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President's Report

Coming Soon...

By Sandra Kitt, Chapter President

Any day now we should all be receiving the preliminary announcement of the **June 2000 Philadelphia Conference**, from June 10-15th. The theme this year is "*Independence to Interdependence: The Next Phase in the Information Revolution*", which hopes to promote the idea that "our past and future converge" as we pursue new ways to harness information and communications technology. We are applying technological solutions which eclipse physical and geographical boundaries so that we as professionals can generate information for our users. In that regard it can be said we are creating our own futures. The information revolution continues!

Here is a glimpse of some of the highlights from the upcoming conference:

- ▲ The format of the general session this year will be different. Terry Gross of National Public Radio will interview David Talbot, the founder, Editor and CEO of Salon Magazine, on this year's theme.
- ▲ Jim Lehrer of **PBS News Hour**, will give a keynote presentation.
- ▲ Robert Kennedy, Jr. will speak during An Environment & Resource Management session.
- ▲ A presentation of scientific ethics by Deborah Blum, a Pulitzer Prize winner, sponsored by the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division.
- ▲ "Management and Leadership", presented by the News Division. Speaker Kare Anderson will address the topic, as well as discussing the charisma of leaders.
- ▲ A **Video Café** will take the place of the Strategy Sharing Session.
- ▲ A conference-wide millennium bash sponsored by Factiva and the Philadelphia Chapter at the Franklin Institute.

This is just a promise of things to come at the Philadelphia conference, in this pivotal year. The conference planners have put together a program that attempts to recognize the dynamics and evolutionary nature of the phenomenon known as the 'information revolution' while looking forward to the next stage in its development. While these changes will affect all of us, we will also be in a unique position to affect those changes.

The **City of Brotherly Love** is just a short ride down the turnpike from New York City. Close enough to make it possible for Chapter members to attend the SLA annual conference, even for one day. I hope to see many of you there in June.

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- Summer issue.....May 10

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CHAPTERNEWS STAFF

Editor Chris Lowden
Advertising Manager Laura Kapnick

Editor's Note

by Chris Lowden

It's official - Maureen Mason has officially handed over the *ChapterNews* editorship to my good keeping. The birth of her Matthew, on November 26, had something to do with it. Congratulations, Maureen! I'd like to formally thank you for all your work over the past couple years in keeping our Chapter's newsletter on track and in our mailboxes.

In this issue, Sandra Kitt updates us on the upcoming annual conference in Philadelphia, as well as the October Global 2000 conference in Brighton, England. Looking over the Global 2000 tentative program schedule on the SLA website, I noticed a program by the SLA Illinois Chapter on applying knowledge management techniques to running their chapter. It's an intriguing and challenging idea, using KM to organize and manage what is essentially a volunteer organization. (For those of us who "thrive on chaos", it may be scary!). If anyone's planning to go and would like to report back, let me know. I also noticed on the schedule that afternoon tea is scheduled each day at 4 PM — sharp! How civilized!

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The SLA New York Chapter maintains a web site with links to our calendar of upcoming events and full contact information for Chapter Executive Board members, committee officers, and group chairs. The New York Chapter URL is:
www.sla.org/chapter/cny/
Check it out — it's a great way to keep up-to-date with your Chapter!

President-Elect's Report: Networking

By Martha Schweitzer

"**I** Heard It Through the Grapevine", a Motown tune, captures in song one of the ways we learn the news. We know that passing information from person to person is a standard method that people use to gather the facts they need to find answers to their questions. When we need help, we often pick up the phone and call a friend or contact. In other words, we network.

Two years ago, a newer member of our profession approached me to meet with her to continue a conversation she had heard at a SLA Midtown Networking Luncheon. She wanted to talk about how one goes about networking. As I thought about it and as I reviewed some seminars I had attended on the subject, it came to me that the basis of networking is helping people. When we attend social or professional gatherings, or in serendipitous meetings as we go through life, we meet people and look for how we connect to them. One of the connections we make, aside from mutual interests, answers the question, "How can I help this person, and how can this person be of help to me or others?" If a sign of intelligence is the ability to see the relationship between disparate objects, then networking becomes intelligence at work. When we network, we put people together to help ourselves understand and improve our world; we learn about others, what they do, and we figure out how they connect to us and to those we know. In networking, one reaches out to others who may need help and are asking for it; one follows through reliably with the offer. In return, we find help when we need it.

We describe SLA as a vehicle to help us network within our profession. Generally, I have found the information professionals I've met to be intelligent and well-read, curious about the world, willing to share what they know, cooperative and service-oriented. As members of SLA, we draw from a large pool of expertise and experience to help us answer questions, perform better and advance in our careers. We draw upon this pool as we network. To network, however, one needs to be on the grapevine, to be where the opportunities exist to meet and work with others in our profession.

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We have an opportunity to talk to the President of our Association at a Town Hall on February 24th. Susan DiMattia brings to us news and views of the SLA, and we have in turn the forum to ask questions on current issues and to voice our opinions. Beyond this meeting, there are other ways for you to be involved with the New York Chapter. We will have positions open on the Advisory Council and in committees for next year. If you want to lend a hand on smaller projects, we can put you in touch with those who need your help. In the coming months, I will be looking for people to contribute in this way to the networking experience of SLA membership. If you want to be included, please call me at 516-944-9738 or email me at connectdot@hotmail.com

Announcing the LLAGNY/SLA Internship Board

SLA NY Chapter and LLAGNY (Law Librarians Association of Greater New York) have launched a joint internship program ("LLAGNY/SLA Internship Board") to facilitate the placement of library students with internship sponsors ("Sponsors"). The LLAGNY/SLA Internship Board was initiated to provide a much-needed internship processing service to both library students, library schools and library/information centers.

The LLAGNY/SLA Internship Board will be responsible for processing the applications from the library students and from the Sponsors and work towards providing the best possible match between them.

Three distinct tiers of internships are available.

Tier I - Full Internship

- ▲ a formal internship for MLS credit
- ▲ an informal internship (for non-MLS credit but generally following the guidelines of the interns' library school)

Tier II - Partial Internship

- ▲ an informal internship for non-MLS credit (a shorter time period than a Tier I - Full Internship (i.e. A project-specific and/or database-specific internship))

Tier III - Mini Internship

(greater than one hour and less than 1 week)

- ▲ Librarian Shadowing
- ▲ Librarian for a Day
- ▲ Informational Interviews (i.e., for class assignment)
- ▲ Library Tours

For an information/application packet, please contact either Catherine Monte (LLAGNY) or Suzan Lee (SLA NY).

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Social Science Group Update

by Sarah Collins, Social Sciences Group Chair

Our February 2 program, co-sponsored by the Social Science and Information Technology Groups was a resounding success, thanks to a great turnout of more than 40 to hear speakers Gary E. Strong, Director of the Queens Borough Public Library and Jonathan Tasini, President of the National Writers Union. Both of these distinguished speakers recently served on the Committee on Intellectual Property Rights and the Emerging Information Infrastructure, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. At this SLA NY program, which was hosted by the Foundation Center, they spoke about the issues and perspectives on copyright among publishers, writers, scholars, libraries, and the technology industry. A spirited discussion followed their presentations. The Committee full report, *The Digital Dilemma: Intellectual Property in the Information Age* can be found at www.cstb.org.

The Social Science Group is also completing plans for a March 18 field trip to Ellis Island National Museum with the Museums, Arts and Humanities Group. We'll have a special insider's look at the world's largest reference collection dealing with the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and have a demonstration of the state-of-the-art system in the Oral History Listening Room, courtesy of George Tselos, Supervisory Archivist.

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Shadow Librarian Program

by Leslie Slocum

The last issue of *ChapterNews* included an article on the Queens College Student Chapter Shadowing Program. I read the article with interest, but took no action. My mistake! Fortunately, I also received an e-mail from Queens College about the program and decided to volunteer my library as a testing ground for a library school student.

This was definitely not a mistake! Marcy Winkler, a first semester graduate student at Queens College, was assigned to shadow our work at the British Information Services (BIS) Library. During the afternoon of December 16th, Marcy did a thorough walk-through of our facilities, saw the physical arrangement of our staff and materials, listened to our reference librarians answering inquiries, heard about the hard transitions that librarians and libraries are going through and learned about the tough decisions that many of us have to make.

BIS also offered another interesting experience for Marcy — we're a British organization in an American environment. Many of the issues we discussed related to how and why BIS works, how we work with London, what Americans need and expect from us and how the library plays its role in the British public diplomacy efforts in the United States.

Quite a lot to cover in just a few hours! But my recommendation is that it's worth investing the few hours that the program requires. For me, opening the BIS library to a graduate student was a great way to get feedback about our department, as well as to get insight into current library school programs and activities. For Marcy, the shadow program allowed her to move from the theoretical to the real world, if only for a short time. An added dividend is for students to work with SLA members. Marcy indicated her interest in joining SLA, so we'll be seeing her at future events!

I would encourage anyone interested in the most worthwhile program to contact Mary Philbin at mphilbin@hotmail.com or Judy Ausubel at jzips@erols.com or 718-896-7554.

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Nominating Committee Announces Officer Slate

by Lois Weinstein, Chair, Nominating Committee

The slate for the 2000-2001 for the New York Chapter of SLA is as follows:

President-Elect:

Martin Cullen, *Lehman Brothers*

Secretary:

Steve Johnson, *Wildlife Conservation Society*

Director of Awards:

Carol Ginsburg, *Chase Manhattan Corp.*

Director of Finance:

Ruth Kaplan, *Chase Manhattan Corp.*

I would like to thank all the members of my committee for the excellent assistance they gave me: Peter Edelman, Karen Erani, Robert Lord and Ellis Mount.

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The Chapter's Job Hotline: Your Source for Finding a Job

by Shauna Bryson, Employment Chair

The Chapter JOBLINE is a 24-hour phone service listing regional library and information position openings. Every week some 2,700 individuals dial up to listen to new listings, as well as those from the previous two weeks. This service is free of charge to job-seekers; the number is 212-439-7290.

The JOBLINE welcomes ads from employers needing to fill library and information positions. Each ad costs \$100 and runs for three weeks. This is an economical way to reach thousands of qualified individuals. To place an ad, please fax it in 18-point type to 212-838-9487, or email your ad to hmartin@LF.COM. Include the billing instructions (if faxing, put on a separate page): company name, billing address, contact name and contact phone number. (These instructions are also available by calling the JOBLINE and then selecting option #4).

Employers are responsible for reporting errors in the recorded ad by Wednesday of the first week the ad is running. Errors should be reported by fax to 212-838-9487.

Midtown Luncheon Committee Announces First Breakfast Meeting

by Susan Gormley, Co-Chair,
Midtown Luncheon Series

The SLA NY's Midtown Luncheon Series will be holding its first ever Midtown Breakfast in mid-March at Oscar's Restaurant (at the Waldorf Astoria), 50th Street & Lexington Avenue.

Our Breakfast will begin at 7:30 AM, and it is reasonably priced at \$16.00 per person. Included in the American Buffet Breakfast are danish, croissants, bagels & cream cheese, an assortment of fresh fruit, cereals, scrambled eggs, waffles, coffee, tea and juice.

The Midtown Luncheon committee is interested in accommodating those members of the SLA midtown community that are generally not available during the workday to attend our luncheons. Look for details in the very near future on SLA NY's Listserv. The convenience of notifying SLA NY members of activities via the list has prompted the decision to discontinue mailing notices of the Midtown Luncheon Series. If you have not yet joined SLA NY's Listserv, this is the time to do so. Simply send an email to: listproc@metro.org. Do not type anything in the subject line. In the body of the email, please type the following: subscribe slany-l first name last name.

For those individuals that do not have access to a computer, please write to me at The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, Business Information Center, New York, NY 10020, and we can devise an alternate means of contacting you about upcoming events.

On behalf of Tom Pellizzi, Siu Wong and myself, we look forward to seeing you at the first Midtown Breakfast in mid-March.

Global 2000: The First SLA International Conference

"The world of information management is changing daily..." So begins the introduction about the worldwide conference on special librarianship to be held this October in Brighton, England. The meeting is expected to be attended by information professionals from around the world as well as by representatives of companies serving the industry.

SLA is also encouraging librarians from developing nations to attend by providing a number of grants and scholarships. Many SLA Chapters have actively participated in this by making contributions to a pooled fund from which the scholarships will be drawn. The New York Chapter has committed money to support two candidates, and we will be sharing the expense of a third with the New Jersey Chapter.

This is the acknowledgement that the New York Chapter received from Daille Pettit, Past President of the Washington, D.C. Chapter, who is currently on the Steering Committee for Global 2000:

"Please extend to your chapter, along with the New Jersey Chapter, the sincerest thanks of the Washington DC/SLA Chapter, and the Global 2000 Planning Committee, for your donation of \$5,750. This money will...sponsor several of the more than 100 librarians from developing countries who have applied for fellowships for the conference."

The Global 2000 conference, October 10-16, is being billed as an excellent opportunity to "...establish a global dialogue among participants that will build and strengthen the profession's international presence." Corporate sponsors include WEST Group, Lexis-Nexis, Factiva, and H.W. Wilson. For additional information, visit the website at www.slaglobal2000.org.

The SLA Winter Meeting St. Louis

by Sandra Kitt

A number of New York Chapter members attended this year's Winter Meeting in St. Louis, including our two candidates for national SLA offices, Agnes Mattis and Lucy Lettis. We managed to get out of New York in late January just before the first snowfall of the season. Having escaped one threat, we found ourselves in the middle of another. St. Louis is serious Rams country, and those attending the three day leadership training programs got caught up in the frenzy over the NFL playoffs.

The SLA leadership training sessions are an intense crash course for Division and Chapter Chairs/Presidents, respectively, in conducting the business of divisions and chapters. There are pep talks from various divisions of Headquarters, as well as a chance to network and exchange ideas with peers. It is very informal and the SLA staff is accessible, perhaps under the premise that the two-day environment will encourage questions, cooperation, ideas, and solutions to both officers and staff.

There were sessions on how to manage finances, how to secure sponsorship, partnering with SLA effectively, etc. But we were also treated to a fun and relaxing evening reception held at The City Museum in St. Louis. Essentially intended for children, the museum is crowded with structures and features meant to be crawled over, under and through. There were opportunities to climb, sit and lay about, while indulging in a generous buffet. The St. Louis Chapter made us all feel not only very welcomed to their city, but like kids again for one evening.

The Leadership Development Institute also held, for the second year, a Town Hall Meeting, this year presided over by SLA President and New York Chapter member, Susan DiMattia, and Linda Broussard from headquarters. It was an opportunity for attendees to comment openly on news and changes expected with the association in the next year. The New York Chapter has adapted this meeting format for one of its programs this year. It will be reported on in a later issue of the Bulletin.

Following the Winter Meeting were three days of management courses taught by some of the top professionals in our industry.

The annual SLA conference is in Philadelphia this June. Information about the programs and CE courses is available at www.sla.org/professional/cecources.html

By now some of you will know that the Rams not only made the playoffs...they won the Super Bowl for the first time in their franchise history. The winter meeting ended, and many attendees were able to leave the city before the wild celebration began.

Mea Culpa!

by Sandra Kitt

In making a plea for our Chapter members to support two SLA candidates for office from New York, I made mention in an earlier profile that Agnes Mattis, campaigning for Treasurer, had the distinction of having been the only member to serve as President twice. I have been corrected!

I apologize to Chapter member Ellen Miller, who also served two terms as President. Ellen has been gracious enough to concede that she had not served consecutive years like Agnes, but she still deserves recognition for her commitment.

New Way To Do The News

by Sandra Kitt

As President of the Chapter I received the bulletins and newsletters of all the other Chapters within SLA. It's a way of keeping in touch with what other chapters are doing, and also to assess how the bulletins are communicating with their members. I've noticed that almost all of the bulletins incorporate photographs of their members, as well as chapter functions. Chris Lowden, our Bulletin editor has suggested that we do the same.

As the largest Chapter we enjoy not only a wide variety of programs and activities during the year, we also have members who are engaged in exciting professional ventures. When we make mention of someone, it would be nice if the members could put a face to the name.

The Executive Board has authorized the purchase of a digital camera, which will be used specifically for any or all Chapter, group or committee programs. Anyone is welcome to borrow the camera, providing it is used for programs scheduled and approved for chapter members. Images can be submitted to both Chris Lowden and our webmaster, Stan Friedman, for publication.

We encourage everyone to be creative and think of how the use of images can enhance communication. If anyone has additional ideas for using the camera, please share them with Chris Lowden or Leslie Slocum, Director of Publications. The Executive Board will shortly set up basic guidelines for borrowing and use of the camera by chapter groups or committees planning program events.

For Your Eyes Only

Most of you know by now that there is information at the SLA website available ONLY to members. The **Members-Only** section can be accessed by using a personalized PIN or Code. If you don't already have one, it is strongly urged that you contact headquarters to be assigned one (This can also be done online). Information is regularly posted that's for your eyes only, as part of your membership benefits.

It is also strongly urged that each member take the time to go into the membership directory and check your membership information. This site is used quite a bit by other members, in place of the traditional **Who's Who**. That publication will be reevaluated as to future need, if the association continues on its goal of becoming a complete 'virtual association'. For those of you without Internet or email capabilities, please call headquarters in Washington, D.C. at (202) 234-4700 and verify the information in your listing.

B&F Video: "The Drive To Participate"

At the June 1999 SLA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, the Business and Finance Division debuted a mentoring video called, "**The Drive to Participate**". It was financed by B&F and Lexis-Nexis Corporation, another in a series sponsored or co-sponsored by the company. The Business and Finance Division then generously provided a copy to each SLA Chapter.

The video was produced as the first offering in the Division's efforts to begin a mentoring initiative. It was born of discussions the Board had more than a year ago that was part of a strategic plan to expand and retain the Division's membership.

The video is also accompanied by resources located at the Business & Finance website, www.slabf.org, where members can register as a mentor or mentee, and also view a great bibliography on mentoring.

The New York Chapter's copy of **The Drive to Participate** is available for any group or committee to borrow and view. Many thanks to Business & Finance for this innovative approach to exploring membership outreach.

By-Laws Update

By SLA Headquarter's ruling, all chapters are required to review their by-laws every two years, and update, amend or change as needed. Jane Reed, the New York Chapter's By-Laws Chair, suggested minor changes, primarily making the language of our current document gender-neutral.

The suggested areas of change are in the following articles and sections, and **highlighted**:

ARTICLE V: ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 2. The Advisory Council shall consist of both Standing and Special Committee **Chairperson** and **Chairperson** of the various Groups, organized in accordance with the Chapter by-laws.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 3. Notice of meetings **by mail, discussion list, webpage**, in writing or printed in the official Chapter bulletin shall be sent to each member at least **one month** (instead of two weeks) before the meeting.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 2. The president shall appoint the **Chairperson** of all committees except the Nominating Committee and those **Chairpersons** appointed by the president-elect...

Please review these changes. They will be available again at the May 16th Annual Business Meeting, and they will be on the agenda. A vote will be necessary to make the changes part of the official record, and notification will be forwarded to headquarters.

Rutgers MLS Colloquium in April

An invitation has been extended to the Presidents of the New York Chapter and the two New Jersey Chapters to participate in a colloquium in April for the Rutgers library school. The focus will be a discussion of the competencies for the new century for library professionals.

Our Library School Liaison, Lilleth Newby, has already extended a reciprocal invitation to the students to attend our 10th Annual Career Day program, which will cover similar topics of interest to MLS candidates, prospective library school students, and other professionals in career transition. The Colloquium is planned for Wednesday, April 19th at the SCILS of Rutgers University.

The Future of Chapter Groups

by Sandra Kitt

A hot topic under discussion at the past few Advisory Council meetings has been the survival and continuance of our Chapter groups. Industry changes, down-sizing, career changes, and loss of interest have all affected membership and motivation to participate in the Chapter over the past several years. The New York Chapter is not the only region facing this problem, and we have been working with the Executive Board and the Council on the problem.

One of the biggest problems is the difficulty in getting members to volunteer in the leadership positions needed to keep a group functioning. It has long been perceived as 'difficult' or 'time consuming'. But clearly it is doable, as the Chapter has managed to continue to operate effectively for more than 70 years. This does **not** happen without the help and input of members. We are ALL volunteers.

This issue was addressed in the last bulletin, and it should be stressed that without a willingness to participate from members, there are at least two Chapter groups that face possible disbandment due to lack of interest.

The questions posed in the last issue are being repeated here. We have received several responses, but would like to hear from more of you. Your answers or comments can be sent directly to me, Sandi Kitt, at skitt@amnh.org, or anyone on the Executive Board or Advisory Council

1. Do you attend at least one Chapter program a year?
If not, why not??
2. What kinds of programs/content would you like to see?
3. If called upon, would you consider serving on a committee or taking a leadership position with a group?
4. Do you have any specific suggestions or comments?

Also under consideration is the possibility of merging smaller/troubled groups into larger groups. But **NO** group will be asked to do that, no matter how small, if it is functioning without problems. Again, if you don't want to lose **ANY** group, please indicate your willingness to keep them going!

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New Arrangements Chairperson Sought

Elizabeth Rivas is stepping down and is looking for someone to take over as Arrangements Chair beginning next term. The Arrangements chair coordinates the four chapter meetings during the year, including the holiday party. Working closely with the President-Elect, the responsibilities include securing a meeting place, arranging catering requirements and any special equipment needs. The Arrangements Chair is expected to be present at these meetings to help greet members.

Elizabeth says the job is fun and a great way to get to know other Chapter members. She is willing to begin working with someone now to show them the ropes. If interested, please contact Elizabeth Rivas at J.P. Morgan, (212) 648-8030, or by email at rivas_elizabeth@jpmorgan.com.

Local High School Seeking Donations

by Dorothy Watkins

A new high school, the High School of Economics and Finance, is growing in the former building of the NYU Graduate Business School. Young men and women from all over the city fill the halls and classrooms. There they learn about Wall Street and hold down internships provided by top-notch financial services institutions. Unfortunately, library resources are extremely limited. Contributions of books, magazines, newsletters and material related in any way to financial services would be appreciated. Please contact Dorothy Watkins at swatk@aol.com to arrange a pickup. Thanks!

Members on the Move

Jean Marie Kawata, formerly a librarian at Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn in Detroit, is now Serials Librarian at Cravath, Swaine & Moore...

Congratulations to Maureen M. Cuschieri, who gave birth to Matthew on November 26, 1999!

Now Available: Special Libraries Directory of Greater New York

The 19th edition of our area directory is now available. The directory is invaluable for locating subject specialists, collections and colleagues. Although previously offered at \$150, the Chapter is now discounting orders and the price is now \$125 per copy. To order, contact Leslie Slocum at 212-745-0258 or via email at Leslie.Slocum@newyork.mail.fcو.gov.uk.

Bylines at Business Week: Not Just for Reporters Anymore

by Jamie Russell, Director,
Business Week Information Services

The library staff at Business Week began sharing bylines with reporters in the June 29, 1998 issue of BW's International edition.

It began as many projects do, with a "We just need...", and escalated into exploration of the backgrounds of almost 50 Asian business people, ranging from the prominent to the obscure. We had to be particularly alert for controversies in their backgrounds. By the time the final list was complete, the library staff had ferreted out details that were vital to many of the bios. We had many days of research invested, and had made a significant contribution to the content of the story. Eventually the work would go into a Special Report entitled "The Stars of Asia", and was featured on the cover of Business Week editions in Asia.

As the story was in its final stages, I began extensive conversations with the reporters, managing editors,

my boss and the Editor-in-Chief. Their concerns were about the library's expectations for future bylines, and about setting a precedent for other departments within Business Week. We discussed the nature of the library's involvement in this story as opposed to 'run-of-the-mill', general research requests, and the editors were assured that a research investment of this magnitude was not a weekly occurrence. My understanding was that the addition of content to a story would determine a byline, and it was agreed that we had, in large measure, contributed to the story's success. Most important, the reporters on the story supported our contention that our contribution merited bylines. Without that key component, it would not have happened.

Since then, library staff members have had bylines on half a dozen Business Week articles. Two library researchers have actually written stories that appeared in BW over their own bylines, and several of the other bylines came about at the suggestion of the story's reporter. That is particularly gratifying. It says that our credibility has been well established as respected, contributing members of a professional team, and that our work merits the same, important recognition accorded some of the best reporters in journalism today.

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