There were 16 members present at the meeting of the Health Sciences Library Cooperative of Maine held February 12 at the Regional Memorial Hospital in Brunswick.

Gabriel Kirkpatrick presided, opening the meeting with the suggestion that perhaps in some areas the Cooperative is racing ahead too fast and would do well to go back to where we started. A way to do this would be to reactivate the committees and to begin looking into areas we have neglected. There are two ways this could be done. Either continue with the committees as they were set up, or choose new committees.

It was decided to reorganize the committees and do it geographically, so those near together could more easily get the work done. This decision was presented as a motion, seconded and passed. The Augusta-Skowhegan area will work with expanded interlibrary loans, rapid delivery, and rapid communications systems, Bangor with catalog card production, mutual notification of purchase, and joint purchasing, the Aroostook area with statistics, and the Portland area with personnel training, publications, and an information clearing house.

The group was asked for a definition of the place of non-hospital libraries in the context of membership in the Cooperative. Since this needs careful consideration, it will be discussed at a later meeting.

Welda Page reported for the planning and research committee. A letter with the request for funds to support a person who will work on behalf of the consortium has been submitted to Medical Care Development.

Christopher Levin was nominated to fill the position if and when the funding is received. He was unanimously elected to the position and will be called the coordinator. One of the things he can do beyond helping us apply for further grant funds is to aid in interpreting the goals of the Cooperative to the administrators of our hospitals and institutions. Following this train of thought we decided it is most necessary to define what things we shall want to fund. Among these are a salary for the coordinator past June when this first grant will expire, operating money, subsidizing training, and resources centralization. It was moved and passed that we apply for funds for these accomplishments, as well as money to support members' attendance at Cooperative meetings when administrations cannot give this support.

Having had a chance to talk with Dr. MacCampbell, Dean of the School of Library Services at the University of Maine, some of the members explained his interest in our group and his offer to support in-state training of individuals involved in health sciences libraries. This could compliment the training already being done by the Countway Library.

It was moved and passed that this training concept be turned over to a committee to help in writing it into the grant request. Also to be included would be the subsidizing of a member from the Cooperative to attend a training program or workshop concerned with the formation of a consortium. The members of this committee are: Mary Jane Geer, Rose Ricker, and Eleanor Cairns. It was also moved and passed that the budget include consultant fees and a planning component.

That money be budgeted for an information exchange was discussed. It was decided since the original concept to the consortium included a free exchange of information for a year, we should continue this way until the year is over. In the meantime a study of our activities in this area will be made and plans drawn up for next year accordingly. By that time we shall know what the National Library of Medicine will be funding. There still will be mailing and tele-communications expenses, so it was moved and passed to have part of the funds used for this purpose.
Discussion of the grant request having concluded, by a unanimously accepted motion Eleanor Cairns was named adviser to the Health Sciences Library Cooperative of Maine.

Work resumed on further funding suggestions and also ideas for consortium activities. These included centralized processing, cataloging, and sorting of materials. It would help to find an actual location where there could also be personnel to carry out the work. The State Prison at Thomaston was suggested. Inquiries about this proposal will be made. There might also be available space in one of the Augusta State Hospital buildings no longer being used. A central storage house for bound journals where an individual responsible for supplying copies to Cooperative members could be located would be very helpful, obviating the need for so much storage of materials by individual members. This could even be combined with central cataloging. This concept was approved to be considered for inclusion in the grant request.

Further ideas for projects of the consortium included a tel-med education program similar to ones that have been successful in other parts of the country, a tie-in with MEHC at the U. of Maine at Farmington and with the WHO television Area Health Education Center. This would lead toward support of education for both medical personnel and patients. Paul Lazarus pointed out that this kind of an educational support program really must be carefully designed at a later date, yet it is helpful to be considering it now.

Recently the librarians belonging to the Cooperative in the Bangor area convened in a regional meeting to discuss ways of mutual support. This kind of regional contact proved so beneficial that it was enthusiastically recommended to the consortium members in other regions.

Concluding the discussion of the goals of the Cooperative, it was pointed out that one of the first achievements should be to inform all the libraries, and especially the smaller ones, how to use the information the Cooperative has available. It would require a very mobile person to do this. Perhaps library students could be of help. Also clerical help is needed very badly in all areas, and again, especially among the smaller institutions. We cannot, however, tell what the needs are this fast, so we shall rely on our new coordinator to help in contacting the libraries and their administrators. We should also ask that he be our representative in the Hospital Administrators Association of Maine.

Cathie Smith introduced for consideration reorganization of the consortium. After discussion it was decided, although we recognize the Cooperative is not now organized as it probably should be to achieve the goals we all envision, it is what the original members joined when they signed the agreement, so for this year it will remain as it is. Restructuring will come in the future. By December of this year we will have definite proposals for reorganization. To implement this idea, which was moved and accepted, a committee to work on a new organization was chosen consisting of Cathie Smith, Sheila Johnson, and Nelda Page.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. (Please see attached.)

Final discussion included questions about the IBM cards for the union journal list. Nelda Page answered these and added she has a list of the holdings of medical libraries in the New York City area and will be glad to help with requests that might be supplied from this source. She called our attention to a Federal Documents workshop organized by NELINET to be held April 18 at the Sheraton-Boston Prudential Center. Cathie Smith explained her recent request about core library holdings is being made to pin-point where the core holdings are. As a foot note to Cathie's announcement, Eleanor Cairns told us the collections in the MEHC library that Cathie is organizing will make it second in size in hospital libraries in the state, and will be significant help to us.

It was proposed that meeting dates be set early in the month to help with the gas shortage. March 5 was chosen for the next meeting. We were invited by Jeanne Couture
to meet at the Central Maine General Hospital in Lewiston.

In appreciation of her help and interest in the Cooperative and of her friendship with the members, Shirley Lewis was presented with a going-away gift. She will be moving to Hawaii in early March.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca C. Larsen
Secretary-Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

February 12, 1974

Additional membership fees rec'd. to date $110.00
Total memberships paid to date $362.00

Expenditures:
  Mailing expense $52.59
  Checking account charges 1.89
  Balance on hand $305.52

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca C. Larsen
Secretary-Treasurer