

## President's Corner: Looking Ahead to a Great Year

By Sheryl Rosenthal, [srosenthal@usnews.com](mailto:srosenthal@usnews.com)

This year's Annual Banquet marked the end of a terrific year and the beginning of another. The mood was light-hearted, enthusiastic and collegial. We took stock of our past successes, honored our finest and most deserving, awarded scholarships, announced the election results, enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Dr. Bernadine Healy, and looked ahead to Nashville and beyond.

### Scholarship and Award Winners

For those unable to join us at this festive event, we toasted a number of our own scholarship and award recipients. Here is the list of winners:

Sheri Massey, a PhD student at the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland, is the recipient of the Catherine A. Jones Memorial Scholarship for graduate study and receives a check for \$1500.

The recipient of the Infocurrent Scholarship for graduate study, in the amount of \$2000, goes to Marie Folk, an MLS student at Catholic University.

Cynthia Holt, *Chapter Notes* editor-extraordinaire, was honored as DC/SLA's Member of the Year.

The Board of Directors Award went to the amazing Military Librarians Steering Group of Pat Alderman, Wendy Hill, Sharon Lenius, Lily McGovern, Victor Monti, Carala Pomager, Dianne Schnurpusch and Connie Wiley.

### Continued Growth

The 2004-2005 year promises to continue the legacy of building on but not resting on our past successes. Noting the enormous amount of change in the four years since Strategic Plan 2000 was released, the Strategic Planning Committee, led by Joan Gervino, has developed Strategic Plan 2004, building on our successful implementation of the earlier plan and laying out a blueprint for the future.

In the coming year, we will continue to offer a broad variety of professional development, networking and social events, focusing on the expressed needs of our members. With Marilyn Bromley's help, we will track event metrics in new, more precise, ways. We will expand channels of effective communication for our members and take the lead in developing and using SLA's new Communities of Practice capabilities. We will continue to reach out to our local and global communities and to encourage our students and young professionals.

### Election Results

With new board members in place, we are poised and ready to move forward. Joining Director Alphonse Vinh, Treasurer Erin Clougherty, and me on the Board are:

Corresponding Secretary: Michael White  
Recording Secretary: Georgeann Higgins

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#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

**Friday, July 21st** is the deadline for materials which can be included in the **August 2004** issue. The issue is distributed approximately one week 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

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1700 18th Street NW  
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Director: Gail Kouril  
Second Vice President: Eileen Deegan  
First Vice-President/President-Elect: Shirley Loo

#### Getting Involved

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all who ran for office. I have never met a more generous and gracious group. It is my pleasure to announce that every single person who ran for office and did not prevail, has either accepted or indicated a willingness to accept a volunteer position.

DC/SLA is made up of a terrific, energetic, vital group of information professionals, working to advocate and promote the profession, while having a lot of fun. Getting involved does not have to mean a large commitment. When recruiting volunteers for the coming year, I was very gratified to see how eager and willing people are to help and how pleased to be asked. Please don't wait to be asked. With Susan Fournier as our new Volunteer Coordinator, we will be making it easier for you to get involved.

#### My Thanks to Many

It has been a whirlwind year as President-Elect of DC/SLA. Within the DC chapter, the role of President-Elect is largely one of program planning, a not insignificant task when one looks back on the 70 events held in the 2003-2004 season. I would be the first to say that 70 events appears to be, shall we say, somewhat outrageous, but it is difficult to argue with success when each event is well-attended by a cross-section of our members.

I cheerfully and confidently turn the reins over to our new President-Elect, Shirley Loo of the Library of Congress as I switch gears and tackle the challenges ahead.

My thanks to so many with whom I have had the pleasure of working and getting to know this last year. A special thanks to Susan Fifer Canby and Anne Caputo for their guidance, advice, and friendship. And to the DC/SLA Board and volunteers, who work very hard to support this organization. A very special thank-you to Barbara Folensbee-Moore for handling the tough job of hospitality chair so beautifully and for so long – three years.

As Gail Kouril likes to say, "DC/SLA rocks!". I look forward to taking on this new challenge and thank you for your confidence in my ability to make sure that DC/SLA keeps on rockin!



#### Hail to the Presidents

L-R: Anne Caputo, Sheryl Rosenthal and Susan Fifer Canby

**Experience Counts: Learn from Three Librarians Who Have Added New Dimensions to Information Management at their Organizations**

Submitted by Iris Anderson, Program Planner and Moderator for this session, [ianderson@imf.org](mailto:ianderson@imf.org)

A special program awaits you on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:45 – 5:00 pm, Room Canal B, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Hear three highly experienced information managers talk about their career responsibilities in **The Three Pillars: Managing Your Library, Archives, and Records.**

Susan Fifer Canby, Vice President at National Geographic, will speak about how she merged three divisions into one. In the process, her group supports the editorial and business staff and partners of the National Geographic Society with a staff of 26 librarians, archivists, records managers, and indexers. They also support the Intranet/Portal Team at National Geographic.

Pamela Tripp-Melby, Chief of the Information Services Division at the International Monetary Fund, manages the Joint World Bank-International Monetary Fund Library as well as the IMF Archives and internal IMF Records Management. Library staff are actively supporting the IMF and World Bank Intranet/Portal teams. In her talk, she will explore strategic reasons for merging external and internal information within an organization and how this benefits end-users.

Kevin Manion is Associate Director of the Strategic Planning and Information Services Department at Consumers Union in New York. They are publishers of the acclaimed *Consumer Reports Magazine*. Kevin's responsibilities include research coordination and oversight, administering the corporate records program and overseeing the archives at Consumers Union. His staff has over 20 members including a three-member management team that supports all the research needs of the organization.

After the Three Pillars program, the Retired Members Caucus (KRET) of SLA will hold a short meeting and reception to which all guests are invited. Join us for a memorable afternoon!



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## Joint Spring Workshop 2004 - The USA Patriot Act: What it Means for Your Library, What it Means for You

Submitted by Anne Marie Houppert (DC/SLA representative), [ahoupper@ngs.org](mailto:ahoupper@ngs.org)

Question: How do you know the FBI has been in your library?

Answer: You don't.

The 2004 Joint Spring Workshop was a fascinating and troubling look at the USA Patriot Act. The event, chaired by Susan Ryan (LLSDC), was held in the Mumford Room at the Library of Congress Madison Building, and drew over 60 attendees. The event began with an exciting presentation by Rep. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a strong opponent of the Patriot Act. Most pertinent to libraries is Section 215, also known as the "Business Records" section. In libraries, the government can request information on what materials a patron has checked out, or what websites they visited. They can also ask for records covering a broad area without specifying a target, which amounts to a fishing expedition. Rep. Sanders wonders how this will affect what people read, and whether we will be a nation afraid of new ideas. The Act may create an "intellectual chill."

Professor David Cole of Georgetown University Law Center eloquently spoke of the general loss of rights that have resulted from passage of the Act. He believes that under a paradigm of prevention we have sacrificed the rule of law: Equality, transparency, due process, and basic human rights. Professor Cole reports that since 9/11 we have locked up over 5000 foreign nationals, many taken off the street without notification to their families, denied access to phone calls and legal representation, and held without being charged with a crime. Without transparency of the law we don't know what is or is not occurring, and we cannot be sure these actions will not eventually spread to investigations in areas other than national security.

The final speaker of the morning was Chuck Rosenberg, Chief of Staff to Deputy Attorney General James B. Comey, and previously serving as Counselor to Attorney General John Ashcroft. Mr. Rosenberg believes the "wall" between government organizations is down in large part because of the Patriot Act. He points out that the word library appears nowhere in Section 215, but rather it is called Records Provisions. These could be records in a library, a bookstore, or McDonalds. He also discussed the gag order, which makes it illegal for a librarian to tell anyone that information has been requested, and points out those gag orders existed before, and are not unique to the Patriot Act. Mr. Rosenberg and Tracey Mitrano, Assistant Professor and Director of IT Policy and Computer Policy and Law Programs at Cornell, participated in a panel discussion.

The final section of the program dealt with the nuts and bolts of the Act. First Lara Flint, Staff Counsel at the Center for Democracy and Technology, discussed the context of

Section, 215 and 505, which deals with Internet access. She believes the standard for requesting information is too loose for the government. A bill under proposal, HR3179, would put in place penalties for violating the gag order (such as a librarian mentioning a subpoena to their spouse).

The final speaker, Anne Klinefelter, Librarian at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, discussed the practicalities of putting in place a policy in response to the Patriot Act. There are different types of legal papers that can be served, some of which require immediate compliance, and some of which can be deferred. She advises all libraries to develop policies and procedures, train staff, conduct a privacy audit, and avoid retaining user information. Libraries may also consider posting the policy in plain view of the patrons.

## Kick-Start your Nashville Conference Days

Submitted by Iris Anderson, [ianderson@imf.org](mailto:ianderson@imf.org)

By late Sunday afternoon on June 6<sup>th</sup>, hopefully, you have checked into your hotel room, unpacked and relaxed a bit. It's time to get out and socialize, I mean network!

First stop is business, of course. Join us at the Social Science Division's first Board Meeting in Nashville. We will convene in Room Jackson C, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. All division members who would like to become more involved in activities and planning are invited to attend. Past year's activities and upcoming conference events will be reviewed. Dutch-treat dinner at a local restaurant will follow the meeting, most likely...

Second stop is taking the Opryland shuttle bus or other transport to the Wildhorse Saloon in downtown Nashville for the *All Sciences Reception!* This is a **ticketed event, so please register in advance**. For a mere \$15, you receive entry, two drinks, and music and dance lessons from 8:30 to 11:30 pm! Join your SLA colleagues from the following divisions: Science & Technology; Biomedical & Life Sciences; Engineering; Food Agriculture & Nutrition; Social Science; Transportation and the Kentucky Chapter. Wow!

However, pull yourself away early to get to:

Third stop is for dessert. Yes, ice cream and cookies will be served at the DSOC's joint Open House with Museum Arts and Humanities Division and the Education Division in Room Canal C from 9:00 to 11:00 pm. Time to cool off, unwind and relax!

Bonus for following this program: You have only 17, out of 25, Divisions left with which to network during the conference!

## Research Tip of the Month: The Mother of All Toolbars

Submitted by Mary Ellen Bates,  
[mbates@batesinfo.com](mailto:mbates@batesinfo.com)

I can still remember when I first discovered Google's Toolbar, back in 2000. It was still in beta; thank goodness I had gotten into the habit of cruising the Google Labs (<http://labs.google.com/>). And that was what finally got me to switch from Netscape to Internet Explorer as my primary browser, since the Google toolbar only works on IE.

Of course, since then, any search engine worth its salt has developed a toolbar. In fact, I remember an amusing PowerPoint slide that Greg Notess (<http://www.notess.com/>) showed at a conference, of what his browser window would look like once he had all the various search engines' toolbars installed. They were piled one on another, so that he had no space on his screen to see a web page.

What I love the most about a search engine toolbar is that it's always there, waiting for me to ask it a question. And a well-designed toolbar surfaces some of the less-visible features of the search engine; Google's "Search only this site" button and AllTheWeb's "Search MP3 files" option come to mind.

Unfortunately, I've become disappointed with Google's search results lately, so I installed several

other search engine toolbars to see if I could, well, bond with any of them. I found that, given the recent turmoil in the search engine arena, no one search engine rocked my world. I need to play the field. And that's when I discovered the toolbar equivalent of Speed-Dating, at <http://www.groowe.com/>.

Groowe acts like any other toolbar, sitting quietly underneath your browser bar. (And yes, like Google's toolbar, it only works on Internet Explorer 5 and above.) What's remarkable is that Groowe actually includes the toolbars for 17 search tools, ranging from AllTheWeb and Google to DogPile and About.com. You type your keywords in the search box and whichever search tool you select will return its results. Want to try another search engine? Pull down Groowe's menu and click on another search tool. No retyping of your search terms. In fact, there is a button on the toolbar that lets you go down the list from the first search tool to the last. And you can put the search tools in whatever order you want. Depending on which search tool you select, you will see the specialized features and functions of that search engine or directory. Click Google, for example, and the Groowe toolbar shows Google's Site Search and News Search icons. Click Teoma, and the toolbar changes to show the Search This Phrase and Advanced Search icons.

Try Groowe for a week and see what you think. My hunch is that you, too, will find that it replaces the Google toolbar. For the same amount of real estate, you can now quickly use over a dozen search tools, each just a mouse-click away.

## Database Creation & Design, Part 2: A Practical Guide to DIY Databases

Submitted by Georgeann Higgins, [ghiggins@mitre.org](mailto:ghiggins@mitre.org)

On a brutally hot May 12th afternoon Charlotte Spinner of Effective Systems Solutions showed 18 DC/SLAers how to design their first database. Attendees walked away with a solid understanding of database basics, which COTS software package might be best for their shop, and what book would be worth every penny of investment.

Spreadsheets (e.g., MS Excel files) are good for number crunching and storing data with fairly simple relationships, such as a mailing list. Data with more complex relationships however would be more useful in a relational database, in which the end user can retrieve information from various access points.

Charlotte's database design best practices:

1. Determine objectives
2. Perform requirements analysis
3. Develop list of fields
4. Organize fields into tables
5. Establish keys
6. Define table relationships
7. Establish field specifications
8. Normalize
9. On computer, build tables and input forms
10. Build queries and reports.

Charlotte demonstrated how to define fields, cluster fields into tables, establish keys for each table, establish relationships between tables, and then normalize the data.

Normalizing, or structuring data to minimize duplication and inconsistencies, is quite the task. Anyone bent on understanding normalization better should read Michael Hernandez's white paper, "Understanding Normalization," available at <http://www.formeremortals.com/Downloads/Downloads.htm>. Hernandez offers more extensive treatment of the subject in his

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book *Database Design for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Relational Database Design* (ASIN 0201694719). Anyone desiring online tutorials should prowl [Geekgirls.com](http://www.geekgirls.com) ([http://www.geekgirls.com/database\\_dictionary.htm](http://www.geekgirls.com/database_dictionary.htm)).

While Charlotte's software tool of choice for small databases is Alpha Five, she offered a brief review of several competitors to MS Access. Most powerful software: 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension, Access, Alpha Five, FileMaker Pro, Lotus Approach, and Paradox. Most user-friendly software: Alpha Five, askSam, FileMaker Pro, and QuickBase. Most of these are listed at *PC Magazine's* "Review of Database Software" (<http://www.pcmag.com/category2/0,1738,4177,00.asp>).

## 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 Summer Reading

The DC/SLA Book Club will read and then have an email discussion of *Emotional Design: Why We Love (or Hate) Everyday Things* by Donald A. Norman. Please have the reading done by July 12th. Contact Cynthia Kahn [ckahn@aamc.org](mailto:ckahn@aamc.org) or 202-828-0433 to participate in the discussion.




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