



Michigan Bulletin

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P resident's Letter

Dear SLA Michigan Chapter Members:

The merger of the Michigan and the West Michigan and Upper Peninsula chapters was completed at SLA's annual conference in June. We are now one statewide chapter. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the West Michigan and Upper Peninsula members into the chapter. Your presence only helps to strengthen the Michigan chapter and we are delighted to have you in our ranks.

Now that there is only one Michigan chapter, it has become necessary to examine how we put on our programs. Traditionally, the Michigan chapter had its programs in southeastern Michigan and with the merger of the two chapters that needs to change. The question for the chapter is how can it make its programs accessible to every chapter member regardless of geography.

With that question in mind, the Chapter Board commissioned a special Virtual Programming Subcommittee to take a look at this issue. The committee members, Leslie Burke, Linda Strand, Vicky Bellon and Melissa Behrens, have been hard

at work. Their first task was to survey the chapter to learn about the members' preferences for registering and attending programs. Many of you participated in the survey and I would like to thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

The survey results helped the subcommittee issue several recommendations to the chapter board. This fall, the chapter will begin to implement those recommendations. First up on the list is to offer online registration and payment for chapter programs. The second task will be to acquire the necessary technology to host a virtual program. Our goal is to be able to have a virtual program in late 2007 or early 2008. Look for more details to come on all of this as the chapter kicks off its fall programming schedule. My thanks go out to the members of the Virtual Programming Subcommittee for volunteering their time to work on this issue.

The chapter is also beginning to recruit for officers and committee members for 2008. There are officer positions and vacancies on the chapter

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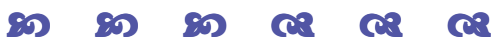
Chapter Member Continues to Serve Library Profession

Kathy Irwin, former Michigan Chapter President, has been a very active member in the Special Libraries Association. She held positions as Chair of the 75th Anniversary Committee, Michigan Chapter President-Elect and Program Chair, and Leadership and Management Division, Toronto Conference Co-Chair.



Kathy will continue to serve the library profession as President-Elect of the Michigan Library Association. Kathy will be responsible for implementing the new governance structure that is currently being examined and will be voted on in 2008. Her objective is to “create an association that will meet the needs of future librarians; that will be able to withstand external pressures; and that will be nimble enough to respond to future changes. She is also hoping to discover ways that the SLA Michigan Chapter and the MLA can collaborate on conferences or spring workshop programs.

Congratulations and best wishes on your appointment as President-Elect of the MLA.



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advisory board and the programming committee to fill. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the chapter, now is great time to think about getting involved. We will be installing our new officers and committee members for 2008 at the chapter's annual holiday dinner in December. If you are interested in serving in a position, please send me an email at mancinil@oakgov.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming programs!

Best wishes,

Laura Mancini
SLA Michigan Chapter President

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Working Smarter with Zoho.com

By Sophia Guevara

So, what does Web 2.0 mean to you? For many, the term describes technology that has taken advantage of the transition to web as platform. You're probably most familiar with examples like Blogger, MySpace, and Flickr. Interest is growing in virtual worlds such as Second Life and innovative sites like Ning provide librarians with an online venue to interact and discuss emerging ideas.

While these technologies do a great job of promoting social interaction within the virtual environment, are there any sites that provide cost-effective solutions that could be implemented within the every day business environment? This is a niche Zoho hopes to fill. Providing several of the same Web 2.0 applications that Google provides, Zoho pushes forward to offer these unique solutions:

- ❖ Zoho Show: Easily create, embed, edit and access your presentation from anywhere. You can import existing presentations in the Microsoft (.ppt, .pps) or Open Office (.odp, .sxi) presentation format.

- ❖ Zoho Meeting: Giving WebEx a run for its money, Meeting provides the professional with an alternative virtual meeting solution. (Free while in beta).

- ❖ Zoho Creator: An easy to use tool to create custom database applications. Quickly create forms and summarize entered data easily by clicking on the icon listed to the left of each cell. An example of a contract management system I created can be found at: <http://creator.zoho.com/sophiaguevara/page/2/>. (*User note:* If you submit information to the system, you will receive an automated confirmation email delivered from my Gmail account. If you selected a reminder date as well, you will receive an automated reminder email on the that day).

- ❖ Zoho Wiki: Create a wiki to promote open communication within your organization.

- ❖ Zoho Projects: Make use of Project's task and milestone page to keep track of progress. Invite colleagues to collaborate and keep everybody informed by posting in the online forum. Keep track of time spent on the project with the time sheet function. (Free for use with one project. Additional projects start at \$5).

- ❖ Zoho CRM: Designed for small and medium businesses, this software provides a customizable on-demand customer relationship management solution. (Free for up to 3 users. Additional users are billed at \$12/month).

- ❖ Zoho Challenge: An online testing environment that allows you to create an individual slate of questions or utilize a question bank for test takers. (Free for up to 25 users. Additional users start at \$199).

- ❖ Zoho Polls: Create and share your poll with others in the organization.

As you can see, Zoho goes above and beyond to deliver cost-effective innovations to help both individuals and organizations meet their goals in the age of the new Web.



Special Librarian Focus: Tina M. Tincher, MLIS

By Sophia Guevara

Nestled within the campus of the University of Michigan (UM) is a small specialized library dedicated to fisheries research. As a solo librarian, Tina Tincher maintains the seventy-five-year-old collection for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The library was created through a joint agreement between the State of Michigan and the UM. Interested in her work as a solo librarian managing such a specialized collection, I visited with Tina to learn more.

Describe your position and the clients you serve.

I am the solo librarian for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division. The library is located at the Institute for Fisheries Research (IFR), which was created as a cooperative agreement between the State of Michigan and UM. I primarily serve Fisheries Division staff including fisheries biologists, hatchery managers, and fisheries technicians from our offices and hatcheries around the state. Secondly, I serve the UM faculty, staff and students from the School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Exhibit Museum of Natural History. I also assist Michigan residents and other individuals from around the world who are completing freshwater fisheries research.

What is unique about the collection you manage?

The library was started over seventy-five years ago and includes an extensive collection of books, journals, fisheries reports, and reprints from all over the world. Few, if any, libraries duplicate the collection.

What is a typical day like for someone in your role?

As a solo librarian responsible for completing all library duties, my days are quite varied. I have the flexibility to tailor my schedule in order to make the most efficient use of my time.

What is one innovation you are proud of implementing within your library?

The collection was managed by administrative staff for the first sixty-five years of its existence. As a result, there is a greater need to bring the collection into conformity with general library standards than there is for innovation. As the first professional librarian to manage this collection, I have taken several steps to improve its usability. After separating and organizing the materials to make the collection easier to use, I implemented an electronic catalog to offer users additional points of access. This has made it much easier to locate a resource since the only point of access provided in the previous card catalog was "publishing institution". I am now in the process of transitioning from the old in-house classification system to LC.

How did you choose special librarianship?

Initially, I was very interested in working within the archive and preservation field. However, life events changed my direction and led me to this position, which I have found to be a good fit for my skills and interests. While in library school I was employed by IFR for one year as a student worker. During that time, I learned about the collection and its unique classification system from the secretary who managed it. After graduation, I went to work for the Library of Michigan, but my position was cut from the budget within a year. I returned to IFR for a visit and was informed they had received funding for a part-time librarian position. I was invited to interview. This career opportunity worked out perfectly, because it allowed me to utilize the knowledge I had gained from my first year at IFR as well as the skills I acquired at the Library of Michigan. I certainly don't regret the way it turned out and I'm

happy that I'm still able to do some preservation work because of the age and condition of the collection.

In your view, what are some challenges that special librarians face today?

Over the last few years, funding has been a big challenge. As a solo, part-time librarian, it is always a challenge to accept the fact that it is impossible to accomplish everything I know would benefit the collection and its patrons. In addition to client service, I am also responsible for the management of the collection. This in itself tightens the time-frame in which I can accomplish my goals. Being aware of this, I prioritize my work in order to provide my clients with the service they expect and maintain the collection in the best way possible.

What would you recommend for new graduates who are eager to start their own careers in special librarianship?

I love special librarianship and enthusiastically encourage those who are thinking about entering the field. I recommend they seek positions that will allow them to make use of any other degrees they may hold in addition to their library science degree. For instance, if they have an undergraduate degree in business, they may be able to provide skills that will make them an even greater asset in a business environment. They will be happier knowing they have found a career opportunity that will allow them to make use of both degrees. It is also important to remember that while we usually serve clientele who are considered experts within their field, we do not have to be an expert in our clients' fields in order to provide them with excellent service. I would want them to present themselves in a professional manner, to cultivate a mutual respect with those they serve, and to always remember that they too are experts in their field.

What skill sets have you found to be most valuable as an information professional?

Special librarianship draws on all your skills. That's what makes it fun! In a typical day I might do some cataloging and shelving, repair a damaged book, update a library policy, give a tour to a new employee, and complete a reference interview and subsequent literature search. If I had to choose a few of the top skills, I would choose: self-motivation, resourcefulness, flexibility, patience, ability to multi-task, and communication.

In closing, what are your thoughts on the future of special librarianship?

As we continue to be required to do more with less, I think it will be even more important for us to be creative in finding ways to share our ideas and resources through cooperation and collaboration. The diversity of special library content makes it difficult to share resources, but we're going to need to keep pursuing ways to assist each other regardless of our particular disciplines.



