

President's Corner

By Susan Fifer Canby, sfiferca@ngs.org

Hey Folks:

We absolutely need your feedback in a survey we are doing to determine goals for these next couple of years. Please stop reading this column now and complete the following survey that will only take you a few minutes, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=95010240703> and will make a big difference to this chapter. We won't have a statistically viable survey without your help. Thanks very much!

Dear Colleagues:

Important recent actions by the SLA Board caught my eye, and they may interest you as well:

G&M Division: SLA has approved the merger of Social Science and Geography and Map Divisions. I note this because I started my SLA career in the Map Division more than twenty-five years ago and it was the division that the second librarian of National Geographic helped start in Washington, DC.

Purchase of SLA's New Headquarters: At the June 2003 Board meeting, we approved that our current building be placed on the market for sale and that SLA lease or purchase a new property for our headquarters. Since then, Lynn Smith and her team located real estate that fit all the parameters of our space needs and has signed a contract to purchase. That property is located at 331-335 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, VA. This location is very close to a Metro station and should meet our current and future needs.

SLA has accepted the Government of India's purchase offer for our current headquarters (1700 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC). The closing date won't occur any later than April 30, 2004.

Sale of the current headquarters will produce a profit of approximately \$6 million. SLA will be reinvesting just over \$5 million in the new headquarters. The remaining profit will be invested in a principle-protected fund as directed by Board action. The SLA Board will discuss this further at the June 2004 Board meeting.

In addition to the net profit related to the sale of the current Headquarters and purchase of the new property, significant cost savings will be recognized which include:

- a reduction in the annual building capitalization plan (an average saving of \$100,000 per year)
- savings related to no longer managing a historic building (\$30,000 per year savings).

If are interested in learning more about the most recent board meetings, click:

<http://www.sla.org/Documents/boarddocs/04docs/openaga.1003.doc>

Change is healthy and offers renewal. I hope to see you at the Holiday party at the Arts Club of Washington, DC on December 8, where we will toast the season with our colleagues in DCLA and ASIS&T. Have a joyous season and I'll be back in touch in the New Year.

Best, Susan

December 2003

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<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc>

Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1
DC/SLA Strategic Planning Committee Needs Your Help	2
DC/SLA Archives	2
Member News	2
Research Tip of the Month: Or In Other Words...	3, 8
Member Profile: Catherine (Kitty) Scott	5-7
Welcome New Members!	8

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Friday, December 19th is the deadline for materials which can be included in the **January 2004** issue. The issue is distributed approximately three weeks after the deadline. The preferred submission format is a Word document sent via email.

Materials for *Chapter Notes* should be sent to the Editor:

Cynthia Holt
The Gelman Library
George Washington University
2130 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20052
Phone: 202-994-1352
Email: holt@gwu.edu

Event announcements should also be submitted electronically to the:

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Send address changes for *Chapter Notes* to:

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DC/SLA Strategic Planning Committee Needs Your Help

Submitted by Catherine Kitchell, ckitchell@bna.com

All organizations, including DC/SLA, need to view strategic planning as a continual process. The current Strategic Planning Committee has just updated the Vision Statement for the Chapter and is revising the Recommendations for Action developed in 2000 to make sure our organization continues to be relevant to members. A Long Range Planning survey was developed this summer by the Committee to garner input from members on what they want/expect from DC/SLA. The survey will lead the Committee to make recommendations to the Board about what kinds of services should be expanded, contracted or started/restarted. The Committee needs your input on when/where meetings should take place, what topics should be covered, and the best way to communicate with members.

If you have not already answered the survey it is available on SurveyMonkey.com at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=95010240703>

If you have already answered the survey, the Committee is grateful for your time. If, however, you do not have Internet access, prefer to take the survey in written form or do not feel the survey allowed you enough space to say what you think needs to be said, the committee encourages you to write us. To obtain a paper copy of the survey, please contact Catherine Kitchell at ckitchell@bna.com or call 202-452-4431. The Committee and the Board are committed to hearing what all members have to say and making the process as inclusive as possible.

The Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee is Joan Gervino. Her email is joan.gervino@verizon.net. Other members of the Strategic Planning Committee are: Anne Caputo (Anne.Caputo@factiva.com), Larry Guthrie (lguthrie@cov.com), Catherine Kitchell (ckitchell@bna.com), and Jean Tatalias (tatalias@mitre.org).

DC/SLA Archives

Submitted by Judy Grosberg, grosbergj@mail.nih.gov

The DC/SLA Archives are a source of information about our chapter and our profession. We are looking for past records, particularly from the 1970s that will enrich our collection. If you have any of the materials listed below, please contact Judy Grosberg, Chapter Archivist, at 301-496-6756 or email grosbergj@mail.nih.gov.

- Board meeting minutes and reports
- Business meeting minutes
- Committee minutes and reports
- Annual report
- Bylaws revisions
- Chapter groups or division sections reports and correspondence
- Bulletins and directories
- Treasurer's records in accordance

with the Treasurers' Policy and Procedures Manual

- Revised procedures manuals
- Reports and correspondence from liaisons to other organizations or committees
- Reports on conferences, workshops and association-wide meetings
- Obituaries and photographs
- Memorials and awards


Member News

The Fall issue of *infoEdge* features a cover story, "Marketing Your Library," by **Anna Hall** (National Defense University) and Teresa Llewellyn (Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering). Anna and Teresa are MSLS degree candidates at Catholic University. The article is available online at <http://west.thomson.com/pdf/infoedge/40237216.pdf>.

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Research Tip of the Month: Or In Other Words...

Submitted by Mary Ellen Bates,
mbates@batesinfo.com

One of the things I love most about being an on-call researcher is that I get projects on just about any subject imaginable. Last week brought me one on prescription drug coverage in the 1960s, the week before included the hallmarks of innovative companies, whether China is winning the globalization race, and trends in the pet cremation industry.

Of course, that brings with it the challenge that all researchers face -- figuring out how to tackle a project in an area in which we're not familiar. If someone asked you to do some research on biotech story stocks, would you know where to start? If your client said she was looking for good examples of in situ conservation projects in the UK, what questions would you ask her?

In the days before the web, if we needed

help deciphering an obscure industry term, we either consulted a specialized print thesaurus, or looked in the subject thesaurus of a value-added online service, such as the National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), or INSPEC's thesaurus of sci-tech terms. They were useful, but generally not free, and of course if they weren't already in your collection, you were out of luck.

Now, of course, there are web dictionaries, glossaries and thesauri on just about any topic you can imagine. For an explanation of "story stocks", head over to the [Investopedia dictionary of investment terms](#), where you will learn that a story stock is one "whose value is reflected by its potential (or favorable press coverage) rather than its assets and income." In-situ conservation? Try the [World Resources Institute's biodiversity glossary](#). And the NLM's Medical Subject Headings can be found at www.nlm.nih.gov/

[mesh/MBrowser.html](#)

There are a number of ways to find these glossaries. One great source is the [Glossarist](#), a browsable and searchable directory of web-based glossaries and subject-specific dictionaries.

Google has developed a glossary search that goes beyond its spell-check function. Although single words can be searched by using the syntax *define:searchterm* (try [define:erlang](#) to learn about an obscure telecom term), phrase searches do not work consistently. For multiple-word definitions, go to the test version of [Google Glossaries](#), and type your phrase in the search box. In either case, Google will return definitions of the word or phrase from web-based glossaries and thesauri. And remember to click through from the definitions that Google provides on the search results page to the originating web site,

(Continued on page 8)

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Member Profile: Catherine (Kitty) Scott

Submitted by Sue O'Neill Johnson, sueo-johnson@msn.com



Kitty Scott in 2002

Sue O'Neill Johnson interviewed Kitty Scott in the first of a short series in forthcoming issues of *Chapter Notes* on some of the senior members of the DC Chapter. Kitty is a former President of SLA, who continues to be very active at in the DC Chapter, and at the national Board level. Through these interviews we hope to gain perspective on the history of SLA, and its importance to members of long standing

Catherine (Kitty) Scott, a strong leader and retired SLA Member, is the former Chief Librarian and Director of the National Air and Space Museum Library, Smithsonian. She was appointed by Michael Collins, the Command Module Pilot on Apollo 11.

We have heard that learning to act provides good training for leadership. Kitty Scott, native Washingtonian, SLA "Commander Emeritus," trained to be an actress before changing direction and

going to library school at Catholic University. Her first job in a library was at the Library of Congress in the Hispanic Division while she was in high school. The library interest stuck. When she proudly explained that she is related to Union Generals George Meade and Winfield Scott, I could see that she fits in with the determined strong lineage in her family. She is strong in spirit.

She loves politics and gets totally immersed (still) with strategic moves in winning. Forget electronic solutions; she calls the shots on the phone. She has mentored Bill Fisher and Sylvia Piggott (Past SLA Presidents), Cindy Hill (Current SLA President) and Carla Hayden (Current President of ALA). Who has mentored Kitty? The late Jo Ann Clifton, who preceded Kitty as SLA President, and the late Karl Baerl, who was librarian at National Association of Home Builders.



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(Continued from page 5)

Some of her most notable accomplishments:

Kitty is a U.S. Presidential Appointee. She was confirmed by the Senate to the first National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), only two of the twelve were women.

She is a winner of the Federal Service Medal.

Kitty is a Member and Secretary of the Platform Committee of the Republican National Committee and a Convention Delegate.

She was Founder and Chief of Technology Library for Bellcomm Inc., a subsidiary of AT&T where she worked closely on Project Apollo. Her library, where she provided essential library service to the early space program, was nicknamed, "Library on the Moon".

SLA Accomplishments:

Kitty was an SLA Board Member; a Past President of SLA and DC/SLA; DC Chapter Member of the Year; SLA Hall of Fame and Chair of the Aerospace Division (now a section of the Engineering Division)

Most fun she had in Washington Chapter:

Making Friends and Mentoring:

- Larry Guthrie, a Past Chair of Law Librarians Div.;
- Past Presidents of DC/SLA: the late Cathy Jones, for whom the DC/SLA Scholarship is named; Joan Gervino who is currently Senior Director on the DC/SLA Board; Mary Huffer; the late Karl Baer; Ellen Chu; Paul Klinefelter; and Eileen Rourke who is currently on the International Relations Committee
- Larry Himmelfarb, National Restaurant Association; Wilda Newman of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab; former SLA Board member Barbara Semonche who is currently the Library Director at the University of North Carolina School of Journalism; Buzzy Basch

(Continued on page 7)



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(Continued from page 6)

of Basch Subscriptions; and Rosa Liu of Intelsat.

- Judy Grosberg, the current DC/SLA Archivist, worked with Kitty at Bellcom.

As Chair, with Christine DeBow Klein (a Current SLA Board member), of the SLA Consultation Committee for over 10 years:

The Saudi Arabian Government's Science Attaché wanted to build a privately-funded science center on espionage; Kitty recommended they turn a clipping service into a library archive, which later became the current Spy Museum.

The Government of Sudan in formation of a science information center.

The American Indian Council wanted, and received, advice on library services.

IBM came to the committee to set up a library on congressional relations.

Several associations approached the committee for advice, which resulted in the development of association libraries such as the Food Marketing Association Library, the Fruit and Vegetable Association Library, and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Library.

Advice she has for the DC Chapter:

More divisions should form a DC Chapter group. There is so much potential in the D.C. area for inspired programs. "Why doesn't the Science and Technology Division have a DC Chapter group? Look at what the Military Librarians are doing as a model."

Forming the Young Peoples' Group is the most important action DC/SLA has taken.

Consulting is a great way to market the Chapter and to become more involved in the community.



Michael Collins, Apollo 11 Command Module Pilot

(Continued from page 3)

which will be a dictionary or glossary of other terms within that topic or industry. If you find that you often need technical telecom terms, for example, search for an industry buzzword such as "LATA," and then note which sites provide good coverage of other telecom terminology.

You can also find high-quality glossaries and subject-specific dictionaries by going to a web directory such as the [Open Directory Project](#) or the [Librarians' Index to the Internet](#), selecting the subject category you are interested in, and then clicking through to a subcategory with the word "glossaries," "terminology" or "dictionaries".

Using thesauri or glossaries before you begin your research will bring more successful results, your desired goal, the accomplishment of your intended purpose, a state of prosperity or fame.... Well, you get the idea.

Welcome New Members!

Submitted by Cynthia Kahn, ckahn@aamc.org

Please welcome the following new members to the DC/SLA Chapter:

Mary Nell Bryant	Beth Clough	Stephen Leary
Elizabeth Grimes	Cindy Diamond	William Long
Tina Pinnix Broome	Matthew Hogan	Freida McCoy
John Shuster	Lisa Jacobson	James Nalen
Wendy Brown		