

History of MHLA Union List
(Brandon meeting, Oct. 1991)

Early minutes of the Manitoba Health Libraries Association. Minutes of July 1974, the third informal meeting of representatives of health related libraries, the discussion centred on local lending. A workshop was planned and organized by the Medical Library.

Minutes of Oct. 1976 beginnings of a union list. Each library prepared an alphabetical list of its holdings to be placed in a binder. Each library would have a binder of the holdings of the other health libraries.

With the formation of MHLA there followed the creation of a committee to oversee the production of the union list.

In the late 1970's the holdings were mounted on the mainframe computer of the University of Manitoba. Updates were published in newsletter. Advantages and disadvantages. By 1987-88 the pressure was mounting to find a new home for the union list.

McAinsh published in 1989. Sales are in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta (hospitals, Depts. of Health, community colleges). We sold 30 copies in addition to those sold to contributors.

Difficulties with continuing with McAinsh.

Charley Pennell. Formal agreement. 18 contributors. printed 50 copies. prices.

How it was done - Records searched in Bibliofile and exported into PC File (bibliographic management software for the PC). Edited in Wordperfect. Advantages: 1. records in Marc format 2. we have local control 3. database could be mounted on a PC.

Future - MHLA is producing its own union list. We have the expertise and resources within the association. We are in a good position to join a national health sciences union list.