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message.

## President's Message

—Submitted By Linda Minch

As my term as President of the Kentucky Chapter comes to an end, I would like to say “Thank You!”

“Thank You” for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of professionals.

“Thank You” to those of you who contributed to the chapter throughout the year by working on a committee, contributing ideas, attending meetings, and supporting each other in any way, shape or form.

A special thanks to my fellow board members:

“Thank You” to Joe Miller, Past President, who provided me with answers to questions whenever I had them and for reminding me that a vote needed to be taken before moving on to the next point at board meetings.

“Thank You” to Veronica Walker, our Treasurer and chair of just about every one of our committees. I cannot imagine where this chapter would be without her.

“Thank You” to Nancy Hanaford, Secretary, who, in spite of her broken ankle, volunteered to do whatever she could for the chapter as long as she could keep her foot elevated!

“Thank You” to Mary Vass, Board Member at Large, who cheerfully made arrangements for our Open Board Meeting in Shelbyville and paid for all the meals because I forgot to bring the checkbook! This and many of her other contributions have endeared Mary in my heart.

“Thank You” to Cindi Trainor, Board Member at Large and Newsletter Chair extraordinaire. Cindi quietly makes great contributions to the chapter and has made the Kentucky Chapter famous by pointing out our state-of-the-art web site newsletter to the ITE Division of SLA.

And last but certainly not least, “Thank You” to Alice Marksberry, who answered all of the other questions I managed to get stuck on and who has truly been the workhorse of this organization this past year. Alice has been more of a mentor to me than I have been for her and has made my term as president a real breeze. She is a true leader and I feel I am leaving the control of the chapter in more than capable hands.

I trust that you will support Alice, Veronica and Cindi along with the new members of the board, Wenda Webster Fischer, President-Elect; Andrea Peak, Secretary; and James Manasco, Board Member at Large; in the upcoming year. My thanks to them for their willingness to step into these positions and I know that they will make the Kentucky Chapter of SLA even better than ever!

I could go on with my litany of but the academy has the hook out and is threatening to pull me off of the stage. Just let it be said that I “Thank All of You” for putting up with me the past two years. I have learned a great deal from the opportunity to serve as President-Elect and President and will carry this knowledge with me always.

“Thank You!!”

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## Exploring the Possibilities of Information Portals, Or, What I Learned by Driving to Indianapolis

—Submitted By Wenda Webster Fischer

Before the University of Kentucky announced that the SLA video conference on portals would be available on campus, I had registered to attend the Indiana SLA chapter sponsored viewing in Indianapolis on the campus of IUPUI. Here's what I learned.

### In General

1) There are quite a lot of special librarians in Indianapolis and many of them turned out for this video conference. I was surprised at the variety of specialties represented in the group. There were academic librarians from the medical school and university libraries, special librarians from hospital, pharmaceutical company and law firm libraries, and consultants.

2) My definition of the term "practice communities" was wrong! I had defined a practice community as a formally structured group that worked on designated projects. I learned that a "practice community" or "community of practice" was an group that came together because of common interests or skills and may or may not stay together as a group, depending on the project and corporate needs.

3) Most business people do NOT like to search, but instead would rather browse or select from lists when doing research. This was news to me and very appli-

cable, I might add. I teach various internet training workshops to business searchers and will probably change several aspects of the training, based on this tidbit.

But I digress. Here's what I learned about portals from the panelists Susan Klopfer, Howard McQueen, and Steve Arnold.

### Portal Info

An information portal aggregates internal and external data. It has a personalized interface and offers custom access.

Portal components consist of:

- 1) content (search engines, reference tools, etc.)
- 2) commerce
- 3) community (chat, email capabilities)
- 4) customization

Numbers three and four are the components that differentiate portals from intranets.

Vertical portals are the fastest growing segment in portal land. Vertical portals contain content that is relevant to specific industries or niches.

McQueen made numerous comments about the technical aspects of building and maintaining portals. He advises that the Information Technology department should NOT be the driver of the

portal initiative (and we don't need to ask why, do we?).

Several technical components are needed to construct an operable portal. The first is a taxonomy or classification system.

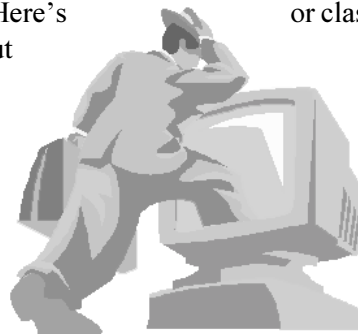
Information architects (who used to be called librarians—*my comment, not McQueen's*) will be the designers and implementers here. Off-the-shelf categorization systems

currently can be expected to accomplish approximately 65% of what needs to be done with a portal.

For those of us looking down the road, "federation portal" may be the concept we're seeking. A federation portal will provide portal interoperability, so that divergent portals, such as vertical ones, can communicate. This will be accomplished by utilizing XML standards.

McQueen and Arnold both commented on web page design. For a corporate setting, McQueen believes that pages should be designed to expose content to facilitate decision making. Further, fresh content will draw users. Arnold says that users want to be treated personally at a web site. They want the "total" web package. This translates into media, audio, images — a conglomeration

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of ways information is delivered and experienced.

Arnold discussed a portal evaluation system he coined the Knowledge Management Counsel. Any portal you design or portal development software should have all nine members of this counsel.

**Knowledge Management Counsel**

- WYWIWIG Web Page Editor
- Database Engine
- Document Management
- Personalization Tools
- Site Manipulation Tools
- Search Engine
- Administration Interfaces/Tools
- Usage Tracking Tools
- Security Services

Unanswered Questions

When the video conference was over, several attendees still had questions. At a minimum fee of \$70,000 to design and make a portal operational, portals become financially unobtainable for many. What are the alternatives? Can a portal be “pieced” together as dollars become available?

And what about intranets? Do we scrap them? How can we integrate an existing intranet into the portal environment?

SLA promises an additional opportunity to learn more about portals at it's web site. More resources should be available after May 19, 2000 at <http://www.sla.org/sla-learning/portals.html>. ❌

## Awards Given at Spring Meeting

—Submitted by Veronica Walker

Congratulations to Pat Wilson and Cindi Trainor, who received awards in April at the Joint Spring Conference of KLA Special Section/SLA Kentucky Chapter.

Cindi Trainor and Pat Wilson were the two recipients of the Special Libraries Association, Kentucky Chapter awards this year. Cindi was awarded the Outstanding Chapter Member Award for active participation and volunteerism in our chapter (with special accolades for the outstanding job she's done as chapter newsletter editor and her involvement with the chapter's Web page). Cindi is currently Team Leader for Electronic Resources at the University of Kentucky.

Pat Wilson was awarded the Professional Award for her active participation in Special Libraries Association at the national level where she has served on many committees over the years - with a special note to the wonderful job she did as chair (now past-chair) of the Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Division. Pat currently serves as the Distance Learning Library Services Librarian at the University of Kentucky.

KYSLA Awards Committee:

- Valerie Perry
- Veronica Walker, Chair
- Judy Wulff



SLA/KY Award winners  
Cindi Trainor and  
Pat Wilson.



## Student Support Guidelines Committee Report

—Submitted by Joe Miller

*(Note: The following was distributed and discussed during the business meeting at the Joint Spring Conference.)*

At our March board meeting, President Linda Minch created a committee with the charge of developing procedures to guide the process of granting a student stipend to support student participation in the annual conference. Here are the recommendations of the committee for chapter policy guidelines for this award.

### KYSLA Student Award

**Purpose:** To provide financial support to the current president-elect of the University of Kentucky SLA student group to encourage participation in the annual conference. The amount of the award is fixed at \$250, with the following terms and conditions in effect:

#### **Terms and Conditions:**

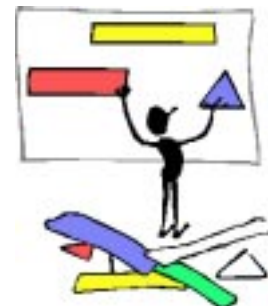
A) The decision whether or not to grant the award in a given year will be made by the Board at our fall meeting based on the financial condition of the chapter as reported by the treasurer. The Chapter must keep 1 year's operating funds in reserve; this award is not to be given

in any year in which the award would use any of the reserve funds.

- B) The Chapter has other commitments to supporting conference participation by officers and there will be an order of precedence regarding these commitments, as follows:
- 1) Chapter President-Elect support for the winter meeting;
  - 2) Chapter President support for the annual meeting; and
  - 3) Student Chapter President-Elect support for the annual meeting.
- C) If the Board determines the award will be given, the student group president-elect must notify the Board by the April Kentucky Chapter spring meeting of their decision to accept the award. If accepted, it will be awarded at the spring meeting business meeting.
- D) If the student group president-elect declines the offer, the money will be unencumbered and no other formal process will be initiated to designate an alternate recipient. However, the Board may entertain other student support activities with this money if desired (e.g. sup-

porting students for local conferences, etc.)

- E) Recipient conditions:
- Must be a current student in the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science masters degree program.
  - The student must be a member of the Kentucky Chapter of SLA.
  - The student must not have received or accepted any other scholarship or stipend from any other SLA chapter or division. If the student chooses to accept another award, the student shall notify the Kentucky Chapter President that they are no longer eligible for the Chapter award.
  - The student agrees to produce a written report on their conference experience to be submitted to the newsletter editor(s) in time for the first issue produced following the annual conference. ✕



## Student Group Update

—Submitted by *Dustin Larmore*

My year as UK SLA Student Group president is almost over, and it has been very rewarding. Since the last column, the group sponsored an informative panel discussion about collection development, featuring librarians Susan Byars, Tom Hecker, and Debbie Sharp, as well as Dennis Carrigan from the UK School of Library and Information Science. The group also toured PlanGraphics, Inc., in Frankfort, and Stites and Harbison law firm in Lexington. In addition, Laura Hall, the incoming group president, and Mykie Howard, group secretary/treasurer, attended the KLA/KYSLA joint spring conference in Prestonsburg.

I would like to thank the Kentucky Chapter of SLA for setting up a plan for offering monetary assistance for students to attend local and national conferences. Knowledge of this plan will encourage more students to become involved in SLA, both at the state and national levels.

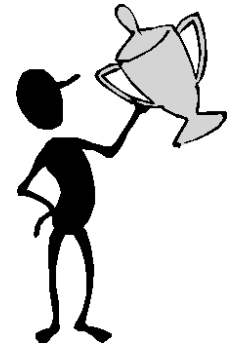
Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has helped during my tenure as president. This list includes, but is certainly not limited to, Joseph Miller, Kenneth Randles, Colleen Crowley, Billie Ann Snodgrass, Antoinette Powell, Valerie Perry, Gracie Hale, Kimball Winters, Laura Hall, Mykie Howard, Ann Abate, Cindi Trainor, Beth Kraemer, Gina Tussey, and Pam Thompson. ✕

## Students Win Scholarships

—Submitted by *The Editors*

Congratulations to Susan Marshall who won a \$6000 SLA Scholarship! Way to go Susan!

Congratulations also to Mykie Howard, who won a scholarship from the Cincinnati chapter to attend the SLA Annual meeting. Be sure to say hi and congratulations to Mykie in Philly! ✕



## Member News

—Submitted by *Dee Wood*

SLA/KY Chapter members have recruited five new members so far this year. Joining the Chapter from the University of Kentucky in Lexington is Mr. Robert A. Aken. Rob is presently Electronic Resources Librarian at William T. Young Library. The Chapter is also fortunate to have four new student members join its forces. They are: Tanzi D. Merritt, Billie Ann Snodgrass, Laura E. Hall, and Mykie A. Howard. Be sure to welcome all of our new recruits when you have the opportunity. You can find their mailing addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses in the new Chapter Directory that was mailed to you recently.

Speaking of the 2000 SLA/KY Chapter Membership Directory – Please open your directories now and make the following corrections so that you can have the most up-to-date member information:

1. Glenda Neely: Change her preferred mailing address to her work address; change e-mail address to: [glenda.neely@louisville.edu](mailto:glenda.neely@louisville.edu)
2. Hanalore B. Rader: Change first name to Hannelore. Change her e-mail address to: [h.rader@louisville.edu](mailto:h.rader@louisville.edu)
3. Pamela J. Taranto: Pamela's work address is Brown, Todd & Heyburn, PLLC, 400 W. Market St., 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Louisville, KY 40202. Her e-mail is: [ptaranto@browntodd.com](mailto:ptaranto@browntodd.com)
4. Kimball C. Winters: Kimball's work address is Winebrenner Theological Seminary Library, Findlay, OH 45840. E-mail: [wintersk@mail.findlay.edu](mailto:wintersk@mail.findlay.edu)

Remember to maintain your membership information (your area code changes, e.g.) in Who's Who Online, which can now be accessed in the "members only" section of the SLA web page (<http://www.sla.org/>) ✕



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**Special Libraries Association, Kentucky Chapter  
Spring Board Meeting Minutes  
University of Kentucky Faculty Club  
Lexington, Kentucky, March 9, 2000**

**Chairperson Linda Minch was presiding and called the meeting to order at 12:45pm. Linda noted that six board members were in attendance therefore a quorum was present.**

- 1) Approval of the minutes – Linda Minch:** The minutes from the Open Board Meeting held August 19, 1999 were approved with one correction. Under President-Elect Report – Fall Meeting, Carol Furnice should be Carol Furnish.
- 2) Treasurer’s report – Veronica Walker:** Veronica distributed the Treasurer’s Report and noted that it does include the 2000 Allotment from SLA Headquarters. Report was accepted without corrections.
- 3) By Laws – Joe Miller:** Joe urged everyone to read the upcoming newsletter regarding the By Laws and be ready to vote on them at the Spring Conference Business Meeting.
- 4) Student issues – Linda Minch:** After the Cincinnati meeting it was discovered that Lexis-Nexis provided partial sponsorship for the Cincinnati chapter students. Joe Miller reminded us that the student group are members of our chapter. He also made a motion that the chapter provide at least nominal financial assistance for one or more students at all future chapter events. There was discussion regarding the Student Stipend Award: Purpose and Process included in the Student Support Guidelines (Draft) distributed at the meeting. A committee was formed to discuss this further and will report their suggestions at the Spring Conference Business Meeting. The committee consisted of Linda Minch, Joe Miller, Debbie Sharp, James Manasco and Veronica Walker. The original motion was tabled until the Spring Conference Business Meeting. James Manasco suggested that the chapter members encourage students to apply for division scholarships as well.
- 5) Committee reports – Linda Minch:** Laura Whayne, Nominating Committee Chair announced the 2000/2001 slate of officer candidates:

**President-Elect**

- (1) Gary Austin – Morehead State University
- (2) Wenda Webster Fischer – InfoSource, Inc.

**Secretary**

- (1) Andrea Peak – American Printing House for the Blind

**Director-At-Large**

- (1) James Manasco – University of Kentucky

**6) Introduction of candidates on April ballot – Linda Minch**

Gary Austin – He has been at MSU since 1996 and duties have included Extended Campus, Interlibrary Loan and Government Documents. Previously he worked in Hawaii. Although a newcomer to the SLA Kentucky Chapter, he is also active in KCVL Government Access group, SLA and ASIS.

Wenda Webster Fischer – She has managed a home-based business in Louisville for the last seven to eight years. Previously she was a special librarian at a Louisville hospital. She has a leadership role in the Association of Independent Information Professionals and is active in SLA.

Andrea Peak – She graduated in 1995 with an MLS from the University of Kentucky. Since graduation she has worked at the American Printing House for the Blind. She started as a cataloger and now she oversees the staff research library.

James Manasco – He has been a member of the SLA Kentucky Chapter since 1995 when he was a library science student at the University of Kentucky. Currently he is the Head Librarian at the U.K. Engineering Library. Previously he was a librarian at Colorado College. He is active in SLA and Co-Editor for the SLA Kentucky Chapter Newsletter.

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**Special Libraries Association/Kentucky Chapter  
2000 Joint Spring Conference, April 13, 2000  
SLA Kentucky Chapter Business Meeting  
Jenny Wiley State Park Conference Center**

President Linda Minch called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m.

Minutes: On motion of Joe Miller, seconded by Cindi Trainor, the minutes of the March 9, 2000 Open Board Meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Veronica Walker gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as presented and a copy is on file with the recording secretary.

Bylaws Committee: Joe Miller presented the bylaws Report. The Board proposes that Article III Section 5 and Article VIII Section 2 be amended to read as follows:

**First Issue:** Article III Section 5 (First line): "*The term of office of president, president-elect, immediate past president and secretary shall be 1 year.*"

**Second Issue:** Article VIII Section 2: "*Each year the nominating committee shall present at least one candidate for president-elect, secretary and one director at large. Candidate(s) for treasurer shall be included in alternate years.*"

On motion of Cindi Trainor, seconded by Larry Besant, changes to the bylaws were approved and a report is on file with the recording secretary.

Student Support Guidelines Committee Report: At the March Board meeting President Linda Minch created a committee with

the charge of developing procedures to guide the process of granting a student stipend to support student participation in the annual conference. [*please see page 5 for a full report*]

Nominating Committee: Glenda Neely: Ballots for the election of President-elect, Secretary and Director-at-large were distributed, collected and tabulated. Results of the election as follows:

President-elect:  
Wenda Webster Fischer.  
Secretary:  
Andrea Peak.  
Director-at-large:  
James Manasco

SLA/KY Membership Committee: Dee Wood reported that Membership Directory 2000 for the Special Libraries Association, Kentucky Chapter Members has been distributed to the membership. She urged the members to report any errors or omissions as soon as possible. SLA headquarters will be notified of changes. Currency of membership information can be checked at the SLA web site at <http://www.sla.org/>. SLA/KY has 70 members at this time.

Newsletter: Cindi Trainor reported that response to the Newsletter Survey was very poor with only 15 of 70 members responding. She urged all members enroll on the listserv.

Members were urged to make suggestions for the celebration of the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of

the SLA/KY Chapter.

Archives: Alice Marksberry reported that plans for indexing the SLA/KY Archives are underway. Information will be on the web site.

Affirmative Action Committee: No formal report. The committee needs volunteers from the membership.

Professional Development: No report

Awards:  
Outstanding Chapter Member Award: Cindi Trainor  
Professional Development Award: Pat Wilson

The Michael H. Harris Hegemonic Pedagogy Award: Joe Miller  
Louisville Caucus Award for Accomplishment: Nancy Hanaford

Old business: none.

New Business: SLA/KY has not had a visitor from SLA headquarters in 4 years. It was suggested that next year arrangements be made for such a visit.

Susan Marshal, University of Kentucky Library Science student, is the recipient of a \$6,000 SLA Scholarship.

Special Report: *Kentucky Virtual Library Association (KVLA) Advisory Committee:* Larry Besant reported that KVLA has

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requested that the Kentucky Library Association, Special Library Section, submit a name from SLA/KY to represent SLA/KY on the KVLA Advisory Committee at the state level. Larry suggested that SLA/KY and the KLA Special Library Section work together to offer a single proposal for the selection of a

representative to the KVLA Advisory Committee. The membership agreed and asked that the SLA/KY pursue the matter.

*President-elect:* Alice Marksberry: 2001 Spring Conference will be held at General Butler State Park.

Reminded the members to pass in the Conference Evaluation Forms.

SLA/KY scheduled meetings: June 11 & June 13, 2000.  
Pat Wilson motioned to adjourn.  
Nancy Hanaford, Secretary. ✕



## Spring Meeting Session Review

—Submitted by Valerie Perry

"The Internet-Why Is It on Par with the Wheel, Fire and the Printing Press?"

Dr. Stephen Eggleston, Director of the Eggleston Group, gave an informative and lively presentation on the history and future of the Internet. He began by discussing why the Internet was developed and how packet switching changed communication services forever. Many basic terms and concepts were explained such as TCP/IP, hyperlinking, hypertext mark-up language and URL elements.

Dr. Eggleston predicted that, in the future, each person would be issued a social security number, phone number and Internet address or some combination of these. He suggested that "librarians are idealists and desire order, therefore the Internet is a mixed blessing. The Internet was

founded on the principle of open access to information, is slightly less organized than the inside of a goat's stomach, and is far from perfect." He urged librarians not to be concerned about how the Internet is organized, but to be concerned about the integrity of the information retrieved.

Dr. Eggleston rephrased Microsoft's motto "it's not where you go today that matters – it's where you go tomorrow that matters." He suggested that in technology progress breeds progress although not all advances are completely successful. An illustration of this concept is the telephone system, which was designed for voice communication. It was expanded to faxes (pictures), video conferencing, cell phone capability and now to high-speed traffic. It does not serve all of these functions equally well.



Dr. Eggleston reminded librarians of the myth of the paperless office. After all, newspapers are still in the same form, and palm pilots are on the rise. We live in both worlds. Likewise, the number of publication formats has increased. Books, newspapers, periodicals and maps have not been replaced: rather, we have these formats and many more including photos, microfiche, videos, DVDs, software, etc. Soon we will have electronic books as well. Some product categories that are ready now or coming soon include speech & voice recognition software, smart everything, wireless everything and completely free long distance. Dr. Eggleston closed by asking the audience to "use your imagination and watch *Star Trek* – it is not simply entertainment but also prophecy."

More information can be found at <http://www.the-eggman.com>. ✕





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**7) Sponsorship for Brighton – Linda Minch:** After a short discussion, the chapter decided not to provide sponsorship.

**8) Upcoming events – Alice Marksberry:** The Planning Committee for the Spring Conference included Ann Woosley (KLA/SLS Section Chair) and Marcia Freyman (KLA/ALS Section Chair). So far there are sixty-five registrants. It is expected that over one-hundred registrants will attend the conference. Hillbilly Days will be occurring concurrently and is in competition for any remaining rooms. This year's speaker is Stephen Eggleston and his talks will be technology-oriented. Volunteers are needed for the registration desk. There will be two pre-conferences. One taught by Winn Theirl and the other by Patrick Davison and Cindi Trainor.

Spring Conference 2001 will be held at General Butler State Park in Carrollton during April.

A picnic will be held Saturday May 20. Directions and information will be provided soon. Alice made a motion that the chapter provide the paper products for the picnic. This was seconded by Cindi Trainor and the vote was unanimous.

**9) Old Business – Linda Minch:** She has the information regarding the SLA Town Meeting. Please let her know if you wish a copy of the highlights.

**10) New Business:** There was no New Business.

Pat Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Miller seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

Submitted by Valerie Perry.

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