

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION



Special Libraries Association

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Bulletin Information

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Director of Communications:
Laura Antos
laura.antos@factiva.com

Business Manager
Cheryl Erenberg
erenbergs@earthlink.net

Bulletin Editor
Elizabeth A. Arnold
elizabeth_arnold@merck.com

Message from the President

Rita Reisman

This year continues to be full of changes. At the Winter meeting in Chicago, the Leadership was presented with proposed changes in the Association's by-laws. Changes had been considered for months, and details were presented in January. There has been on-going debate and discussion about the changes, and I *urge* you all to go to

<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/Structure/recbylaws/httpwww6596.cfm> and read the current by-laws and look at the proposed changes. SLA has set up this web page which includes the by-laws and proposed changes, a transcript of Eugenie Prime's chat session and a threaded discussion list concerning the issues. We will be asked to vote on this, and it is important for us all to be knowledgeable about the issues that may change SLA a great deal.

Change for the sake of change is not necessarily good. Will the changes make SLA a more efficient organization? Will a more efficient organization benefit the membership? At what cost? I know it can be dull reading sometimes, but please take a look at the proposed changes and see if they work for you.

There is an interesting summary in the Boston Chapter's Bulletin at http://www.sla.org/chapter/cbos/pub/v67_no1.pdf (page 10-13), and some comments in the Philadelphia Chapter's Bulletin at <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cph/bulletin/winter2002/bylaws.htm> I will advise you of other articles as I hear of them.

Spring is a season of new growth, a rebirth, a season of hope, and the promise of something better. Is it just a coincidence that it is also the time to seek volunteers to chair the Committees that keep NJ/SLA vibrant and relevant? Probably, but it's a nice segue!

Did you ever want to make a difference? Do you want to add a new element to your life? Please consider responding to our call for volunteers! We need *you* – *your* ideas, *your* energy, *your* perspective on various issues that may come up next year. You may wonder, "What's in it for *me*?"

What's in it for you is an opportunity to build on your existing skills, stretch your abilities, and learn skills which will translate to your current job or a future job in a non-threatening environment. The skills learned through SLA work translate to skills that you may need to excel in your career. You learn to delegate, motivate, mentor, budget and manage. You learn how to run an effective meeting, how to recruit and reward others, and the experience gives you the leadership training you need to advance in your career.

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- Perhaps you'd like to lead a team at work but you're not sure you're ready. You can develop your team skills with a Chapter Committee. Working with other members in SLA is a great way of building your self-confidence. Don't just think about what you do well...think about what you'd like to do better, and get that skill through experience.
- Volunteering for leadership roles allows you to give something back to the profession. You will know *you make a difference*.
- Volunteering allows you to be connected in a stronger way to the Chapter, to provide input and shape future direction.
- *You* continue to grow and learn.
- Volunteering is a great source of material for enhancing your resume, as you showcase your leadership skills.
- You have an opportunity to work on organizational and leadership skills and gain a network of really terrific colleagues. You'll discover some incredible resources within the Chapter, people you might not have had much contact with otherwise.
- You'll meet colleagues who have the answer and will make you look really good at work.

In her presentation as the Alice Rankin Distinguished Lecturer, 2001, Lucy Lettis said that it is possible to make great contributions or take great strides by doing a little bit at a time. If you would like to be involved, you don't have to do major things. Become part of a committee, and learn team skills. This is especially useful for new employees and for solos. Help your team meet its goals. Next time around try something a little more challenging. Let yourself know you can make a big difference!

Rita Reisman
 ITT Industries
 AV/ACD Technical Information Center
 100 Kingsland Rd
 Clifton, NJ 07014
 voice: (973) 284 3810
 fax: (973) 284 4141

Member News

Jeannine Creazzo was recently was promoted from Medical Librarian to Manager of Library Services at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Contact Information:
 Jeannine Creazzo, MLS
 Manager, Library Services
 Saint Peter's University Hospital
 254 Easton Avenue
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1703
 phone: 732-745-6647
 fax: 732-937-6091
 e-mail: jcreazzo@saintpetersuh.com
<http://www.stpeterslibrary.com>

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Cheryl Erenberg has recently joined the staff of the Knowledge Management team at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) in Jersey City, NJ.

Contact Information:
Cheryl Erenberg
Content Manager
Knowledge Management
AICPA
Harborside Financial Center
201 Plaza Three
Jersey City, NJ 07311
phone: 201-938-3918
fax: 201-938-3955
cerenberg@aicpa.org

Davida Scharf was a presenter at a workshop sponsored by SBA Small Business Development Center in Paramus, NJ on May 1. She will also be speaking at InfoToday 2002 in the E-libraries track on May 15 about Managing E-Journal Collections: Eliminating Periodical Overlap as part of the Serials Issues discussion.
http://www.infoday.com/it2002/e-Libraries.htm#weds_track_e

Eliminating Periodical Overlap
Davida Scharf, NKR Associates, Inc.
Librarians and their users want full-text journals online and they want them now. The multi-step process of discovering if the library has a particular journal in full text just doesn't cut it anymore. No ILS has yet incorporated a way to manage print, electronic, and online database subscriptions. If your users demand point and click, if the thought of subscription renewals gives you a headache, then come learn about this methodology for performing a periodical overlap study.

Contact Information:
Davida Scharf
NKR Associates Inc
phone: 201-947-8039
fax: 201-947-2586
e-mail: dscharf@NKRassociates.com
<http://www.nkrassociates.com/>

Meeting Updates

Members who would like to share their notes from meetings and conferences that they've attended are encouraged to e-mail the Bulletin editor.

Building Digital Communities Conference

Davida Scharf recently attended an IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services (<http://www.imls.gov>) sponsored conference in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins entitled WebWise 2002: Building Digital Communities (<http://webwise.mse.jhu.edu/>).

IMLS has been funding collaborative digital projects since 1998, and many sessions featured successful collaborative project presentations in addition to panel discussions and comments by experts representing a range of professional stakeholders. The keynote speaker was Clifford Lynch, executive director of the Coalition for Networked Information, who provided his always-stimulating perspective on current developments in the field of digital libraries and digital cultural content creation.

Inmagic Users' Group Forming

Kathy Millington of Berlex Labs and Davida Scharf are forming an Inmagic User's group in NJ. If anybody is an Inmagic user and wants to be put on our mailing list, they should contact Davida by email: <mailto:dscharf@NKRassociates.com> Once they have some idea of interest, they will schedule a meeting.

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New Jersey Academy of Library Leadership

Carol Feltes is participating in a new statewide leadership training opportunity sponsored by the State Library of New Jersey. It is called New Jersey Academy of Library Leadership. Twenty-five participants were selected from a pool of applicants. Carol is the ONLY special librarian in the group. Carol notes that it has been great fun, very interesting, and a good learning and networking experience. If the program is offered next year she suggests more special librarians consider this opportunity. The cost is low - \$300 for 6 full day sessions, plus a two-day kick off retreat. She said that it has also been lots of fun bringing the professional perspective of a corporate librarian to this group of mostly academic and public professionals.

Contact Information:

Carol Feltes
Merck & Co., Inc.
732-594-5773
carol_feltes@merck.com

SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION: WE WANT YOU!

The Social Science Division is a vibrant branch of SLA. With broad subject coverage and more than 350 dynamic members, the Division spans a myriad of interests and activities and thrives as a forum for the exchange of information and knowledge for special librarians having a social science subject interest. Founded in 1923 as the Civics Group, the Social Science Division ranks as SLA's second oldest. It is composed of librarians, knowledge officers, and other information professionals who proactively satisfy the substantive information needs of the specialized clientele found in foundations, associations, universities, research organizations, corporations, law firms, and municipal, county, state, provincial, federal government, or international agencies and organizations.

The Division features two specialized Roundtables formed to meet the distinctive needs of information professionals and to furnish a medium for the exchange of ideas. Each Roundtable typically supports programs or workshops at the Annual Conference, in addition to other activities.

Independent Sector Roundtable members are information professionals from organizations and associations involved in the voluntary philanthropic and general nonprofit sector.

The International Relations Roundtable presents for members interested in the global aspects of librarianship and information transfer the prospect of promoting activities and developing programs that strengthen ties among librarians and information professionals worldwide. In addition, the IR Roundtable works to advance programs that increase the spread of information in developing countries. The IR Roundtable-partnered with the International Relations Committee and the European Chapter-sponsors the International Reception to welcome non-US attendees to the Annual Conference.

The Social Science Division is considering replacing the Roundtables with similar Division Sections.

The Bulletin of the Social Science Division is a stimulating communications tool, for members and non-members alike. Published 3 times annually, this periodical includes feature articles written by SSD members on topics of professional interest, bibliographies, Internet resources, book reviews, and Division and Roundtable news and events. Contents of the Bulletin are indexed in Library Literature, published by the H. W. Wilson Company. In future, the Bulletin may be sent to Division members and other subscribers via e-mail, in addition to being posted on the Division website.

The Division website (<<http://www.sla.org/division/dsoc/index.html>>) strives to keep members abreast of unfolding news and information.

The Social Science Division Discussion List (SLA -DSOC@listserv.sla.org) supplies an electronic vehicle for idea exchange and communication among the Division's members, simultaneously forging a personal connection. It informs subscribers about all upcoming Social Science Division meetings and events; puts
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subscribers in the loop with regard to SLA international activities-conferences and accommodations; publicizes the latest job openings in the information field; proffers a place where subscribers can post help-wanted notices; constitutes a group of people subscribers can consult when looking for information.

So, join a band of lively, sophisticated, far-flung social science information professionals and revolutionize your world!

Ann R. Sweeney

Chair-Elect

Social Science Division

Special Libraries Association

(Librarian, Webmaster, & Information Officer

European Union - European Commission Delegation

2300 M Street, NW

3rd Floor

Washington, DC 20037

Phone: 202-862-9546

Fax: 202-429-1766

E-mail: ann.sweeney@cec.eu.int

Website: <http://www.eurunion.org>

Something to do...

Check out any tome you like

By Amy Laughinghouse

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New York -- The signage is discreet. An elegant gold plaque and a small white slab provide the only indications of what lies within the narrow brownstone presiding over the corner of Madison Avenue and 41st Street, a block from Manhattan's Grand Central Terminal. "Library Hotel" reads the unassuming lowercase script, arranged beneath a simple icon that, upon close inspection, represents the splayed pages of an open book.

Anyone who missed these subtle clues might wonder, as they passed through the imposing Gothic arch that serves as the entrance to this 60-room boutique hotel, if they had found their way into yet another book repository along New York's Library Way. The New York Public Library, with its grand Corinthian columns and carved lions standing guard over Fifth Avenue, is visible just one block west. And the Morgan Library, featuring rare manuscripts, handwritten scores by history's greatest composers and drawings by the likes of Degas and Rubens, rises over Madison Avenue five blocks south.

Granted, most libraries don't have a bellhop to greet you at the door. But then again, most hotels don't feature a lobby dominated by a monolithic monster of a card catalog and 10-foot-high mahogany bookshelves. Most hotels don't pay New York's renowned Strand Bookstore \$85,000 for 6,000 books covering everything from Edgar Allan Poe to erotica. And there is probably no other hotel in the world where rooms are themed and numbered according to the Dewey Decimal System.

Balancing illusion

This 130-year-old classification system assigns every library book a number based on broad categories of knowledge. Likewise, each of the floors at the Library Hotel, which opened in August 2000, is devoted to a general subject, such as History, Literature or Religion, and each room on that floor is filled with books and artwork related to a specific sub-subject that falls within the broader category.

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My room is the Journalism room (1000.005), located on the 10th-floor General Knowledge level. Black-and-white photographs of key figures in the news, like the late, great Edward R. Murrow, hang on the wall above the padded leather headboard. A narrow bookshelf beside my queen-size bed yields several dozen books, including a biography of Ted Turner, a book of famous front-page headlines from the New York Times and "One Hundred Fairy Tales" by the Brothers Grimm -- either a misfile, or someone's clever comment on the state of journalism today.

The idea of a library hotel originated with Henry Kallan, who owns several other New York properties, such as the Moroccan-themed Casablanca Hotel and the chic Hotel Giraffe. Kallan hired architect Stephen Jacobs of Stephen B. Jacobs Group PC and his wife, Andi Pepper of Andi Pepper Interior Design -- the design duo behind Hotel Giraffe -- to transform the 90-year-old office building at 299 Madison Ave. into one of New York's hippest new hotels.

During a brainstorming session at dinner one night, Jacobs' son, set designer Jordan Jacobs, suggested the Dewey Decimal concept. Pepper and Jacobs loved it. "Jordan took what could potentially be this pretentious idea into something light, witty and refreshing," insists the elder Jacobs.

"We didn't want to do another reproduction English library," explains Pepper, who balanced the library illusion with a meditative Zen-minimalism evidenced by sleek furnishings, a soothing palette of sage fabrics and butter-colored leather, and a Tibetan flame design woven into the wool carpeting and quilted duvets.

Inviting spaces

Public-gathering spaces are designed to accommodate a variety of functions and moods. On the 14th floor, a sunny solarium outfitted with breezy wicker chairs leads to a terrace overlooking Madison and 41st Street. Inside, past a curving granite-top bar, lies the Writer's Den, where dark green club chairs around a fireplace beckon guests to settle in with a favorite dog-eared novel and a glass of wine.

My favorite space is the second-floor Reading Room -- and not just because of the stacks of cookies and the wine and cheese set out every weekday evening. Tufted-leather banquettes are tucked between floor-to-ceiling bookcases, and the baby grand piano and window seats are stacked high with titles ranging from "The Treasures of the Library of Congress" to a racy sequel to Jacqueline Susann's "Valley of the Dolls" packaged in a Pepto-pink dust jacket. I could have spent a week just poring over "The Amy Vanderbilt Complete Book of Etiquette," which offers handy tips on everything from how to act in a taxi ("Don't toss any litter onto the floor"), to how to behave if you're granted an audience with the pope. (For the record, if you're not Catholic, you don't have to kiss his ring. Good to know.)

"You might feel silly in most cities, spending the whole day in the hotel," says General Manager Craig Spitzer. "But here, you have the opportunity to enrich yourself and learn something new."

If you go:

Getting there

AirTran, American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, United, US Airways all fly into either JFK or LaGuardia. LaGuardia is closest to the Library Hotel.

Rates

Petite Full (with 48- or 53-inch bed), \$265-\$295. Deluxe Queen, \$325-\$345. Junior Suite, with king bed, sleeper sofa and views up Madison Avenue, \$375-\$395.

Visit <http://www.libraryhotel.com> for Internet specials.
1-877-793-7323.

Career Options - Life as an Independent Information Professional

By Davida Scharf

NKR Associates Inc

www.NKRassociates.com

My middle name is start-up. From my first professional job until today, I have been involved in envisioning and implementing new technologies and ideas. I have always taken an entrepreneurial approach to my work, even as an employee of large institutions. Working on my own, it has been imperative that I employ all the planning, organizational, problem-solving, project management, and interpersonal skills all the management books tell you one should have.

It would be hard to describe how I came to be working as an independent without a brief summary of my career. I was lucky enough to have a variety of creative work experiences that gave me solid knowledge about information work and about running a business. My first try at working independently as an information professional was in 1980 after 5 years of deep involvement in library automation at Columbia University. At that time I was doing business as "InfoSystems" and was hired to do small office projects reorganizing filing systems, setting up small special libraries, periodical routing systems and current awareness programs for organizations without libraries. I also handled an occasional research project. Somehow I had grasped one important fact--that I could translate my library computer skills into something useful outside a large institutional library and work for myself, something I really wanted to do with 2 small children. Having worked with computers since high school I followed the tech revolution closely and even gave a workshop for writers and editors on "What is Word Processing" in 1983. I had the idea that the principles and practices of librarianship had application beyond libraries. Time sure has proven me right! Back then, I had to spend a good deal of time educating prospective clients about what exactly "information management" meant. I succeeded in building up a small consulting business by personal networking and some very limited direct marketing, when one of my clients offered me the job I couldn't refuse--to start up and manage corporate libraries for one of the baby bell companies after the break-up of AT&T. At NYNEX I was given the opportunity to set up state-of-the-art information centers and to learn from several excellent business people, so I stayed there throughout the 80s. Although I don't have an MBA I feel as though I got one at NYNEX. Setting up and running those information centers in a super-large corporation was like running my own business. I handled finance, marketing and operations for the centers and it is what enabled me later to handle my own business in a professional manner.

By the end of the decade I was looking for a new challenge and was hired as Director of the Engineering Societies Library, Document Delivery Service, and Archive with a mandate to bring it into the 20th century. After several years of hard work, the trustees decided to disband the parent organization and I had the sad task of preparing the shut down plan and figuring out how to relocate the half a million books and archival items in the library, before I was laid off. I decided freelancing was a good plan while I recovered from the shock and disappointment of closing an historic Carnegie-endowed library and figured out what I wanted to do next. I never did get that next "job" as freelancing became NKR Associates Inc, my own information management consulting firm and a new way of life. By this time I had deep and broad experience in the information field and in academia, business and the non-profit world.

I now work largely on my own subcontracting work occasionally when I need some additional expertise on a particular project. I am a member of many different professional organizations in addition to the Special Libraries Association. I belong to the Association of Independent Information Professionals (AIIP), American Library Association, Society of American Archivists and the NJ Association of Women Business Owners. The most useful of these is AIIP, a wonderful organization for those already working as independents as well as though thinking about it. The group provides information, support for newbies and oldies, and many vendor discounts. For example, Dialog and Dow Jones sign-up fees are waived for members. Some of AIIP's "members only" publications cover many of the issues of interest to those just starting up. Help is available on working from home, marketing and getting clients, online skills, tools and resources, subcontracting and more. Most important is the collegiality and willingness to share information of members, which is expressed mostly via the listserv and at an annual conference.

I find projects by networking with people wherever I go and projects find me by word of mouth. I am active in my community and speak and write for professional publications. I usually give a presentation on a recent project or a topic in which I am interested at the Computers in Libraries Conference or National Online, now called Infotoday 2002. I have become known as a creative problem-solver so my best recommendation is a difficult job well done. I'd like to make more SLA chapter meetings, but it never seems to work out!

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To work independently requires discipline, organization, and motivation. The rewards are flexibility and the opportunity to work with many different types of people and projects. It's never boring. I handle all aspects of my business, marketing, finance and operations and it can sometimes make my head spin. I find I must devote a good deal of time to "keeping up" which can be difficult because my scope of work is quite broad, and information overload is worse than ever. As someone who has been a "free agent" for 9 years now, I can recommend Daniel Pink's book "Free Agent Nation" which does describe very well the changes that have been occurring and will continue to occur with regard to the relationship between employer and employee. It is excellent reading for anyone thinking of working independently.

When acquaintances ask me what I do, I sometimes still have trouble explaining it. I do the many and varied jobs that modern librarians do, but few people truly understand what that really means. To me it means knowledge management consulting, design and troubleshooting of databases, workflow and systems, development of thesauri, Intra/Internet site development, developing workshops and training sessions, and even library management work. I have moved through a revolution not only in technology, but also in the way information professionals are viewed. The most difficult thing is the uncertainty and unevenness of income, the need to be constantly looking for that next project. As I have managed to bring in projects successfully and predictably over the years, this is no longer frightening. I am enjoying the somewhat unorthodox path I have taken, but it is not for everyone.

SLA Twinning Program

Rita Reisman

Our first meeting of the year took place on September 12th. At that Board meeting, I asked the Board to approve \$500 to send to whatever September 11 relief fund SLA Headquarters supported. Three SLA members had died in New York City, and one of the libraries in the Pentagon suffered serious damage. Fortunately none of those employees were injured. However, Headquarters never suggested to the Chapters and Divisions what they should do regarding donations to any of the foundations set up to help victims of that attack. A couple of months ago, the Board agreed to withdraw the motion, even though we felt we wanted to do something with it.

In late March, I received an email that Sue Johnson (Washington DC Chapter) sent out to all Chapter Presidents, announcing a "Twinning" program she had set up after attending an IFLA Conference. So many librarians from developing nations are interested in being members of SLA, but can't afford membership. She suggested that each Chapter pay 90% of a potential member's dues for two years, thus allowing a librarian from a developing nation the opportunity to join our Organization. The NJ Chapter Board was interested, and we took the next step of contacting Sue and asking her advice as to what to do next. She directed us to a list of over 300 librarians who had signed up for the program. We contacted Sue again to ask her how we could possibly pick a candidate from such a long list. Sue highly recommended a biological librarian from Indonesia, Widharto, whom she had met and who impressed her a great deal. The Board agreed unanimously to pay his dues for two years. We cannot possibly summarize what Widharto has accomplished in his professional life and do him justice. His introduction in his own words follow. I am proud of the Board's unanimous and enthusiastic agreement to include Widharto as a member of the NJ Chapter. Perhaps the three SLA members who died on September 11th would have supported this program as well.

Dear Dr. (sic) Reisman;

It is really surprised me to know that finally there is someone who is very generous to pay my two-year SLA memberships, in your chapter, New Jersey Chapter. Thank you very much for your kindness, Dr. Rita Reisman. I am sure by putting me as regular member of SLA, I will be allowed to access and receive publications of SLA. The new innovation I will learn from it will be beneficial only me, as I may disseminate them to our colleagues librarians in Indonesia, through the article or my presentation in the events both locally and nationally.

I am the senior Librarian of SEAMEO-BIOTROP Regional Center for Tropical Biology, P.O. Box 116, Bogor 16001, Indonesia. I began employment at SEAMEO-BIOTROP in April 1978 as a Documentalist, assigned to collect all documents (scientific and administrative reports and papers) published/issued by or related to the Institute, store and process them to facilitate their retrieval.

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In 1984 I was granted a scholarship to pursue my masters program in Library and Librarianship, at the Institute of Library Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on 1986. While I was still a library science student, I took a course at the Institute of Mass Communication in the same university. For the first semester of 1986-87, I enrolled in and successfully completed 6 (six) units in the doctoral program. Unfortunately, the scholarship given to me by IDRC-Canada, was only intended for a masters program, and I was not able to continue with my doctoral program.

In 1986, after completing my Masters Degree, I was appointed Scientific Information Officer at BIOTROP. This new position required me to select articles from the serials we subscribed to and indexed them for our own database. In addition I have also had responsibility to disseminate such Information to the prospective users. I have also been assigned to answer queries from our own staff and outside users, and provide them with.

In April 1987, I was promoted to the position of Chief Librarian. My duties included the processing of books, and serials according to the UDC classification system; indexing such materials using CAB Thesaurus; and

registration into our own CDS/ISIS databases. Additionally, I supervised our library administrative activities (including budgetary and personnel management); scanned selective articles from the serials subscribed to by BIOTROP; provided reference queries for end users and established net-working with other special libraries in and outside Indonesia. Other responsibilities included of searching the literature for information on subject matter required by the research staff on topics related to their research expertise. I also served as BIOTROP's Information Officer. In this capacity my duties included the preparation of articles in English for the membership countries of SEAMEO in Southeast Asia; to up-date the SEAMEO Newsletter; preparation of Press Releases and their dissemination; preparation and Video Scripting of BIOTROP Reports; and marketing of publications from our Center. Lastly, in the in the past few years I have also served as a Rapporteur for BIOTROP and at its Annual Governing Board Meetings, whose members are representatives of the Ministry of Education from all SEAMEO member countries.

In April 1997, I was promoted to be the Head of the Information Resource Unit, to which the Library and Documentation Service, Communication Service, and Publication Services are attached. The new position required me to supervise and to coordinate those services. I am also the Business Manager of the "BIOTROPIA", our scientific publication with more than 500 mailings all over the world. As the Business Manager, with the cooperation of the Editor I have to prepare and process the issuance of the publication.

From November 1999 - July 2000, I was a fellow grantee of the ASIA Fellow Program, a new program funded by the Ford Foundation, administered by the International Institute of Education (IIE), in cooperation with the Council of International Exchange Scholars (CIES). This enabled me to do special internship work at the International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, the Philippines. From Feb - May 00, I carried out the survey I designed on this program on "Increasing Access to Scientific and Technical Information on Tropical Biology for Users at SEAMEO-BIOTROP AND Other Institutions During and After Economic Crisis". In September 2001, I got funding support from the Department for International Development (DFID), the United Kingdom, to attend international conference on forest community in Chiang Mai, Thailand. On October 2001, my paper "Challenges in Accessing Scientific and Technological Information in Indonesia during the Economic Crisis", which was prepared to be presented at the Annual Conference of (ASIST), Washington, DC, the USA, 3-8 November 2001, won the 6th Winner of the Writing Competition held by ASIST.

Though, in the year 2002 our country is still in the uncertain situation, where the financial allocated for the library development is unsoundly, but I am happy to report you I have convinced both international and national agencies to provide funding support for me to attend international and national events. Under the funding assistance of the ASIA Fellow Program, I will be able to attend the 68th IFLA General Conference and Council, in Glasgow, the UK. During which I will present a poster. IDRC, Singapore Office, will provide funding support for me to attend the 5th International Conference on Asian Digital Library, 11-14 December 2002. I plan to prepare a paper also for this event. On September, I will be invited by the A Indonesian Library Association, as the resource person and presenting a paper about the achievements I made, especially in getting funding support from international agencies for international events for our colleagues. Well, I think that's all I had this time. Thank you very much for your attention and kind cooperation. I will be more than happy if I could to be of your service. Please find attached my CV, for detail information of me.

Sincerely yours,

Widharto

Librarian

SEAMEO BIOTROP

Jl. Raya Tajur KM 6, P.O. Box 116

Bogor 16001, Indonesia

Telp. (62-251) - 343 848; Fax (62-251) - 326 851

E-mail: library@biotrop.org