

CO-8

MPLA Professional Development Grants Committee
2003 Annual Report
January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

The members of the Professional Development Grants Committee met five times via conference call during 2003. The June 2003 call was cancelled as there were no applications or evaluative reports to consider. The committee approved evaluative reports for 5 grants carried forward from 2002 totaling \$2243.

Twelve eligible applications were submitted to the committee for consideration. One application was withdrawn after committee acceptance. Of the eleven approved grants, seven evaluative reports totaling \$2274.23 have been submitted and approved. \$1500 for the remaining four grants will be carried forward to 2004. The total amount for the eleven grants approved in 2003 is \$3774.23. The committee was pleased with the number of applications received in October and December. A reminder sent to the MPLA email list prior to the October committee meeting seemed to be an effective method to promote and encourage applications.

The grant applications covered a wide range of activities. The majority of the grants funded in 2003 were for support to attend various conferences. Five MPLA members had grant assistance to attend the NLA/MPLA Conference in Lake Tahoe. Several of the applicants commented favorably on the REFORMA programming at the conference. One member attended the 2003 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting and one member will be attending 2004 ALA Midwinter. Grant funding helped one member attend ACRL's Immersion program. Another member was able to complete a librarian exchange program with a Mexican university. Two of the grants will assist members with coursework as one finishes an M.L.S. and another begins a Ph.D. program. Seven of the MPLA states are represented by the 2003 grant applicants: Wyoming (1), South Dakota (3), Kansas (2), Nebraska (1), Oklahoma (2), Utah (1), and Colorado (1).

An informational flyer about MPLA professional development grants was included with the ballot mailing again in 2003. A couple of announcements appeared in the MPLA newsletter publicizing the availability of the application and evaluative report forms as MS Word files. An article about the 2003 grant recipients has been submitted for the next MPLA newsletter.

During 2003 the committee tried electronic submission and distribution of applications and evaluative reports with much success. MS Word files of both the application and evaluative report were made available from the MPLA web site. Modifications to the Manual of Procedure wording reflecting these changes have been recommended by the committee and forwarded to the Executive Board for approval.

The 2003 committee also updated the long range plan sections dealing with the PDGC. During 2004 the committee will work to bring a recommendation to the Executive Board to fund two grants to attend the MPLA Conference to students attending library education programs.

It has been my pleasure to serve as chair of this important committee the past two years. The committee files are being forwarded to the new committee chair, Sharon Osenga.

December 2003

Kay Christensen, Chairperson