

The LaSoMi Newsletter

Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter

A Chapter Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association

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President's Message

Greetings, LaSoMi members. I hope your holidays were relaxing and stress-free. (Or do you now need a vacation to recover from the holidays?) I'd also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to wish you all a Happy New Year!

Newsletter Back in Production

There are several things I'd like to call to your attention. Number one is the fact that you're reading this at all. After a year's hiatus, our Newsletter is back in production now, thanks to Lisa Lewis, our new editor. Lisa is a stu-

dent in the SLIS program at LSU, a long-time resident of Baton Rouge, along with her husband and five children. We welcome Lisa to the staff, and look forward to a long run of the Newsletter. I know you will all support her in her efforts by sending her lots of good articles for upcoming editions. Our publication schedule will remain the same; namely, January, April, August, and October. As in the past, the editor will send you reminders of deadlines for article submissions as the time for each new edition rolls around.

Fall Meeting

Secondly, LaSoMi held its Fall meeting on December 5 at Hill Memorial Library at LSU in Baton Rouge. This year, we decided to try something new by joining forces with the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association. Membership in both our groups tends to be small, attendance at meetings low, and yet we share many common interests. For these reasons we decided to join forces for the Fall meeting to increase participation on both sides. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Susan

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Special points of interest:

- *Louisiana hosted its second annual book festival*
- *LLA Conference to be held March 23-25*
- *The Historic New Orleans Collection releases new book*

Second Annual Louisiana Book Festival — A Huge Success

The second annual Louisiana Book Festival was even more successful than the first. For the full program and pictures of the event, see the website at <http://lbf.state.lib.la.us/>. The festival is held annually in the State Library and State Capitol and in the grounds and streets in between. It celebrates reading, writing and books with presentations by po-

ets, writers and storytellers, with musicians, food, book appraisals and book-related vendors. The most frequent complaint was that there were so many interesting programs that folks could not attend all they wanted. It surely was an abundance of riches!

The 2003 official attendance count was 6500 and included all ages from kids

making their own butterfly hats to many quite senior citizens. Perhaps you were among the crowds or volunteers. After all, it takes

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President's Message (continued from page 1)

Tucker, President of LAMA, and their entire Executive Board for allowing us to join them. Tara Laver, President Elect of LAMA planned the program and did an excellent job.

For those of you who missed it, the program consisted of several talks/discussions and a choice of several tours. The first talk, **"The 'New' Archival Program at LSU's School of Library and Information Science—Opportunities for Louisiana Archivists and Their Repositories,"** was given by Dr. Elizabeth Dow, Assistant Professor of Library Science, School of Library and Information Science, LSU. She spoke of new initiatives the school is taking in the training and education of archivists and reminded everyone of the possibilities that exist for supervising SLIS grad students for field experiences for which the students will be graded and for which they will receive credit. Such field experiences are beneficial for both supervisor and student, as the one receives "free" labor, while the other, invaluable 'on-the-job' experience.

Following the first program was a brief business meeting of LAMA, which included a chance for everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and speak briefly about any new projects occurring in their institution. I found this portion to be one of the most valuable sections of the

day, in that it gave everyone an opportunity to become aware of not only who was there, but what they are currently doing. This is one of the primary benefits of such meetings, the chance to come together and share knowledge, experience, problems and solutions; not to mention the chance to meet a lot of very nice and interesting people. Connections that can be made on such occasions can prove invaluable.

Lunch was catered, having been provided for in the registration, and this period provided yet another opportunity for people to converse amongst themselves and get to know one another. The first of two afternoon sessions was a panel discussion entitled, **"Ethics in Acquisitions: A Discussion of Case Studies"**, featuring Dr. Bruce Turner, Head, Archives and Special Collections, UL-Lafayette; Mark Cave, Historic New Orleans Collection; and Tara Laver, Asst. Curator for Manuscripts, Special Collections, LSU-BR. A selection of collection acquisition cases, some real, some fabricated, were provided to attendees ahead of time and were discussed by the panel and the session participants as well. All cases provided examples of ethical questions that must be answered in some manner before one can make a decision as to how to handle the collection that is being offered. As with all ethical dilemmas, there are many different answers, with no certainty of a right one. Yet the question must always be considered carefully by the librarian responsible for making the decision, as there are often potential negative consequences to whatever decision is made.

For the third and final session of the day, Mark Martin, Asst. Curator

for Image Resources, Special Collections, LSU-BR, gave a very interesting talk on several types of historic photographs not often encountered these days, including the Daguerreotype. The Daguerreotype image was developed by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre and first introduced to the public in 1839 at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences in Paris. It involved a very laborious process in which an image was eventually burned directly on a plate (sheet of copper with a thin coat of silver), which itself was the final product. The plate was enclosed in its own case from which it was displayed. No negative was produced in the process, and exposure time took from three to fifteen minutes, somewhat impractical for many types of photographs. Mark provided several examples of this type for participants to examine.

The day ended with a choice of tours: the Textile and Costume Museum, LSU Museum of Art, and Hill Memorial Library, all interesting places to visit.

Attendance at this event was very good, with about 60 participants in all. Of these, 8 were LaSoMi members, 10 undeclared, and 44 were from LAMA.

Challenge to our Members

As mentioned earlier, one of the most important and meaningful aspects of the above program was the ability it provided for people from a wide variety of institutions to come together, get to know one another, and share insights, experiences, problems, and solutions. This is precisely the sort of function LaSoMi should and can serve our membership, if



President's Message (continued from page 2)

we all work together to make it happen. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience within our organization to which we need to open ourselves. But to take advantage of this knowledge base, we first need to be able to identify it, and that requires the cooperation and participation of each of you.

What can we or should we be doing to develop our potential as an organization? To get the most out of our group, representing as it does, a unique collection of diverse libraries, we need active participation from you, our members. How can we achieve this? What are your needs that you would like to see met? What would you like out of this organization? I have

stated what I perceive to be one of the primary benefits of an organization such as ours, but indeed, there are many others. How might we best bring these to fruition? What would you like in the way of programs, meetings, informal gatherings?

The Executive Board is here to serve you; we are not the organization itself, but merely a body functioning to see that LaSoMi meets your needs. We would love to hear each and every one of your responses to the above questions or anything else you might want to talk about. We are open to any and all ideas. (Contact information for all officers can be found on our web page in the left column under "Officers" as well as

on last page of this issue).

In closing, let me thank you all for your membership and your participation, past, present, and future. And I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Spring meeting and program. Details about this will be forthcoming.

Bill Armstrong
LaSoMi President

The Executive Board
is here to serve
you....

Do You Know it All?

Or are you looking for continuing education courses to help you cope with the many challenges in your job? The LSU School of Library and Information Science will be offering some new courses in the Spring Semester that might be of interest including Principles of Records Management, Digital Libraries, Networks for Information Centers, Human Computer Interaction, and History of Books and Libraries. For more information about these courses and how to register, contact Beth Paskoff at 225-578-1480 or bpaskoff@lsu.edu.

Second Annual Louisiana Book Festival (continued from page 1)

more than 550 volunteers on festival day. Please consider helping on November 6, 2004. It is great fun and, as you might guess, librarians make the very best volunteers. This year's festival planners were grateful for librarians who came in to help from New Orleans, Lafayette and Alexandria, as well as our local area.

News from Our Area Librarians

- The **Louisiana State Documents Depository Program** is just completing the first year of entering all of the documents submitted to the program into the State Library catalog. Before 2003, many of our state's documents were not cataloged anywhere. This is the first time all of the titles (with holdings) are in one resource. We have begun a project to scan the paper-only bibliographies from 1935-1995. Eventually, this will produce a searchable electronic file of all Louisiana's public documents. In the meantime, you and your clients can use the State Library iPac, <http://ipac.state.lib.la.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=sll#focus> as a finding aid for material by and about our state. (Ferol Foos)
- The **SLA Chemical Division** is developing



a type of web conferencing system that can be used to bring some portion of the Annual Meeting content back to members who are not able to attend the Meeting in person. Since some of the members live

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Next LaSoMi
Newsletter
Deadline
March 15, 2004

Welcome New Members!

Several new members have been added to LaSoMi chapter in the last several months. Our new professional member is:

Cherry A. Brewer, Monroe, University of La at Monroe, Serials

New student members, listed with their cities of residence and places of employment are:

Patrick L. Abadie, B.R., EBR Public Library, Adult Services

Dennis C. Baker, B.R.

Linda C. Broussard, USGS NWRC, student

Andrea Burton, B.R.

Elizabeth A. Cavendish, Slidell

Nettie M. DeVillier, Lake Charles

Emily P. Huston, N.O.

Lisa H. Lewis, B.R.

Marcy M. McGowan, B.R.

Sally S. McKissack Lauck, B.R.

Misty M. Noble, Hammond, LAFASA

Nobue Motley, New Orleans, Notre Dame Seminary Library.

Thanks to Ferol Foos for providing us with updated membership information.



LLA Conference
March 23-25, 2004
Monroe, La.

Upcoming LLA Conference

Louisiana Library Association annual conference will be held March 23-25 in Monroe. The program is available on the website: <http://www.llaonline.org/>. Registration prices have not increased — \$60 for LLA Members, \$15 for Library Science Students. Pre-registration is due on February 16, 2004.

The president of LLA rotates among the various types of libraries. This is the year for special libraries to preside, and Charlene Cain, LSU Paul M Hebert Law Center, is doing a terrific job of emphasizing special libraries as she dynamically leads LLA.

A great choice of pre-conferences is available:

Tuesday, March 23

- Super Searcher—hands on course on the advanced features of web

search engines by Greg Bodin, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Automation & Technology

- Using Digital Tools to Touch-Up and Repair Damaged Photographs — Bob Bradley, Center for Energy Studies
- A-Z of Acquisition & Processing of Nonprint Materials — Anna (Bobby) Ferguson, EBR Parish Library
- Strolling Through History: A Blueprint for Conducting a Successful Walking Tour of Your Community — Lora Peppers and Larry Foreman, Ouachita Parish Public Library
- Consumer Health Information: A Workshop for Librarians Providing Health Information to the Public — Karen

Vargas, National Libraries of Medicine, S. Central Region

- LASL Parade of Libraries — Chris Pierce, Computer Consultant, Bossier Parish Library
- Off the Beaten Path, tours of Beidenharn Museum and El-Song Gardens, Layton Castle, Masur Museum of Art

Various fees are charged for the sessions. More information is available on the LLA website, listed above.

Thank you, Ferrol Foos, Recorder of Documents, State Library of Louisiana, for providing this interesting information.



Get a new perspective and learn something new at the LLA Conference.

News From Our Area Librarians (continued from page 3)

outside the country, it is very difficult financially for them to attend. It's no less difficult for some of us in the States, for the same reason. The conference uses a message board (vBulletin) as the backbone of the system, allowing for asynchronous participation. Material and presentations will be placed online for participants to read in advance of any given session and will be linked to from the home page of the Web Conference, which has been especially designed for the Chemistry Division. The moderators of each session will be the original presenters from the live session originally held at Annual. They will likely provide a brief introduction to their material, then open the floor for questions. The discussions that ensue will then involve everyone, to the extent that each wishes to participate actively, much as would be the case in a live discussion. The advantage of the asynchronous nature of this is that attendees and participants do not have to set aside a certain block of time to attend. Just as actual travel is expensive, so is time, and scheduling becomes very difficult.

But to increase participation, some sort of limit, or time-frame is probably advisable. Exactly what that will be may vary, as we begin to experiment with the program format, but will involve a beginning and ending date for the conference, lasting anywhere from a couple of weeks to a couple of months. The system is essentially ready to go, and Bill Armstrong hopes to be able to try it out after SLA Midwinter. (Bill Armstrong)

- **Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault** has a Resource Center which is located in the main office in Hammond, La. The Resource Center has a wide collection of audio and videocassettes, books, training manuals and government printed reports which are available to LAFASA members and affiliated centers. A reasonable amount of previously-completed research is available to the public upon request as well as information on our affiliated Crisis Centers. The Resource Center has recently purchased an OPAC and cataloging is taking place. When a sufficient amount of the collection is in the catalog, it will be loaded onto the LAFASA.org website for

the public to search. Since cataloging is literally just beginning, there are a few obstacles. For instance, the collection contains many materials that are difficult to catalog, like training manuals and government printed reports. They are just "getting their feet wet" and learning the new program (LIBRARTSOFT). They welcome any constructive advice offered. LAFASA may be contacted at 985-345-5995 or resource@lafasa.org. (Misty Noble)

- The **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Library** moved last summer to the first floor of the Galvez Building, a part of the new Baton Rouge Capitol Complex. Though circulation is available only to LDEQ employees, the library is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 to 4:30, offering opportunities for research across various disciplines. Textbooks, LDEQ publications, private and public documents, journals, magazines, newsletters and U.S. government publications. Tours of the library are available. For more information contact Patricia Birkett at 225-219-3295 or



Books make our lives more interesting!

Sharing information about new projects is a great way to network.

patty.birkett@la.gov. Of related interest is Baton Rouge's new free Capital Park Trolley Service, with thirteen stops, including the Galvez Building and Louisiana State Library. More information on the trolley is available at <http://brgov.com/dept/ddd/trolley.htm>.



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Profiles in the Field

Lisl Zach is a new Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University. She recently completed her PhD at the University of Maryland, College of Information Studies. She holds an MBA from New York University. Prior to her studies in Maryland, she worked in administration and financial management for nearly twenty years. Her professional experience includes work with very diverse groups, including field artillery officers, nuclear power plant operators, and symphony orchestra managers and trustees. Her academic concentration has focused on studying the information-seeking behavior of decision makers as well as investigating ways of measuring and communicating the value of information to organizations. Dr. Zach currently serves as Professional Development Chair for the Museums, Arts, and Humanities Division of SLA. She will present a workshop on measuring the library's contribution at conference in June. We welcome Dr. Zach to our area and look forward to working with her in the future.

We're on the web
at [www.sla.org/
chapter/cla/
index.html](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cla/index.html)



The Historic New Orleans Collection's bicentennial gift to the community, *Charting Louisiana: Five Hundred Years of Maps*, tells the fascinating story of Louisiana through maps. From the earliest appearance of the Gulf Coast on a sixteenth-century woodcut to a color-enhanced satellite view of the state, the atlas presents an extraordinary gathering of manuscript and printed maps, many of them rarely made available to the public.

New Book Released from The Historic New Orleans Collection

The name "Louisiana" has always held a special allure, calling forth images of a rich colonial past, of a land filled with exotic flora and fauna, and of a territory that once extended across stretches of North America. Tracing the discovery, colonization and development of the region, the atlas relates the epic history of Louisiana. Maps that are works of art as well as priceless historical documents embellish the pages of *Charting Louisiana*, the only such work at this time to focus exclusively on Louisiana.

The unprecedented compilation

of 193 maps comes from the extensive holdings of The Historic New Orleans Collection, the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress, Chicago's Newberry Library, the Louisiana State Museum and archives in France, Spain Great Britain and Mexico. Essays by Paul E. Hoffman, Alfred E. Lemmon, Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Mark F. Fernandez, Jason R. Wiese, and John T. Magill lead the reader across the historical panorama of Louisiana as found in its cartography.

—Gerard F. Patout, Jr. Head Librarian, The Historic New Orleans Collection