



**Chapter Council Presents
Sharing Roundtables
MLA Annual Meeting
San Antonio, TX
Monday, May 16, 2005**

Table 7: Cultural Diversity

Facilitator: Amy Lyons

Recorder: Annabelle Nuñez

Attendance: *Amy Lyons, Annabelle Nuñez, Siobhan Champ-Blackwell*

The group was disappointed only three participants showed. Attendees recommend organizational prioritization on issues of cultural competency and diversity.

How do you look at cultural diversity

- among employees
- among constituency/audience/population being served
- how organizations function

Diversity differences

- cultural; who you are; language
- your place of employment
- level of acculturation; cultural values brought to the work environment
- work ethic

Is acculturation good or bad?

What are the issues of communication barriers

- How does the organization/institution address the “global environment”?
- materials in a variety of languages
- literacy level

“At Buffalo cultural diversity seems to be ad hoc, there needs to be a formal way of how things are being done”.

NNLM/Continental

- community outreach and underserved populations; providing access to information
- working with healthcare providers
- challenges of serving new and emerging populations (ex. Sudanese in Omaha) – providing material in their language and at their literacy level

AAMC

- Recommendation is to make cultural competency a requirement in curriculum (ex. New Jersey legislation)

In multicultural communities how are Title 6 or National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care enforced?

Recommendations on MLA sponsored class/session/workshop etc.

- 1) CE course on the role of the librarian to broker cultural competency.
Example - ¿No Comprendo? type of workshop/sessions etc.
- 2) cultural competency courses on sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, gender, age, ability/disability, language, etc
- 3) issues that contribute to health disparities; understanding health status variances – differences vs. similarities
- 4) librarian information network on who is doing specific research on health issues that affect diverse communities; or on agenda on particular research

Advocate for cultural diversity/competency programs or initiatives to become instituted/permanently; not on soft money – at institutions/organization etc.

Eugenie Prime possible MLA '06/Phx. speaker

Eugenie Prime, in a keynote address to the National Library of Medicine Community Outreach Symposium, stated that we needed to look at the elimination of health disparities as if it were a Manhattan Project. There are several components to that: a sense of urgency, a vision, clarity, communication, passion, promiscuous partnerships, and above all – execution. <http://nlmoutreachsymposium2004.org>

Participatory research – engagement

- Community Outreach symposia – online articles -

Create an MLA Section on Information Diversity & Cultural Competency