

President's Corner: A Look Back

Submitted by Susan Fournier, Susan.Fournier@icba.org

This is my final column as President of the DC Chapter and what a year it has been. As we come to the close of 2007, I would like to take a moment to look back on just a few of the many excellent programs from this very eventful year.



President-Elect, Diane Schnurpush, worked diligently coordinating and organizing programs for personal and professional growth throughout the year. It was a privilege to host SLA President Rebecca Varga in September. She and Chapter members, Victoria Harriston and Shelly Edwards, held a rapt audience as they discussed their People to People®-sponsored visit to South African libraries and information organizations. Donna Scheeder reprised her 2007 Leadership Summit presentation on conducting effective meetings for the Chapter in March.

In April, a full house heard from Kristina Lively, DC/SLA Director; Michelle Springer, Library of Congress; Justin Thorp, CACI Intl.; and Mark Bard, American Library Association's Washington Office, about the virtual environment, Second Life®. We had terrific turnouts for Professional Enhancement Day at the Sumner School and the Volunteer Appreciation Reception at the Marion Koshland Science Museum in October. Click U virtual seminars and the Student & Young Professional Happy Hours were monthly staples. Dine Arounds filled out the calendar in March and October and the Book Club continues to draw a loyal following.

It was also this year that we met the New York Chapter's membership challenge and passed NY as the largest SLA chapter in the world.

If you are new to the Chapter or just want to know about all of this year's programs, check the 2007 [calendar archive](#). Some meetings are also featured in past Chapter Notes articles.

Although we are still trying to get a solid grip on the change in the Association's governance year and its impact on our Chapter governance, we did come through our first election under the new schedule with much success and some lessons learned.

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President's Corner [cont'd from p. 1]

The newly elected board members, returning board members and those leaving the board are meeting this month to begin to set the stage for 2008. Diane Schnurrpusch is still working on filling many committee and group chair positions. If you can volunteer some time to the Chapter, please contact her (dschnurr@dtic.mil). Volunteering can be extremely rewarding and you can develop many leadership skills that will translate to your professional and personal life.

My participation on this board began some years ago when I was asked to run for Recording Secretary. It has been my pleasure to continue to serve on the DC/SLA board and work for our more than 1,000 members. I have worked with many wonderful and talented individuals over the years. Although it sounds as if I am leaving, my time is not yet complete. I will continue on the board as Past-President, followed by chairmanship of the Awards and Nominations committees. When I joined DC/SLA, I made a commitment that has been very worthwhile, personally and professionally. All of us struggle to find a balance in our work and professional lives; volunteer work does not always find a place. I know DC/SLA can find a place for you, regardless of the amount of time that you can offer. I hope as you approach the New Year, you will resolve to become more involved in DC/SLA.



Idea Mapping for Your Busy Life

Submitted by Diane Schnurpusch

Are you ever overwhelmed with diverse information? Do you have trouble getting started on a project? Idea mapping is an easily-learned method for capturing and organizing your thoughts in a visual representation. Unlike linear thinking, idea mapping is based on associative thought – the way our minds actually function.

On November 14, DC/SLA member, Lisa Metzger, led over 50 participants (including an entire class from University of Maryland's College of Library and Information Science) through a hands-on session to discover this easy, visual technique. Using large sheets of flip-chart paper and colored markers, attendees reduced a variety of thoughts on a topic to one single sheet of paper. Displayed at the end of the meeting, these idea maps proved how many different ways a single topic can be developed and their utility for collaborative, group brainstorming and planning.

How does idea mapping work? The process starts with a central thought or topic. From there it branches out with a "bloom of ideas" – single words or phrases associated with the topic. At this point, the "flow of ideas" begins. Each of the "bloom" words is followed by another word, and another, and anothereach word associated with the word immediately preceding it.

You might ask how this way of capturing information differs from making a linear to-do list. The advantage is seeing the overall structure of any project in one place. Duplications can be discovered. Priorities can be set. Decisions can be made. Information can be memorized. The user can even "check-off" tasks. The addition of images and color-coding serve to increase the overall effectiveness of the tool. While hand-drawn maps are preferred by some, there are software and online mapping tools available. Some of these tools are free and include features, such as notes fields. Information can sometimes be exported into presentations and spreadsheets. Online mapping tools Lisa suggests include: Mindomo.com, MindMeister, Comapping, Mind42, and Freemind.

Lisa also recommends the book, *Idea Mapping*, by Jamie Nast. I read this book during my Thanksgiving holiday and found it very helpful. Her inclusion of other people's maps gave me the confidence to get started. Ms. Nast challenges new users to create at least 100 idea maps to become comfortable with the method. She says not to worry about perfection or messiness. As long as a map works for you, it is serving its purpose. When finished with it, you can save it as a reference or wad it up and throw it away. With the holiday season upon us, you can organize shopping, cooking, entertaining, decorating, and any number of other personal tasks and projects in this way. Your skills will translate into business uses in the end. I already have a file folder full of hand-drawn maps. By the time I complete my year as President of DC/SLA, I should be well past #100. Now it's time to "trash" the one I used to write this article and get back to those that are helping me function in my paying job. I urge you to give idea mapping a chance, too.



Susan Fournier and Lisa Metzger, who taught the concept of Idea Mapping.



Over 50 participants enjoyed the 1.5 hour "hands-on" session.



Attendees displayed the results of their first idea mapping attempts.

Raising Funds for the Lubuto Library Project Through Internet Searching

Submitted by Shirley Loo

Jane Kinney Meyers was awarded the DC/SLA Board of Directors Award at the December 2006 annual banquet for her efforts in establishing the Lubuto Library Project. She was subsequently honored at the SLA Annual Conference in Denver with the Dow Jones Leadership Award. Did you know that you can search the Internet and raise money for the Lubuto Library Project?

Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and register that you want to support the Lubuto Library Project. Each search will then generate income for the Lubuto Library Project which opened the first

library in Lusaka, Zambia in September. In her remarks at the opening, Jane Kinney Meyers stated:

This inauguration is a momentous occasion. The library that we are celebrating today is unique, and it is the first of at least 100 we plan to build. Its architecture, which is based on indigenous styles, was conceived to create a profound, safe and welcoming space for the children it was built to serve, and to re-connect them with society. It is a concrete and enduring recognition that they are important and cared-for members of the Zambian and international communities and a reminder that if we make the effort to help them to thrive it will enrich all of our lives.

This library is beautiful and special, but it is much more than a building filled with stacks of books. For the young people assembled with us today and for many others who will find their way here, it is a refuge from life on the streets, a place where they can just be children, and where books will allow them to dream and envision a better future. It is not an extravagance but, rather, simultaneously, an obligation and a reward.

Lubuto Libraries feature storytelling, poetry and story reading, singing, drama, art, and related activities to enhance the lives of the children and promote self-expression and literacy acquisition. In this library, some children will learn to read, and others will improve their reading skills. Based on past experience, we have reason to expect that it will help more than a few children to reach the standard required for entrance into secondary education and a path to stable and productive careers. At the same time, we assign no less importance to those children who will come only to hear stories read, or to soar beyond the limits of the street through picture books that span the range from the vistas of outer space to the bed of the ocean floor.

Find out more at <http://www.lubuto.org>. Federal staff members can contribute through the Combined Federal Campaign (#12370).

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Military Librarians' Group Tours the National Museum of the Marine Corps

Submitted by Deborah Keller

On Saturday, October 20, members of the DC Chapter, along with several family members and friends met at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. We chatted over donuts and coffee, tailgate style, as the group gathered together. Once inside the museum, we spent approximately three hours with our tour guide getting an overview of the history and heritage of the Marine Corps. I enjoyed the insight and personalization that our guide provided, but I'm looking forward to taking the time to go back to the museum again so that I can take my time and read further about the many events and artifacts.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is the first of the national museums which are planned for each of the services. The cost of building the museum was 90M, 60M of which was raised directly from the Marines themselves. The museum officially opened November 10, 2006 on the anniversary of its founding. Guiding our group through the museum was Marine Col. (ret.) Barry Collassard, a volunteer docent who has spent at

least one day each week since the day of its opening highlighting the museum for its visitors. From his opening remarks about the entryway, it is clear to see that the Marine Corps is full of symbolism and tradition, and that Corps history is still very much alive. The architecture of the museum building, with its central beam rising hundreds of feet in the air, and the terrazzo floor which transitions from blue into tan, then greens representing the transition of Marines from a water-based force to an amphibious one, nearly everywhere you look in the museum has meaning for Marines and can teach visitors about the Corps.

Our tour of the museum began with a short film. The film provides an overview of what it is like to be a Marine. Many points of view are included here: officer and enlisted, young active duty personnel and those long ago retired. From the individual stories of what being a Marine means to each of those individuals, two themes seemed to provide a common thread. First, that the Marine Corps is a brotherhood or family that loyally puts each other and the Corps before the individual. This was most often expressed by saying that they fought for their buddies, squad mates, or the men standing to their left and to their right, but was also seen in the selfless actions of taking bullets for one another and refusing to leave men behind in battle. Second, once someone becomes a Marine, they will always be a Marine. Though they don't realize it until after graduating from boot camp, those who serve the Corps feel bound together by their shared experiences and shared traditions, many of which are internalized and remembered long after their time in uniform.

Like recruits, visitors to the museum can experience a taste of boot camp. Visitors can stand in the footprints of new recruits, hearing their reasons for joining the Marine Corps while Drill Sergeants yell at them to hurry up, beginning the thirteen-week long process of breaking down their personalities and building them into Marines. Before and after in-processing haircut photographs illustrate some of the physical changes that take place during that time and anecdotes of parents not recognizing their own children at graduation ceremonies drive home the point that changes are internal and behavioral as well.

The exhibit galleries in the museum are laid out in a fan shape, with a large curved wall orienting visitors about the chronology of the Marine Corps and what was simultaneously going

on in the rest of the world. A few small displays highlight the actions of Marines in the Civil War and Mexican War. Through those conflicts, the Corps was a small unit of a few thousand troops. With the American entry into World War I, the Marine Corps expanded from its role as supporting specialized troops to an independent force that could be deployed as a stand-alone unit.

The majority of exhibit space is dedicated to portraying the efforts of Marines during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam Conflict. As Col. Collassard led us through these displays, he personalized his discussion of the artifacts and events depicted with stories about individual soldiers. Many of these, he said, had come from visitors to the museum who shared their own experiences or had emotional reactions when seeing some of the artifacts and pictures in the displays. Other stories were about individuals that Col. Collassard had known or served with during his own 30-year long career. These first- and second-hand accounts helped to bring the museum alive as much as the interactive exhibits, including a World War II amphibious craft landing on the coast of a Japanese-held island and a bunker in the Chosin Reservoir in which the cold battle conditions could be felt by the visitors.

After our tour, most of the group remained to have lunch with Col. Collassard in the museum's recreated Tun Tavern. It was in this Philadelphia tavern during the Revolutionary War that the Marine Corps was first organized. Col. Collassard continued to share his experiences as a Marine with us and to give us some idea of what it means to him to be a Marine.

A few of us headed to the Grey Research Center on the Marine Base at Quantico after visiting the museum. We walked through the library, visited the archives, and chatted with the reference librarian on duty, Rachel Kingcade. She was happy to show off some of the ways that the Breckinridge Library, which serves the students in several schools at Quantico, is integrating Web 2.0 technology into their online presence and reference services.



DC/SLA librarians join Military Librarians for a tour of the Marine Corps Museum.

Advising Among Elephants: Upgrading the Kenya Revenue Authority Library

By Sheyda Shahin

For many of us, a visit to the library is always full of wonders and pleasant surprises. A recent visit to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Information Resource Center (IRC) library at its new location in the Mint Annex Building at the corner of 9th and H Street in Washington, DC was no exception. In the offices overlooking the colorful streets of D.C.'s Chinatown, a meeting with the CBP library director, Mr. Hoyt Galloway, led to a discussion of his recent visit to the scenic lands of Kenya to consult with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) about upgrading their libraries. During his trip this August, Mr. Galloway evaluated the KRA Headquarters Library in Nairobi and the library at the KRA Training Institute (KRATI) Library in Mombasa.

According to Mr. Galloway, the consultation consisted of a PowerPoint presentation to KRA authorities on the resources of the CBP Library and the OIT Virtual Learning Center (VLC). This was followed by a distribution of core book and journal bibliographies and online resources needed by a fully functioning customs library. These printed distributions were especially tailored for Kenya by the superlative CBP Library reference staff. Following his presentations, Mr. Galloway toured the facilities meeting one-on-one with KRA officials and local library staff to follow-up on his talk. Mr. Galloway outlined many helpful

recommendations for the KRA libraries to include the following:

The KRA HQ and the KRATI libraries need to be accessed through the KRA webpage.

Once the libraries are networked with computers and e-mail capabilities, the library staff should provide access to online book and journal databases – especially in Kenyan law, taxation, management and customs regulations.

Both libraries should both be part of an integrated library system (ILS) that allows cataloging and KRA online access to the collection.

The print book and journal collections need to be expanded as well with major additions in law and customs regulations.

Mr. Galloway provided sources for online and printed resources that include discounted books and journals from the Library of Congress's Kenya Office, over 700 online journals provided free of charge to African libraries by JSTOR, plus numerous philanthropic societies that provide discounted or free online and print resources to most African libraries and information centers.

The Virtual Learning Center (VLC) presentation was a big hit with KRA and KRATI administrators and Mr. Galloway provided OIT point of contacts to the CBP technical advisor in Kenya, James Dozier. Mr. Dozier and the Office of International Affairs were also responsible for initiating and coordinating the visit to Kenya.

While the CBP library in comparison to the Kenyan libraries is quite large, it is also “the best and most comprehensive of all eleven DHS library and information centers,” Mr. Galloway pointed out. Providing further details about the CBP Library, Mr. Galloway gave the following overview:

Even though the CBP Library's collection was downsized and moved from the RRB in June 2007 to the Mint Annex Building (9th and H Street) in Chinatown, the library resources still are accessible via desktop worldwide from any CBP staff member who is connected to CBPnet. The library web page (<http://207.67.203.70/U40009Staff/OPAC/>) is

visited over 5,000 times each month and our research staff provide over 500 one-on-one services each month as well. Additionally as the most comprehensive full service library within DHS, we provide research services to all within the Department who contact us. The CBP Library is also accessible throughout DHS via the DHSOnline portal. All CBP and DHS employees are welcome to visit and use this excellent research resource in person or on the web. Office hours are 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. The Metro stop is Gallery Place Chinatown. The CBP library's telephone number is 202-572-0600 and can also be contacted via the following address: cbp.library@dhs.gov.

The trip to Kenya provided an opportunity for CBP to share its library best practices and offer suggestions to the KRA libraries in Nairobi and Mombasa. The next time you visit the CBP library and happen to catch Mr. Galloway when he has some time, he might even regale you with the stories of the nimble monkey that one day helped himself to Mr. Galloway's breakfast rolls, or share with you pictures of the larger-than-life lions that majestically walked by as cars ventured nearby in the unspoiled game parks of Kenya.



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Travel to Florida for the SLA South Atlantic Regional Conference

Submitted by Janice Ballo

The Special Libraries Association South Atlantic Regional Conference will be held February 27-29, 2008, in St. Petersburg, FL. Go to the SARC IV website for the details (<http://units.sla.org/regconf/sarc4/program.html>)

You'll get to hear two exciting keynote speakers — the ever-popular Stephen Abram, SLA's president-elect and Vice President of Innovation for SirsiDynix and — for something completely different — Graham Farmelo, senior research fellow at the London Science Museum. Farmelo — an adjunct professor at Northeastern University in Boston — is an international consultant in the public dimensions of science, a theoretical physicist and noted scholar of Paul Dirac, Nobel Prize winner, who stands with Einstein in the pantheon of twentieth-century scientists.

Something you may not have known? St. Petersburg, FL is home to the Salvador Dali Museum, which contains what the museum's website (<http://www.salvadoralimuseum.org/>) calls "the world's most comprehensive collection of works by the late Spanish surrealist." A special outing to the museum is planned for conference attendees on Thursday evening, February 28.



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