

Bulletin

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President's Message

by Ginger Shields
<vbshields@yahoo.com>

About 16 percent of our chapter was present for the 2007 SLA Conference in Denver, which had over 5,000 people (including vendors) in attendance. There was a plethora of sessions to choose from, including many from the new Knowledge Management division, and some on Web 2.0, which includes podcasting, wikis, blogging, etc.

It was an energizing conference, with our own Janet Todwong taking the stage on the opening night (before Al Gore) as one of the recipients of the Diversity Leadership Development Program.

The Info-Expo hall was buzzing with vendors and SLA members. Networking, including a get-together for the Mid-West Chapters, took place day and night. There was talk about the virtual Second Life, but most of the HOA members I spoke to are having a hard enough time getting time for their first life!

Please see the "SLA-HOA Chapter Cabinet Report" article on page 3 for a summary of my report to the SLA Chapter Cabinet session.

Next year's conference is in Seattle, Washington, and the 2009 conference celebrating SLA's centennial birthday will be held in Washington, DC.

Speaking of birthdays, the Heart of America chapter turns 60 in 2008. Can anyone say "party"? Can anyone volunteer to help with said party?

Contact Hilary Berndt at berndthm@bv.com or Ginger Shields at vbshields@yahoo.com to join the committee. We need you to be involved. You offer us your unique perspective, and being involved on the chapter level offers **you** the biggest bang for your SLA membership buck.

For those of you who were around in the 1970s, former HOA president Ty Webb says hello from Colorado. Ty is running for the SLA Board as a Director this Fall: <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/governance/bodsection/bodcandidates/07candidates/webbbio.cfm>.

The SLA Directory will be changing to a different system this summer and may be static or down for a period of time. Please make sure that your contact information is up-to-date on the SLA Directory. We especially need email addresses for some of our members to ensure that they are on our list serve.

Have a great summer, and remember... according to SLA's recent press release and comments made at the conference... Librarians are HOT!

Ginger Shields
President, SLA-HOA

*SLA-HOA member,
Janet Okot Todwong
honored at the 2007
SLA Conference in
Denver*



Janet Okot Todwong and
2006-2007 SLA president,
Rebecca B. Vargha

by Kate Rogge
<krogge@usa.net>

Congratulations to Janet Okot Todwong for winning the prestigious SLA Diversity Leadership Development Program (DLDP) award this year! Several of us from SLA-HOA and SLIM were on hand to cheer.

Granted annually to five SLA members in recognition of their leadership abilities, the award was presented by Holly Bussey (EBSCO program sponsor representative) during the 2007 SLA conference's opening general ceremony in Denver on June 3rd.

Janet began her career in library sciences in Kampala, Uganda, where she worked for the Uganda Supreme Court Library, the British Council Library, and the National Agricultural Research Organization. Her work here on a 1997 USAID agricultural information project led to her subsequent move to Kansas.

Janet received her BS in Library and Information Science from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda and, received an MLS degree in 2006 from Emporia State University. She received a Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society award in 2006, and is now the Technical Services Assistant at the Washburn University School of Law Library in Topeka.

The 2007 DLDP award included a \$1,000 grant, all expenses paid to attend the 2007 SLA conference in Denver, and the assignment of senior SLA mentors.

Janet's SLA mentor is Dr. Stephanie Tolson, a member of the DLDP selection committee and Dean of Learning Resources at St. Charles Community College in Cottleville, Missouri. Dr. Tolson, a 1975 SLIM graduate, asked to be Janet's mentor. They are working together to identify how best to foster Janet's career development and leadership skills, and Dr. Tolson will remain a valued mentor for Janet in the future.

The SLA Diversity Leadership Development Program award is designed to help accelerate the advancement and visibility of people from groups traditionally under-represented within SLA membership by mentoring them for leadership opportunities within SLA and our profession.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Cara Battaglini, SLA Director of Public Relations, for sending SLA's awards ceremony video script and photographs for our use.



2007 SLA Diversity Leadership Development Program Award Winners –
Janet Okot Todwong, Lina Ortega, Cheryl Jacocks-Terrell,
Debal C. Kar, and Blanca Chou

SLA-HOA Chapter Cabinet Report

by Ginger Shields
< vbshields@yahoo.com >

I attended the Chapter Cabinet meeting, which included reports (including ours) from many of the SLA chapters. Based on what I read and heard, the Heart of America chapter is doing great things for a chapter of our size. Here are the areas that were profiled in the report (along with my own assessment of how we're doing):

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS:

We've got a great Bulletin, thanks to our editors Kate and Wendy and thanks also to our previous editor, Julie.

WEBSITES:

HOA's website is revamped, includes RSS and breadcrumbs for easy navigation. We've had some technical issues with getting our web administrator, Judy, to easily update the website. The lack of updates through May was my fault, and I apologize to everyone.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

We're following the trend of offering a variety of tours and programs to our members. It was a national trend this year to include continuing professional education, which we also did with our Click U session in April. We'll offer more opportunities later this year. It would be nice to see more of our members come to events and programs. With one event or program held approximately every month, people in the Kansas City area should be able to make at least one event during a year. Our attendance at programs has ranged from seven to twenty participants, with an average being around twelve. For those further away, please keep reading. Heartfelt thanks go to Hilary for keeping the programs coming!

JOINT MEETINGS WITH OTHER GROUPS:

HOA did this last year with a meeting from SCIP. If anyone is also in another professional information/library association and would like to work on a joint program with HOA, please contact Hilary. The Tri-Conference in Kansas included a special library focus, with a presentation from past SLA President, Ethel Salonen. This is one way we can be a presence in the geographical area.

SLA EXECUTIVE VISITS:

HOA did not request a visit from SLA this year. The time is coming up when we need to make requests for next year, so if you have anyone in particular you'd like to come out to HOA (especially for our 60th anniversary), please let me know.

AWARDS:

We offered two \$250 scholarships for library students to attend the 2007 Conference. Kate Rogge was able to attend, but Eric Hutchinson unfortunately ended up with work conflicts and returned his scholarship.

FUNDRAISERS:

While there has occasionally been talk about doing this, we seem to be getting along with our allotment from SLA. However, to accomplish certain large events in the future, we will need to call on members to request contributions from their vendors. If you have a good working relationship with any of your vendors and would be willing to talk to them, please let Hilary or me know.

NETWORKING, BOOK CLUBS, FUN AND DINE AROUNDS:

We'll try to increase the networking and social opportunities, but frankly need to know that people will show up. If anyone would like to get involved and help Hilary plan social events, please let us know!

DISTANT MEMBERS:

Okay. This wasn't specifically a "heading" in the Chapter Cabinet report, but it is an issue that our chapter deals with. Our membership is concentrated in the Kansas City area, but we have members throughout Kansas and southern Missouri. Many other chapters are dealing with the same issue, and I'll be contacting those chapters to find out how they are doing it. Some of HOA's ideas have included taking a trip on the road to Wichita or Salina – perhaps on a weekend.

It would help if people outside of KC would be willing to help plan and organize this type of program. We'll also look into virtual options. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Our Heart of America chapter is doing great things!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The SLA-HOA Nominating Committee is looking for a few good volunteers!

Working on a committee or serving as an officer is a wonderful opportunity to network, meet other members with similar challenges and triumphs, enhance your skills, and share your talents! Your participation will enrich you and the HOA chapter.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Gail Kammer at gkammer@burnsmcd.com or 816-822-3550 (work).

Membership News

by Benita Webber
<benitawebber@yahoo.com>

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome eleven new members to our Heart of America chapter. Our new members include:

Wendy Gish

Wendy is currently enrolled in SLIM and hopes to graduate in the summer of 2009. She is also working on the Information Management certificate. Wendy enjoys gardening, walking/hiking, reading, playing with her kids, writing children's stories as a hobby, traveling (when possible), movies, and the big picture of life. She lives in Overland Park, KS and "likes to stay occupied." New member Wendy is co-editor of the *HOA Bulletin*. See her article on page 5.

Curt Friehs

Curt is an Assistant Professor and Business Librarian at Wichita State University's Ablah Library. He is a Wichita resident, and has been at WSU

since graduating from library school at the University of Pittsburgh (PA) two years ago. Outside of reading, Curt enjoys classic cars and is a lifetime member of the Cadillac LaSalle Club. This is Curt's first time as an SLA member.

Other new members include:

Lydia Bauer
Eric Petersen
Antonio Chavez
Kelly Ebeling

JEFF BOND'S NEW JOB AT TCU

SLA-HOA member, Jeffrey Bond, most recently working at the William Allen White Library at Emporia State University, is now the new Science Reference Librarian at the Mary Couts Burnett Library at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Congratulations!

Me and the Blue Bear

by Kate Rogge
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I graduated from Emporia State with an MLS in May, and am looking for my first job in my new profession (after working for years as an IT technical writer). I went to the SLA conference to get some help refocusing and rewriting my resume, and to look for a job.

I did that, and more, and along the way I spent time with school friends, met recruiters who thought there'd be work for me back in New York City, and got reacquainted with a Denver I hadn't seen in thirty years.

I went to several excellent programs, apart from my job search (which ended with the resume rewrite and collecting recruiters' cards, unfortunately), but I most enjoyed talking with the people I met accidentally just standing in line, or sitting at a table in an otherwise empty

conference room, or wherever. Talking with ordinary and extraordinary people about their work, what they wanted from the conference, and what they'd found there, was really the best part of each day. What interesting people there are in this very interesting profession.

I came back home to a job opportunity and was able to use my new resume immediately. The third and final interview is July 9th, and I have hopes of finding a place for a new beginning in my new career.

Many thanks to the SLA-HOA chapter for granting me a \$250 scholarship to help pay for the conference expenses. It was a great help, and was very much appreciated.



Denver Convention Center's
Blue Bear

Relocation Consternation

by Wendy Gish

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Whenever I get a craving to go whale watching or collect seashells from the beach, I start to wonder what it would be like to move to a different part of the country. However, as my husband likes to remind me, it's important not to wear vacation goggles while I investigate new places. There is never going to be a place free from every day challenges. If a move is in your future though, there are some great ways to research new locations.

Let's say you're in the same boat and are interested in sailing off to a new sensational spot. One of the first things you'll need to find out is if you can land a job. Since most of my searches are what I like to call recreational relocation research, everything I will be mentioning here is found on-line.

To start close to home, a great resource for SLA members is found on the SLA site: sla.jobcontrolcenter.com/search/. Other typical career searches might include such sites as www.careerbuilder.com, www.monster.com, www.flipdog.com. Job searches on www.craigslist.com are also becoming more popular.

If you're not in a hurry, many sites allow you to set up job alerts with pre-defined criteria. Job alerts will notify you by e-mail when a potentially interesting job is posted by an employer. Government websites are not always well known, but occasionally have some additional options. This can be especially useful in smaller markets.

For example, if you are interested in moving to Portland, ME but aren't finding a lot of jobs listed on the mainstream job boards, try www.ci.portland.me.us/jobs.asp#Job%20Opportunities. The city of Portland has links to other Maine jobs, as well. Aside from accessing these websites directly, the www.kartoo.com search engine can be a valuable tool for locating many resources in one place.

Utilizing career websites can give you an idea of what's out there, but they don't guarantee attention from a potential

employer. The old saying about it's not what you know, but whom you know still holds true. Getting an informal, inside perspective can also be of great value.

One site I frequent when I want to get a profile of a city is www.city-data.com. Statistical data is included along with a good on-line forum. Most of the conversation is polite and intelligent and people who have knowledge of the area are delighted to answer questions. This might not get you a job, but can potentially supply some networking ideas.

Having kids, I know how intimidating it can be to think about uprooting them. The range of education excellence can vary widely even within the same school district. The www.greatschools.com site gives parent reviews, student to teacher ratio and test scores, for example. Many times, I'll look at www.realtor.com for a house in our price range and then look up the schools they list for a particular property.

I realize I haven't touched on a fraction of the wonderful websites out there for relocation purposes, and I'd love to hear some other suggestions. Please feel free to e-mail me with your thoughts and we can pass those along in the future.



Thinking about packing it up and moving it on down the road? Here's some tools to take off those vacation goggles and take a good look at where you hope to park the family car.

One Librarian's View of the SLA Conference

by Kevin Nelson
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Black & Veatch's librarian shares his thoughts about programming and vendors at the SLA conference

I was very impressed with the overall time and effort that the SLA organization committee, and in particular, the Denver Chapter put into the conference. It was extremely well organized. Keynote speakers Al Gore and Scott Adams (creator of the Dilbert cartoons) were a great contrast in message and styles - great listening, learning and fun.

The EXPO was the best that I have seen in my years of attending ALA and SLA. Every vendor location was filled, yet there was plenty of elbow room and time to get around. Real food and treats were served throughout the expo floor for 3 days - most impressive.

The primary reasons for attending SLA conference are to learn and gain knowledge from the breakout sessions and networking with fellow librarians. Many of the sessions fell very short of expectations and I walked out of about half of them - I refused to waste my time.

Networking can be a roll of the dice. This year I was really lucky in that I seemed to meet up with librarians who shared many of the trials, concerns, "evolving pains" that I am experiencing. This involves "re-conceptualizing" our functions and positioning within our organizations.

The sessions that I gained the most from were related to this concept of the "embedded" librarian, where we team with possible "shadow" professionals in our respective organizations to provide knowledge services such as research and article retrieval. The key point being made is that the traditional information library is not dissolved or diminished, but

if you play your cards right, positioning of your traditional library can actually be enhanced within the organization.

Another observation from panel members, however, was that many companies that do not currently have information centers or libraries in place, aren't establishing new centers, but are opting for this "embedded" service approach instead.

Emphasis was placed on what was called the need for us to provide "Knowledge Services." This was the "buzz" phrase of the conference. Knowledge Services was presented as a management methodology that is achieved through the convergence of information management, knowledge management, and strategic learning. The focus being on people – on connections, collaboration, and cooperation.

I attended two "techie" hands-on sessions where we actually created and edited wikis and gained real-time experience with Web 2.0 tools like blogs and RSS technologies. This stuff is nothing new to our newly degreed librarians, but to an old-timer such as myself, the sessions gave me a chance to get caught up on current technologies.

I left with a "few gems," so my experience was not a total loss. Networking was a tremendous plus. I just wish more sessions had been stronger.



Linda Hall Tour and Presentation

by Ginger Shields
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On May 30th, the Heart of America chapter visited Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Missouri. Scott Curtis and Ginger Shields gave a presentation on RSS Feeds and Blogs. A tour of the newly renovated Linda Hall Library followed, with Scott as the tour guide.

Linda Hall Library is an independent public library of science, engineering and technology located on a 14 acre arboretum and adjacent to the UMKC campus. The Library is used extensively by companies, academic institutions and individuals throughout the world. The Library was established by the wills of Herbert and Linda Hall and opened in 1946.

On the tour, participants saw the Rare Book area, the Cosmology Theater and the current exhibit "Out of This World: The Golden Age of the Celestial Atlas." The rainbow of moveable stacks was the backdrop for Scott's explanation of Linda Hall's document delivery procedures. Scott also spoke about the Linda Hall Weblog, which can be viewed at <http://linda-hall-library.blogspot.com/>.

RSS PRESENTATION

Scott explained that RSS (Really Simple Syndication) allows people to pull updated information to them rather than having to go out and search the same websites for it. On the other side, if your organization publishes RSS feeds, this is an easy and efficient way to push the information to people who want it.

Both Scott and Ginger prefer the free Newsgator (www.newsgator.com) web-based version as their news aggregator or reader. Using the reader you can quickly see a snippet of the information you've subscribed to, along with a link to view more if you are so inclined. A benefit to using RSS feeds for information, rather than emails, is the ease in subscribing and also in unsubscribing to them.

Ginger showed how if you don't want to sign up for a news reader, you can use the one at the SLA site (Newsgator). From the SLA home page (www.sla.org), click on SLA Feed Reader under the Useful Resources section. You will have to log in and then you can choose from the Add Content categories (see folders on left-hand side) to subscribe to selected feeds.

If you want to add your own feed, you can click on the "Advanced" link (Advanced feed and folder tools, which is above the Add Content section) and then type in the URL. When selecting a URL of a feed, it is recommended that you actually visit the website and click on the feed button. Copy the URL that then shows up and that is the actual feed. The HOA chapter's RSS feed is <http://units.sla.org/chapter/choa/hoafeed.xml>

To read more about RSS feeds, see the inset for other resources. If you want to make an RSS feed for your website, the following should help:

Making an RSS Feed by Danny Sullivan (<http://searchenginewatch.com/showPage.html?page=2175271>).

Further RSS Resources

Using RSS: An Explanation and Guide – Steven M. Cohen (December 2002)
Information Outlook, Vol. 6, No. 12.

RSS for Non-Techie Librarians – Steven M. Cohen
<http://www.llrx.com/features/rssforlibrarians.htm>

Feed Your Head: Keeping Up by Using RSS – Roy Tennant (May 15, 2003)
Library Journal
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/index.asp?layout=article&articleID=CA296443>

Click University: Positioning Yourself for Leadership Within Your Organization

Leadership is a process of generating, and expressing enthusiasm for your work, and building core relationships with your colleagues. And having a pretty good idea of where you'd like your organization to go...

by Kate Rogge
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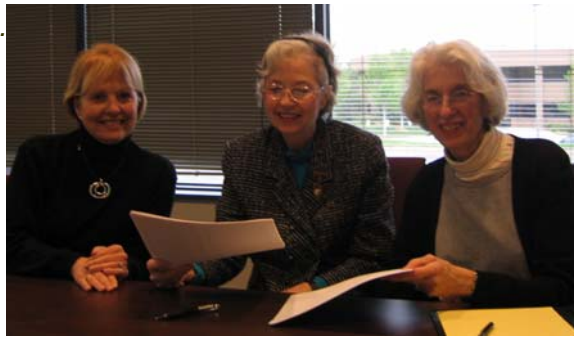
Late in April, several of us gathered at Ginger Shields' office at VSR Financial in Overland Park to participate in the first of several Click U seminars planned for the SLA-HOA membership this year. "Positioning Yourself for Leadership Within Your Organization," created by

Marshall Brown & Associates, invited group identification and discussion of what qualities and skills are evident in successful and effective leaders.

Begin by answering seven key questions about your own organization: Why do we exist? Who are we? Who do we serve? Where are we going? What does success look like? How will we get there?

How we each answer these questions, and the actions we take based upon those answers, informs how we become leaders within our own organization and within our profession.

Join us for the next Click U event.



Paula Ohlde, Christine O'Brien, and Judith Esrig

Military Librarians Division Honored at SLA 2007

by Edwin B. Burgess, Director, Combined Arms Research Library
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Military librarians front and center for the SLA conference's open ceremonies.

The Military Librarians Division was honored during the SLA conference's opening ceremony for having provided library service to members of the armed forces. Division members were admitted to the session's auditorium in a group, and seated in the front three rows. Our view of opening speaker Vice-President Al Gore was unexcelled.

One of our members, Sharon Lenius of the DC chapter, was also on the list of individual honorees for her services to the Association. VP Gore gave a rousing speech, completely debunking his reputation for being stiff. The audience was extremely receptive, and repeatedly showed their approval.

As usual, there were great sessions at SLA and there were also sessions... Barbara Fullerton, former HOA member, gave a well-received presentation on "60 gadgets in 60 Minutes." She'll be giving

this amusing presentation again December 6 at the Military Librarians Division annual workshop, here in KC at the Westin Crown Center. And I presented on a panel discussion on outsourcing. I was, of course, brilliant, but attendance was only moderate.

And as usual there were the parties. Thomson and Lexis-Nexus threw the two biggest ones, at the Science Museum and Art Museum respectively. Both were lavish and well-attended. The Golddigger's Ball was a raucous dance party put on by the IT group at the Hyatt; MLD threw a decorous but extremely well-fed and well-watered reception just upstairs, as did the solo librarians.

Scott Adams closed it out with an excellent demonstration of why Dilbert resonates with all of us. Altogether a fine conference.

Book Review: *Rethinking Information Work*

by Kate Rogge

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Months and months ago, Kim Dority sent me an advance copy of her most excellent book, "*Rethinking Information Work*," to review for the SLA-HOA chapter *Bulletin*. And I've done nothing but move it on and off of my desk since it arrived. In fact, I've yet to read it.

But here's a review of the book that accompanied the email request from Ms. Dority. I've read other reviews, from different sources, I've even met a former student of her's who raved about her, and literally everyone speaks very well of the book. It's probably a really good book. Check it out sometime. I'm still thinking about it.

"Create the rewarding, engaging, and resilient information career you dreamed of in grad school with this practical yet inspiring step-by-step guide. Today, information work offers you an unprecedented number of career options. Whether you are a student working towards a career in librarianship, a mid-careerist considering the next professional step, or a seasoned information professional looking for new directions; if you're looking for work in the field, this guide can help you sort through the options.

Leading you through a process of planning the information career of your choice, it shows you how to determine what type of work would be most fulfilling to you, explores what types of work are available to those with an LIS-

based skill set, and helps you create an action plan for accomplishing your career goals and reaching your professional potential.

The author discusses the entire spectrum of information work, revealing a wealth of possibilities you may have never considered. These range from work within traditional, facilities-based librarianship, working in library-related but not necessarily library-based jobs, and working in non-library related positions that utilize the traditional skill sets of the LIS degree, such as research, information organization, training and development, business development, non-profit work, and so on.

Designed as a text, this book can also be used as a self-directed guide. The author takes readers step-by-step through a fascinating process of career exploration and action. Taking into account the inevitable shifting priorities that occur throughout one's career, she emphasizes tools for lifelong career resiliency, rather than a rigid commitment to a single career goal.

This is a book you will turn to again and again throughout your career. With numerous tables, worksheets, lists, and extensive bibliographies of recommended resources for further study, both print and on the web, you have everything you need to begin this exciting journey."



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