



Michigan Bulletin

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Fall 2005

President's Letter

Hello all,

Welcome to a new year for the Michigan Chapter. I hope your summer was enjoyable.

I am looking forward to a great year! The first Chapter meeting was held September 28, 2005 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. Dr. Elaine Didier gave a lively slide show history of Presidential Libraries and Museums. Tours of former President Ford's Office and the library were very informative. The exhibits gave me a feeling of stepping back in time to the 1970's.

SLA headquarters is changing from a fiscal year to a calendar year (transitioning in 2006). So, the Michigan Chapter Board has decided that this Chapter's 2005/2006 year will run from June 2005 through December 2006.

We will most likely see other changes as we make this transition. One that comes to mind is the nominating committee deadlines will change. I'm sure others will follow as the year progresses and the Board will keep us on track.

I enjoyed the annual conference in Toronto. It was a good one and many members from the Michigan Chapter attended. It was nice to see so many familiar faces so far from home. Gary Hamel, Dan Tapscott and Bill Buxton were inspiring and entertaining in their roles as keynote

speakers. You can read the blogs to get a much more detailed synopsis of their speeches.

http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_conference_blog/2005/06/tapscott_new_ro.html

http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_conference_blog/2005/06/picture_the.html

http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_conference_blog/2005/06/closing_keynote.html

Along with the SLA Annual Meeting Conference Blog http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_conference_blog

I hope you will enjoy this first Bulletin of the 2005/06 year. A special thanks to Elizabeth Bogandanski for taking on the editor position. Remember that your participation is welcome. I invite and encourage you to attend our meetings. You never know who you may meet or what you may learn at one of our Chapter meetings.

Charlene Stachnik, President

2005 - 2006 Officers & Committee Chairs

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Head Librarian for UAW Retires

Jane Danjin, former Head Librarian for the UAW in Detroit retired effective August 31, 2005. Her support of the Michigan Chapter of the SLA is most appreciated.

Best wishes for a long and fulfilling retirement, Jane.

SLA Student Chapter introduces new officers

by Tracey S. Hughes

The University of Michigan's School of Information Student Chapter started the school year off with a bang! With all new officers for 2005/06, there is a renewed commitment to actively engaging the student body at the School of Information, and strengthening the relationship with the larger SLA organization.

Officers

This years officers are:

President, Tracey Hughes

Vice-President, Brad Sietz

Treasurer, Amy Anderson

Secretary, Chessa Hickox

Programming, Kristina Eden



The officers can be reached collectively at sla.officers@umich.edu.

September and October Events

❖ *Introduction to SKA and a tour of the University of Michigan's Map Library*

Over 30 students attended a pizza lunch and an overview of paper and computer maps from Karl Longstreth, Map Librarian.

❖ *An Introduction to Library Resources*

Jointly hosted by SLA and ALA Student Chapters, the meeting featured Donna Hayward, SI Librarian, who gave a fabulous introduction and overview of the Information and Library Studies Library (ILSL).

❖ *Internship panel from Second-Year SI Students*

Jointly hosted by SLA, ALS and SI's own Career Services Office, second-year students shared their internship experiences, finding a position, the actual work experience and what they would have done differently.

❖ *Participation with MI Chapter*

The student group provided financial support for 10 SI students to attend the September 28 event at the Gerald Ford Presidential Library in addition to staffing the Hospitality Table.

❖ *First Ever SI Tennis Tourney*

Jointly hosted by the SLA and ALA, members U of M's Student Chapter worked out their Patriot Act angst on a little fuzzy ball. The winning prize was a copy of John Seely Brown's *Social Life of Information*.

❖ *Henry Ford Museum, Private Archives Tour and Greenfield Village*

Jointly hosted by SLA and the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Student Chapter, this event promises to be another successful outing. Attendees will be visiting Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum and Archives to experience the living library of technology's process.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charlene Stachnik, President, Michigan Chapter SLA

FROM: Christopher T. Bloodworth, President-Elect, Michigan Chapter SLA

CC: Michigan Chapter SLA Committee Chairs and Officers

DATE: Friday, October 7, 2005

RE: Resignation from President-Elect office

Dear Charlene:

Please accept my resignation from the office of President-Elect, effective December, 2005. Due to personal reasons, I will no longer be able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities as required of Michigan Chapter SLA officers.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and other officers and committee chairs. The networking and mentoring relationships I have developed within the organization have been the source of great personal and career satisfaction to me. The experience and knowledge gained during my association with the Michigan Chapter SLA has provided significant career growth, for which I shall always be appreciative.

I will continue to serve my term as Diversity Chair as well as participate in Michigan Chapter SLA programs and activities. Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Bloodworth
CTB

Michigan's electronic library offers a wealth of information

by Marie C. Fratjes-Block

Network. Interact. Exchange ideas. We're all familiar with these concepts, right? And when we're faced with a particularly complex reference question, we all feel that we do all these things when we consult with a company colleague, or a librarian colleague we met at an SLA conference, right? And oh boy, we all give ourselves an extra "pat-on-the-back" when we pose a question to an Internet listserv and bingo, an answer comes from far away. But what about going back to the basics and using what's available at our own public library! And we in Michigan have our own electronic public library!

If you haven't used MeL, the Michigan eLibrary available on the Internet [<http://elibrary.mel.org>], you're really missing out on a lot of valuable information. This is the public library for all Michigan residents.

MeL is divided into four sections:

- ❖ **MeL Cat** – the statewide library catalog and borrowing service
- ❖ **MeL Internet** – librarian recommended web sites
- ❖ **MeL Databases** – magazines, journals, newspapers, and more
- ❖ **MeL Advanced Search** – choose the databases to include in your search

MeL Cat is available to everyone, Michigan residents and non-residents alike. This is a typical card catalog where you can search for books by author, title and subject. But it has some specialized features, too. You can also find items by searching for ISBN, LCCN, governmental technical report numbers, publisher numbers and GPO item numbers. In addition to books, the catalog also contains books on tape/CD/DVD, music, and magazines. There are more than 50 participating public and academic libraries as well as the State of Michigan library. When you find a book that you want to borrow, you can request that a copy be sent to your own local library! This

is a valuable and convenient service, but you will need a local library card to use this service.

MeL Internet is another section that is open to everyone. Remember the "pathfinders" you had to create in Library School? This is a great pathfinder to Internet links on many subjects, including Business, Economics & Labor, Government, Politics, & Law, Sciences & the Environment, and Health Information Resources.

My favorite are the links to Libraries & Information Science. I check this section periodically to find out what's going on in the library world. There are a lot of neat, interesting links to Library Blogs, Digital Libraries, Discussion Lists, Professional Literature, and even Hot Topics for Michigan Libraries.

I also use the Reference section links when I'm stumped with defining an abbreviation, want to find some statistics, or the like. And being in the chemical industry, I also use this as my access to the Library of Congress Science Tracer Bullets. These are research guides that help you locate information on science and technology subjects. With brief introductions to the topics, lists of resources and strategies for finding more, they help you to stay "on target."

MeL Databases are where MeL's meat and potatoes are found! You need to be a Michigan resident to use these databases. And if you're a search intermediary, you can only give the results to Michigan residents. You'll need to verify your residency with either a Michigan driver's license number or a state ID number. Here you'll find magazine, journal and newspaper databases like InfoTrac, ERIC, and Medline. There 40 databases for you to use.

What I really find helpful are the full text and electronic book databases such as Gale

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Michigan's electronic library (cont'd.)

Virtual Reference Library and General Reference Center Gold. Once, my site manager was looking for the manufacturers of a specific class of chemical compounds generally used in some household products. I checked all my usual pay-per-use chemical databases, but I guess this type of chemical was too commercial for such databases and I did not find the data I needed. On a lark, I tried the search in the Gale Virtual Reference Library and found what I after in two craft and hobby books. I was able to immediately e-mail my site manager with the book pages — no book purchase necessary or even document delivery.

I have also used the WorldCat database. Recently I read an impressive review of a new book only published and distributed in Europe. Using WorldCat, I found a library in California that had a copy of the book. I then contacted the librarian and he gave me a name of a distributor in Germany who sold the book I wanted.

MeL Advanced Search gives you the opportunity to select from one or more of the 40 databases and allows you to use Boolean logic.

For training, MeL has the usual help screens. In addition, the Michigan Library Consortia conducts periodic training sessions. The next class will be held on Wednesday November 16, 2005 in Lansing. Visit their website at www.mlc.lib.mi.us/ for information, or contact Heather Thomas at: thomash@mlcnet.org.

Mentor program for Library and Information Science students

The Career Guidance Committee of the Michigan Chapter, Special Libraries Association sponsors a mentoring program. Librarians and information professionals who are able to volunteer their time in a supportive relationship can be mentors. Mentees will be students from Wayne State University's Library and Information Science and the University of Michigan's School of Information programs. Contact one of the Career Guidance Committee Chairs, Karen Bacsanyi (k.bacsanyi@wayne.edu) or Susan Pritts (spritts@pritts.com).

Thank you to this issue's contributor's:

Tracey S. Hughes
Marie C. Fraties-Block
Charlene Stachnik

To submit ideas, articles, information to the newsletter, contact Elizabeth Bogdanski at elizabeth.bogdanski@il.proquest.com or Pam Repp at parepp@ameritech.net.

SLA- Michigan Web site:
www.sla.org/chapter/cmi/

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