



Northcoast Notes

Cleveland Chapter SLA - Fall 1996; Vol. 2, No. 2

President's Message

President's Message
Raghini S. Suresh
Kent State University

Welcome to a new year in the life of our Chapter. We have completed another wonderful year, thanks to the enthusiasm and untiring efforts of so many of our members. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the officers, chairs, committee members, volunteers, program hosts, and sponsors for your part in making this past year such a successful one.

Last year the programs were held in a variety of special libraries reflecting the richness and diversity of experiences we have in our Chapter. From libraries located in the Zoo to Trucking Company, Arboretum to Art Museum, Database Services to University --the unifying factor was the special expertise and skill brought to each of these unique situations by the information specialists on site. It should make us all proud to see how valuable a service is being provided by our profession, and the tremendous contribution each information specialist has made through their efforts to provide the best in information service to their clients.

Many special librarians work pretty much alone, isolated from colleagues in the profession. SLA and more specifically for us, our Cleveland Chapter provides the

networking, the professional support, and ongoing inspiration, and motivation needed for us to keep going. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities this Chapter provides in all these areas.

The 1996-1997 year is now off to a great start. We have had one Executive Board and Advisory Council meeting for new officers to meet and make plans. A general membership survey is under consideration to evaluate the changing needs of our members in order that we may better serve you. A Chapter Web page is also planned for this year. I welcome your suggestions and comments as we begin working on this.

I am pleased to report that all positions on the Advisory Council have been filled. My thanks to each one for their willingness to serve the Chapter in these capacities. I trust it will be a rewarding experience. One of my goals for the new year is to encourage and provide opportunities for any member who is interested in taking a more active role to be able to do so. If you are interested in serving on any committee, please contact me or the appointed committee chair. A list of officers is included in this newsletter.

Our new President-Elect/Program Chair, **Sara Hill** has been busy lining up programs for the year. Ideas and suggestions for

programs are still welcome. Please contact Sara or me.

Joan Long along with her committee have begun planning for the Betty Burrows Seminar in April. **Sandy Cobb**, editor of Northcoast Notes would love to hear from you if you have any items for the newsletter. We are offering a special perk for anyone willing to write a summary report of any of this year's programs. For details and other newsletter opportunities please contact Sandy.

I feel privileged to serve as President of this wonderful Chapter and am looking forward to meeting and getting to know more of you. I invite you to share any ideas, comments, or suggestions with me. You may contact me at (330)672-2532 or e-mail : rsuresh@lms.kent.edu.

FREE REGISTRATION TO A SLA MEETING - Here's How

Write a review of any Cleveland SLA regular meeting for North Coast Notes and you will receive free registration for the next SLA monthly meeting. Call Sandy Cobb 266-3216 to reserve a month. *SOME DEAL!*

February 1996 SLA Meeting

Date: February , 1997
Time: Possible daytime meeting

Place: American Greetings or
Advance Star or TRW or Great
Lakes Science Museum

Joe Hecht (216) 447-3639 and
Sue Branchik (216) 357-3462
Coordinators

March 1997 SLA Meeting

Date: March , 1997
Time: 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Topic: Intranet & firewalls
Joint Meeting with NORASIS

Marcia Zeng, (SLA) Coordinator
(330) 672-2782
Ruth Fenske, (NORASIS)
Coordinator (216) 397-4523

1997 Betty Burrows Seminar

Date: April , 1997
Time: 9:00am to 4:30pm
Topic: Cost recovery/evaluation,
billing, value of library services

Joan Long, Coordinator (330)
972-7197

May 1997 SLA Meeting

Date: May , 1997
Time: 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Place: Inventure Place or Great
Lakes Science Museum
Peter Pogacar, Coordinator
(216) 622-8208

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rates and publication schedule,
please contact Patti Graziano,
phone number.

PREVIOUS 1996 SLA MEETINGS

September 1996 Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 26,
1996
Place: CPL Technical Services
behind the Memorial-
Nottingham Branch
Topic: Disaster Planning
Speaker(s) Ann Olszewski,
Preservation Librarian and
Georgina Koh, Assistant
Eileen Coan, Coordinator
(330) 688-3295

October 1996 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 22,
1996
Place: Case-Western Reserve
University Kelvin Smith
Library
Topic: Moving without disrupting
customer service
Speaker(s) Karen Oye,
Librarian Case Western and a cast
of thousands
Karen Oye, Coordinator
(216) 368-5309

November 1996 Meeting

Date: November 4, 1996
Place: Kent State University
Topic: Librarians and alternate
careers for Librarians
Speaker(s) Entire chapter
membership
Lydia Leovic, Coordinator
(216) 579-2913

For further information on future
programs, dates and locations,
call these officers and committee
chairs.

President-elect: **Sara Hill**
(216) 526-3030 ex 6248
Hospitality: **Debra Canale**, (330)
384-9000 ex 5396 or **Bridget**
McCrate Protus (216) 586-5060
Membership: **Ann Bolek**
(330) 972-6264

Message from Joe Hecht "It's great to be Past-President!"

It has been a pleasure serving as
President of the Cleveland SLA
Chapter. As the saying goes, you
get out of something what you put
into it. Well, as I expected, the
past two years (starting in 1995/95
as President-Elect /Program Chair)
have been a lot of work, but also a
lot of fun. Many chapter members
have pitched in and I am pleased
at the results.

Over the past two years, we held
well attended meetings on topics
our members felt were important,
including two outstanding
professional development
workshops featuring prominent
leaders of our profession. In
January of this year, we hosted the
Winter Meeting (Association
leadership and business meetings)
and Education Conference, both of
which had rave reviews for the
Chapter's and Cleveland's
hospitality and multitude of fun
activities. We published a new
chapter membership directory, got
a salary survey underway and
mostly completed (expect
something this Fall) and our
newsletter got its new name,

"Northcoast Notes", a new look
and new advertisers. Most of all, I
think we got to know each other,
made a lot of personal and
professional contacts, learned new
skills and had a great time.
Although we have programs for
this year well under way, we need
committed volunteers to ensure
the success of our activities.
Please give **Raghini Suresh**, the
new Chapter President, and **Sara**
Hill, the new President-Elect and
Program Chair,

It would not be possible for me to
list the many people how have
helped me out over the years to
get involved in what I call the best
library/information group in town
(yes, I'm somewhat partial). But I

do want to especially to thank our past presidents, committee chairs and friend and colleagues in the Chapter for their support. I would also like to thank **Jean Ocampo** (Centerior Energy Library) as well as **my wife, Nan**, for putting up with all of my meetings and time spent coordinating and planning Chapter events and functions. I will enjoy letting someone else run the show now! But of course, I'll still be involved.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Fall meetings, to learn, to meet new people and to see my old friends. Thanks for your support!

Members of Note

Michael Keating of Penton Research Services was awarded First Place in the 1996 Ohio Excellence in Journalism awards. for a headline he wrote for Penton's Government Procurement Magazine. His headline "Will judicial forces force aside minority set-asides?" earned the judges comments: "A tongue-twister, but we think it works!"

Penton's new manual "Government Product News. Introduction to the Government Market: Local, State, Federal" fourth edition is available from Michael by calling him at (216)931-9379, or send email to mikekeat@aol.com.

"Hiring" KSU Practicum Students: A Mutually Beneficial Situation

Lydia K. Leovic

In order to complete the requirements for an MLS degree from the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science, graduate students are encouraged to do a practicum. From the students' point of view,

the purpose of a practicum is twofold: to gain supervised work experience under the guidance of an MLS professional and to have the opportunity "try out" a career in a specific type of library or information center.

Practicums have two requirements. First, the student must clock either 100 or 150 *unpaid* hours in an information organization, depending upon whether they want to receive 2 or 3 credits toward graduation, respectively. Practicum hours can either be spread out over a semester, or completed during a shorter span of time, like winter break. Second, the student must complete a practicum term paper. The professional librarian mentoring the student should help him choose the practicum paper topic, with the primary goal of providing a learning experience for the student.

While the MLS student gains valuable work experience through a practicum, a significant byproduct of hosting such a student is that extra library work gets done, with virtually no additional expense to the library. A special project, like cataloging unique materials or building a proprietary database, which has been on the "back-burner" for months, can be accomplished by involving a student. Many students are eager to learn new technologies and could help provide recommendations on up-to-date products for an information center. A student may be able to lend a fresh approach to problem-solving in a variety of professional situations.

Students need to plan for practicums early in their MLS program, because the required 36 hours of credits, at an average of three credits per class, can get met quickly. However, many enter the program without a clear idea of exactly what kind of library they'd

like to work for after graduation. Consequently, *where* they should do a practicum may be unclear to them. Students may consider practicums in highly visible locations, like the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the Botanical Garden or their local public libraries, simply because they are not familiar with area special libraries, let alone the directories which list them.

Yet, even library directories cannot provide an adequate picture of what doing a practicum in a particular setting would be like. While an ambitious student can "call around" questioning a few librarians about the possibility of a practicum in their institution, they may overlook an especially appropriate situation.

In order to fill the information gap between students and local special libraries, the KSU Special Libraries association proposes the development of a practicum database. Our current plan is to use Web-based technology for the project, so that students can easily access this information from a variety of locations. We hope that the special library community will agree that such a database would be a valuable resource for students, and we encourage your participation.

A record in the practicum database would include the following fields:

1. Name of the Institution
2. Address
3. Phone
4. email address
5. Name of librarian to contact
6. Number of staff
7. Type of Library (i.e. Corporate, Law, Medical etc.)
8. Short history including approx. date of establishment
9. Possible responsibilities for the practicum student
10. Special projects pending (if applicable)
11. Dates practicums are offered

at library (Fall, on-going, etc.)
12. Other pertinent information

We welcome feedback to this proposed file structure and encourage any general comments about this project. We intend to begin this practicum database immediately and maintain it on a permanent basis. Records from your special library for this database can be emailed to lk.leovic@clev.frb.org at any time. If you have any questions, please phone

MEMBER PROFILES

(With this issues we are beginning a column about individual Cleveland Chapter members and their libraries. If you would like to contribute an article about your library or another member's email the editor.)

CAREER PATHS:

Catherine Wells

by Paula Cohen 932-2771

The broad and open-ended academic path leading to careers in information management has aroused my curiosity and has driven me into the discovery journey of how the careers of different SLA members have evolved and the variety of environments and opportunities existing under the broad title of Information Specialist. For this issue I have focused on Catherine Wells of Sears Library of Case Western Reserve University and the circuitous route that brought her to her current position. Cathy has rich life with multi-dimensional interests that bring depth and varied perspectives to her work as an information specialist.

The immediate impression I got from Cathy Wells was of a seasoned professional. Cathy has a grasp on the sources and systems in her collection that seemingly takes years to cultivate.

However, she came to her current position with many years devoted to other pursuits.

During her student days at Ohio State she received undergraduate and graduate degrees, it seemed Cathy was destined to be an anthropologist. Second thoughts about the realities of the life as an anthropologist caused Cathy to reconsider her career goals, and she ended up spending several satisfying years as an academic counselor to OSU honor students. A turning point came when her husband received his doctorate in history and took a job at Cleveland State University. The couple's move to Cleveland in 1977 gave Cathy the opportunity to reevaluate her career options and it was then that she finally decided to act on a lingering interest in library science. Case Western Reserve's School of Information Science was the obvious choice. Cathy began the program as a part-time student while beginning a new job at Sears library (Business and Science) as library assistant focusing on periodical check-in. At this early stage, the classification and cataloging of serials meshed well with her studies and the school work took on a real dimension. Cathy found the academic setting congenial and after completing the MLS four years later in 1981, she became the Collection Manager for Arts and Literature at CWRU's Freiberger Library. Though somewhat of a departure from the business and science collections at Sears, this position got Cathy on her way as an information professional, establishing her presence in the CWRU library system in a variety of positions that included assistant head of serials. Desiring the more public service aspect of the work, Cathy moved back across campus to Sears in the late 80's to work in reference collection management and in 1990 was promoted to her

current title of Collection Manager for Business / Management.

In our discussions of the evolution in information science in a business/management library setting, Cathy's perspectives and perceptions of the transformation that have occurred in her work emerged. Over the past five years dramatic technological advances combined with a far more sophisticated attitude toward the value of information have brought many exciting new opportunities for information professionals working with business/management collections in an academic environment.

Undoubtedly, automation has revolutionized the entire operation and systems of library management. Though CWRU was one of the first schools to use CD-ROM's at stand-alone work stations, they were remarkably crude by today's standard. The few CD-ROM's in use in 1990 had to be manually loaded daily. Today over 100 databases are installed on a university-wide system. Key-word search capability and full-text conference proceedings in the on-line catalog were a rarity only two years ago, as was the concept of merging catalogs through OHIOLINK. These all have now evolved into sophisticated searching tools. One of the most significant additions to the library's resources in the past year is the Internet. Though sometimes slow and somewhat unreliable, there is a great deal of interest in business/management related sites on the WEB. The new Kelvin Smith library has internet access through all public workstations, reflecting greatly increased usage and interest. The proliferation of resources in all the business disciplines has fostered an increasing demand by faculty and staff for classes to facilitate patron-direct searching. As the staff increasingly views the library as an integral part of

effective research, Cathy's role is one of teaching classes in basic orientation and introducing students and faculty to the library's multi-media collection : on-line, internet and hard copy.

Now in the new library building on East Boulevard, across campus from the management school, the immediate challenge will be to remain in the forefront, with the same degree of visibility and accessibility that the library has always enjoyed. With classes in session ,it will be business as usual this fall at the Weatherhead School of Management. Cathy will be busy instructing students and faculty in the location and use of the new library's high tech features and library resources even as she is still adjusting to them herself.

Many thanks to Catherine Wells for the hours she so generously and enthusiastically spent with me.

Get Into Print

The Cleveland SLA Chapter needs you! Share your latest internet address or new reference find. Reveal an unusual chore connected with your job or a special perk. The Northcoast Notes needs your input. Will you make a commitment to submit an article in the coming year? Send articles, items, suggestions to sandra.cobb@lighting.ge.com or fax to (216)266-2063.

LET'S GET CONNECTED

If you have a new email address, please send it to Sandy Cobb to update the chapter email list at sandra.cobb@lighting.ge.com.

The email list will be used for reminders and will be forwarded to Sue Branchick for the next Chapter Directory.

The 95-96 year in Review.

Adapted from remarks given during the May 1996 meeting at the Cleveland Museum of Art. by Raghini Suresh

The 1995-1996 year was a memorable and exciting year for the Cleveland Chapter. We held six professional development programs, the Betty Burrows Seminar, and also hosted the National SLA Winter Education Conference here in Cleveland. Chapter members generously gave of their time and talent to make this another successful year for our Chapter We are very fortunate to have had so many members who are interested in participating and actively contributing to Chapter activities.

Much of the success is due to the efforts of the members of the Executive Board, the Advisory Council, and planning committees. ere is a brief summary of the programs of the past year:

In September, we started off the year with a program entitled "Rare Leaves in the Library: A Talk and A Walk through the Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Original Art in the Warren H. Corning Collection of Horticultural Classics." at the Holden Arboretum, Corning Library, Kirtland, Ohio. This program was coordinated by **Peter Pogacar** with **Nadia Aufderheide**, Librarian at the Corning Library, Holden Arboretum, Attendees had an opportunity to hear **Dr. Stanley H. Johnston, Jr.** Curator of Rare Books give an interesting presentation on this unique collection of materials, and also to tour the beautiful gardens.

Our October program featured **Debbie Canale**, Senior Marketing Analyst/Librarian, Roadway Express, Inc. and **Colleen Meeker**, Information Specialist, Ernst & Young who gave a lively

presentation on "Librarians in Competitive Intelligence" at Roadway Express in Akron, Ohio. This program was coordinated by **Jaclyn Facinelli**. Skills and competencies needed to enter this growing field of competitive intelligence were highlighted followed by a presentation about SCIP the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals and its goal to promote competitive intelligence as a profession .

In November, we held a joint program of SLA/NORASIS entitled "A Site to Remember: A Virtual Blueprint for Building Your Dream Home Page". at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. This joint program was coordinated by **Suhasini Kumar**(SLA) and **Richard Brhel**(NORASIS) Presented in the state-of-the-art Electronic Classroom at Kent State University, **Marcia Zeng** , **Paul Fehrmann**, and **Dave Lambing**, provided instruction and demonstration with an opportunity for hands on practice on creating a Web Page.