

President's Corner

By Susan Fifer Canby, sfiferca@ngs.org

Dear Colleagues.

SLA Board Elections

The time is here for you to choose your leaders for the 2004/05 SLA Board of Directors. For those who did not attend SLA's 2004 Leadership Summit and did not have the opportunity to meet the candidates or hear their speeches, please take a few minutes to become better acquainted with your future leaders. This year, the candidate's biographies are not included in the ballot mailing. Please take this opportunity to review the background details of each candidate: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/Structure/board-index/04Candidates.cfm>

You will note that we have *two* past presidents and leaders of our chapter running for office: **Daile Pettit**, running for President-Elect, and **Lyle Minter**, running for the Board. Please take a few minutes to review the many contributions they have made to our Chapter as well as SLA. This information was also featured in this month's issue of *Information Outlook*. Ballots were sent to you on January 26 and are due back by March 8, 2004, so if you haven't already voted, please **VOTE NOW**.

SLA Virtual Seminars

The Board of Directors thought the virtual seminars that SLA offers were so valuable that the chapter has underwritten the costs to bring them to you FREE. Hopefully some of you took part in the latest one on January 23, "Building Communities of Practice for Knowledge Exchange". Participants learned about the concepts and components of communities of practice as a knowledge exchange forum and the integral role information professionals can play in the community's success. The next one is brought to you on February 18, 2-3:30 (http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/events_files/feb1804.html) and will star Gary Price, who will share with us ways to keep current and some of his info pro secrets. Watch for these sessions and join us if you can.

Our Partners

Our partners in information, Factiva and Lexis-Nexis, have each contributed \$3,000 to help us offset costs of programming for the Chapter – to encourage you to take advantage of some of the many programs planned by Vice President Sheryl Rosenthal. Specifically, their donations let us bring the Virtual Seminars to you free, help with speaker fees, and enable us to have refreshments where there might be none at our meetings. Please thank them for their generous support of our chapter when you talk with them.

I hope everyone is surviving the winter in Washington. Spring can't be too far away. Best to you all.

February 2004**Volume 63 No. 6**<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc>**Inside this issue:**

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Advertising rates effective September 1997 are: \$95—1/4 page; \$175—1/2 page; \$290—full page. For information regarding advertisements, contact the DC/SLA *Chapter Notes* Business Manager:

Kelley Weber, Surface Transportation Board
Phone: 202-565-1668
Email: weberk@stb.dot.gov

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Wednesday, February 18th is the deadline for materials which can be included in the **March 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:

Listserv Moderator:

Kelley Weber, Surface Transportation Board
Phone: 202-565-1668
Email: weberk@stb.dot.gov

DC/SLA Internet Committee:

Frederik Heller
Phone: 202-383-1157
Email: fheller@realtors.org

Send address changes for *Chapter Notes* to:

SLA Headquarters
ATTN: Address/Name Changes
1700 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009-2508

DC/SLA Members Recognized by SLA

Winners of several SLA awards were announced at the SLA Leadership Summit in Albuquerque this January. The following Chapter members were recognized for their contributions to SLA and the profession:



**Lyle Minter
Fellow of the Special Libraries Association**

Bestowed to an individual member in recognition of his/her leadership in the field of special librarianship and for his/her outstanding contributions and expected future service to the Association.



**Wilda Newman
SLA Hall of Fame**

Granted to a member of the Association at or near the end of an active professional career for an extended and sustained period of distinguished service to the Association in all spheres. Prolonged distinguished service of a chapter or division which has contributed to the Association as a whole may receive special consideration.



**Anne Caputo
Rose L. Vormelker Award**

Given to an individual member in recognition of exceptional services to the profession of special librarianship in the area of mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field.



**Kenlee Ray
Member Achievement**

Presented to an individual member for outstanding contributions by raising visibility, public awareness, and appreciation of the profession, Association Unit or the Association at large.



**Donna Scheeder
John Cotton Dana Award**


Conferred upon an individual member in recognition of exceptional service to special librarianship.

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SLA Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by Ethel Salonen, SLA President-Elect, salonen@mpi.com

One of the assignments of the President-Elect for SLA is to recruit dynamic and interested volunteers to staff various committees for the 2004-2005 Association year. Your involvement in these committees is crucial for the success of our profession and SLA.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me directly. Students, young professionals, and individuals who reside outside of the United States are strongly encouraged to contact me. Here is the URL that lists the current SLA committees: <http://www.sla.org/content/chdiv/committe/index.cfm>

Email me at salonen@mpi.com with your desire to enhance your professional and personal development by volunteering your time and energy. Thank you for your support for SLA!

Research Tip of the Month: Some Hidden Google Tools

Submitted by Mary Ellen Bates, mbates@batesinfo.com

I know, I know... you're already an expert Google searcher, and you've been using Google since you were in short pants (now, that's an expression that dates me, isn't it?). But I'm still going to toss out a few tools and resources that you might not have found already.

* If you want all of Google's tools and options conveniently displayed on a single screen, try FaganFinder (<http://www.faganfinder.com/google.html>). I like it because I am reminded of all the choices I have and settings I can tweak, including toggling the Duplicates Filter on or off, using the file format search, and setting the number of results per page. It even has handy links for typing non-English letters.

* Right now, the only search engines that

support the "NEAR" operator (search for this word within X words of that word) are Alta Vista and MSN. But there's a nifty Google hack called Google API Proximity Search (GAPS) that lets you look for two words within one, two or three words of each other. Head over to <http://www.staggernation.com/cgi-bin/gaps.cgi> and try it out.

* Google has a synonym feature that lets you search for not only the word you type in the search box but also for some common synonyms of the word. The syntax is ~word, so, for example, if you type ~food in the search box, you will also retrieve web pages that have the word cooking, nutrition, recipe or restaurant. Sometimes that's a nifty tool, but it has its drawbacks. I tried ~aluminum and it not only retrieved pages with the British equivalent, aluminium, and words with the atomic symbol AL, but also

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

pages that mentioned Weird Al Yankovic, Al Jazeera, Al-Anon, and the official page for the state of Alabama. Use this tool when you are looking for a broad category of concepts, and be prepared for a few unexpected results.

* One of my favorite Google tools is WebQuotes, through which you can find out what other people are saying about a particular site. Go to <http://labs.google.com/cgi-bin/webquotes> and type in a URL, and you'll see how other sites are describing that site. It's a great way to suss out fraudulent sites. Try, for example, typing in www.gatt.org and see how it's described. (Yes, WebQuotes is designed for key words, not URLs, but I really like this application.)

* Similar to AllTheWeb's URL Investigator, Google provides some background information on a page if you type the URL in the form `info:www.whatever.xxx`. For example, go to Google and type `info:www.petfinder.org` in the search box,

and you will see a link to the PetFinder site, a link to Google's cached copy of the page, similar and related web sites, pages that link to that site, and pages that mention "www.petfinder.org"

* We're accustomed to looking at Google's search results 10 sites at a time, sorted by estimated relevance. But what if you want to exercise your right brain - that's the creative, non-linear side - and view the results in a more graphic format? Check out anacubis' "Google-enabled visual search" at <http://www.anacubis.com/googledemo/google/index.asp>. Type in your search terms, right-click on one of the resulting hits and see how you can immediately expand the results to similar sites, or linked sites.

* For those of us in the U.S., a handy new tool is Google's "Search by Number" feature. Google now recognizes the pattern for Federal Express, UPS and USPS tracking numbers; vehicle ID numbers, US patent numbers, UPC

codes, area codes, and even FCC equipment IDs and FAA airplane reservation numbers. For most of these searches, you can just type the number into the search box; for patent numbers, you have to add the word "patent" to the beginning of the number, and for FCC equipment IDs, you need to add the word "fcc" at the beginning. See <http://www.google.com/help/features.html#number> for more details.

* Related to this feature is the ability to see the current status of any U.S. flight. Type the airline name and the flight number in the search box, and you will see a link to the arrival/departure information screen for that flight, provided by Travelocity.

DC/SLA Chapter Conference Stipend Award 2004

Application Instructions:

The Washington, D.C. Chapter has established the **Annual Conference Stipend Award** to enable a deserving Chapter member to attend the SLA Annual Conference. All Chapter members on official SLA records as of February 1 are eligible to apply. This includes student members, retired members, and those who are simultaneously members of other Chapters. Past recipients who have used their awards are not eligible. However, past recipients who were prevented by circumstances from using their awards and have returned the funds, are eligible. Board members are not eligible.

The Award criteria includes future professional leadership potential in SLA and the profession, contributions to SLA and the Chapter, and financial need. Preference is given to newer members who

have already begun to take a leadership role. The award recipient shall be chosen by the Board upon recommendation of the Chapter Awards Committee.

The award for 2004 has been set at \$1500.

Application Process:

The application process consists of submitting a form (<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/awards/StipendApplication.dot>) and two professional references. There is no prescribed format for letters of reference, but they should be no more than 250 words. All materials must be submitted via email to Marilyn Bromley, DC/SLA Awards Committee, mbromley@bna.com, OR faxed to 202-452-4084, OR mailed to:

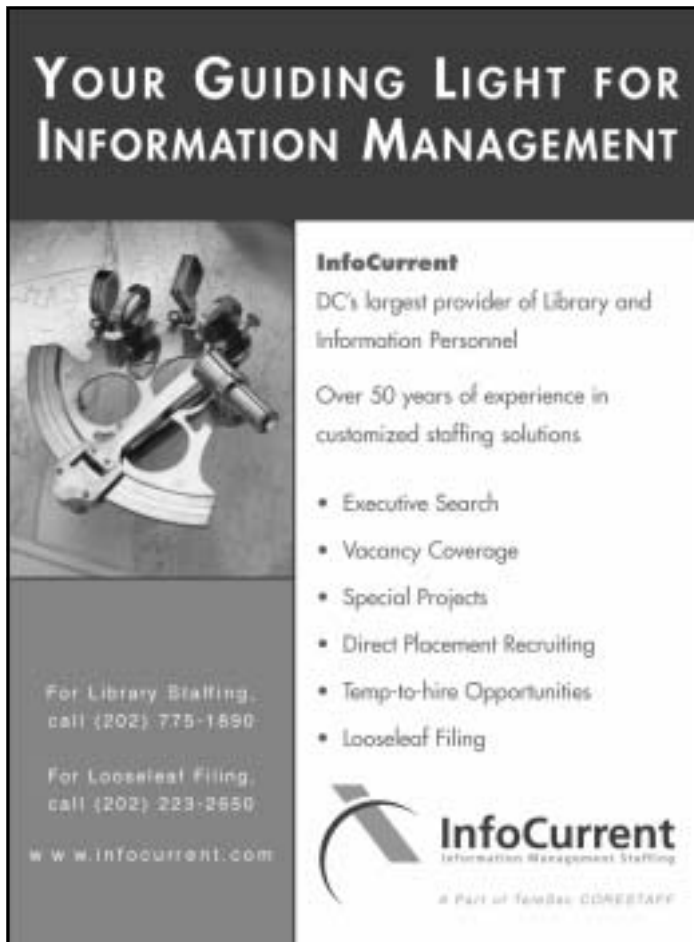
BNA Library
Attn: Marilyn Bromley
1231 25th Street NW
Washington DC 20037

Deadline: All materials must be received by **February 20, 2004**.

Erratum

In the January issue of the President's Corner column:

- 1) The correct spelling of Landesman (with an 'e').
- 2) Betty Landesman was playing a recorder, not a flute, at the Holiday party.
- 3) Betty Landesman is a Past President of DCLA, not DC/SLA.



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Vormelker-Thomas Student Award

The News Division of the Special Libraries Association invites graduate students and December 2003 graduates interested in a career in news librarianship to apply for the Vormelker-Thomas Student Award. The award, co-sponsored by the News Division and Proquest, is a \$1,500 stipend to assist students attending their first Special Libraries Association Annual Conference. The 2004 Annual Conference will be June 5-10 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Selection Criteria:

1. Applicants must be members of the Special Libraries Association when they apply for the stipend.
2. Applicants must be attending their first SLA conference.
3. Applicants must be graduate students or December 2003 graduates interested in a career in news librarianship.
4. Applications must be e-mailed no later than Monday, February 23, 2004.
5. Applications must include:
 - a word-processed essay (500-1,000 words) addressing an issue in news librarianship
 - a letter of reference from a news librarian, news editor, or faculty member
 - a resumé
 - a list of course work undertaken
 - a statement of professional goals
 - a statement of what the applicant expects to gain from attending the conference

E-mail application to:

Dru Frykberg
Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication
Iowa State University
Phone: 515-294-4353
Email: dfrykber@iastate.edu

The winner will receive a check prior to the conference in June. The winning essay will appear in an issue of News Library News.

The News Division reserves the right not to award the stipend if there are no suitable applicants.

Member News

Bernan Press has just published the first edition of *The United States Government Internet Manual*, edited by Chapter member **Peggy Garvin** of Garvin Information Consulting. The *Manual* describes federal executive, congressional, and judicial branch Web sites essential for reference and research. Over 2,000 Web resources are organized by subject and indexed by agency, name, and topic. The book also features Cabinet agency organization charts similar to those found in *The United States Government Manual*, supplemented with Web addresses. For more information, see the Bernan Press site at: <http://www.bernanpress.com/titlepage.aspx?TitleID=36355>

March Book Club Meeting

Submitted by Cynthia Kahn, ckahn@aamc.org

The Book Club <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/bookclub.html> will meet next on **March 25, 2004** to discuss “Why Don’t You Want What I Want? How to Win Support for Your Ideas without Hard Sell, Manipulation, or Power Plays” by Rick Maurer http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1885167563/qid=1075221233/sr=1-2/ref=sr_1_2/102-9372871-4632161?v=glance&s=book

Calling All Academic Librarians

Submitted by Cynthia Holt, holt@gwu.edu

DC/SLA would like to start offering programs focused for academic librarians in the Chapter. In order to do this, we need to hear from you with ideas for sessions which might interest you and other academic librarians. Please contact Cynthia Holt at holt@gwu.edu or 202-994-1352 with any ideas you may have for a Chapter program.