

# ews Release: American Library Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Regional Medical Library - State Library Agency Cooperation Meeting

The first steps were taken to establish cooperation between state library networks and health science library networks as a result of a meeting of state library agencies and the Regional Medical Library Program from six states in Chicago, Oct. 4-5, 1979.

Representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin met for two days to work on a number of objectives: establishment of stronger communication channels, identification of common needs and possible barriers to cooperative planning, and planning or expansion of cooperative planning, and planning or expansion of cooperative activities.

Participants identified seven high priority problems which they thought could be successfully approached through cooperative planning and then action plans were developed to address specific aspects of these problems. A fragmented approach to library network development ranked as the top problem, followed by difficulty in locating materials, lack of consumer health information, increasing costs of library materials and services, lack of funds for provisions of medical information to the general public, lack of access for medical library to non-medical literature and reference services, lack of resources to answer questions at the local level, and the need for better assessment of health information needs of public libraries.

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The meeting was sponsored by the Midwest Health Science Library Network (REGION VII RML) under the auspices of the National Library of Medicine. The meeting evolved from a recommendation of ALA's Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies' Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Relationship Between State Library Agencies and Health Information Libraries.

Participants will follow up the meeting with an exchange of newsletters and other information, further work on the action plans, and consideration of future meetings.

Copies of the Region VII RML/State Library Agency Cooperative Meeting Report are available from: MHSLM Management Office, John Crerar Library, 35 W. 33rd St., Chicago, IL 60616.

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