

The LaSoMi Newsletter

October, 1999

Volume 53, Number 2

President's Message

by John Anderson

Please join your Louisiana Southern Mississippi Chapter colleagues at the Louisiana State Library for a tour of the new facilities and a presentation on the Louisiana Government Information Network (LaGIN). The Chapter business meeting will follow a luncheon of wonderful entree choices from Roberto's On Third. Please be sure to complete and return the registration form on Page 11 of this newsletter. My thanks to Gerald Patout for arranging the tour and talk, to Pat Vince for arranging the lunch, and to Judy Buys for collecting the registration fees.

The business meeting's main topic will be the proposed revision of the Chapter Guidelines. Gerald Patout is arranging to have the current Guidelines version posted to the web site for all members to peruse. We plan to conduct the review and revision discussion as virtually as possible through the web site and e-mail. I will be calling for volunteers to serve as committee chairs in the Chapter Guidelines project.

As you can tell, the Chapter still has vacancies in several committee chair and officer positions. I realize that we all have very busy lives and many people have volunteered their efforts several times over the years so I am issuing an appeal to new members and those who can clear their busy schedules to step forth and offer your services to the chapter.

Finally, best wishes from the Chapter to all SLIS students who are taking the Comprehensive Exam this month!

Presidential Library in Biloxi Site of Spring Chapter Meeting

LaSoMi Chapter Spring meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2000 in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library.

The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library opened on May 30, 1998 on the grounds of Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi. This waterfront site was once property utilized by the Biloxi Indians. Jefferson Davis moved to Beauvoir in 1877 and actually resided in the main house at Beauvoir from 1879 to 1889. Davis died in 1889 in New Orleans.

Beauvoir, with its colorful history and diverse uses has been home to not only a number of people but also to several libraries as well. Sarah Dorsey, as a writer of some note, maintained a library on the estate for her own use. Jefferson Davis, a prolific writer and voracious reader, likewise established a significant private collection at this historic site.

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After years of working toward securing financial funding, in 1998, the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library at Beauvoir was opened. This new facility is similar to other presidential libraries in that it contains three primary components: a theatre/auditorium, an exhibit gallery and a research collection. The library collection at this new facility includes many rare books owned by Jefferson Davis, other works on southern history and the Civil War, periodicals dealing with Mississippi history as well as an archival collection of letters, manuscripts, postcards, newspapers and clippings of the Davis family.

Information Submitted By:

Gwendolyn Green, Librarian
Jefferson Davis Presidential Library
Biloxi, Mississippi

LSU Offers Legal Bibliography Course

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University will offer a Special Issues course in Legal Bibliography during the Spring 2000 semester. The class is scheduled to meet on Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:40 p.m. This is being offered as a distance education course and will be accessible via compressed video at the following locations:

LSU-Alexandria
LSU-Eunice
Lake Charles
NLU-Monroe
UNO-New Orleans
LSU-Shreveport

To register for this courses, please contact Paula Sinclair at the Division of Continuing Education at 225-388-3162 or 388-6971

Nominations Sought for Slew of SLA Awards

Do you know of either an SLA or non-SLA member professional whom you believe has made significant contributions to the information profession that you would like to recognize? In anticipation of Special Libraries Association 2000 Awards and Honors, take a look at last year's announcements: <http://www.sla.org/pr/sla.html>.

Dow Jones Leadership Award - 21st Century Competencies in Action

Presented annually to an individual member(s) who exemplifies leadership as a special librarian through examples of personal and professional competencies. Cash award — \$2000.

Fellow of the Special Libraries Association

Bestowed to an individual member(s) in recognition of his/her leadership in the field of special librarianship and for his/her outstanding contributions and expected future service to the Association.

H.W. Wilson Company Award

Awarded to the author(s) of an outstanding article published in Information Outlook during the publication year. This award is sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company. Cash award — \$500.

Hall of Fame

Granted to a member(s) of the Association at or near the end of an active professional career for an extended and sustained period of distinguished service to the Association in all spheres. Prolonged distinguished service of a chapter or division which has contributed to the Association as a whole may receive special consideration.

Honorary Member

Nominated at Winter Meeting, this individual is elected to this honor by the Association members at the Annual Conference. Candidate shall not belong to the Special Libraries Association, and there may be no more than 15 Honorary Members concurrently.

Innovations in Technology Award

Granted to an individual member(s) for innovative use and application of technology in a special library setting. Cash award — \$1000.

John Cotton Dana Award

Conferred upon an individual member(s) in recognition of exceptional service to special librarianship.

President's Award

Awarded to an individual member(s) for a notable or important contribution during the past Association year. The contribution must have enhanced the Association or furthered its goals and objectives.

Professional Award

Given to an individual or group, who may or may not hold membership in the Association, in recognition of a specific major achievement in, or a specific significant contribution to, the

field of librarianship or information science, which advances the Association's stated objectives.

Rose L. Vormelker Award

Given to an individual member(s) in recognition of exceptional services to the profession of special librarianship in the area of mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field.

SLA Awards and Honors Rules

- Nominees must hold membership in good standing in the Association (exceptions: Professional, Honorary Member and SLA Media Award).
- Nominees may be put forward by any member(s) of the Association (including themselves) or by an employer or colleague.
- Nominations must be postmarked by the December 10, 1999 (exception: International Special Librarians Day — postmarked by Friday, May 5, 2000)
- Nominations are not accepted for the H.W. Wilson Company Award. This award is decided by a subcommittee of the Awards and Honors Committee, and is based on articles published during 1999 in Information Outlook.
- International Special Librarians Day is Thursday, April 13, 2000. (It always falls on the Thursday of National Library Week, a program administered by ALA)
- Nominations for the Innovations in Technology Award should be sent directly to the Chair of the Innovations in Technology Award Committee, Liz Bryson:
Liz Bryson
Canada France Hawaii Telescope
65-1238 Mamalahoa Highway
Kamuela, HI 96743 USA
- Nominations for Hall of Fame, Honorary Member, Fellow, John Cotton Dana, President's, Professional, and Rose L. Vormelker Awards should be sent directly to the Awards and Honors Committee Chair, Sylvia Piggott:
Judith J. Field
Wayne State University
Library and Information Science Program
106 Kresge Library
Detroit, Michigan 48202 USA
Fax: 1-202-623-6128
- Nominations for Public Relations Awards: Member Achievement, Media and International Special Librarians Day (ISLD) Awards should be sent directly to the Director, Public Relations.
Public Relations Awards
Special Libraries Association
1700 Eighteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-2514 USA
FAX 1-202-265-9317

Look for more information about chapter awards in an upcoming issue.

Library Profile The Advocate Library by Jill Arnold

As the only major daily newspaper in the city of Baton Rouge, *The Advocate* plays an essential role in the life of the local community. *The Advocate* traces its lineage back to the *Democratic Advocate*, which was established in 1843. After several decades of name changes and buyouts, the paper evolved into the *State-Times* in 1907. Capital City Press, the present owners, purchased the paper in 1909. The *State-Times* flourished as the city's leading evening newspaper for 85 years until it folded due to changing readership patterns on October 2, 1991. Its sister papers, *The Advocate*, *Saturday* and *the Sunday Advocate*, all morning editions, continue to provide award-winning, in-depth daily news coverage to the Greater Baton Rouge area.

In comparison to *The Advocate*, the library has a relatively brief history. It was begun in the mid 1970s in order to better support the research needs of the newspaper reporters and editors. Even before a formal library was established however, there existed an informal network through which information was disseminated. Several of the long-time staff members had taken it upon themselves to begin clipping articles of interest from the newspaper and filing them away for future reference. These individual clip files, along with other important shared information resources, were pooled together to form the foundation of the library's collection.

The library of *The Advocate* occupies two adjoining rooms on the third floor of *The Advocate* building in downtown Baton Rouge. Of the two rooms, the larger houses the monograph and serials collections, along with office space for the library employees. The smaller, adjoining room is packed with filing cabinets holding the clip files and photograph collection. *The Advocate* library is open every single day of the week, every week of the year with the sole exception of Christmas Day. What is more, the library remains open for 13 hours every weekday, and 8 hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

There are three major daily tasks that comprise the bulk of the workload of *The Advocate* librarians. These are the prompt response to reference requests from the reporters and editors, the cataloguing and filing of both negatives and digital images from the photojournalists, and, most importantly, the preparation of stories from each edition of *The Advocate* for inclusion in an electronic database.

The holdings of *The Advocate* library can be separated

into four main categories: monographs, serials, clip files, and photographs. The monograph collection consists of approximately 2500 volumes. The serials collection comprises approximately 80 journal subscriptions. The clip file, though no one is quite sure how many articles are contained in it, occupies 80 filing cabinets. And finally, the collection of photographs and negatives occupies 24 filing cabinets.

The monograph collection is fairly evenly distributed among subject areas and primarily consists of reference works. The serials collection of *The Advocate* is designed primarily to expose the staff's reporters to a broad spectrum of journalistic writing. *The Advocate*, as one might imagine, also subscribes to many daily newspapers, from large national papers to every major paper published in the state, and most of the minor ones.

The user population of the library at *The Advocate* consists, quite literally, of every employee of the organization. In practice though, it is the reporters who account for the vast majority service requests. In addition to serving the reporters and staff in the main offices, the library is also responsible for satisfying the information needs of the reporters and staff at each of the bureau locations as well.



Noted Scientist Supports Electronic Communication in LSU Lecture

by David O. Landry

On September 21, 1999, Dr. R. Stephen Berry gave a lecture entitled "Who Should Own the Results of Academic Research" at Louisiana State University's Hill Memorial Library as part of the Chancellor's Distinguished Lectureship Series. Dr. Berry is currently holds the post of James Franck Distinguished Service Professor with the Department of Chemistry and the James Franck Institute of the University of Chicago. In addition Dr. Berry was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' study on electronic communications, "The Transition from Paper." The goal of this study was to explore the potential impacts and improvements that electronic modes of communication might have on the traditional methods of publishing scientific research.

Dr. Berry began his lecture by contrasting the goals and motivations of scientists publishing their research with those of professional authors. Whereas commercial authors are paid directly for their work, the compensation received by the scientist is much more indirect. The scientist is concerned with sharing new findings, advancing research inquiry, and influencing the thinking of others. Dr. Berry argued that the traditional market model for novelists and textbook publishers is not applicable to the realm of scientific publishing where the currency used to measure worth is the amount of influence generated by an idea.

In addition, Dr. Berry argued that the motivations for federally funded research and scientific publishing are fundamentally aligned, in that they both seek to serve the public good. Furthermore, as the value of scientific research can be said to increase with use, it is logical that the widest possible distribution should be sought. Activity which inhibits distribution is in opposition to the intent of government funded research. For these philosophical reasons, Dr. Berry urged that electronic publishing of scientific research be adopted on a large scale.

Dr. Berry also posited the argument that electronic publishing offers both authors and readers new and exciting forms of presenting and examining research results. Researchers have the capability to add interactivity to their results, allowing readers to prepare customized representations of raw data. In addition, footnotes could be linked to their full-text sources facilitating the tracking of ideas. In short, electronic journals have the potential to offer more than their paper counterparts. Unfortunately, copyright and licensing issues remain stubborn obstacles to electronic publishing.

As one approach to remedying this situation, Dr. Berry suggests that federal agencies funding research should recommend, if not require, that the copyrights of articles describing federally supported research remain with the author. The author, then, would grant a nonexclusive license to potential publishers. This policy is in direct contrast to current practices, which assign

copyrights to journal publishers. Dr. Berry's policy would allow for multiple distribution channels for federally funded research. At present, journal publishers' policies on electronic distribution of published articles vary widely. While some journals consider electronic distribution by an author of a published article to be acceptable, given that the formal publication is cited, other journals are adamantly opposed to such redistribution.

Dr. Berry urged that a multiplicity of solutions to electronic communication be attempted, rather than a single approach. Furthermore, he admonished legislators to pursue only regulations that are permissive, rather than restrictive in nature, in order to foment experimentation and innovation in electronic communication, especially in the short term.



Additional Resources

The websites described below provide a glimpse of the new model of scholarly communication described by Dr. Berry.

The UC Berkeley Digital Library Project is developing the tools and technologies to support highly improved models of the "scholarly information life cycle". Their goal is to facilitate the move from the current centralized, discrete publishing model, to a distributed, continuous, and self-publishing model, while still preserving the best aspects of the current model such as peer review.

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/>

The Los Alamos National Laboratory E-Print Archive was started in Aug 1991. xxx.lanl.gov is a fully automated electronic archive and distribution server for research papers. Covered areas include physics and related disciplines, mathematics, nonlinear sciences, computational linguistics, and neuroscience.

<http://xxx.lanl.gov/>

Since 1989 the Digital Library and Archives has worked with members of the Virginia Tech University community to help them create online resources such as electronic journals, and to use library services such as electronic reserve with its centralized access to course materials. It also designs and maintains systems including those for electronic theses and dissertations and digital images.

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/>

Here you will find a suite of standard licenses designed for the acquisition of electronic journals and other electronic resources. They contain the words needed to express most of the variables publishers and librarians – and the subscription agents who are experienced in handling the supply of journals - will meet in negotiating licenses.

<http://www.licensingmodels.com/>

SLA Library and Information Studies Programs Survey Final Report — Executive Summary

The complete survey is available on the Special Libraries Association website.

Executive Summary

BACKGROUND: The Special Libraries Association (SLA) has long been concerned with the knowledge requirements of new entrants to the field. The Association's members have explored and shared their vision of the competencies and skills required for special librarianship over the years. Following the publication of the 1996 document *Competencies for Special Librarians of the 21st Century*, the SLA Board of Directors directed Association staff to conduct a survey of Library and Information Science programs throughout the world. The goals of the survey were to provide a benchmark of information studies curricula and to identify competency areas better served by continuing education programs offered through professional associations. Since the status of special librarianship is of interest to related information associations, two other organizations contributed to the project, the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) and the Medical Library Association (MLA).

METHODS: The survey instrument was organized into two sections. Components of the eleven professional competency areas were categorized into six "Essential Areas of Knowledge for Special Librarians": Information Resources, Information Management, Information Access, Information Systems and Technology, Research, and Information Policy. Respondents were asked to write the course titles from their information and library science program under all the Essential Competency Areas to which they were relevant and to indicate whether the courses were "Core" or "Elective." There were also three open-ended questions: how library and information studies programs fostered the development of personal competencies; whether they planned to make changes in their curriculum based on SLA's *Competencies* document and MLA's *Platform for Change*; and how professional associations and library and information studies programs can work together.

The survey was sent to 372 schools internationally. Fifty-six were North American schools accredited by the American Library Association (ALA) in 1997; the other 316 were "international" schools listed in the 1995 *World Guide to Library Archive and Information Science Education*. A package was sent to each school containing a letter of introduction, a survey, and the executive summary of the *Competencies* document. The response rates for ALA-accredited schools and the international schools were 75% and 22% respectively.

ANALYSIS: The ALA and international school data were

analyzed separately due to differences in the programs, survey response rates and the technological development of certain countries.

A. Professional Competencies: The goal of the first part of the survey was to assess whether the schools' curricula are preparing students for the demands of the 21st century special library. Because of the low rate of response and strong variance among international schools, only the ALA schools' responses to the first section of the survey were fully analyzed.

A total of 1,909 courses were listed by the ALA programs in the professional competencies section of the survey; the average was 45. When grouped by Essential Competency Areas, Information Resources (23%) had the highest percentage of the total number of courses, closely followed by Information Management (20%), Information Access (19%), and Information Systems and Technology (18%). The areas of Research and Information Policy had the lowest representation in the total number of courses (10% each).

Examination of whether the courses offered are core or elective courses is also important in determining the extent to which programs are preparing their students. Core courses provide essential building blocks and a foundation for further study for students. Elective courses may, however, indicate opportunities for specific development.

A total of 17% of courses in the Essential Competency Areas were core courses - with courses in specific Essential Competency Areas ranging from 21% for Information Access to 12% for Information Resources. While the majority of schools offered core courses in all the Essential Competency Areas, more than one-quarter of them did not require courses in the three areas of Information Systems and Technology, Research and Information Policy.

B. Open Ended Questions: When the responses to the open-ended section of the survey for the international schools were compared to the responses of the ALA programs, there was overlap in the responses in several areas and differences in others.

1. Examples of approaches programs have taken to develop personal competencies.

- special workshops or continuing education courses offered by professional organizations (both) integration of personal competencies into existing coursework (both)
- courses focusing specifically on personal competencies (international)

2. Impact of SLA or MLA documents on school's plans for changing curriculum.

- while the majority stated they have used or plan to use the documents in the future, others stated that the documents reinforced existing curricula (ALA)

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- few have used the documents for curricula development, but many plan to in the future (international)

3. Suggestions on how professional associations can collaborate with library schools.

- guest lectures, videos and conferences (ALA)
- active collaboration, e.g. research & development, joint curriculum committees (both)
- sponsoring, mentoring and internship programs (both)
- professional associations provide seminars and conferences for students, teachers and librarians (both)
- professional associations expand partnerships with schools worldwide - take advantage of global alliances and intellectual wealth (international)

SUMMARY: The SLA and MLA documents are having an impact. Programs worldwide now have a greater awareness of these documents and the principles contained in them. The goals of this survey were to provide a benchmark of information studies curricula and to identify competency areas better served by continuing education programs offered through professional associations. While this project has come far in meeting these goals, it is our hope the survey results will also serve to stimulate discussion and collaboration between library and information studies programs and professional associations throughout the world.

LaSoMi Website Gets a Makeover

The website for the Louisiana / Southern Mississippi Chapter of SLA has a brand new look. In addition to the facelift, much of the information on the site was updated and new information was added. Currently the site contains information about chapter activities and officers. An archive of past chapter newsletters is also available. In addition, you will find many links to valuable information resources on special librarianship at both a national and local level. So, pay the site a visit at the address below and send your feedback to the new chapter webmaster, David O. Landry.

<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cla/index.html>



Local Law Librarians Link Up

Interested in what law libraries have for you? Carol Bean and Madeline Hebert have organized the Baton Rouge Area Association of Law Libraries (BRAALL), which held its first meeting September 2, 1999. The association currently includes Governmental, Academic and Law Firm librarians.

The mission of BRAALL is to foster networking and cooperation among law librarians in the Baton Rouge area; to provide continuing educational opportunities; and to advance the dissemination of legal information and resources by cooperating with librarians in all types of insitutions. The Association's goals include providing education on legal library issues to professionals and individuals within the community through continuing education and outreach programs.

You're invited to join them for their next meeting, a brown bag lunch on December 2. Bring ideas and input, and another librarian. Contact Madeline Hebert, BRAALL President, at 388-4952, or Carol Bean, BRAALL Vice-President, at 214-0336, for details. Dues are \$10.00 for members, \$5.00 for students.

LSU Students Spend Summers in Special Libraries

Three graduate students in the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University undertook field experiences in various special libraries over the summer.

Beth Borroughs undertook a field experience at the Houston Academy of Medicine -Texas Medical Center Library in Houston, Texas. During her time there, Beth helped put together a website highlighting Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission Collection. This Commission was established to undertake a long range, continuing study of the biological and medical effects of the atomic bomb on man and the Collection consists of nearly 300 cubic feet of records donated by former members. Beth's website can be accessed at the following URL: <http://www.library.tmc.edu/abcc>.

Kathleen Cottay spent her summer working for National Public Radio (NPR) in Washington, DC. At NPR, Kathleen created an original electronic finding aid for materials not yet catalogued. But the highlight of her stint at NPR was getting a "behind the scenes" guided tour of the Capitol Building with Brian Naylor, NPR's congressional correspondent.

Amy Mather's summer field experience took her to both the National Parks Service and the University of New Mexico Medical Archives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the National Parks Service, Amy was involved in the archiving of artifacts from indigenous cultures. With the University of New Mexico Medical Archives, Amy assisted in the preservation of historically significant medical records.

Chapter Officers

There are a number of positions which have yet to be filled.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for one of these positions, please contact John Anderson.

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<vacant>

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Calendar of Upcoming Events



Mississippi Library Association Conference

October 21 - 22, 1999

Hattiesburg, MS

Fall Chapter Meeting - Louisiana State Library and LaGIN

October 29, 1999

Baton Rouge, LA

SLA State of the Art Institute

November 17 - 18, 1999

Washington, DC

SLA Winter Meeting

January 20 - 22

St. Louis, MO

SLA Professional Conference

January 23 - 25, 2000

St. Louis, MO

LSU SLIS Students Contributed Papers and Poster Session

February 19, 2000

Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Library Association Conference

March 14 - 17, 2000

Alexandria, LA

Medical Library Association Conference

May 5 - 11, 2000

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Visit to Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' library,

May 13, 2000

Biloxi, MS

SLA Annual Conference

June 10 - 15, 2000

Philadelphia, PA

Upcoming LLA Workshops

The Louisiana Library Association has been planning a number of continuing education workshops this fall. If you are interested in receiving a flier, please call 225-342-4928.

Here are some of the soon approaching workshops:

PR: The Library's Wheel to Success

This half day workshop includes: writing press releases and public service announcements; communicating with staff, community, board members, and the media; dealing with gossips; promoting the library's public image, etc.

\$20 for LLA members, \$30 for non members

- October 21, 1999. 9:30 - 12:30

Calcasieu Parish Library

- October 22, 1999. 1:00 - 4:00

Pointe Coupee Library

Volume-teers: Crankin' Up the Community

Learn how to utilize volunteers in your community. Pat Heurtin, Public Information Officer at Calcasieu Parish Library, will lead attendees in this half day workshop on developing a plan of action with volunteers and, increasing the volume of volunteers in your library.

\$20 for LLA members, \$30 for non members

- October 21, 1999. 1:00 - 4:00

Calcasieu Parish Library

- October 22, 1999. 9:30 - 12:30

Pointe Coupee Library

Are you Y2K Comtable with your staff?

This full day workshop will be beneficial to anyone working in management. Topics discussed will be: 1) year long evaluating; 2) recognizing stars; 3) communicating with staff; 4) training; and for new managers just out of library school 5) managing your mother (learning to manage people twice your age.)

\$40 for LLA members, \$50 for non members

- November 12, 1999. 9:00 - 3:00

Lafayette Parish Library

SLA Louisiana / Southern Mississippi Chapter October Meeting

Join us for a tour of the recently remodeled Louisiana State Library and a presentation by Judy Smith, Coordinator of the Louisiana Government Information Network (LaGIN).

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Friday October 29, 1999
State Library of Louisiana, 701 North St., Baton Rouge, LA

For a map and driving directions please see:
<http://pelican.state.lib.la.us/TheLibrary/TwoMaps.htm>

Luncheon Entree Selections:

Choice of one Entree:

- Seafood Stuffed Fish (Filet of Talapia stuffed with a shrimp, crab and crawfish stuffing)
- Fettuccini Primavera (Vegetable Medley, fettuccini noodles, tossed in a light garlic brandy sauce)

Sensation Salad:

Mixed greens tossed with a garlic, cheese, and olive oil dressing.

Vegetable:

Fresh steamed broccoli spears.

Potato:

Scalloped potatoes.

Dessert:

Bread Pudding with rum sauce

Beverages:

Iced Tea and Water

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Registration Fee:

- SLA Louisiana-Southern Mississippi Chapter Member. \$10.00
- SLIS Student. \$5.00
- Non-members. \$15.00

Mail checks and this form by October 15 to:

Judy Buys
USGS National Wetlands Research Center
700 Cajundome Boulevard
Lafayette, LA 70506-3152
judy_buys@usgs.gov

The Louisiana / Southern Mississippi Chapter of the Special Libraries Association publishes the Chapter Bulletin in August, October, January, and April. The bulletin is free to all Chapter members and other interested individuals. Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the Association's publications.

Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by the Special Libraries Association.

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