

Northern California and Nevada Medical Library Group 50 Years of Challenge, Change and Continuity

On Wednesday, November 12, 1947, thirteen librarians from nine institutions in San Francisco and Berkeley assembled in the library of the California State Department of Public Health in San Francisco, and thus began the first meeting of the Medical Librarians of the Bay area. Fifty years later to the day, we return to the same city to celebrate and reflect on our collective achievements and contributions to the advancement of medical librarianship in California and the United States.

We come together tonight as colleagues, to celebrate our 50th anniversary amid the splendor of San Francisco's Palace Hotel. Our membership roster on this evening lists 300 members. Through our early history we continued essentially as we began: a small, informal, friendly organization, seeking out new members and welcoming all into the active participation of a professionally worthwhile program. With the exception of membership growing some 25 fold (so that we can no longer describe ourselves as "small") I believe that today we can still proudly define our professional organization as informal, friendly, welcoming and worthwhile.

Hail to 2047

Dorothy Thurmond, President, 1997-98