

President's Letter

Kathy Hemphill

Summer, 2001

Another magnificent summer in the beautiful Pacific Northwest is coming to a close. With some reluctance, I'm packing away the picnic basket, sending the kids back to school, and concentrating once again on business - both on the job and for the chapter.

I became your chapter president last May at our annual brunch, and chaired a very well attended and productive planning meeting in June. At that meeting, I was reminded that each chapter president selects a theme or project for his or her term. I panicked briefly when I looked up from my notes and saw a sea of expectant eyes upon me waiting for my proclamation. I was prepared, however, and had actually initiated a project the previous winter. At the SLA Mid-Winter Meeting, the importance of strategic planning kept cropping up again and again. Hmmm, I thought, the company I work for has carefully crafted a strategic plan, and considers it carefully before embarking on new endeavors. It serves them well. I was easily sold on the idea, and during my term as your chapter president, I hope to update our chapter's strategic plan. Oh, I have a few other pet projects, too, that you'll probably be hearing about in the coming months. I hope we can resurrect our chapter logo, and start a procedures manual, but my main focus will be on the plan. I started the process with the membership survey that was conducted last spring. The results are in, and I hope you've had a chance to take a look at them. They are on our website. I was surprised by some of the results, and I bet you will be, too.

I'm also turning my attention to planning at work. I would like to expand my services to other offices within the firm, but I'm not sure how to present my plan. Fortunately, I don't have to look far for assistance. "Plan Is Not a Four-Letter Word" is the theme for the chapter's September kick-off breakfast. Gerry Lukos, Gretchen Leslie, Terry Chadwick, Jan Hayden and LaJean Humphries will chair roundtable discussions on project planning, preparing a business plan, career planning, and facility planning. I will give a brief overview of the progress on the chapter strategic plan. We've got door prizes! The event will be held September 28th at Mentor Graphics. I hope you plan to attend. Oh, and if you're sometimes a little forgetful, and would like a reminder a day or so before the breakfast so you don't forget to attend, give me a call.

President's Letter

Kathy Hemphill

Fall, 2001

My office is having a Halloween costume contest again this year. And again this year I'm thinking about dressing up as a stereotypical librarian. You know the look - middle-aged woman, glasses on a chain, hair in a bun, frumpy dress, sensible shoes, big frown, shushing everyone who speaks above a whisper. Definitely a relic of the pre-information age. I'm sure it'll get a lot of laughs.

But what stops me every year is the fear that instead of laughing, people will nod and say, "How true! Librarians are definitely a quiet, retiring bunch." I'm afraid they may know one of our profession's little secrets - that people in other lines of work have discovered facets of what we do (but not from us because we've been too quiet about our capabilities), and have claimed them as their own. They give them new names, start professional societies, publish books and journals, and hold conferences. Oh sure, there are some librarians who raise an indignant cry about those who steal our thunder. But there are also those who sheepishly join their ranks, calling themselves "recovering librarians" if they even admit to being librarians at all.

Hmm... Perhaps it would be best not to perpetuate the stereotype and all its connotations. Of course, I may just embarrass the guilty. I'm not sure that's the reaction I want, either. I think I'd rather try to update our image. I like the vision this Monty Python quote brings to mind: "... I don't believe that libraries should be drab places where people

sit in silence, and that's been the main reason for our policy of employing wild animals as librarians." I've got it - I'll dress up as a library lioness - proud and powerful, yet nurturing to all those lost in the information jungle. That's it! Speaking of images that need a little refining and updating, did you know that the Oregon Chapter of SLA has a logo? It was set aside a few years ago when we went digital. I'd like to bring it out of retirement, and use it to adorn our website and print materials. I'm not sure of its history, or when it was acquired. It's a sketch of some mountains and trees. As lovely as it is, the current rendition seems a bit casual for today. So, your Oregon Chapter Board is holding a contest within our membership to update it. [Read about the contest](#), view the current logo, and please send me your entries - in digital format, of course!

President's Letter

Kathy Hemphill

Winter, 2002

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a joyous holiday season. These last few months have indeed been difficult ones for all of us. I was very glad to have the opportunity to take a few days off and enjoy the holidays with my family and friends. Terrorism and economic woes were far from my thoughts as I relaxed at home, cooked up a storm, and caught up on everyone's activities.

I'm very tempted to stay close to hearth and home, shut off from the rest of the world as much as possible. I have good reason to do so, I think. The world has become a much scarier place lately. Besides, a lot of other people are sticking closer to home these days, too. But on further thought, where's the fun and challenge in that? There's a big, exciting world out there. We certainly have to be a little more vigilant these days, but driving a few miles down I-5 is still riskier than flying on a plane. We may also have to watch our dollars more carefully these days, but a walk in the park on a beautiful day while discussing with a colleague how to do more with less is still free.

If you, too, have been cocooning lately, and feel the need to ease yourself back into professional activities, the Oregon Chapter has some fine opportunities on the horizon for you. January 29th marks the return of a chapter favorite - our virtual chats. This year's theme is competitive intelligence, with host [Dennis Emerson](#). You don't have to drive or fly anywhere to participate, and it's free! Please join us.

After participating in the chat, you should be ready to move a little farther away than your computer, and out the door of your home or office. Indulge in some chocolate while viewing the video, "I Told You I'm Worth It: ROI and the Information Professional," and discussing examples afterwards with your colleagues. Mark your calendars - the video will be shown on Friday, February 15th in Portland at the offices of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, and on Friday, February 22nd in Albany at Linn-Benton Community College. Details and registration information should be on the chapter website very soon.

The chapter's annual business meeting and dinner will be held on Friday, May 17th. The particulars are still in the works, but we plan to unveil the new rendition of our logo at that time.

I'm sure by now you've worked up enough courage to venture a little farther from home. This will require hopping on a plane or train, or taking a long drive, but it should be an enlightening and fun event. I'm talking about the 2002 annual conference, of course. It will take place in sunny Los Angeles, California, June 8 - 13. Look out for your super-sized Conference Issue of Information Outlook coming in February.

I hope you have the opportunity to join us in a chapter event soon. The more the merrier! If you would like to become more involved with the chapter, have a great idea for an event, and/or would like to get to know the chapter leadership a little better, please feel free to join us at board meetings, or volunteer for an event. As always, I'd love to hear from you.

Kathy Hemphill

President's Letter

Kathy Hemphill

Spring 2002

"Time flies like an arrow..." as the saying goes, and so it does. This is my last letter as President of the Oregon Chapter of SLA. While it's been a rather tumultuous year for the Association, the Oregon Chapter has had a rather quiet one. Our September breakfast, Valley event, virtual chat, and the ROI video event were well received, but we had hoped to bring you a few more events. We have a fantastic team working on our annual business meeting/dinner, set for May 17th at the SweetBrier Inn in Tualatin. I hope to see you there.

These are very interesting times for SLA. Many within our parent organization think it's time for drastic change - membership is down, participation has dropped, and the association isn't attracting as many younger members as it once did. But change is not coming easily. Roberta Shaffer, who began her tenure as Executive Director in September 2001, stepped down from the position less than six months later, saying she and the SLA Board were "not in sync in terms of the pace of change." The current association bylaws have been cited as preventing the association from being as flexible and responsive as it must be to flourish. Amendments were proposed that took much of the decision-making from the constituency and gave it to the board, and caused such a ruckus they were quickly revised. A branding task force hired a consultant to deliver proposals regarding the association's name, logo, and tagline. But the product delivered by the consultant was not what the task force ordered, and the consultant was released from the contract. The task force has since hired a new consultant. The bylaws amendments and branding initiatives will be discussed at the annual conference this June, and members will vote on the amendments next fall. Whew! While the road to change has been a bit rocky, I have great admiration for those who are able and willing to devote their time and energy to pursue leadership positions, and work so hard to make SLA the preeminent organization for information professionals. Oregon Chapter member Dee Magnoni is one. She was installed on the SLA Board of Directors at their March meeting in Washington, DC. She is filling a vacancy, and will serve for one year.

Closer to home, the people volunteering for Board and Team Leader positions this past year for the Oregon Chapter have been fantastic to work with. Rachel Berrington, Gerry Lukos, Dareth Murray, Linda Absher, Marcia Hoak, Althea Pribyl, LaJean Humphries, Gretchen Leslie, Laura Merrell, and Judy Anderson - you are all outstanding professionals. Thank you for your commitment. And thank you, too, to webmaster Lenora Oftedahl, and to all those who volunteered for teams and committees.

We had a Board member resign last fall - she held the Director/Membership position. The person elected to the position started a new job in a different field, and didn't think she could fulfill the duties of the position. When a Board member resigns, the Board votes to appoint a willing, qualified member to fulfill the term of the office. We were very fortunate in finding a replacement. Althea Pribyl, a very eloquent former Board member who was appointed to the position in the past when an elected Board member resigned, was willing and excited to serve once again. Althea is responsible for the chapter directory on our website, welcomes new members, is a liaison with the students in the Emporia program, and reminds people to renew when their memberships lapse and to update their directory listing when it changes. A belated thank you, Althea, for stepping up to bat once again. And a reminder to everyone to please take a minute to check your directory listing, and update it if necessary. You should also check your listing in the headquarter's directory, as it is maintained separately. Networking is one of the primary reasons for joining SLA, so let's be sure we can contact one another.

Thanks so much for allowing me to be your president this past year. I've enjoyed it immensely, and look forward to serving on the board one more year as past-president.

Regards,
Kathy Hemphill