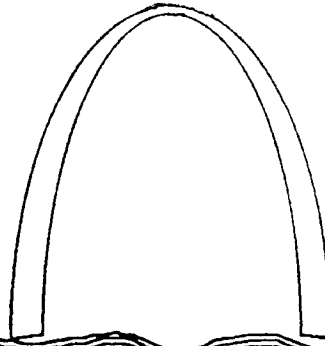

THE
SLATE



SLA

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER
Special Libraries Association

Volume 63 Number 3

August 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

I left the annual business meeting in Nashville with the feeling that the association had weathered its problems and was much more positive, forward-looking and vigorous.

In the past year, the association has:

- Hired a new Executive Director, Janice LaChance,
- Moved into its new headquarters and sold the old headquarters building,
- Developed a new logo and brand and launched a website redesign with the new Communities of Practice area,
- Increased international participation,
- Welcomed a new Chapter (Australia and New Zealand), a new Division (Competitive Intelligence) and a new Caucus (Archival and Preservation) and is looking at creating two additional divisions,
- Investigated changing the association year to align with the calendar year rather than beginning in June,
- Developed competencies for information professionals (<http://www.sla.org/content/learn/comp2003/index.cfm>),
- Developed a new certification program based on the competencies,
- Gone into the black financially, and
- Attracted 3,839 attendees to the Nashville conference.

A major goal for the association is increasing membership and I would like to make that a goal for our Chapter too. As Marianne announces new programs throughout the coming year, please be thinking of people you know who would benefit from being invited to attend as your guest: your boss, someone from your IT department, your paraprofessional, another library colleague. I will also reach out to library school students here and in Columbia. The membership committee will be developing a brochure for the Chapter. The strategic planning committee has already met this summer and as the year goes on, we will be rewriting our Chapter Procedural Manual. And looking back, we will be updating the Chapter's history. By the next Annual Meeting, I hope that we can also look back on a productive year.

Chris Tighe, President

Officers

President	Chris Tighe
President-elect	Marianne Cavanaugh
Past President	Erin Lanham
Treasurer	Ann Lauenstein
Secretary	Katrina Steirholz
Director-at-large	Karen Chapman
Member-at-large	Susan Baerwald

Committee Chairs

Archives	Joel Shedlofsky
Awards	Judy Harris
Business Manager	Valerie Rohrbaugh
Discussion list	Gail Hoef
Diversity	Stephanie Tolson
Employment	Linda Recklein
Government Relations	Barbara Rehkop
Hospitality	Rosie Weiss
Information	Patrick Hendershot
Technology/Webmaster	
Membership	Susan von Schrader
Programs	Chris Tighe
Public Relations	Mary Anne Walton
SLATE Editor	Joe Katrosh / Hilary Davis
Strategic Planning	Bryan Young

Established: 1941

Web Address: <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cstl>

Subscription Address: listproc@mail.wustl.edu

List Address: SLA_ARCH@mail.wustl.edu

The SLATE is published quarterly by the St. Louis Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

Editors: Joe Katrosh, Bryan Cave LLP,
1 Metropolitan Sq, 211 N Broadway, Suite 3300,
St. Louis, MO 63102. Phone: (314) 259-2191,
Fax: (314) 259-2020,
Email: jlkatrosh@bryancave.com ;
Hilary Davis, hdavis@wustl.edu .

Submissions may be made to either editor by paper copy or email. Email is preferred!!

Business Manager: Valerie Rohrbaugh, 8141
Pershing Ave., Clayton, MO 63105.
Phone: (314) 863-7606.
Email: valkro@earthlink.net

Advertising Rates: (per insertion)
Full Page \$50.00
Half Page \$25.00
Quarter Page \$12.50
Business Card \$ 7.50 (2" x 3")

Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by Special Libraries Association.

"Librarians, Dusty, possess a vast store of politeness. These are people who get asked regularly the dumbest questions on God's green earth. These people tolerate every kind of crank and eccentric and mouth-breather there is."

-- Garrison Keillor,
Lives of the Cowboys



Award Nominations

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for two Chapter awards: the Elizabeth Owens Award and the St. Louis Metropolitan Area Chapter-Special Libraries Association Leadership Award. The deadline for submitting nominations is December 31, 2004.

The Elizabeth Owens Award recognizes a St. Louis Metropolitan Area Chapter member for distinguished service to the Chapter and the library profession. The criteria for receiving this award are:

1. This award is conferred upon a member once during his/her SLA membership.
2. Award is limited to one member per year.
3. The award is not necessarily presented each year.
4. Nominee must be a dues-paying member for at least 5 years.
5. Nominee has maintained membership in SLA for 10 years or more.

The Leadership Award recognizes a member whose ability to lead and inspire others has furthered the Chapter's goals and objectives. The criteria for receiving this award are:

1. The award is conferred upon a member once during his/her SLA membership.
2. Award is limited to one member per year.
3. The award is not necessarily presented each year.
4. Nominee must be a dues-paying member of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area Chapter.
5. Nominee has maintained membership in SLA for 5 years or more.

Nominee must have served as an officer or chairperson of the Chapter's various committees.

Please think about the many talented and dedicated members that we are lucky enough to have in our chapter, and consider making a nomination. On the next page is a nomination form, which should be sent to my attention by December 31, 2004. I hope to hear from you soon.

Judy Harris

**ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA
CHAPTER
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
AWARDS NOMINATION FORM**

The St. Louis Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Special Libraries Association recognizes members with two awards. The Elizabeth Owens Award honors a member for distinguished service to the Chapter and Library profession. The Leadership Award recognizes a member whose ability to lead and inspire others has furthered the Chapter's goals and objectives.

This form is provided for you to complete and submit to the Awards Committee. Feel free to submit extra names if necessary. Please read the criteria for nominations. Nominations must be submitted by December 31, 2004.

Name of nominee: _____

Nominated for:

- _____ Elizabeth Owens Award
- _____ Leadership Award

Nominee has been a member of the Chapter since:

19_____

Chapter Achievements:

Offices/Committee Assignments held:

Special contributions to the Chapter:

Submit completed form to:

Judy Harris
Bryan Cave LLP
211 N. Broadway
Suite 3300
St. Louis, MO 63102

The Good, Bad and the Biodome:

Results from the Questionnaire about SLA in Nashville

Votes for Best Reception:

Lexis-Nexis at Country Music Hall of Fame, “Mystery Night” reception held by the IT division, Dialog (“big and splashy”), CAS (a more cozy affair), and the Inspec luncheon. As an added bonus, the International Reception attracted attendees with fried pickles.

Votes for the Best Session:

Elaine Lundberg on Humor and Stress in the Workplace; the opening session with Carl Ledbetter.

The Local “Flavor”:

There were reports of lots of fried food, including fried green tomatoes; Opryland was described as “intriguing.” While some seemed perfectly content with navigating the conference center, others found it discombobulating. One SLA Metro Area Chapter member described the conference center as a “watery-annoying Biodome with many similar pathways,” while another recalled asking questions like “Where am I? I could be outside, but I’m pretty sure I’m inside... and which staircase do I need to take to get over there?”

Best thing about the Conference:

Bumping into St. Louis members, networking within special fields, getting together with old friends and making new ones.

Elvis Sighting:

While many were wandering the mazes of the Biodome-esque conference center, only one person reported a sighting of Elvis’ gold Cadillac: “I believe I saw it in the Country Music Hall of Fame at the reception hosted by ‘El Sevier!’”

Opportunities for improvement:

Registration: the current systems seems faulty and unreliable, requiring multiple submissions and follow-up confirmation; Thursday tours should be included in registration (as they have been in the past) to help boost revenues for SLA while making it easier for employers to pay for staff registration fee.

On-site: More vendors should hold receptions, parking should be free, lodging should be less costly, conference hosts should be more skilled at giving directions to non-locals and should be better prepared for providing adequate seating and room capacity.

Thanks to Patrick Hendershot, Ann Lauenstein, Erin Lanham, and Alison Verbeck for their insightful commentaries on the SLA Conference in Nashville.



Attendees at the Annual Business Meeting at Webster University’s Emerson Library.

What's Happening to Your Health Care? Report from SLA Nashville by Erin Lanham

One of the sessions I attended at SLA was on health care trends ["What's Happening to Your Health Care? Overview of Costs and Trends"]. The speakers were Congressional Reporters for the BNA. I chose this session because I've often contemplated the reason for increased health care costs and just blamed it on our litigious society. It turns out there's a bit more to it.

Health care spending is growing faster than the rest of the U.S. economy, at 7%-9% annually, with the top eight drivers listed as:

- drugs/medical devices/other advances (22%)
- rising provider expenses (18%)
 - including higher nurse and hospital staff wages
- general inflation (18%)
- increased demand/aging population (15%)
- government mandates/regulation (15%)
- impact of litigation (7%)
 - doctors may order more diagnostic testing than in the past in an effort to avoid malpractice suits.
- fraud and abuse (5%)

(Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, 2002)

Drugs are the fastest growing driver, with the top drug therapies listed as cholesterol reducers, anti-ulcer drugs and anti-depressants (source: IMS Health). There's good news, though, if you're taking Wellbutrin, Allegra, Prevacid, Zocor, Zolofit or Zithromax; the patents on these drugs are set to expire sometime in 2004–2006.

Another cost driver is the uninsured population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 15% of the population lacked health coverage for all of 2002. This number is spurred by a drop-off in employment-based health coverage. In fact, the estimated cost of uncompensated care for the uninsured in 2004 is \$40.7 billion (source: Kaiser Family Foundation). This could also be partially due to the fact that health insurance premiums continue to climb faster than workers' earnings. According to the speakers, the average monthly employee premium (family coverage) for health insurance has risen from approximately \$120 in 1996 to \$200 in 2003.

Are our state or federal governments trying to help regulate these growing costs?

Some states are attempting to make health insurance more accessible and affordable by offering "bare bone" policies. Bare bone policies allow people to purchase insurance which does not provide coverage for all of the state required mandated benefits. Since 2001, six states have enacted legislation allowing "mandate lite" or "bare bone" health insurance policies. In 2004, bills were introduced in nine additional states (source: National Conference of State Legislatures, April 2004). Federal legislation is currently stuck in a "Senate election-year blame game;" no action is likely during the remainder of the 108th Congress. Medicare will have a Medicare Drug Benefit implemented by Jan. 1, 2006. Below is a chart from the presentation showing which wing supports which Congressional proposals (D = Democratic; R = Republican):

Congressional Proposals	
Association health plans for small businesses – R	Rx drug discount cards for seniors - R
Medical liability reform – R	Rx drug reimportation from Canada – D/R
Tax credit subsidies for health insurance – R	Drug price negotiations by federal government for Medicare – D
Incentives for health savings accounts - R	Mandate review commission - R

Although this topic isn't related to a library or information center, it does affect everyone. For more information, you can go to the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at <http://www.kff.org/insurance/index.cfm>.

Member Sponsorship Fund – A Reminder

Don't forget that your SLA St. Louis Chapter has established a Member Sponsorship Fund for four (4) unemployed information professionals who are currently actively seeking work.

At this time, there have been three recipients of this sponsorship. There is one remaining sponsorship for this year.

The fund has been set up to assist existing and prospective Chapter members to maintain or establish their SLA memberships and to encourage their active participation in our Chapter.

Each sponsorship is a one-time, non-renewable support award.

The Member Sponsorship Fund is open to unemployed information professionals with an MLS/MLIS degree or with three years of experience in the following areas: information specialist, librarian, webmaster, content developer, researcher, vendor positions, and other roles in a library or information center.

Each of the 4 recipients receives funding for a one-year full membership in SLA, including financial support to join one SLA division. The recipients may choose to join additional SLA divisions, chapters or caucus affiliations at their own expense.

A current SLA member is eligible only if his or her membership will expire within 60 days.

In exchange for receiving the funds, the sponsored member is to participate in the St. Louis Chapter in one of the following ways:

- Attend at least two chapter meetings and write at least two articles for the Slate to report on these two meetings;
- Participate as a committee member for one year in consultation with the Chapter President;
- Write at least two articles for the Slate on topics in consultation with the newsletter editor.

You can find application forms at our Chapter's website: <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cstl/>

A "tip of the hat" to Jean Coffman, Ann Lauenstein and Linda Recklein for stepping forward and making this happen.

If you have any questions, please contact Bryan Young, by phone at 314-694-4767 or by email at bryan.s.young@monsanto.com

Send your completed application by mail to Bryan Young, SLA St Louis Chapter Membership Chair, 800 N Lindbergh Blvd MZ R2B, St Louis, MO 63167, by fax to 314-694-6001, or by email to bryan.s.young@monsanto.com



Ethel Salonen and
Larry Walton at the
Annual Business
Meeting

New Web Page Lists Primary Source Locations for World War II Research

A World War II researcher might want to leaf through a service member's scrapbook, study the advertising in daily newspapers, or read the words of government officials implementing the war effort. All these primary source materials and more are available in the St. Louis area. Examples of primary materials in St. Louis include government documents housed in federal depository libraries, newspapers available in several area libraries, and scrapbooks, letters, diaries, and other archival materials stored in a variety of locations. The rich historical resources of the St. Louis area provide a wealth of material for exploration into the home front, training, and operation of World War II.

A new web page features an annotated list of the libraries and archives that provide material for use by the World War II researcher. The web site also features a list of citations about Victory Gardens, compiled by Andrew Colligan from scrapbooks kept by the Missouri Botanical Garden Archives. See the "World War II: Primary Source Materials in the St. Louis Area" web page at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~joyweesemoll/wwii/index.html>

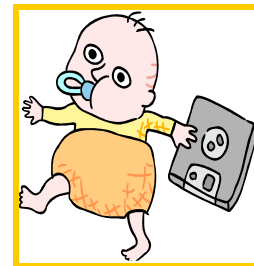
Joy Weese Moll, student
School of Information Science and Learning Technologies
University of Missouri
My web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~joyweesemoll/>

Career Fair Farewell

For a number of years, I have been the champion behind the chapter's participation in the annual St. Louis Public Schools Career Fair. During 2003 it was held in March and in 2004 it was held in May. Each year, the number of volunteers from the membership has dwindled. Due to reduced budget commitment from the state of Missouri for K-12 education, it is uncertain if funding will be available to continue this effort on an annual basis. Now that I work in St. Peters, I am not able to continue to support this worthwhile activity. Over the last ten years, many chapter members have donated their time to speak to youth, both diverse and traditional. I applaud you for your support. The faithful volunteers demonstrated how an information professional/special librarian went beyond the call of duty to meet information needs within their respective organizations. It has been my pleasure to work alongside professionals from Ameren UE, Southwestern Bell, Monsanto, Mallinckrodt, Washington University, Saint Louis University, Arthur Anderson and St. Louis Public Library, just to name a few. Hopefully, our efforts have caused some young people to think more positively about us, to continue their education and possibly to pursue the career of the information specialist.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie D. Tolson



New Additions

Mia Katherine Schieffer was born June 14. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 22 inches long.



Here, then, is the point at which I see the new mission of the librarian rise up incomparably higher than all those preceding. Up until the present, the librarian has been principally occupied with the book as a thing, as a material object. From now on he must give his attention to the book as a living function. He must become a policeman, master of the raging book.

- A translation of OyG's address to the *International Congress of Bibliographers and Librarians* in Paris in 1934.

Jose ORTEGA Y GASSET (1883-1955)

A FOND FAREWELL

I feel very fortunate to have had the chance to say goodbye to many of the dear people of this Chapter. If I haven't said goodbye to you, please forgive me and chalk it up to the chaos of moving my household 200-plus miles east! I plan to be back to visit, so this is not a final goodbye.

While I don't have contact information to share yet, I hope you'll look me up on the Indiana State University Library staff website at <http://panther.indstate.edu/staff/facstaff.asp> after I begin work on September 1. If you are driving east on I-70 and stop in the tiny town of Greencastle, IN, I'm pretty sure that I'll be the only Maribeth Slebodnik in the phone book!

Thanks to everyone who has helped to make my twelve years in St. Louis happy and interesting. I appreciate all the opportunities to ask questions of the many talented and experienced folks in this group who welcome newcomers with open arms! I look forward to hearing what this Chapter accomplishes in the years ahead.

Best wishes,

Maribeth Slebodnik



Maribeth Slebodnik and Patrick Hendershot were awarded the Elizabeth Owens Award and the Leadership Award, respectively by Preseident, Erin Lanham during the Annual Business Meeting.

“Strange Creatures”: Prisoners, Prison Librarians, and Their Libraries

by Kirsten Young

A prison library is a human place within the inhuman system of incarceration. Now, with an explosion in prison populations internationally, prison libraries are a growth industry within special libraries. Joan Petersilia, in her 2003 book *When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry*, writes that in 1973, 110 people out of each 100,000 in the U.S. population were incarcerated; by 2000, 478 out of each 100,000 were incarcerated. Consequently, expenditures have risen from \$5 billion in 1978 to \$31 billion in 2000. This burgeoning population is particularly in need of library services: 40% of U.S. inmates are functionally illiterate, as compared with 21% on the outside. Moreover, the services are in high demand: prison library rates of use are said to be up to ten times that of public libraries.

As part of a project for Connie Wolf's Special Libraries class, I visited Eastern Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center (ERDCC) in Bonne Terre, Missouri. At ERDCC, there are 1700 inmates in the general population, and 900 in the “diagnostic” population, a holding area for inmates in transition from jail to prison or another facility. The library itself is a large, light room with windows that look out into the hallway and to the law library at the end of the room. The ceiling is very high, which gives it an airy look. A long circulation counter stretches along two-thirds of one wall. Bookshelves line the other wall. The director and staff offices are at one end of the room, opposite the law library.

“I built it myself,” said librarian Doris Brooks, describing how she began her job here sitting on a cardboard box with nothing in the room. Now the library is homey, with ferns and other plants decorating the shelves, tables and chairs in the center of the room, and new, attractive books on the shelves.

The leisure library collection, which opened in July of 2003, now numbers nearly 9000 volumes – 5310 fiction and 3667 non-fiction. Because it is a new library, funding from the Missouri Department of Corrections has been quite adequate, according to Brooks. Library materials will eventually be paid for by the “canteen” fund, which comes from a 10% markup on items inmates purchase in the prison store. This pool of money also funds the recreation center, the chapel, and the education center. (*continued on p. 10*)

At ERDCC, a subscription service keeps the law materials up-to-date and the prison in compliance with the 1977 *Bounds v. Smith* Supreme Court decision that established law libraries in prisons. Inmate staff members who are self-educated in the law provide reference assistance.

Understandably, security is an overriding concern for prison librarians, including the personal safety of the prison librarian. In the case of the ERDCC, both librarians carry radios so they can instantly call for help, and “body alarms” that are activated by pulling a pin. “But somebody has to be around to hear the body alarm,” said Brooks. She noted that response to a radio for help would be instant. “You would see people running from all directions.”

Brooks said, “You go with a gut feeling. If it’s too loud, or too quiet, or something doesn’t seem right, you know something is going on.” Her assistant Melba Miller adds that she spends some time each day just observing the inmate patrons, noticing who is hanging out with whom and watching for unusual behavior. “The library is a hot spot in the institution because everyone has access to it. Things can be passed in the library or hidden in the library,” said Miller.

Aside from personal safety, security concerns also affect patron access to the libraries, and computer and Internet access for patrons and staff. At ERDCC, the library is open to patrons for two hours each morning and each afternoon. One housing unit at a time from the general population is allowed to come to the library. Books are delivered to groups who are not allowed to visit the library: men in the diagnostic section of the institution and those in administrative segregation.

None of the public correctional institutions in Missouri have Internet access “down inside,” and Brooks struggled with the administration just to acquire computers and printers for the library. Now the library has twelve computers on two interwoven local area networks – one for law and one for the OPAC and circulation. Inmate staffers have access to the computers, but not for personal use. The lack of Internet access exacerbates the professional isolation that comes from being a solo librarian, as most prison librarians are.

But Brooks and Miller said they feel well connected, at least to the prison library community in Missouri. They have meetings with the other prison librarians once or twice a year, and they attend the Missouri Library Association Summer Institute in August. Brooks said the other librarians at the Institute “look at us like we are strange creatures, but we have funny stories that they like.” Although Brooks and Miller do not have access to e-mail, they do have access to an electronic communication network for Missouri DOC employees, so prison librarians can share problems and insights with others in the state.

The Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) is very supportive of library services in prisons; the website notes that “particularly significant in the rehabilitation process is the library services goal of teaching offenders library skills.” All of the 21 adult correctional institutions in Missouri have libraries.

Despite the challenges of supervising inmate staff, Brooks and Miller still love their jobs as prison librarians. Both cited “interaction” with inmate staff and patrons, and other prison staff, as their favorite part of the job. “For the most part, we are appreciated,” said Brooks. The inmate employees resolve conflicts among themselves. “They say, ‘We’re going outside to smoke,’ and when they come back, the situation is resolved,” Brooks said.

Because the U.S. prison population is growing and sorely in need of library services, U.S. librarians need to pay more attention this area of librarianship. As the ALA Action pamphlet *Equity of Access* enjoins us, “There is no such thing as a free society without free and equal access to information” (p. 1). While prison inmates are not – to the minds of most citizens – part of the “free society,” the majority of them will one day rejoin that society. Adequate prison libraries can make a difference in how honest and productive they will be in that society. The corrections community now understands that programs like libraries reduce rates of recidivism. As Miller put it, “It is not our job to punish them. Their punishment is being inside these walls.”

