

## President's Corner

By Susan Fifer Canby, [sfiferca@ngs.org](mailto:sfiferca@ngs.org)

On behalf of the Chapter, a big thanks goes to a Past President of DC/SLA, Sue O'Neill Johnson, Chair of the 2004 Nominating Committee, for recruiting a wonderful slate of candidates for the DC/SLA membership. It illustrates the vigor and depth of our Chapter that we are able to have such a competitive election. Thank you to those of you who answered in the affirmative when someone called to ask if you could take on a leadership role in our Chapter. Thanks also to another DC/SLA Past President, Ellie Briscoe, and her Elections Committee, for handling the ballots. Finally, I would like to thank YOU for participating in the elections. We mailed nearly 1,030 ballots and expect many of you have already exercised your vote to select the leadership of DC/SLA, 2004-2005.

Please mark your calendars to join us for the Annual Banquet on May 18th, to recognize your new leaders and award winners, and to hear from Dr. Bernadine Healy, senior writer at US News & World Report and the first woman to lead the National Institutes of Health. Program Chair, Sheryl Rosenthal, and Hospitality Chair, Barbara Folensbee-Moore, have planned the banquet to be held at the Four Points Sheraton, 1201 K St., NW, Washington, DC, 6-9 pm, with dinner reasonably priced at \$25. This banquet always proves to be a warm resolution to the year, so if you need details on how to reserve your place, please go to the web calendar (<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events.html>).

Earlier in the day of May 18th, the Joint Spring Workshop will meet in the Library of Congress Mumford Room to learn about the issues and tensions created by the USA Patriot Act. Vermont's Representative, Bernie Sanders, will give the keynote address. If you'd like to learn more, please plan to participate ([http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events\\_files/jsw2004.html](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events_files/jsw2004.html)).

At the end of April, a Chapter President begins to total up all of the good works of the SLA year and to think about the many people it takes to make the activities, learning experiences, social and networking events, *Chapter Notes*, leadership development, web enhancements, and more occur for us all. It has taken nearly 100 volunteers to manage everything – hopefully you have been part of that dynamic 10%. In my May column, I look forward to giving you an accounting of the year's accomplishments.

Until then, I wish you the sense of renewal in your job and your life that spring brings each year. Best, Susan

## Welcome New Members!

Submitted by Jill Konieczko, [jkonieczko@usnews.com](mailto:jkonieczko@usnews.com)

Please welcome the following new members to the Chapter:

Erik Delfino, Library of Congress  
 Catherine Fauver, Uniformed Services University, Student  
 David Freeman  
 Kristina Gabriel, Student  
 Rebecca Mazur  
 Jeff Meiczinger, TeleProductions International  
 Danielle O'Brien, Student

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### Special points of interest:

Check out the new products and services from:

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 PTFS, Inc.

Check us out on the Web

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

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**Kelley Weber**, Surface Transportation Board  
Phone: 202-565-1668  
Email: [weberk@stb.dot.gov](mailto:weberk@stb.dot.gov)

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

**Monday, April 19th** is the deadline for materials which can be included in the **May 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:

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**Event announcements should also be submitted electronically to the:**

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## Washington to Nashville...On the Cheap

Submitted by David Grossman,  
[david@davidgrossman.net](mailto:david@davidgrossman.net)

Have you already made your reservations for Nashville? If not, read on. This article might save you a bundle. This is a very good time to travel for business or leisure. Airlines and hotels, still reeling from the depressed economy, the threat of terrorism, and other recent travel scares, continue to offer numerous bargains to lure travelers back on the road.

### Air: BWI to Nashville for \$157

In the DC area, SLA members are blessed with three airports to choose from and lots of competition to keep prices low. Although prices are always subject to change as flights sell out, a recent survey of air fares from the three area airports to Nashville indicated that SLA members could find a round trip fare for less than \$200 if you are willing to fly out of BWI.

And at this point, you won't save any money by staying over on a Saturday night, but, the Saturday night stayover may come back into play once again as June draws nearer. Currently, you may fly non-stop from BWI to Nashville on Southwest Airlines for only \$157, round trip. If you don't like Southwest Airlines' no-advance seat assignment policy, you can pay another \$10 to \$20 to fly on another airline, such as Continental, Northwest, or US Airways, but you will then have to change planes in such places as Cleveland, Newark, Detroit, Memphis, Pittsburgh, or Charlotte.

Low fares can still be had if you fly out of Reagan National or Dulles, but your options are somewhat limited. If you are willing to accept a Saturday night stayover, you can also fly non-stop for \$250 on US Airways Express out of Reagan, or \$256 on United Express out of Dulles. Be forewarned that these "Express" carriers are only affiliates of those two airlines, and you will be flying in a 35 or 50 seat "regional" jet with limited overhead space and seat comfort.

And, if you do decide to spend the weekend in Nashville, you can experience a historical Saturday night performance of the Grand Ole Opry, a must see, even for those not disposed towards country music.

But if you want to travel on Sunday, and avoid the weekend, the prices of those two options increase dramatically to \$760 for the privilege of flying non-stop to Nashville on a miniature-sized jet.

If you decide to avoid the weekend stayover and do not want to fly out of BWI, then your best option at the moment is taking Continental Airlines from Reagan National or Dulles to Nashville via Newark or Cleveland. This will cost around \$250. Other airlines will also offer equivalent air fares for similar connections through their hub cities.

American Airlines and Southwest Airlines are offering an additional 5% or 10% off most of their fares, if you make your reservations through those airlines as instructed on SLA's Web site. But, be careful, because these discounts may not apply to some of the lowest fares you can get. You might also save a few extra dollars by booking your flights on Hotwire.com or Priceline.com, but you will forfeit control of your airline choice and any miles you might accrue for the trip.

If you do decide to buy your ticket through a travel agency, online or otherwise, not only will you forfeit the SLA discount, but there will usually be an additional service charge that could be anywhere from \$5 to \$25 per ticket. This includes online travel agency Web sites, such as Expedia, Orbitz, and Travelocity.

Of course, another option from Washington, DC, is to drive to Nashville. But that is approximately 665 miles each way and will take you at least 10 or 11 hours of driving time. And you will probably spend at least \$115 in gasoline, not to mention the wear and tear on your car.

## Hotels: \$65 Off-site vs. \$190 For the Conference Hotel

For those who have never been to Opryland, it is an enormous complex – a self contained city. If you choose to pay the \$190/night conference rate at the Gaylord Opryland Resort, there is no need to rent a car and you will probably never have to leave the confines of Opryland during your visit to Nashville.

Meetings, receptions and a plethora of good restaurants and night spots will all be right on the premises.

But if you are on a stringent budget, you may want to consider staying at a nearby, much less expensive hotel, and renting a car. At last check, the nearby Radisson offered by SLA for \$119/night, was already sold out. But if you do manage to get into this hotel somehow, I would still strongly recommend renting a car or you will be walking long distances in the hot June sun...or rain.

I say, skip that Radisson altogether if you want to save a buck and avoid the conference hotel rates. The Opryland complex is very close to the Nashville Airport and there are a large number of reasonably priced hotels and motels within a short drive of Opryland.

At last check, the three star Amerisuites at Nashville Airport was offering suites for \$65/night during the conference. The Airport Radisson had rooms for \$72/night. The La Quinta and three nearby Holiday Inns offered rooms for around \$65/night, and the Ramada for \$54/night. And many more can be found on Sidestep.com, a downloadable travel search engine which will quickly show you the lowest rates available at dozens of nearby hotels.

## Cars For \$30/day

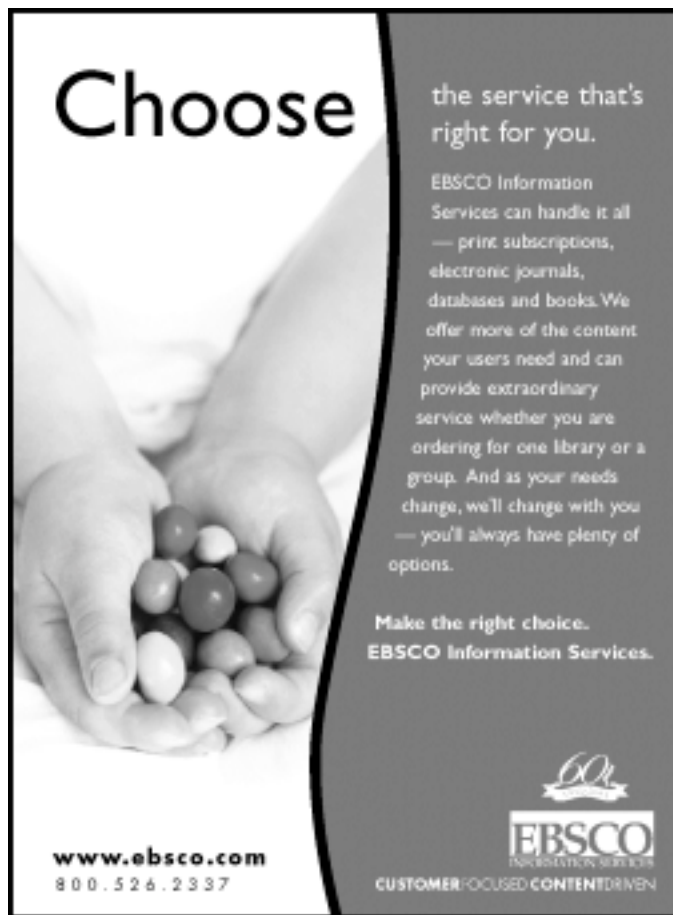
Nashville is not a walking city. If you are going to leave the Opryland complex, rent a car. If you use the special SLA-negotiated rate with Avis, you will find a compact car will cost approximately \$30/day, including all taxes and fees. Or better yet, get a full size car at Sidestep.com through Budget Rent a Car for only \$37/day and split the cost with several other librarians.

Five nights in a Holiday Inn with a compact car will cost you \$475 (plus hotel taxes), compared with at least \$950 to stay at the Opryland Hotel without renting a car.

## DC/SLA Conference Stipend Award Winner

Submitted by Marilyn Bromley, [mbromley@bna.com](mailto:mbromley@bna.com)

The DC/SLA Board of Directors and the Chapter Awards Committee are pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2004 Annual Conference Stipend is Anna Christine Hall. Anna is currently enrolled in library school at Catholic University, and is also employed as a research specialist at the National Defense University Library at Fort McNair. This will be her first SLA conference. After graduation this December, Anna plans to work in a special library, and hopes the conference will help her choose an appropriate career path among her many interests. Congratulations, Anna!




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The DC Chapter of the Special Libraries Association and Infocurrent are pleased to announce the availability of two scholarships for graduate study in librarianship/information science leading to a master's or doctoral degree at a recognized school of library /information science.

DC/SLA Chapter's Catherine A. Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund for \$1,500 will be awarded to an individual on the quality of a required essay, expected contribution to the information community, and financial need. The InfoCurrent scholarship for \$2,000 will not require a demonstration of financial need. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the quality of the essay and expected contribution to the profession. The scholarships will be awarded at the DC/SLA Annual Banquet in May.

More information can be found at this URL:  
<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/yp/scholarship.html>

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## Information Literacy

Submitted by Dilek Brown,  
[dbrown1@imf.org](mailto:dbrown1@imf.org)

According to the National Forum on International Literacy:

*Information Literacy is defined as the ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information for the issue or problem at hand.*

In my organization, the Joint World Bank-IMF Library, Washington DC, fighting the digital divide has been a priority topic for a long time especially for the World Bank. However, I personally never paid conscious attention to the topic of **information literacy** until I attended a recent meeting of the DC/SLA International Relations Committee chaired by Barbie Keiser. After this meeting I joined the ranks of people who entered the "collective consciousness of information literacy".

Now I understand implementing an information literacy program is as challenging as adult literacy and other continuous education programs that attempt to alleviate the digital divide.

If you haven't already paid attention to this topic, I hope this article will help raise your consciousness of information literacy and encourage you to attend the DC/SLA Special Event Planned for International Special Librarians Day ([http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events\\_files/apr2204.html](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events_files/apr2204.html)), Thursday, April 22, "**360 Degrees of Information Literacy: Information Literacy around the World**" and learn how information literacy programs can improve your effectiveness as a special librarian.

After conducting a mini-research project on information literacy, I am now aware that I see the examples of

"information illiteracy" everyday. People wasting their time looking for information the "illiterate way," in other words not being able to know when there is a need for information, not being able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information for the issue or problem at hand. Actually, I am now very aware of the fact that I myself have my "information illiterate" days even though I am an "expert" information professional.

Because information is produced en masse and it changes every day, keeping up is a major challenge for everyone, including the information professionals, "the lucky few", or who know their way in the print and electronic information forest. We all have users visiting our libraries or sending requests daily looking for information they may or may not need.

We learn from their information seeking and retrieval patterns and we try to tailor our services to satisfy their needs. To us Boolean is a piece of cake, we know where, why, and how to seek information from our own perspective using our collections in our libraries and online resources. It is our job to get the right information at the right time but we rarely know if it was indeed the right information the user needed or how the information we supplied benefited them in their projects! No matter how much we try to train and empower our users to do their own research, they still need our help to become *information literate*, even though some of our users are scholars to whom research is a second nature. The fact that even our expert researchers still need our help is one of the reasons why we need to keep this topic on our agendas.

Unfortunately, the rest of the "educated" world struggles every day. The majority of the world's population is not equipped to deal with expectations of daily changes and the majority of the "literate" populations are mostly *information illiterate* lacking methodologies to take advantage of opportunities offered by the global information society.

Commonly, "fighting the digital divide" is the answer given to deal with this problem. First and foremost we need to conquer the digital divide, however, our challenge does not end there. Digital divide refers to the gap between those who can effectively use new information and communication tools, such as the Internet, and those who cannot. What about what happens when there are frequent electricity outages in villages which are supplied with PCs as a remedy to digital divide? How do you train people who have teachers who need training themselves? Who has time to become "information literate" when they have to worry about their daily bread? These common sense questions are asked over and over again and there are no easy answers.

I encourage you to read Patricia Senn Breivik's article on Information Literacy

([http://www.nordinfo.helsinki.fi/publications/nordnytt/nnytt4\\_01/breivik.htm](http://www.nordinfo.helsinki.fi/publications/nordnytt/nnytt4_01/breivik.htm)). She does a wonderful job of discussing the myths that can obscure the vision for an information literate society, myths such as:

- technology and/or Internet access is all that is needed to solve our world's problems;
- computer literacy is enough;
- that everything is on the web!

This brings me to my daily struggles with my IT-oriented colleagues who try to resolve information/knowledge issues with technology quick-fixes. May be that is too big a topic to get into right now but the idea is the same. Many institutions still try to find solutions to information management via IT solutions, disregarding the human side of information seeking and usage, namely, the information literacy of our users. Human side of information management cannot be ignored.

A sustainable training approach must be used to ensure that individuals can realize the technology's potential. When the digital divide is alleviated, people are able to access the information and opportunities that the Internet offers. The next fundamental step is ensuring users are information literate. They are able to analyze symbols and models, compare perspectives, and assess rhetorical context. All of this takes a lot of time.

If you came this far reading this article, welcome to the "Information Literacy World". To learn more please try to attend the International Special Librarians Day ([http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events\\_files/apr2204.html](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events_files/apr2204.html)) event and keep on reading and attending seminars and conferences on this topic, you might make a significant difference in the world. I will try to continue my lifelong learning.

Thanks to Barbie Kaiser, Sue O'Neill and Janet Kubalak for their critical input.

## Silver Spring Dine-Around Attendees Tour NOAA Library

Submitted by Ann Wakefield, [awakefield@usnews.com](mailto:awakefield@usnews.com)

On Wednesday, March 10th, Doria Grimes, Librarian at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Library in Silver Spring, gave a wonderful tour to attendees of the Silver Spring dine-around before dinner. NOAA is across the street from the dine-around restaurant.

The library has a fascinating collection which includes historical materials from the days before there was a NOAA. A highlight of the tour was the library's climate-controlled rare book collection that has a volume from 1485 in Latin with vellum pages....and it's still in excellent condition! We were also shown a 1769 edition of a thick publication describing Ben Franklin's experiment with lightning. In addition, the rare book treasures include the daily weather records kept at Tuskegee Institute by George Washington Carver, documented and written in his own hand.

Finally, as we left the rare book room and toured the rest of the library, Doria brought out an old folio-size, bound volume that contains daily weather maps coded by hand of the weather in the United States in 1871. This coding was done by staff at the United States Weather Bureau established in 1870, a predecessor to NOAA.

The tour was a very interesting one of a very interesting library. We attendees were riveted, and it was a wonderful treat to have the privilege of seeing its unique collection.

The NOAA Library has a terrific web site with a number of its treasures online: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov>. Take a look.

## Information: The Critical Link Between CI and Information Managers

Submitted by Barbie Keiser,  
[barbieelene@att.net](mailto:barbieelene@att.net)

*Information: The Critical Link Between CI and Information Managers* was co-sponsored by the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP) and DC/SLA. The presentation was developed jointly by Barbie Keiser, representing the information management perspective for SLA, and Melanie Wing, a competitive intelligence professional at Bank One (Chicago). Due to illness, Ms. Wing was not able to attend the session and Barbie Keiser delivered the talk at Marymount University (Ballston Campus) on Thursday, February 26.

The evening began by defining Competitive Intelligence (a systematic program for gathering, analyzing and making actionable information about competitors' activities, general business trends, and marketplace dynamics that is used to further your own company's goals) and the critical role that information management plays in the

process. A series of slides outlined the similarities and differences in responsibilities between CI professionals and information managers during the data collection stage, information compilation, and

knowledge analysis. The evening ended with a discussion of new roles/responsibilities emerging for information managers within the CI profession and the competencies that are required for success.

## Time To Give Back To The Community!

Submitted by Kenlee Ray,  
[kenleer@aol.com](mailto:kenleer@aol.com)

Our next community project aims to tap the resources and skills of DC/SLA members to enrich and provide support for a library or media center that serves a local school or neighborhood. We need your help in finding worthy recipients for this project!

Minimum requirements for nomination are:

- The recipient must be a library, community center, or information center serving a school, community, or neighborhood group.
- Someone at the location must currently be providing library

services, whether as a professional or paraprofessional.

- Nominated locations need to show evidence of user support and involvement from the community.
- The lead manager, executive director or principal of the parent organization must actively support the library and be committed to its success.
- There must be a high likelihood for continuation of service by both DC/SLA and the community being served.

For more details and/or to nominate an information center, please contact Kenlee Ray (202-483-2423, [kenleer@aol.com](mailto:kenleer@aol.com)) or David Snyder (703-575-5745, [DSnyder@ascd.org](mailto:DSnyder@ascd.org)).

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### DC/SLA Chapter Archives

We would like to add photographs to our archive collection. It would be great to have pictures of past officers, chapter prize winners, final banquets, etc. If any members have photos of people or events, please contact Judy Grosberg at 301-496-6756 or [grosberj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:grosberj@mail.nih.gov).

### DC/SLA Community Outreach: Sousa Loses Librarian

Submitted by Kenlee Ray, [kenleer@aol.com](mailto:kenleer@aol.com)

The Sousa Middle School, our first community outreach project, lost its part-time librarian in the latest round of DC Public School budget cuts made in order to finance the already approved increase in teachers' pay. We hope that the loss is only temporary and that the City Council, School Board and School Administration can work together to solve the funding crises that seem to plague the DC schools.

The Chapter can be proud of the changes in the Sousa Library since we embarked upon the project in the spring of 2002. Our monetary contributions and book donations put a lot of new books on its shelves. Our weeding efforts helped to make it look more like a library and less like storage area for old textbooks. There were 7 working computers available for student and teacher use including 5 new computers with Windows 2000. The Follet Library Automation program is operational and the collection is partially cataloged online. Most importantly, it meant a lot to the teachers and kids just to see volunteers come into the school.

Perhaps we came away changed too. The project provided an opportunity for us to learn more about neighborhoods "East of the River" and it certainly opened our eyes to the conditions of local schools.

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