
Southern Appalachian Chapter Newsletter

Special Libraries Association

Winter 2009

In this issue:

- **Greetings from the Chair**
- **Review of MTSU Field Trip**
- **New SLA Member Benefit**
- **Upcoming Board Meeting**
- **Editorial Comment:
Do you Tweet when you
Twitter?**

Dear Southern Appalachian Chapter members,

Welcome to another great year - and an especially memorable one as it is the 100th year of SLA. We're fortunate to have an active and inspired group of chapter members (51 total) who are interested in the information professions (and there are many!). Although our membership is spread across East and Middle Tennessee, I think we have a great and supportive network of information professionals - I know I have relied on the knowledge and expertise of members, and I'm sure you have too. However, with such a wide geographic territory, and with our very busy schedules, we don't get to meet as a group face to face as often as we would like. Recent membership surveys have indicated a desire to both have more "virtual" interaction, as well as more "educational/professional development" opportunities. This year, in order to try to meet this need, we will have a series of short, online web presentations on topics of interest to the SLA Southern Appalachian Chapter. We are looking for Chapter members to give 30 minute web presentations on a topic they are interested in. If you would like to share a particular subject or demonstrate an information resource, please contact me or another board member.

I would also like to mention the great board we have this year:

Christi Underdown, President Elect
Jennifer Ott, Past President
Barbara Borrelli, Secretary
Polly Alexander, Treasurer
Mark Dickey, Archivist
Sharon Butcher, Director-At-Large
Emily Moore, Employment Chair
Erin Anderson, Membership Chair
Cynthia Manley, Webmaster

We're looking forward to serving you in 2009. Please contact any of us should you have questions, suggestions, or concerns for the board to consider. [Click for Contact Information](#)

We'll have a lot of other great chapter activities, events, etc, as the year rolls on; watch the chapter listserv for announcements.

Best regards,
Fred Rascoe
2009 Southern Appalachian Chapter President

MTSU Field Trip

On November 8, 2008 several chapter members toured three of the Special Libraries on the MTSU Campus. The first stop was the Center for Popular Music. Their extensive collection of music and music related ephemera is quite impressive. We were able to view items as diverse as Civil War song sheets and player piano rolls. The collection is available for anyone to use but does not circulate. Access to some rare items is restricted. For further information contact Christi Underdown or visit their website at <http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/>

Our next stop was the Special Collections section of the James E. Walker library. Housed here are early Tennessee imprint books, the Robert Allen Ragland Sr. Memorial Civil War collection, Dimensional and Artist's Books as well as an eclectic collection of books on the history of print culture.

Jennifer Ott had these observations:

During our tour of the MTSU libraries, we made a stop at the Special Collections section of the James E. Walker library. Our host, Susan Hanson, displayed various types of pop-up books that ranged from old to new. Some of my favorites included the [Country Music Pop-up book](#) and the Pin-up Pop-up book (displaying 1930's Pin-ups in pop-up form!).



One of the many Artists' Books on display.
Photograph by Emily Moore.

Our last stop was the music library. The Howard Music Library's holdings are primarily classical, with jazz and popular music as well.



This photo from the library's website shows the compact shelving in which the collection is housed.

New SLA Member Benefit

From time to time we may all ask ourselves, or be asked by our employers, to list the benefit of SLA membership. One new benefit is that **Click U Live courses are now free! Yes, free!** SLA wants to deliver the most valuable membership package possible. Professional development has consistently been ranked amongst the top 2 - 3 reasons to belong to SLA, and now courses are being brought into your office at no charge.

Check out future sessions here:

<http://www.sla.org/content/learn/clickulive/index.cfm>

The free pricing does not apply to Certificate Programs such as Competitive Intelligence and Copyright.

Upcoming Chapter Board Meeting

On March 14, 2009, the Southern Appalachian Chapter Board will meet in Knoxville. One of the items sure to be on the agenda is the discussion of a Chapter name change. It has already sparked a lively exchange of ideas on the listserv.

Another item likely to be discussed is the possibility of a field trip to the Clinton Library and [Heifer International's Headquarters](#) in Little Rock, AR. Because of the distance involved, this would be a full weekend retreat. We could leave straight after work on Friday and then have all Saturday to take

our tours. Alternately, we could get up *really* early on Saturday, wander around from lunchtime through the evening and come back on Sunday? What do you, the collective, think we should do?

A number of other possibilities have been suggested including the [Murray Hudson Maps Emporium](#) in Halls and the FedEx Library in Memphis.

If you have ideas, suggestions or questions about these agenda items, please contact a Board Member. [Click for Contact Information](#)

Editorial Comment

Do You Tweet When You Twitter?

Networking. Have you ever attended a professional meeting where the subject of networking did not come up? It seems every organization is trying to find a way for members to communicate with each other. E-mail, telephones, newsletters have all been part of the solution. Social networking sites are of some use although those of us in the "older" category are more concerned blending of personal and professional contacts than our "younger" counterparts. This is no doubt in part because they have grown up along with these tools.

Reflecting on my own career I too "grew up" with changing technologies. When I began my current position Dialog searches were done using an acoustic coupler and a line printer. While the technology evolved rapidly, it seemed a natural progression. The printer gave way to a dumb terminal which eventually became the laptop I use now. The acoustic coupler evolved into a T1 line at work and the cable modem I use at home. All of these new tools enhanced the use of existing tools. Then came Instant Messaging, MySpace, Blogs, Wikis and bears oh my! While I still don't quite grasp the need for networking tools beyond e-mail and telephone, I'm left with a nagging sense of rapidly becoming road-kill on the Information Superhighway.

Which brings me to Twitter. From my limited knowledge about Twitter I could never see how it was really that much different than Instant Messaging. Then I came upon this article [Twitter Why You Should Care](#) on Randy Cassingham's This is True blog. Although Twitter is a social networking site, it is also an information gathering site. You can choose to follow Tweets on any number of topics or use Tweets to drive traffic to your blog, wiki, or website. Most importantly, since reading this article I think I have passed Rohit Bhargava's first two stages of Twitter acceptance.

Denial -- "I think Twitter sounds stupid. Why would anyone care what other people are doing right now?"

Presence -- "OK, I don't really get why people love it, but I guess I should at least create an account."

Maybe I won't end up as road-kill after all.

Barbara Borrelli*

*Opinions expressed are mine alone and do not represent SLA or the Southern Appalachian Chapter.

We welcome your feedback. Please send your ideas and contributions for future newsletters to me at bborrelli@usthq.com.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this issue. So many ideas have been submitted I will be holding those over to the next issue.