consider the small number of people involved. There have never been more than 164 members, representing at most 158 institutions with approximately 300 library personnel. (See Fig. 2) In 1973, the year after its founding, the then NJHLA was one of the groups endorsing the New Jersey State Interlibrary Loan Code.

## **Publishing**

In 1974 the Association's President, Jane McCarthy, wrote to various publishers requesting that cataloguing information be included in their books. Most books now carry cataloguing information. She also wrote to a New Jersey Congressman on behalf of the association to urge the retention, despite the revision of the copyright law, of the provision allowing photocopying. The membership was urged to write also. Photocopying for personal study use is allowed.

## **Nursing**

Elizabeth McMullen was on the Interagency Council for Nursing Resources representing her hospital, St. Peter's, as the Catholic Hospital Association's representative, preparing the way for the official representation of HSLANJ by Elsalyn Drucker in the 1980's.

## **Legislation**

The Commission to Study Library Services included an Association Board member, Marie Thomson. Later HSLANJ was represented by Carol Glatt, who became a President of HSLANJ. As a prelude to participation in the White House Conference on Libraries, two delegates were sent to the Governor's Conference on Libraries: Louise Geroulo, another HSLANJ President, and Philip Rosenstein, Librarian of the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

The Legislative Committee became very active. We were not only concerned with strictly library issues, but with regulations affecting the institutions in which most of us worked, i.e. hospitals. In 1975, McCarthy wrote to the state Commissioner of Health concerning the public hearings regarding hospital rate review.

The N.J. Department of Health financial guidelines, did not provide for the cost of the hospital information service. The Commissioner, Dr. Joanne Finley, was urged to correct the inequities in the system of rate determination. Patient care information, provided by the library "is as vital to patient care as any prescription or treatment."

In 1980, Elizabeth O'Connor testified before a state commission on the development of libraries to request inclusion of health science libraries at

all levels of the proposed new state network. They were included in the 1985 Regional Library Cooperative State Plan, established when S1329 was passed, establishing a statewide library network funded at \$250,000. HSLANJ members are on the boards of two of the six newly organized Regional Library Cooperatives and one member is on the Review Board. A liaison from the state library was also requested. Since then, this representative has regularly attended HSLANJ meetings and there is continued interaction between HSLANJ and the state library. HSLANJ members have participated in the Union List of Serials Committees, Resources Coordinating Councils, and the Conservation Study Advisory Committee of the New Jersey State Library.

Perhaps the most far reaching issue, and one that is not yet resolved, is that of the deregulation of hospitals and the removal of the requirement that the hospital have a library as a condition of reimbursement and/or JCAH accreditation. The Legislative committees of both HSLANJ and the N.Y./N.J. Chapter of the Medical Library Association joined forces in a massive letter writing campaign to Dr. Caroline Davis of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services urging retention of libraries.

HSLANJ has begun to participate in the larger state library association: N.J.L.A. In 1984, for the first time, the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey had an exhibit/Medline demonstration booth at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Library Association. Members did computer searches using the National Library of Medicine data base. The second edition of the list of medical books for public libraries was also distributed.

December 1986 saw HSLANJ members providing most of the program called: Health Savvy: Accessing Health Information, sponsored by the Documents Association of New Jersey. Patricia Regenber, HSLANJ President, and Michelle Volesko, past President began with an Introduction to Health Information.

Other examples of outreach are the continuing work in Consumer Education and the participation in the Mid-Atlantic Health Conference. The latter tied the hospital libraries more closely to the health care field and made them visible to their Administrations.

## **Consumer Health Movement**

The first objective of the NJHLA was to encourage the utilization of health information. The Consumer Health Movement was in full swing at the time that a study authorized by the Regional Medical Library, HSLANJ, and the New Jersey State Library, by a consultant, Robert Lentz, recommended as one of nine recommendations that the N.J. State Library expand its collection of medical literature and extend its consultative services to health sciences libraries.

The HSLANJ Board thought a small readily accessible collection of medical books in each public library was what was really needed.

To this end a Consumer Health Education Committee was established in 1979 under the chairmanship of Janice Sweeton. In 1980, a letter and a list of suggested books was sent out from the New Jersey State Library, at the request of HSLANJ. It began: "Increased requests from the public for medical information, prompted the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey to offer its expertise in the selection of a small number of medical references for public libraries."

The list was updated in 1984. It will be updated again in 1987.

Patient or Consumer education collections have become very important in some of the HSLANJ member libraries, most notably Overlook Hospital and Englewood Hospital. The library at Overlook Hospital provides walk-in-service to the public library patrons of several public libraries.

### **Programs**

Before the formal organization of the Association, the Regional Medical Program sponsored a Hospital Librarians Workshop on February 9, 1972 at the Rutgers University Medical School in Piscataway. There were six concurrent Roundtable Discussions on basic topics such as reference sources and cataloging. Approximately 70 hospital librarians attended.

In the early years the speakers were from the State Library School, the Regional Medical Library, and the members' institutions. Later, representatives from the State Library began to come regularly to address the members of this special library community and to solicit their input and cooperation in the development of the state library plan. They also brought news of grants, consultants and the availability of OCLC.

The first programs were how to do it presentations: basic reference, the basic collection, etc. These gave way to management type programs: Evaluating Library Performance, Women Administrators, The Hospital Library as Part of the Health Care Team. The management programs were mostly presented by colleagues from the larger health science libraries. Beginning in the eighties, the programs introduced the members to the new technology: A Focus on Data Bases, OCLC, The New Technology and how to obtain support for it, Library Marketing: "Serving with Pizzaz."

During the period of active participation in the Mid-Atlantic Health Conference, the HSLANJ Board and members used the Conference as an opportunity for meeting each other and adding to their continuing education.

By 1983, the Board decided that since their members had a specialized clientele and subject matter, it might be a good idea to instruct them in the particular disciplines in health care. One of the programs each year is on a non-library topic and on how to address the literature needs of other groups of health professionals besides physicians. Some of the topics have been Radiology, Hospice, Nursing, and DRG's, The Literature of Psychiatry.

For the past four years, the programs have been accredited for Continuing Education Credits for Medical Library Certification. Also, regular training programs in computerized information retrieval offered by various data base vendors, including the National Library of Medicine, have been sponsored by HSLANJ.

The programs are held at the Center for Health Affairs headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey, a central, easily accessible site. Audiocassette tapes of the meeting are produced by the Center and are available on interlibrary loan for the librarians unable to attend the meetings.

### **The Mid-Atlantic Health Congress: P.R. and Education**

In 1977, during the presidency of Calvin Zamarelli, the New Jersey Health Sciences Library Association participated for the first time in the Middle Atlantic Health Congress. The Congress, held annually in Atlantic City in mid-May, has the dual purpose of the continuing education of all the middle management personnel of various disciplines and the exhibiting of health and medical equipment, including audiovisuals and print materials. Hospital librarians had never been previously included.

Librarian participation was sponsored by the NJHLA, the New York Regional Group of the Medical Library Association, and the New York/New Jersey Regional Medical Library. NJHLA Vice President, Carol Glatt, program chairman, encouraged attendance by members of the Association in order to make hospital librarians more visible as members of the hospital's professional health care team. The keynote speakers at the Librarians' Section at this "first" were Melvin S. Day, Deputy Director of the National Library of Medicine and James McCormack, Executive Director of the Central New York Health Service Agency.

The following year, 1978, the number of NJHLA members attending doubled. For the next four or five years, attendance continued to increase as leaders of the health sciences library field and of the health care field came to speak on: Library Development and the JCAH Standards, Legal Implications of Imparting Information, Patient Education, Parameters of Service, Winning or Losing the Budget Game or the Funding of Medical Education. Speakers included Eloise Foster of the American Hospital

Association, Rachel Goldstein of the Columbia University Health Science Library, Lucretia McClure of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and the late Ellen Gartenfeld of Consumer Health Information Network, Cambridge, Massachusetts. A major subscription agent hosted an annual luncheon for all the librarians.

Cost cutting in the mid eighties began to restrict both the number of exhibits and the funding of attendees. Librarian attendance at the Mid-Atlantic began to dwindle, as did that of other health professionals including administrators. When the annual meetings of the Medical Library Association were changed from June to mid-May in 1983 attendance continued to drop, so that by 1986 the Convention Manager and the proposed 1987 Library Representative Program Chair, Cheryl Newman of HSLANJ, mutually agreed to dissolve the Librarians' Committee and cease librarians' participation in the Congress.

## **Conclusion**

The Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey and its members can look back on a productive and stimulating 15 years.

HSLANJ is a very special type of professional special library association, small enough so that each member can have input into its policies, obtain help when needed and receive recognition when appropriate.

It is large enough and "old" enough so that its voice is heard in New Jersey library and legislative circles. Outside of the state of New Jersey, members have been leaders in the Hospital Library Section, the Consumer Health Sections of the Medical Library Association, and in its N.Y./N.J. chapter.

All of the 6 original objectives have been fulfilled: To review them:

1. Encourage utilization of health information. The libraries represented in HSLANJ are mostly well used and visible to their administrators. Hospitals have closed, but not libraries in hospitals.

The public and the public library world has come to count on health science libraries to supplement their information needs relative to health. The HSLANJ list: Medical Books for Public Libraries was sent out by the state library.

HSLANJ's legislative lobbying ensured health science library participation in the new state legislation and funding, especially with regard to the new state network of six regions and multi-type library cooperation, the Regional Library Cooperatives.

See also #2, and #4,c.

2. Develop usefulness & efficacy of hospital and nursing school libraries.

- a) The educational meetings, programs and workshops trained a corps of professional and paraprofessionals in practical methods of acquiring, processing, organizing, promoting and sharing relevant, useful, current health information in print and non print forms and various formats.

- b) The development of consortia for resource sharing and interlibrary loans led to the development of HSLANJ's Network.

3. Promote research in information science.

- a) The educational programs in the first years were by Library School faculty who used and described the latest technology and research methods and introduced the members to computers long before they were used in most libraries.

- b) Statistics were used by HSLANJ committees for Network Development and by HSLANJ members to persuade administrators and Grant sources, among them the National Library of Medicine, that the libraries were part of the entire educational and research function.

- c) Computerized Information Retrieval was encouraged long before it became acceptable in college and public libraries.

- d) HSLANJ did its own research projects, with surveys of its member libraries.

4. Promote high professional standards.

- a) NJHLA spoke up for the necessity/importance of having a qualified librarian in hospitals, and developed a set of Standards that were presented to hospital administrators as guidelines for their libraries.

- b) Medical Library Certification was encouraged, and to make it more easily attainable Continuing Education credit is approved for most statewide meetings/programs and for some Consortia programs.

- c) The Association and individual members wrote to the Head of the Department of Health & Human Resources urging for the continuance of the requirement that hospitals receiving federal funds have libraries.

5. Provide members with channels of communication.

- a) The newsletter has provided a forum of opinion, served as a vehicle for news of meetings, and profiled various libraries. It has also printed Union Lists, Exchange lists, and Election Ballots.

- b) An annual Directory, edited by the Membership Secretary, lists not only institutional members, but indexes personal members, and lists other consortia.

6. Help members in professional development.
- The meetings
  - The Standards
  - The spirit of cooperation and friendship among members that encourages them to teach each other.

### **Chronology of Achievements of NJHLA, HSLANJ**

#### **Years Events**

1972 Organization . . .  
 Membership recruitment.  
 Active participation in Regional Medical Program . . . including National Library of Medicine grant applications  
 Nursing resources coordination encouraged: Union List for Nursing Resources.

1974 - \* Standards for Hospital Libraries in N.J.  
 1976 Survey of Hospital Libraries (1975) preparatory to: Grant Application to National Library of Medicine for Association: Resource Grant to help Hospital Libraries conform to the Standards.  
 Support of Association for state interlibrary loan code  
 Support for New Jersey State Dept. of Health rate review law.  
 Support for concept of photocopying for personal use re the Copyright law.

1976 - Affiliation with N.J. Hospital Association.  
 1978 NJHSLA becomes Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey  
 Membership expands to recruit other health sciences libraries in addition to hospital libraries.  
 Programs at meetings given by library school faculty.

1978 - HSLANJ participates in Mid-Atlantic Health Congress, as health science librarians give professional program.

1979 - Consumer Education Committee sends List of Medical Books to public libraries  
 1980 Interlibrary Loan/Networking Committee established  
 Legislative Committee writes to Musto Commission requesting HSLANJ participate in development of new state network  
 Finance Committee established  
 HRET liaison committee selects titles and donates \$1,000 for administrative journals to be made available to HSLANJ members

1980 - Finance Committee established  
 Obtained appointment of Liaison from N.J. State Library to HSLANJ  
 Support for N.J. Committee for Better Libraries  
 Continued consortium development encouraged  
 \* New Health Sciences Network organized  
 Bylaws revision. Standing Committees added.

1981 - Archives Committee activated  
 1982 \* Long Range Planning Committee established

1982 - Special Interest Group for Nursing  
 1983 Nursing Libraries Resources Section

1983 - Exhibit HSLANJ info at New Jersey Library Association Annual Meeting  
 1984 Interlibrary Loan Network solidified, A.V. program developed to explain  
 Consortia more involved in HSLANJ elections, structure HSLANJ/HRET Survey  
 1st HSLANJ sponsored Medical Library Association CE course

1984 - Continued expansion of Network  
 1985 Participation at North Atlantic Hospital Library Association to describe network and to expand it to Basic Health Science Libraries outside New Jersey  
 HSLANJ meetings put on cost recovery basis  
 Initiated one day Retreat for Board Members  
 Special Interest Groups: Online Users

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- 1985 - Expansion of HSLANJ network to include BHSL
  - 1986 - Encouraged participation of Consortia and individuals in new statewide network, prior to organization of Regional Library Cooperatives  
Hospitality Suite at Medical Library Association  
Resumed joint meeting with NY/NJ Chapter of MLA
- 
- 1986 - Encouraged participation of HSLANJ in new N.J. network,
  - 1987 - Regional Library Cooperatives  
HSLANJ 15 anniversary celebration and Historical booklet  
Health Sciences Library Week proclaimed in March 1987 by Governor Thomas Kean.

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