

# *The LaSoMi Newsletter*

October 2000

Volume 54, Number 2

## **President's Message** by Gerald Patout

There are those occasions and even special library situations, particularly the solo librarian arrangement, where one might feel some professional isolation. It is through professional affiliations in SLA and the LaSoMi Chapter that members can reach out to other professionals, build upon our strengths and share our talents. Chapter activities, associations with others, as well as publications and library literature put practitioners in contact with a plethora of ideas and thoughts for application.

I was really struck the other day by the cover story in the September 2000 edition of SLA's Information Outlook, "*The Wisdom Administrator: Waiting in the Wings.*" What caught my attention in the article was not so much the theme related to the evolution of the role of the information officer in organizations, but the recognition paid to the various information providers or workers that can serve under one roof in an organization. As a librarian practicing my craft in a historic information repository, I find myself constantly making an effort to explain not only my role within the organization; but often times I find myself explaining the role of archivists, curators, as well as the computer systems staff! Sometimes these interpretations I offer not only resemble a brief and sketchy history of the evolution of information, but actually touch on a much larger issue to consider.

However, if you read the Information Outlook article, it seems like these days it takes more than a chief information officer to make the glue stick and that the next wave of institutional information cohesiveness is soon to arrive in the form of a wisdom administrator. I'm confident we haven't heard the last word as to the advent of this mythical information guru, but do stay tuned!

The other observation that I would like to share also comes in the form of a recent article about newspaper collections. With SLA having a division solely devoted to newspaper librarians and this genre of information being such an important part of daily lives and rituals, I feel compelled to bring an important piece of journalism about newspapers in libraries to your attention. In the July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000 edition of The New Yorker magazine, author Nicholson Baker in an article entitled "*Deadline,*" Baker presents a very powerful and thoroughly researched view of what has happened to America's newspaper collections. It discusses how and why newspapers have been replaced with microfilm copies, what precipitated these measures and asks the question as to whether these actions taken were really the best library practices and measures for these important historic footprints. When you read Baker's charge that "newspaper collections were the first slums to be cleared," you become affixed to an article that is thought provoking and meaningful.

As a vehicle for bringing new ideas and approaches in looking at how we function in our positions as special librarians, I encourage the membership to take a look at these two articles. Also, do not hesitate to share your own thoughts and ideas, perhaps by submitting an article to the chapter bulletin, . . . or even simply posting a message on the chapter discussion list! Certainly, the collective *wisdom* of our own chapter membership is to be found in the LaSoMi Newsletter!

**LaSoMi/NOALL Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 11  
4-6pm

**Academic Business Library  
Directors Meet in France**  
By Bill Strickland

**"Practical Preservation: Steps to Help You Take  
Responsibility for Your Library Collection"**

Presented By  
Patricia Turpening  
Head, Preservation and Archives  
University of Cincinnati Law Library

Historic New Orleans Collection  
Counting House, 533 Royal Street

Wine and Cheese Reception will follow

If you have questions, contact  
Gerald Patout  
504-598-7125  
GERALP@HNOC.ORG

From May 17-20th, 2000, I attended the first joint meeting of the Academic Business Library Directors (US) and the European Business Schools Librarians Group. The meeting was hosted by INSEAD, one of Europe's leading business schools, located in Foutainbleau, France. Foutainbleau is located about an hour southwest of Paris, and is a small town that grew around the famous Chateau de Foutainbleau.

ABLD is a small group of academic business library directors who began meeting informally at SLA 10-15 years ago. The organization has remained small (less than 50 members) and informal, and meets once a year to discuss common interests and concerns, with a lot of unstructured time built into the 2-day meeting. The proposed meeting with our European counterpart organization had been planned for several years, in hopes that the two groups would find enough common ground to justify such a meeting. Attending this historic meeting were 26 business library directors from the US, along with 38 of our European colleagues. Library trends, common problems, vendor relations, and new databases were some of the issues discussed over the four days. Any fears that the two groups would not have anything to discuss were quickly allayed during the first hours, and all of us came away from the conference with a much better understanding of our common interests. I presented a poster session on Bloomberg training at one of many poster sessions, and we were also able to squeeze in numerous coffee breaks, 2 hour lunches, and one wine tasting during the Conference. The official dinner on the final night was held at Chateau de Vaux-le-Vicomte, located an hour or so outside of Foutainbleau. A candle lit tour of the Chateau preceded the dinner. Our French hosts at INSEAD were incredibly hospitable and attentive to the "foreign hoards", and we will be hard pressed to match their effort when another meeting is held in this country. (How can you top a choice of red or white French wine with lunch?) There is strong sentiment from both groups to continue these joint meetings, perhaps every several years, or on an irregular basis. And when my staff gives me a hard time about jaunts to Paris, I remind them that the next meeting of ABLD will be held in East Lansing, Michigan.

## **“I Left My Career Back There Somewhere.”**

By Libby Black

In March of 1999, the library where I had worked for 10 years was closed. It had been a “one-person” library. Upsetting as it was, I was still lucky. Other co-workers lost their jobs but I was given a position as a “Technical Assistant.” Meanwhile, the company I worked for had announced a huge merger.

The new job was a big change. I had to immediately brush up on my Microsoft EXCEL and ACCESS skills, the person I was taking over for had little time to train me, and for the first time, I was working on a true team. Even though I mourned the loss of my “baby,” the Library, I enjoyed learning new skills. I thought I knew the industry where I worked, oil & gas, inside and out, but it turned out there was still lots to learn!

As the merger neared, I knew that I would most likely lose my job. I realize now that I wasted a lot of time grieving; waiting in a frozen state for someone else to make the decision. If I could do it all over again, I would have spent less time worrying and more time preparing for life after the merger. The merger was not about me; it was about people and money far beyond my circle of influence. I would be just one of 16,000 people to lose their job, not to mention all those who had to move, take early retirement, etc.

The knife fell on the second work day of 2000. Happy New Millennium to me. The best thing I did was have a new, free email address lined up. I was able to email everyone immediately and let them know where they could get in touch with me. It took me a few weeks to adjust to a new schedule. Just being at home with the family in the morning was a big adjustment for all of us. I probably talked to the cat more than is seemly.

Job hunting is harder than I expected and I blame part of that on the local job market. Looking outside of libraries, I struggled to write my two-minute “commercial” on what I could bring an employer. When I told people that my background was in libraries, they always replied, “Have you checked the universities?”

I realized that while my librarian’s network was strong, I had not done a good job of networking with people in other professions.

I did some part-time work and I gained a new respect for the self-employed. You get the work done in an hour but you may not realize that it takes two hours to write up the report. This work was usually interesting and kept my brain going but promises of “I’d like to get you back here to work some more in the future” are just that, promises.

If you think you may soon be losing or changing your job, here is my advice:

**Get more training, especially in tools that are used outside of libraries.**

**Write your two-minute “commercial.”**

**Build up your network outside of your comfort zone.**

**Plan for the long run.** I got a job offer within the first month and declined it. I didn’t have another offer until seven months later.

**Get your financial house in order.** See last item. It took me almost a month to attend the financial planning seminars, roll my retirement out of my old company, estimate how long I could make my severance pay last, decide where to cut expenses, etc.

**Make the most of this precious time.** Time went faster when I wasn’t working. I did things like have lunch with my daughter. (The lunches in Orleans Parish schools aren’t that bad, really.) I learned how to paint and prep interior surfaces. I visited my aging father every 2-3 months. I figured this time off was a window onto what retirement might/could be like for me and now I won’t be afraid of retirement when it comes.

I want to thank all my friends in SLA who have been so supportive. If you hear of any good job leads, call me!

Libby Black, libbyblack@yahoo.com;  
(504) 488-5138

## Nunez Archives Find A Home

By Barbara Vaughn

The Archives at Nunez Community College found a beautiful home in the second floor of the Nunez Community College Library. The archives serve primarily as the institutional memory of NCC including precedence institutions of St. Bernard Parish Community College and Elaine P. Nunez Vocational and Technical School. In addition to college materials, the Archives contain historical material donated from individuals including former St. Bernard Parish historians and civic and social organizations of St. Bernard.

A few highlights of materials found in the collection include ninety-six oral history video tapes containing interviews by Frank Fernandez, St. Bernard Parish historian, with Canary Island or Islenos descendants, conducted in Spanish; twelve oral history audio tapes of Islenose prepared in the 1970s; two 16 mm Spanish language films about the Canary Islands produced by the Canarian government. The Archives also include Frank Fernandez's Collection of personal papers, maps, newspaper and magazine articles, programs and several books written in Spanish about the early parishioners of St. Bernard.

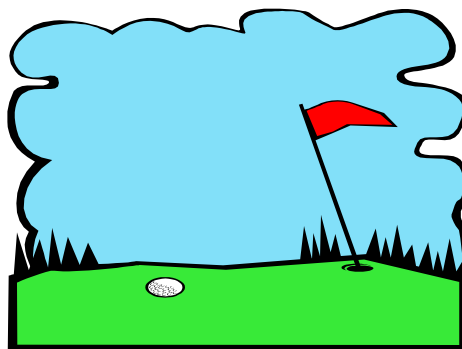
The Irvan and Louise Perez Collection contains a copy of the video *Mosquitoes and High Water* with Mr. Perez narrating and performing his decimas, and an audiocassette tape of Spanish Decimas from St. Bernard parish with singing and narration by Mr. Perez. A beautiful lifesize reproduction of a 17th century retabla (alterpiece) created by thirteen artisans is on temporary display. The altar features a Canarian madonna. Her mantel represents the fishing trawls used by the Islenos. The Canary Islands Descendants Association initiated the creation of this alterpiece and has chosen the madonna "La Concepcion" as their patroness in honor of the original name of the St. Bernard settlement, "La Concepcion."

## Library Voices

by Wendy McLain

My professional library career began as a technical librarian at a large petrochemical company. I was a recent grad from LSU with a lot to learn about the various disciplines related to the petrochemical industry. Clearly, I needed to absorb the terminology from engineering and chemistry as well as the internal company jargon and pronunciations. What I didn't know was that I also needed to know about golf.

One of the first customers to request a literature search was a financial analyst who was enrolled in a PhD. program in Adult Education. His search request sounded simple enough; no Chemical Abstracts numbers, no long hyphenated chemical names. He just wanted to learn more about the process for developing adult education courses. We discussed various possible key words such as *class development*, *class design*, *course development*, *course design*, etc. We even developed a pretty detailed search statement with lots of ORs, ANDs, and NEARs. But the one boolean operator that I overlooked (NOT) turned out to be the most important component of the search strategy. Our results were right on target with the search statement we used, but we sure got a lot of references to GOLF COURSE DESIGN !



## Special Libraries Tour 2000

By Dennis Haack

On Friday, September 29, the LSU SLA/ASIS&T student organization toured several special libraries in the Baton Rouge area.

After a brief meeting on campus with Dean Paskoff, the group visited the Albemarle Corporate Library in downtown Baton Rouge, where library director Ferol Foos and her staff graciously welcomed the students. Ms. Foos and her associates spoke to the students about their library's role in providing timely information to their clients in order to maintain the company's success in a highly competitive, corporate setting.

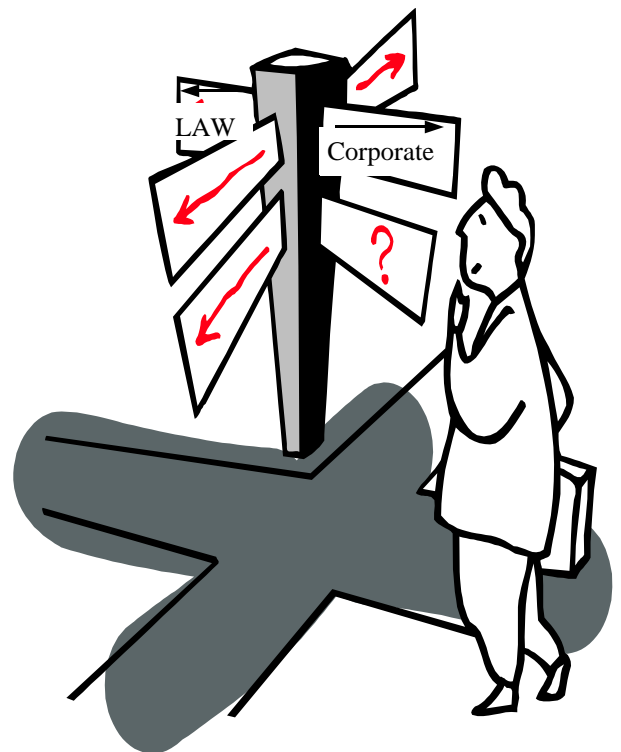
The group's next stop was the library of the Baton Rouge *Advocate*, where library director Jill Arnold discussed the uniqueness of newspaper libraries. Newspaper libraries are actively involved in producing a product, as well as providing access to information. Ms. Arnold showed the students the massive effort of the library over the years to maintain newspaper clippings as an archival record of the community. Ms. Arnold then gave the students a tour through the newsroom, where in just a few hours, journalists would be working to produce the next issue.

Next, the group visited the David R. Poynter Legislative Library at the State Capitol. Library director Suzanne Hughes and her staff discussed their mission in providing information services to the state legislature. The students learned that during a legislative session, the library must provide immediate information to legislators, often while the legislator is on the floor debating an issue. The students witnessed this need for immediacy during their visit, when a request from the floor was received and a staff member needed to access and fax the requested information to a legislator.

Following a break for lunch, the group visited the Department of Environmental Quality, where Wendy McClain, Certified Records Manager, discussed the relationship between records management and librarianship, the life cycle of records, and public right to access governmental records. The group then toured the facility's massive digitization project.

Students participating in the field trip were Emily Beck, Rowena Bienvenu, Lori Carabello, Tahmina Fayzulayeva, Dennis Haack, LaTavius Jackson, Amanda Roberts, Lauren Senette, and Bill Taylor. First-semester SLIS student Rowena Bienvenu of Natchitoches said, "At this point, I am just exploring various options in librarianship. This [trip] was good. It gave me a lot to think about."

A similar field trip to special libraries in the New Orleans area is tentatively planned for March. LSU faculty advisors for the SLA/ASIS&T student organization are Dean Beth Paskoff and Dr. Carol Barry.



## **BRAALL Meets to Discuss GPO and UCITA**

By Cindy Ammons

The September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Baton Rouge Area Association of Law Libraries (BRAALL) took place at the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators. The featured speaker was Charlene Cain, Government Documents Librarian at LSU Paul Hebert Law Center Library. Charlene began with an overview of the Federal Depository Library system. As many of you know, a depository library receives documents from the government and, in return, agrees to not only maintain these materials, but also to provide access to them. The Government Printing Office is producing less print resources as they move towards more electronic formats. At times, a depository library may only receive an electronic version of a government document, which brings up several issues into question such as access and preservation. Access in an electronic environment can be challenging as the equipment needed to read the documents changes rapidly; this creates an added expense for the depository library. Related to this, electronic resources may have to be migrated from format to format as technology changes; this is not only time consuming, but expensive.

As this recent push from all-print towards all-electronic access to government documents evolves, it appears that the demise of the Federal Depository Library System (FDLS) may be inevitable. President Clinton has already developed a website called FirstGov ([www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)) which is supposed to be a gateway that will provide access to all government information and services. The General Services Administration (GSA) created and funded the design of the site, but after three years the maintenance of FirstGov will be given over to private industry. Hence, the major issue remains: Access. Who will maintain this system long-term? Who will preserve all of this electronic information? Libraries are already so

financially strapped that they will not be in a good position to provide assistance in this area. FirstGov also raises other issues concerning government information on the Internet including privacy, citation difficulties and authentication (how do you know for sure that a particular website was produced by the government?). It appears that the answers to these questions will, for now at least, remain unanswered.

Next, Charlene shifted the focus of the meeting to UCITA, which is short for the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act. This is a very complex piece of legislation which all five of the major library associations believe essentially replaces federal copyright law with the law of private contract. Proposed as a Uniform law, its goal is to provide a framework of laws concerning computer information transactions. Already passed in Maryland and Virginia, last spring the Louisiana legislature asked the Louisiana Law Institute (a non-profit, nonpartisan agency) to study UCITA for passage in this state. The Law Institute is currently forming a study committee for that purpose. So, should we as librarians be concerned? Yes! Why? Potentially, fair use privileges provided to libraries under federal copyright law could be eliminated. UCITA would strengthen enforcement of “shrink-wrap” and “click-on” licenses. UCITA would also allow software vendors the right to remotely cut off access to their products if violations of licensing agreements are found. In short, UCITA allows software vendors to maintain ownership of their software in perpetuity. It is entirely possible that software buyers would not be able to read the terms of a licensing agreement prior to purchase. Another potential danger to libraries lies in the fact that UCITA disallows protection from software companies who knowingly sell products with “bugs”. Why would any state even consider passing such a law? Because it favors licensors and software developers, UCITA brings e-business into a state (Louisiana, of course, would do just about anything to bring in more business!).

*continued on page 7*

What can we do? Use the resources listed below to become educated now on UCITA or sign up for the free UCITA email tutorial being sponsored by ALA and the Office for Information Technology Policy from November 6-20<sup>th</sup> (please see below for instructions on how to sign up). Also, watch for future updates in the LASOMI newsletter – we will be calling on everyone to write their legislators when the time comes.

For more information on the GPO and NTIS:

- Federal Depository Library System:  
[www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fdlp/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/index.html)
- Government Printing Office (GPO):  
[www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)
- National Technical Information Service:  
[www.ntis.gov](http://www.ntis.gov)
- For a report and assessment of the proposed closure of the NTIS: [www.nclis.gov](http://www.nclis.gov)

For a general overview and more information on UCITA, please see:

- [www.ala.org/washoff/ucita.html](http://www.ala.org/washoff/ucita.html): this site provides a very good overview of UCITA and its possible impact on libraries.
- To receive the 10 emails as part of the UCITA tutorial, send an email message to [listproc@ala1.ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala1.ala.org); leave the subject line blank, and in the body type: subscribe ucitatut Your firstname Your lastname (for further information on this tutorial, please see the web site listed above and click on “Events”)
- [www.ucita.org](http://www.ucita.org)
- [www.cptech.org/ecom/ucita](http://www.cptech.org/ecom/ucita)

BRAALL was formed in 1999 by law librarians in the Baton Rouge community; meetings and membership are open to anyone interested in law libraries. If you need more information on BRAALL or you would like to become a member, please contact Madeline Hebert [(225)388-4952; [llhebe@lsu.edu](mailto:llhebe@lsu.edu)] or Carol Bean [(225)214-0336; [carol@tpbp.com](mailto:carol@tpbp.com)].

## **LLA 2001 Annual Conference Call for Poster Sessions, Sharing Sessions and Contributed Papers**

LLA members are invited to submit proposals for Poster Sessions, Sharing Sessions and Contributed Papers for the Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference to be held in Lafayette, LA on March 3-6, 2001.

### **Poster Sessions**

Posters provide an opportunity to share with your colleagues unique projects and activities that have occurred during the past year. There will be a maximum of 10 posters accepted.

Please submit an abstract (250 word maximum) describing your poster. Explain the concepts you propose to present and how they will be represented visually. Your submission should include a separate cover sheet listing authors and institutional affiliations.

### **Sharing Sessions**

Sharing Sessions provide an opportunity to share with your colleagues ideas, proposals, information and experiences dealing with a hot topic, project, or activity that has occurred during the past year. These are around-the-room brain-storming and experiences discussions. There will be a maximum of 4 Sharing Sessions accepted.

Please submit an abstract (250 word maximum) describing your Sharing Session. Explain the topic you propose to present and discuss. Your submission should include a separate cover sheet listing authors and institutional affiliations.

### **Contributed Papers**

LLA members interested in presenting a contributed paper at the LLA 2001 Annual Conference in Lafayette are encouraged to submit proposals. There will be a maximum of 4 Contributed Papers accepted.

Please submit an abstract (250 word maximum) describing your Contributed Paper. Explain the topic you propose to present and discuss. Your submission should include a separate cover sheet listing authors and institutional affiliations.

Abstracts may be sent via mail or fax to:

Susan Suess  
Health Sciences Librarian  
Baton Rouge Nursing Library  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
4849 Essen Lane  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809  
(225) 765-2324 (225) 763-5479 FAX

## LaSoMi Member News

**Amy Baptist** graduated from LSU's School of Library and Information Science in May of 2000, and recently joined the staff of The Historic New Orleans Collection as the Library Cataloger. Before joining THNOC, Amy worked as a library associate for the LSU Libraries Special Collections for five years. She received her Bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College in 1989, and her M.A. in English from LSU in 1993. As the Library Cataloger, Amy catalogs all books, and other print materials, acquired for The Historic New Orleans Collection's Williams Research Center. She is also serving as the Chapter Archivist for LAsoMi.



**Cindy Ammons** accepted a position in July as a Librarian at Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre LLP in Baton Rouge. Jones Walker is the largest law firm in Louisiana with offices in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Washington, D.C. Her duties include: maintain the collection and process materials; provide research assistance to all attorneys and staff through the use of various print and electronic resources including Lexis and Westlaw databases; communicate with the New Orleans library staff to coordinate services and to revise the library's intranet web site; and will involve the development of searchable Continuing Legal Education (CLE) and Expert Witness databases. Cindy can be reached at [cammons@joneswalker.com](mailto:cammons@joneswalker.com).

## Member Website Picks

### **FREE BUSINESS INFORMATION & INTELLIGENCE !**

**[Http://www.freeedgar.com](http://www.freeedgar.com)**

One of a special librarian's favorite sites for business information should be EDGAR Online's FreeEDGAR which provides full-text searching of SEC corporate filings-yes, for free. In addition to company financial data, it's a wonderful source for information on products, plans, the competition, and the marketplace.

### **FirstGov Launches as Gateway to Government Information**

**<http://www.firstgov.com>**

With much fanfare and a Webcast by President Clinton, the federal government launched FirstGov, its one-stop portal to government information on the Internet. FirstGov consolidates access to 27 million federal agency Web pages from 20,000 government sites. The site allows users to search or browse for information of all kinds and also enables users to conduct government business online, such as applying for student loans, tracking Social Security benefits, or comparing Medicare options.

### **Free Pint**

**[Http://www.freepint.co.uk](http://www.freepint.co.uk)**

Free Pint is a community of business professionals who use the Web for their work. Members receive this free newsletter every two weeks packed with tips and articles by information professionals who share how they find quality and reliable information on the Internet. It includes free access to the substantial archive of articles, book reviews, industry news and events, and have your research questions answered at the "Free Pint Bar". Free Pint has just launched the brand new Student Bar. This is a place where information-related students - including undergrads, postgrads, distance learners and new graduates - can discuss topics relating to their courses (such as dissertations, placements, recruitment and funding) and network with other students to share experiences and provide support. We also hope that seasoned professionals will join in and share their knowledge by providing practical examples of how the theory can be put into practice.

## Mark Your Calendar...

### **LaSoMi/NoALL Joint Meeting**

*Practical Preservation: Steps to Help You Take  
Responsibility for Your Library Collection*

Historic New Orleans Collection  
Counting House, 533 Royal Street  
Wednesday, October 11  
4-6 pm

### **SLA Global 2000**

*The Information Age:  
Challenges and Opportunities*

Brighton, England, UK  
October 16-19, 2000

### **Mississippi Library Association**

Annual Conference  
Jackson, MS  
October 18-20

### **ARMA**

ARMA International  
Las Vegas, NV  
October 23-26



**SLA Scholarships Deadline!**  
**October 31st**

### **ASIS 2000 Annual Conference**

Chicago, IL  
November 13-16

### **SLA Midwinter Meeting**

Savannah, Georgia  
January 25-27 2001



### **LaSoMi Winter Meeting**

Turchin Library  
Freeman School of Business  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA  
February 3, 2001

### **Louisiana Library Association**

Annual Conference  
Alexandria, LA  
March 14-17, 2000

### **LaSoMi Spring Meeting**

Lauren Rogers Museum  
Laurel, MS  
May 19, 2001

### **Medical Library Association**

Annual Conference  
Orlando, FL  
May 25-30

### **SLA 92nd Annual Conference**

San Antonio, TX  
June 9-14 2001

Know of events that would interest  
your fellow chapter members?  
Submit them for the next newsletter!  
Contact: [dbraquet@yahoo.com](mailto:dbraquet@yahoo.com)