Massachusetts Reading Association Records, 1971 - Current  
(MSS-002)

Finding Aid Compiled by 
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Last Updated: June 9, 2016
Volume: 7 linear feet (12 document boxes)

Acquisition: All items in this manuscript group were donated to Bridgewater State University by the Massachusetts Reading Association in May 2010 with additional material added yearly after creation.

Access: Access to this record group is unrestricted.

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Massachusetts Reading Association
Administrative History

The Massachusetts Reading Association, or the MRA, is a professional non-profit organization of individuals whose primary purpose is to improve the quality and level of literacy in the state of Massachusetts. The MRA is an affiliate of the International Reading Association, a worldwide literacy organization with a network of 300,000 educators in 99 countries. The MRA promotes literacy for all learners through professional development, research, publications, and advocacy for the literacy community. Some of the ways advocacy is met is through an annual state conference; disseminating best literacy practices to educators and parents; advocating for literacy issues through legislation, and through collaboration with other organizations with similar goals.

The MRA was officially chartered in 1969. The organization consists of a Board of Directors and elected officials. The organization’s main publication, the Massachusetts Primer, is published twice yearly and is aimed at promoting and advocating literacy.

Scope and Content Note

This is an open collection that will periodically be added to. The collection is broken down into six different series based on subject. Due to being an open collection, the box numbers for each series begin with box 1. As of 2016 there were 12 boxes of records in the collection.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Governance and Administration, 1 box

Contains MRA constitutions, by-laws, meeting minutes, membership information, and strategic planning material.
Series 2: General Publications, 3 boxes

Nearly all this series consists of the MRA publication the *Massachusetts Primer*, published twice yearly.

Series 3: Conferences and Workshops, 1 box

This series contains information and collected material for the MRA’s annual conference going back to 1971. Programs, photographs, scrapbooks, anniversary events, and other related material of the conferences are included.

Series 4: Advocacy, Committees, and Individuals, 2 boxes

Ephemera, MRA historical information, and information on specific individuals involved with the organization make up this series. The last two folders of the series contain photographs.

Series 5: Related Organizations, 1 box

Contains material about other organizations that deal with literacy awareness, such as the International Reading Association and the New England Reading Association.

Series 6: Awards and Items, 4 boxes

This four box series is made up of three flat file boxes containing a group charter, numerous awards and state proclamations, and promotional items such as tote bags and tee-shirts. One box contains folders of awards that were paper and not framed or oversize. All the awards were presented to the MRA.

Massachusetts Reading Association
Box and Folder List

Series 1: Governance and Administration

Box 1
Folder
3. Meeting Minutes, 1974
4. Meeting Minutes, 1975
5. Meeting Minutes, 1976
7. Meeting Minutes, 1977
8. Meeting Minutes, 1978
9. Meeting Minutes, 1979
10. Meeting Minutes, 1979
11. Meeting Minutes, 1980
12. Meeting Minutes, 1981
14. Meeting Minutes, 1982
15. Meeting Minutes, 1982-1983
16. Meeting Minutes, 1983
17. Meeting Minutes, 1984
18. Meeting Minutes, 1984
19. Meeting Minutes, 1984
20. Meeting Minutes, 1984
21. Meeting Minutes, 1985
22. Meeting Minutes, 1985-1986
23. Meeting Minutes, 1986
24. Meeting Minutes, 1987
25. Meeting Minutes, 1987, (Some loose documents may relate to 1986)
27. Meeting Minutes, 1988-1989
28. Meeting Minutes, 1989
29. Meeting Minutes, 1990
30. Meeting Minutes, 1991
31. Meeting Minutes, 1992
32. Meeting Minutes, 1993
33. Meeting Minutes, 1994
34. Meeting Minutes, 1995
35. Meeting Minutes, 1996
36. Meeting Minutes, 1997
37. Meeting Minutes, 2000
38. Meeting Minutes, 2001
39. Meeting Minutes, 2002
40. Meeting Minutes, 2003
41. Meeting Minutes, 2005
42. Meeting Minutes, 2009
43. Membership Information, 1992-2000, undated
44. Strategic Plan Report, c. 2005
45. MRA Articles of Organization from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, January 1998

Series 2: General Publications

Box 1
Folder
1. MRA Connection, 1995-2005

Box 2  
Folder  
1. Primer, 2001/2002  
5. Primer, 2012/2013  
6. Primer, 2013/2014  

Box 3  
Folder  
1. Primer, 2014/2015  

Series 3: Conferences and Workshops  

Box 1  
Folder  
1. Annual Conference: Call for Proposals, 1990-1993  
10. Annual Conference: Programs, 1999-2003  
11a. Annual Conference: Programs, 2004-2010  
17. Annual Conference: Photographs, undated  
23. 30th Anniversary Celebration, Scrapbook, 1999
25. Annual Conference: Carol Spafford materials, 2002

Series 4: Advocacy, Committees, and Individuals

Box 1
Folder
1. Celebrate Reading Committee, 1990-1994
2. Contests, c. 1984
3. Diversity Committee, 2002-2003, undated
4. Historical Information, Helen Forsgard, display, 1996-2006
5. Historical Information, Helen Forsgard, writings, undated
8. Literacy / CAGS, 2003, (Includes e-mail addresses)
13. Website, undated
16. Local Councils, 1984-1993, undated
18. MRA Ephemera, undated

Box 2
Folder
1. Individual Members – Sylvia D. Brown, 1977
2. Lori DiGis, 2011, (Includes Letter from Governor Deval Patrick)
5. Henry Hobaica, Photographs, undated
7. Julie Marek, 1982
8. Elaine Bukowiecki, 2006
10. Joan Vincent, 1985
13. Various Members, c. 2006 (BSC Grad Program in Reading Materials)
15. Photographs of People Unidentified, undated

**Series 5: Related Organizations**

**Box 1**

**Folder**
1. International Reading Association Legislative Material, 1981-1989
2. International Reading Association Legislative Update, 1983-1987
4. Handbook for Legislative Advocacy in the United States (by International Reading Association), 1983
7. Non-International Reading Association Reading Associations, 1981-1997
8. ESEA Chapter 1 of Title I, Program Directive, 1990
10. General Reading Skills Material, undated

**Series 6: Awards and Objects**

**Box 1**
- MRA Charter (framed), May 15, 1978
- IRA Horizon Award, 1997
- IRA President’s Cup Award, 1999

**Box 2**
- Massachusetts Senate Award, 1979
- IRA President’s Award, 1985, 1986
- IRA President’s Cup Award, 2001
- IRA Horizon Award, 2010

**Box 3**

**Folder**
2. MRA Advocacy Awards, 2005-2007, undated
4. President’s Award, 1993, 1999
5. Service Award, 1985
6. Twentieth Year Commendation Award, 1989

**Box 4**
- Tee-shirt
- Tote Bags
Plastic Bags and other bags