

FCC/SLA Bulletin

Fall 2002

An update from the Fairfield County Chapter of the Special Libraries Association

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FCC/SLA Bulletin

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A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues:

The year 2002 was filled with unanticipated events. Some were happy surprises while others were profoundly difficult.

Nationally, Jimmy Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize. New government reports have shown declines in drug and alcohol abuse as well as teenage pregnancy. And it turns out that most people are not bothered by spam on their e-mail at work after all!

On the other hand, we saw the country's confidence in our financial markets shaken by accounting scandals and biased Wall Street research. The looming possibility of war with Iraq has put the country on edge. And the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church has become much wider and more complex than we could have imagined.

We also live, on a much more personal level, with uncertainties everyday in our jobs and families. By definition, we are unprepared for the unexpected circumstances we face. I will confess that no one could have been more surprised or unprepared than I was to find myself suddenly taking on the responsibilities of President of the Fairfield County Chapter of SLA!

When I realized that I needed to step up to this "opportunity", I wasn't sure where it fit on the scale of happy surprise to difficult situation. After several months' reflection, I can tell you now that it has been a rewarding, interesting, and challenging experience! I've learned a great deal and I've had a chance to work with members of the Board and the Chapter at large whom I had not really known before.

In reflecting on our accomplishments and our plans going forward, I would like to share some of my priorities with you. First, I was determined to reinstate our Chapter Bulletin and I am so happy that Josephine Ndinyah has agreed to assume the position as editor. Remarkably she has put this first issue together in just a few weeks while Cindy Geremia has designed the attractive format and posted it on our website. I hope that you will find it informative and that you will consider making some contributions to it.

Second, despite a late start to the year, I was determined to have a full schedule of meetings. Our President-elect, Cindy Geremia, has put together an excellent program for the year and Janene Batten has had a real education in coordinating arrangements! We have tried to vary the times and locations to accommodate people who have found evening meetings difficult. For example, in December we supported WCLC with beverages and desserts at the noontime videocast on the USA Patriot Act. In February we are planning a morning meeting at the Greenwich Public Library. More information about upcoming meetings is included in the Bulletin and we look forward to seeing many more of you at these events.

Third, I would like to encourage more of our members to volunteer for leadership in the Chapter. I believe our profession is at a crossroads and we urgently need talented people to step up and help guide us through the changes ahead. It's so important to have new faces and new ideas. I can tell you now from my own experience that the experience is extremely worthwhile.

So while you are thinking about New Year's Resolutions, set a professional goal to become more involved in FCC/SLA. The rewards are immeasurable and the Chapter will appreciate your commitment. Happy holidays to all!

Kathryn Walsh
President, FCC/SLA



Editor's Corner

We are pleased to reintroduce the FCC/SLA bulletin via our website, and we hope you'll find this "first edition" interesting and informative.

My name is Josephine Ndinyah and I am happy to serve as the Editor and Content Manager of the bulletin. I would like to take this opportunity to solicit your input/contributions for news items that you feel would be of interest to the association.

We hope to make this publication a valuable medium by which you will be able to stay abreast of news and events of the chapter, and be able to learn more about your colleagues. The success of the bulletin depends on your participation; therefore, I look forward to hearing from you with your ideas and comments. I can be reached at (203) 588-8166 or at josephine.ndinyah@pharma.com.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays!

Josephine Ndinyah
Editor/Content Manager

Meeting the Challenges of Improving Financial Reporting

October 16, 2002



Our first meeting for the 2002-2003 year was held during one of the worst storms our area has had in a while. As a Nor'easter descended upon Fairfield County, hearty meeting attendees braved the weather to hear about one of the hottest topics in the news today, financial reporting.

With the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) serving as the setting for our meeting, we were honored to have Robert Herz, chairman of FASB, address our group on October 16. Mr. Herz not only spoke about current events, he also explained how companies are expected to report their financials, and what it means when a company "restates" a financial report (companies restate a report to correct accounting errors, usually the incorrect reporting of revenues). He also discussed the importance of FASB and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) working together to create standards for both US and International financial reporting, to "produce high-quality reporting standards worldwide, to support healthy global capital markets".

During this tumultuous time, the information professionals at FASB were faced with a new challenge: Monitoring and reporting relevant news and legislative events on a daily basis. Miriam Solomon, an Assistant Librarian at FASB, took us through an example of how their library approached this challenge, and provided a daily alert to senior management. Miriam and her team scoured government websites and subscription services to track changes in legislation, retrieve hearing transcripts, and locate reports. They collected any and all information including dates of committee meetings, topics discussed, and witnesses called to testify. They also had the staggering job of tracking and reporting articles that appeared in the press. Miriam and her team came through, and provided timely alerts that contained all of the pertinent information needed by senior management. Not a surprise from this seasoned Information Professional!

This meeting attracted several non-members from the financial and law departments of many area companies. Susan Edmands, who brought her husband, said "all of my husband's questions were answered during Mr. Herz's talk" Another non-member attendee said it was a great opportunity to hear from the experts in the field.

Thanks to everyone who braved the weather, and a special thanks to Factiva for sponsoring this dinner meeting. What a great way to start our year!

Autumn in New England: Tales & Legends from Connecticut's Past

November 14, 2002

Sponsored by



The New Canaan Historical Society provided a wonderful setting for the November 14 meeting of the Fairfield County Chapter of SLA. Chapter members and guests toured the superb collections of the museum. Healthcare librarians in particular were impressed with the fully preserved Cody Pharmacy inside the museum! New Canaan Historical Society librarian Sharon Turo spoke to groups of visitors about the organization's acquisitions and its library.

Each guest received a beautiful bookmark inspired by the autumn theme with the compliments of New York's Spring Street Designs. Following a sumptuous harvest feast from HayDay Market, storyteller Ellie Toy entertained us with tales and legends of historic Connecticut.



Meeting attendees enjoy a gourmet meal catered by HayDay of Westport



Storyteller Ellie Toy entertains and entrances listeners

One particularly touching anecdote concerned Sara Bramble, a young teenage girl from New London who was executed for killing her child. In Ellie's version of the story, it is not at all clear that Sara was guilty, but 10,000 people turned out with picnics to witness her execution. Ellie also told the legend of the Simsbury witch and, in one of the lighter tales of the evening, she explained the origin of the giant frogs on the Willimantic Bridge. Lupe Hernandez of Infotrieve commented later, "I just moved here from California and this gave me a real feeling for the New England culture!"

The beautifully restored WPA murals in the meeting room, the fascinating museum collections, and the sense of history that Ellie shared with us combined to create an outstanding educational and cultural event.

Carol Harker of EBSCO found it "refreshing to meet with other librarians and not talk about libraries. We need to do that once in awhile!" Holly Furman, formerly of Texaco, noted that it was "a pleasant change to be able to socialize and network with colleagues. It really was a lovely meeting in a great setting."

Thank you to all who joined us and helped to make the meeting so successful. Special thanks to Janene Batten and Cindy Geremia who worked so hard to pull the details of this program together. And we greatly appreciate the support of our sponsor, Intelligence Data.

Board Update

Board activities are reported on the **Chapter website**. Click here for **minutes** of recent Board meetings, the Chapter **Treasurer's Report**, and **Upcoming Events**. **Chapter Officers** and **Committee Chairs** are also listed on our website.

Welcome New Members!

We're delighted to have
you in our Chapter!

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Get Ready For An Exciting 2003!

The season just gets better as time goes on! We have several informative (and yes, fun!) programs lined up for next year.

- ▶ On **February 5**, join us for a breakfast networking meeting at the **Greenwich Public Library**. Wynne Delmhorst, the business librarian, will give us a tour of the new building and an overview of their outstanding business collection.
- ▶ In **March**, **Eric Lesser**, of IBM, will join us to discuss **Communities of Practice**. A recent study by the American Productivity and Quality Center revealed that "Communities of practice are the next step in the evolution of the modern, knowledge-based organization". Cutting-edge information professionals won't want to miss this meeting!
- ▶ Our **April** meeting will feature a discussion led by **Anne Caputo** of Factiva. She'll share marketing tips and tricks to help us keep our libraries on the forefront of our company. Anne's fun and informative presentations are thoroughly enjoyable!
- ▶ In **May**, we're honored to have **Cynthia Hill, SLA President-Elect** join us. Cynthia will talk about the challenges we face as we move forward.

Announcements for future meetings will be posted on the Chapter listserv and our website.

Congratulations!!

Purdue Pharma appointed **Marianne Cirrito** as Manager, Library Operations in July 2002. Before joining Purdue, Marianne was an Information Professional at Arthur Andersen in Hartford, Connecticut for four years. She had also worked in three different libraries during a ten-year career at Aetna, Inc.



Josephine Ndinyah also joined Purdue as Senior Information Searcher in November 2002. Prior to joining Purdue, Josephine was an Information Specialist at Texaco Inc., a position she held there for 14 years. Our congratulations to both Marianne and Josephine. We wish them the best in their new ventures.



Congratulations are also in order for **ARRAS ASSOCIATES** on their move to a brand new office in New Canaan. Arras Associates opened their new office in November 2002 at 145 Cherry Street in New Canaan, Connecticut, 06840. You can still reach them at (203) 972-2772, or visit them at their website:
<http://www.arrasassociates.com>

Fairfield County Chapter members **Sara van der Voort, Patty Dauvin** and **Marilyn Geiger** formed Arras in December 2000. Sara and Marilyn are currently Chapter Board members, serving as Past President and Treasurer, respectively.

Arras Associates provides research, integrity-focused due diligence, and information consulting services to the business and financial community.

Do you have news to share? Send an e-mail to Bulletin Editor Josephine Ndinyah at josephine.ndinyah@pharma.com for inclusion in our next issue.

iCONN: The Connecticut Digital Library

Contributed by David Veinot, Information Searcher, Purdue Pharma LP

Sponsored by the Connecticut State Library and the Department of Higher Education, iCONN links to a free collection of online databases that have been licensed for use by anyone with a Connecticut library card. Just think, immediate access to full-text magazine and newspaper articles, reference books, images and more, whether at home or the office.

To access the databases, go to the iCONN site at http://www.iconn.org/public_remote.html and click on the database you're interested in. You will then be asked to key in your library bar code number (no spaces, no letters) for easy access.

The iCONN resources include readers' advisory, homework help, business research, and consumer health research. Among the databases available are:

- **What Do I Read Next?** - More than 96,000 highly recommended fiction and non-fiction titles that can be searched to satisfy reading preferences based on subject, genre, time period, geographic location, character, reading level and more.
- **Business & Company Resource Center** - Company and industry information that includes profiles, rankings, statistics, stock prices, and business journal news and analysis.
- **Health & Wellness Resource Center** - Medical information for health professionals and general readers from hundreds of journals, approximately 800 pamphlets, and many encyclopedias.
- **InfoTrac Junior** - Multi-source, curriculum based reference tool for junior high and middle school students.
- **InfoTrac Kids** - Full-text journals, maps, almanacs and news articles for the K-6 student.
- **InfoTrac Student** - Multi-source, curriculum based reference tool for high school students.

Expanded Academic ASAP - Designed for research in all academic concentrations, including social sciences, humanities, science and technology, with coverage of more than 1,400 journals.

Among the other online resources are the full-text coverage of *The Hartford Courant*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, *Sunday Times (London)*, *The Times (London)*, and *The Washington Post*.

Also available is reQuest <http://www.cslib.org/cln/publib.htm>, a statewide catalog-of-catalogs that allows users to search over 300 library collections in Connecticut simultaneously and to place requests for materials over the Web.

Are You Really Connected?

(You're Not If You Don't Subscribe to the FCC Listserv!)

You may not know it, but the SLA Fairfield County Chapter has an email listserv! We encourage all our members to subscribe to this list so that they can receive advanced notices of forthcoming meetings, network with other Chapter members and have the opportunity to learn about or discuss local and professional news and events.

To subscribe:

- Send an email message to: **majordomo@westnet.com**
- Leave the subject line blank
- In the first line of the text type: subscribe fccsla
- You will receive an email asking you to confirm that you wish to be added to the list
- Reply to this email and you will be a member of the list

To remove yourself from the list:

- Send an email message to: **fccsla-request@westnet.com**
- Leave the subject line blank
- In the first line of the text type: unsubscribe
- You will be removed from the list

Additional information is posted on our website at <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cffc/listserv.htm>. We have also provided some guidelines and the answers to frequently asked questions.

If you have problems subscribing or unsubscribing, please send an email to Sara van der Voort at svandervoort@arrasassociates.com

Treasurer's Report

The following is the Fairfield County Chapter Treasurer's report dated 12/24/02. If you would like more information, please contact Treasurer Marilyn Geiger at mgeiger@arrasassociates.com.

Checking Balance	4,971.95
<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Assets	4,971.95