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Publishers and Michigan: Supporting the New Definition

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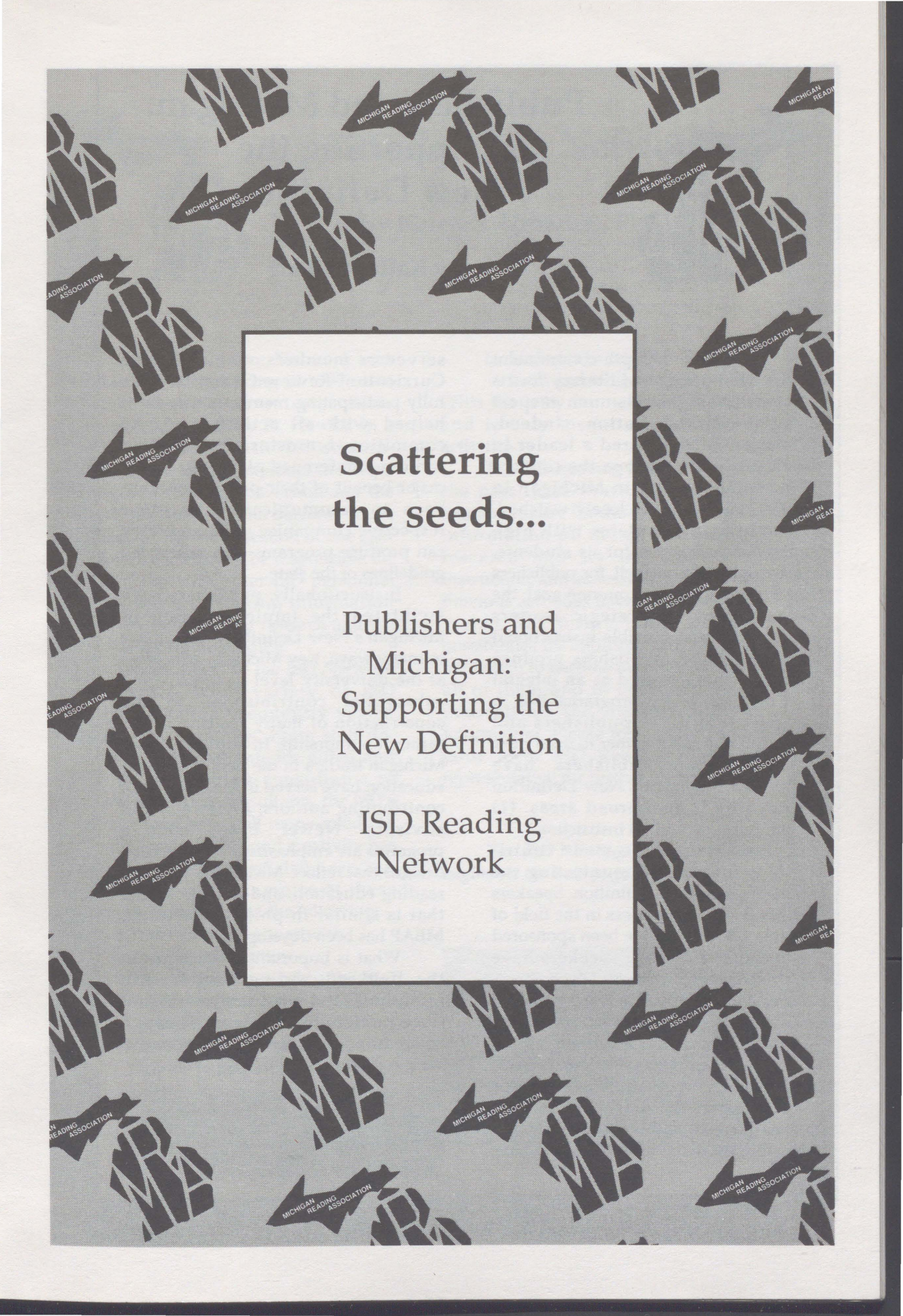
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The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of the Michigan Reading Association logo. Each logo consists of a stylized outline of the state of Michigan with the letters 'MRA' inside. The text 'MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION' is written in a small, sans-serif font along the top edge of the state outline. The logos are scattered across the page in various orientations and positions.

Scattering the seeds...

Publishers and
Michigan:
Supporting the
New Definition

ISD Reading
Network



Publishers and Michigan: Supporting the New Definition

by Kathy Gilbert

Michigan's in-depth commitment to the development of literacy for its students has gained much respect throughout the nation. Indeed, Michigan is considered a leader in literacy education across the country. What is happening in Michigan in reading education is closely watched, not only by other states with high literacy expectations for its students, but by publishers as well, for publishers and Michigan share a common goal: the development of strategic readers through the best possible instructional programs. Since publishers produce materials that are used as an integral part of instructional programs, it is in the best interest of publishers and Michigan to work together to meet their common goal. Publishers have supported Michigan's New Definition of Reading in two broad areas: (1) communication and (2) instruction.

Publishers have made contributions toward communicating the message of the new definition. Speakers for MRA who are leaders in the field of reading education have been sponsored by publishers. These speakers have addressed issues that support instructional change for implementing the definition. Publishers have also provided speakers and financing for **State of Reading** conferences, thereby supporting ongoing education for educators in the state. Publishing representatives and consultants with a keen interest in the field of reading have

served as members of the Reading Curriculum Review Committee. As fully participating members, they have helped with all activities of the committee--brainstorming, module writing, conference planning, etc. A major benefit of their participation has been to communicate with their respective companies as to how they can produce programs that reflect the guidelines of the state.

Instructionally, publishers have facilitated the implementation of Michigan's New Definition of Reading in many ways. Key Michigan educators at the university level have provided substantial contributions to the construction of many reading series through authorship. In addition, other Michigan leaders in the field of reading education have served in the capacity of contributing authors, reviewers, and advisors. Newer basal reading programs are emphasizing instructional designs that reflect Michigan's thrust in reading education, and holistic testing that is similar in philosophy to the MEAP has been developed.

What is important to Michigan in the field of reading counts with publishers, and what publishers produce matters to Michigan. Through cooperation, literacy education in our state is enhanced.

Kathy Gilbert is a Consultant for Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Publishers.