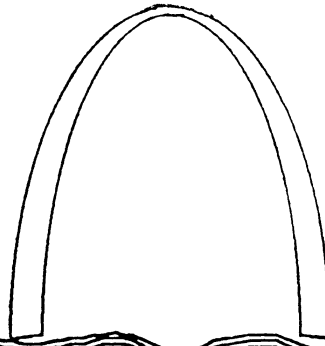

THE
SLATE



SLA

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER
Special Libraries Association

Volume 61 Number 1

October 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It was a true pleasure to see over 30 of you last week at Favazza's for "Brain Blurts"! This has been a sorrowful and confusing season for all of us, and I appreciated the pleasure of your company and the chance to enjoy thinking out loud with you about how to make our Chapter better for us. It's very tempting for me, an introvert if ever there was one, to stay safely at home and brood, but it's such an energizing comfort to be with people I care about, working for things I care about. Thank you.

Bryan, our chief Brain Blurter, reports on the results of our evening's work in this issue. Please read it and weigh in with your opinion! We want to quickly gather as many opinions as we can before determining which "virtualization" projects to concentrate on in the second half of the year.

I hope you've all had a chance to look at the registration information for the MAALL Annual Meeting, which will be held in St. Louis on October 25-27. If you haven't (and if there's still time when you get this!), hustle over to <http://law.slu.edu/library/MAALL/> and take a look. It's a wonderful opportunity for excellent education and networking PLUS the bliss of no travel logistics to contend with and going home to your own cozy nook at night! I am truly honored to be representing all of you at the meeting's kickoff luncheon on Thursday, October 25.

One of our initiatives this year is to forge closer alliances with local library and information groups. I'd like to ask for your help in doing this. If you are a member of another group that might be mutually beneficial for networking with, please give me a call or an email. I'd like to have a designated liaison person (or two!) for as many groups as possible so that we have a simple way to contact those groups about our meetings and activities, and to find out about theirs. I don't envision this as a taxing role, mostly just identifying yourself to me and to the head of the other group, and passing information back and forth. It's what we do best, right?!

Several people have already stepped forward as liaisons for MAALL, the Greater St. Louis Library Club, and ARMA, now known as the Association for Information Management Professionals. If you would like to be a liaison between SLA and another group that you belong to, please let me know! We'd like to have contact established with SCIP, the St. Louis Medical Librarians, the city and county public library systems, ALA, information technology professionals and other groups dealing with all phases of information management and dissemination. Be creative! To quote myself, "Let's expand our horizons and become the best-connected group in St. Louis!"

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President-elect	Bryan Young
Past President	Larry Walton
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Established: 1941

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From The Editor's Desk...

For the past year I have been asked if the SLATE could be sent out electronically. The recent meeting clearly demonstrated that a small sampling of our chapter wants the SLATE available electronically.

In answer to these requests I have prepared the SLATE as a pdf file and sent it out to those who had an email address in the membership directory. For the remaining individuals, the SLATE was sent out via snail mail. If you received the SLATE via snail mail, would you please provide us with an email address.

We are not posting the SLATE on our website because we have advertisements. As I understand, National SLA prohibits advertisements.

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The SLATE is published quarterly in October, January, April, and July by the St. Louis Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

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Submissions may be made to the editor by paper copy or email. Preferable by email. **Deadlines:** October 1, January 1, April 1, and July 1.

Business Manager: Leah Holler, Ralston Purina Co., 11716 Summerhaven Dr., St. Louis MO 63146. Phone: 314-993-3642 Email: lbiser@mindspring.com.

Advertising Rates: (per insertion)

Full Page	\$50.00
Half Page	\$25.00
Quarter Page	\$12.50
Business Card	\$ 7.50 (2" x 3")

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Top Ten Blurts from Favazza's Meeting

(See Bryan Young's article on page 3 for explanation)

1. An Expert Database of Members
2. Meeting Information on the Chapter WWW Site
3. Job Announcements
4. Mentoring Information
5. A Chapter 800 Phone Number
6. Sending the SLATE via Email
7. Online Calendar of Events
8. Trouble Shooting Discussion Board
9. Database Reviews
10. SLATE Newsletter and Chapter Directory on WWW Site

(Continued from page 1 President)

I'm pleased to announce that our holiday meeting will take place at Anheuser-Busch on Wednesday, December 12. Details to follow shortly. I'm very grateful to Ann Lauenstein for graciously hosting us again and to Bryan Young for organizing a great opportunity for us to enjoy each other's company. We'd like to invite members of other groups to join us so let me know ASAP if you want to step forward as a liaison. Inviting another group to a party is a great way for us all to get to know each other!

The leadership group will be meeting on Saturday, October 20, to plan future Chapter gatherings and to discuss our Chapter initiatives and strategic plan. Please let me know if there are topics you'd like me to bring up to the group. We are considering a repeat of the very useful SLA Virtual Seminar series in the spring at the Danforth Center so we can enjoy the state of the art conferencing facilities there. And I can give you all a tour of the new Danforth library!

I want to point out a resource that is available to us as members through the SLA website. SLA in conjunction with LexisNexis provides full text access to current news items and articles about the information industry. Topics such as library technology, online information vendors, information management and professional development can be viewed at <http://www.sla.org/content/memberonly/industrynews/index.cfm>.

This URL will take you to the Industry News section. Have your SLA PIN number available and log in for the latest news and research that affects us. This is a rolling file which is updated regularly by the LexisNexis Publisher Service. It's a great, quick way to stay up to date or to update quickly on important topics. While you're on the Website, please look yourself up in the Member Directory and make sure all your contact information is current. (I always get a little thrill from looking at my record in the database, it makes me feel like an actual adult!) If you've lost your PIN number, you can have it sent to you from the member-only pages.

Keep the lines of communication open! And be sure to hug the ones you love.

Maribeth

Brain Blurts Fly Out of People's Heads at Favazza's

The Chapter's 2001 – 2002 kick-off meeting at Favazza's Restaurant on October 4th was a "mind bender". More than thirty St. Louis Metropolitan Chapter members and guests enjoyed great food and conversation prior to submitting to a structured brain-storming process called "brain blurts" lead by Bryan Young (Chapter Program Chair) and Maribeth Slebodnik (Chapter President).

As coffee and cannoli were served, Bryan and Maribeth reviewed current "virtual" tools available to Chapter members (the Chapter WWW site, the SLA_ARCH email list) and posed the following question: "What would a more "virtual" St. Louis Metropolitan Chapter look like?"

Meeting attendees were then asked to quickly jot down their individual ideas in a flurry of Post-it notes. As Bryan and Maribeth raced around the room, the "brain blurts" were picked up and shared with everyone. After the "blurts" were posted to a large board, each was "clustered" with others having a similar focus or idea. Then each "blurtee" was given two sticky dots with which to vote on their favorite "blurts" (ideas).

Some of the ideas were (ahem) *very creative* ("T-1 Internet lines for all Chapter members". "Pet pictures posted on Chapter WWW site".) The Chapter Board will be reviewing these captured "blurts" and will use them (and other input from members) to help plan for a more "virtual" St. Louis Metropolitan Chapter.

See page 2 for some of the "top ten" most popular "blurts" offered at the Favazza's meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan S. Young



Special Libraries Association

Career Fair – March 13-14, 2002

“Investing in Our World-Class Workforce” is the theme of the next Career Awareness Fair that will be at the America’s Center from 8:00 am to 2:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 13th through Thursday, March 14th. The St. Louis Public School’s Career Education Office will hold its 19th Annual Career Awareness Fair. Over the years more than 100,000 city and county eight graders have had the opportunity to interact with and learn from business and trades persons. The St. Louis Chapter of the Special Libraries Association is seeking volunteers to help with the booth design and to work 2-hour periods in the exhibit booth.

The Career Awareness Fair reinforces the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) skills. While students will be asking a variety of questions, their focus will be:

- How role models use academic skills on the job;
- What role models like about their jobs;
- The necessary education or training for each career field.

If you can help out with this effort, please give Stephanie Tolson a call at 595-4529 or email her at stolson@stlcc.cc.mo.us. The time slots for working in the booth are 8-10 am, 10-noon, noon-2:30 pm). Step up to the plate and be a role model.

(Continued from page 2 Editor)

For this issue, I would like to thank all the contributors. They are sharing with us, their activities at non-SLA conferences, their library research, and forthcoming events. For the next issue, I hope more members will write about their library, attending non-SLA events or conferences, and other items.

Be seeing you!

Joel Shedlofsky, editor

Know Your Missouri Libraries....

For those who stay up and watch late night TV, you may recognize David Letterman’s weekly audience quiz segment called “Know Your Cuts of Meat.” This article is a bit more serious but reports on our two-part Missouri library tour. During the weeks of September 17th and October 1st, my consumer health librarian [Holly Peacock] and I toured libraries in Joplin, Kansas City and St. Louis. In seeking our own continued improvement, it was our desire to visit other library facilities, observe operational differences, meet colleagues and learn of alternative promotional methodologies. What follows is a summary of our delightful journeys to visit an assortment of Missouri special libraries, primarily medical and listed in the order visited.

St. John’s Regional Medical Center, Joplin, Missouri

First, we visited the fabulous, freestanding *Mercy Health Resource Center* in Joplin. The librarian is Pat Wilson. The Resource Center is one of 12 Planetree-affiliated libraries in the United States. This consumer health library is free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Open for nearly four years, the Resource Center includes a wide assortment of resources [books, pamphlets, vertical files, videos, databases, etc.] The Resource Center provides service to people in the “Four State Area” – OK, AR, MO, KS. Wow – it is a great facility!! For more information, see <http://www.stj.com/info/mercylibrary/default.asp>. The companion library at St. John’s is the *Medical Library*, which is located right off a main atrium in the hospital and provides services to healthcare professionals. The medical librarian is Georgeanna Ledgerwood.

Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri

The *Kreamer Family Resource Center* at CMH is managed by librarian, Brenda Pfannenstiel. The architectural and interior design, which looks like a castle, is very impressive and appropriately matched with the primary clientele –

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(Continued from page 5 Missouri Libraries)

children and their companions. The Kreamer Center includes periodicals, books, flip charts, electronic resources, etc. and connects to the CMH school so inpatients may use the library's fiction and non-fiction sections to complete homework. Brenda is a very capable and energetic librarian. As a result, her library is heavily utilized in only its third year of service. Another big Wow!! Anne Palmer is the library director for CMH's *Health Sciences Library*. Although currently space-challenged, the Health Science Library is expected to expand into adjacent space in the CMH building. Anne currently seeks to subscribe to all known English language serials covering Pediatric topics. In her efforts to build a comprehensive collection, Anne also looks to add any new Pediatric titles she is able to identify.

<http://www.childrens-mercy.org/hslibrary/hslhome.asp>

St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri

Located a mile or two south of Children's Mercy in the heart of Kansas City is St. Luke's Hospital. It offers a sizeable *Medical Library* which is housed in St. Luke's Education Building. This library is square-shaped -- a shape I've always been envious of since my library is not square or rectangular shaped. In the four quadrants of the library, one finds a mixture of staff space, public service space, shelving, seating options, patron workstations, audiovisual rooms and storage. Karen Wiederaenders is the library director and has a long tradition of providing quality guidance for this library. Karen has worked with public librarians at the Johnson County Library to create a mutually useful web presence -- see <http://www.jcl.lib.ks.us/is/healthnet/healinfo.htm> for more information.

Logan College of Chiropractic, Chesterfield, Missouri

Rosemary Buhr, director, and long-time champion for library resources and services at Logan, provided a great tour of the *Learning Resources Center*. Once a chapel, the LRC/library is adorned with beautiful stained glass. The library includes large book and serials collections, many models and audiovisuals. Elec-

tronic resources are also available and the library sits adjacent to the college's computer training facility. Logan College of Chiropractic is one of the charter members of Mobius, the consortium of Missouri academic libraries. Logan College is located on a beautiful, sprawling campus in Chesterfield and the library services more than 900 students plus faculty and staff members.

St. John's Mercy Medical Center, St. Louis, Missouri

The nurse-managed *Cancer Information Center* at St. John's Mercy offers a nice inviting facility, located off the hospital's main lobby. Primarily resourced with pamphlets, modest-sized book and video collections plus internet access, the nursing professionals provide patient education assistance primarily targeting oncology patients. The professional library staff is directed by Saundra Brenner, the library director for *St. John's Mercy's Medical Library*. Saundra and her staff provide library services and resources to the employees and health professionals of St. John's and affiliated institutions. This capable library staff offer a comprehensive group of library services and resources. Saundra provided both equipment and electronic demonstrations during our visit. Notably, the Medical Library offers an extensive journal collection, including both print and non-print titles. To view the newly released and developing library site for St. John's, see <http://www.stjohnsmercy.org/library/>.

St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri

The *Family Resource Center* is managed by Peggy Bailot. The staff is multidisciplinary staff, including nurse educators and librarians. The facility is approximately two years old and has already made a mark for itself as a valuable information resource center. The Family Resource Center includes books, pamphlets and videos plus electronic resources. Peggy and her energetic staff are eager to improve and find new ways to facilitate patient education. Librarian Kathy Ray staffs the *Medical Library* at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Located around the corner from the Family Resource Center, these

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two libraries are positioned for excellent service success. After completing our library tours at this organization, five of us sat down to swap ideas and share information. The free exchange of ideas among a group of people dedicated to providing quality health information to the public was an energizing and fruitful experience. A special place to visit here is the eighth floor 8,000 sq. ft. interactive, rooftop Olson Family Garden. Winding paths and steppingstones take visitors from fountains to flower beds to ponds and views of Forest Park.

St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis, Missouri

Both the *Claypool Health Information Library* and the *Health Sciences Library* are under the management of library director, Sue Schoening. The Claypool Health Information Library is a consumer health library with "main corridor" access. It includes books, internet access, pamphlets, magazines, videos and a staff member for assistance. The area is very inviting and materials are conveniently arranged. Although the Claypool Library is often staffed by volunteers, the Health Sciences Library and its professional staff is only a short distance away. The St. Mary's Health Sciences Library is a nice, large, rectangular-shaped library. The shelving is suspended from above since the floor above can support the extra weight. Sue and her staff use Inmagic software to manage their electronic catalog. One of the bonus points here: this hospital library's holdings demonstrate longer journal retention schedules than one find's in most hospital libraries.

Missouri Botanical Gardens Library, St. Louis, Missouri

Managed by Connie Wolf for seventeen years, the *MOBOT Library* has been in their current quarters for approximately four years. What a delightful and interesting place!! As a seasoned librarian who loves to visit libraries of all kinds, I saw things at the MOBOT Library that I haven't seen before. An example would be their fabulous restoration department. They seek to acquire original materials -- those providing the earliest documentation of botanical findings. Many of these materials require extensive resto-

ration -- some is done in-house and some is handled by conservators. The rare books room was excellent. At MOBOT, I saw the largest, sequential section of compact shelving I have ever seen. It seemed nearly as long as a football field and shelving rows appear to be about 25 feet long. Approximately fifty botanists are on staff at MOBOT. The library is typically staffed by eight employees and by as many as 40 volunteers. Library volunteers assist with a wide variety of responsibilities such as translating foreign language botanical materials and restoring rare books. Another bonus: there are exceptionally great views of the city of St. Louis from the MOBOT Library. Sources report this is a great place for watching Fourth of July fireworks.

Thanks to all of the librarians and information colleagues we visited. Hopefully, most of my facts are remembered accurately. Each host/hostess graciously shared the good side of their libraries and information centers AND they shared the downsides -- that we might learn from them and their trials. Many thanks to everyone involved in our treks across Missouri to visit key libraries!!

What about us? Well, I want you to "know your Springfield libraries" also.

St. John's Health System, Springfield, Missouri

Since 1985, I have been the director of medical library services at St. John's Health System. The *Medical Library* primarily services physicians and employees of St. John's. As a Sisters of Mercy facility, we are a "sister" facility to St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis. Our Medical Library has more than 480 print serial titles and 175 electronic serial titles. We maintain a current book collection of approximately 4,000 titles. Video and slide collections are also housed in the Medical Library. The *Van K. Smith Community Health Library* is a part of the Medical Library department and is staffed by my traveling companion, Holly Peacock. The Community Health Library was established in 1990 and pre-dates all of the patient libraries we visited during our travels. The collection includes 600+ pamphlets, 3,000+ books, 600+

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videos, 100+ audiotapes and 75 current subscriptions. Both libraries share access to Ovid Online, MD Consult, Micromedex, Gale Health & Wellness Resource Center, the Internet and OCLC FirstSearch. We participate in document delivery via OCLC and Docline. In early 2002, the holdings from both libraries are expected to be added to COOLCAT [the Consortium of Ozarks Libraries Catalog], which is found at <http://198.209.8.2/>.

Consider yourself officially invited to visit us in Springfield. We would welcome you at our house anytime!!

Submitted by:

Anna Beth Crabtree, M.L.S., M.S., AHIP
Director of Medical Library Services
SLA/St. Louis member

New Library Consortium Formed

The Directors of the Missouri Historical Society, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Missouri Botanical Garden signed an agreement in principle to form the **ST. LOUIS RESEARCH LIBRARIES CONSORTIUM (SLRLC)**. The purpose of the SLRLC is to collaborate on projects that provide enhanced access to library and archival collections in all three institutions. The first project will be to secure funding to implement a shared Innovative Interfaces online library system. Among many other advantages, this shared system will make it possible to search simultaneously across the library and archival collections of all three institutions. The SLRLC plans to install the Innovative system in the Year 2002, with the hope of eventually joining MOBIUS.

Connie Wolf
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Missouri Botanical Garden
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Phone: 314-577-5156
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Starting A New Website By Chris Tighe

I decided to apply for a grant to attend the 2001 annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) offered by the Computer Services Special Interest Section (CS-SIS). The goals were to learn more about web design and publishing and to be able to meet and network with people who had experience in this area. As a solo librarian, it is often hard to find people in similar positions who can educate, mentor and commiserate with you as you go through a new learning process. In my previous job as a law firm librarian, I had developed a website for the firm but as they never felt the need to have a web presence, it never was put online. Not surprisingly, that law firm went out of business last year.

In my new position as the librarian for the East St. Louis satellite library of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, I have been given the opportunity of expanding on what I learned before and moving forward to develop webpages for the other libraries within the circuit. I was doubly fortunate to not only receive the CS-SIS grant to attend AALL, but I was also invited to attend the Lexis sponsored Teaching Research in Court and Agency Libraries program TRI-ALL. This also proved to be an excellent way to meet other court librarians who had done similar projects.

As a novice web designer, I choose sessions and meetings that would help me to focus on my goal. I found that some of the CS-SIS sessions were way beyond my level of proficiency, but everyone was still very helpful and encouraging. I attended the CS-SIS business meeting, breakfast and roundtables. Among the programs that I attended were:

- World Wide Web Site Design and Management Considerations by Laura Ray and Dominick Grillo
- Using Metadata to Increase Visibility: The GPO Access Search Engine Project by T. C. Evans
- New Roles: Hitching Reference Librarians

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to the Web Rocket by Jean Willis

- Maximizing the Firm's Technology Investment: Creative Intranet Applications by Gayle Lynn-Nelson, Alirio Gomez, and Nina Platt
- New Roles for Law Librarians in Applying the ADA: Services for Disabled Patrons and Staff by Darcy Kirk.

I learned to think about the audience (who are they, why are they using online resources, how are they using it and what are they looking for?) and what is the purpose of the site (to convey information, to market services, or to provide an educational service?).

Steps to be taken include

- starting with a needs assessment
- developing and implementing a strategy
- planning for staff development
- budgeting (include a wish list).

Think about your special environment and culture and how to customize your site to accommodate any unique needs. Remember to work on partnering with the IS staff and with vendors. As a team you need to work on developing the platform, the structure of the site, the graphics, testing the usability of the site, modifying any design flaws, correcting any errors or poor links and marketing it's debut. Decide who on the team will be responsible for upgrading and continually testing links on which sections.

Since my return from AALL, we have had a planning and design meeting where we used many of these lessons. The court is planning to have both external and internal websites for all of the satellite libraries within the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. We concluded that these sites will have very different audiences and purposes. The external sites will be seen by the general public and will inform them of our existence, marketing our services and expertise. It will educate the public by providing information about the courts, legal research links and links to area libraries and resources. We will use it to network with area legal associations by providing links to their sites. The external websites will be uniform with little local information other than local access information and local

law library and legal research links. The internal links will have the court personnel that each library serves as its audience. Those sites will allow the local libraries more ability to customize information for their court users who will include judges, law clerks, and court staff.

We will need to think of ways to link users directly to the materials that are available from the many government courts and agencies to make our services more virtual and seamless. We have divided up areas of responsibility, identified training needs, identified hardware needs, selected Dreamweaver4 as our web authoring tool and mapped out an initial design. Once I have begun the process of constructing the web pages, I will use other lessons. From the session on ADA issues, I will take into account accessibility issues and requirements. From the session on using metatags, I will double check that I have each page appropriately titled and tagged. I found the session on providing online reference very exciting and this is something that we may add in the future. After the site is up, I will run queries in various search engines to see if it can be found. I will look at what other government sites, especially other courts, are doing with their website designs. And, I will try to stay in touch with the other website constructors that I met and continue to review and learn from the pages that they have up.

For both a first time AALL participant and new web designer, the chance to go to annual meeting in Minneapolis was informative, overwhelming and exciting.

Submitted by:
Chris Tighe

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

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PRESS RELEASE**HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE
DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES: SLA
CALLS FOR AWARDS & HONORS
NOMINATIONS**

Washington, D.C., September 17, 2001 — The Special Libraries Association is now accepting nominations for its 2001-2002 Awards and Honors Program. All nominations must be post-marked or received by December 7, 2001, with the exception of International Special Librarians Day Award (May 18, 2002).

Since 1948, SLA has recognized those who have distinguished themselves in the information profession through its Awards and Honors Program. Award winners will be determined by select committees and approved by SLA's Board of Directors at the SLA Winter Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, January 24-26, 2002. The winners will be announced after the Winter Meeting and officially recognized at SLA's 93rd Annual Conference in Los Angeles, California, June 8-13, 2002.

SLA chapters, divisions, caucuses and individual members are encouraged to submit nominations. Only SLA members in good standing may be nominated for an award (exceptions: Professional Award, Honorary Member and Media Awards). Prospective individuals may be nominated by any member(s) of the Association (including self-nominations) or by an employer or colleague. For complete listings and descriptions of all SLA Awards and Honors, committee information, or a PDF version of the SLA Awards and Honors Brochure, visit Virtual SLA at www.sla.org.

Nominations for the H.W. Wilson Company Award are selected by the H.W. Wilson Committee and are based on articles published in Information Outlook® during the 2001 publication year. The Factiva 21st Century Competencies in Action Award requires a separate application which can be acquired by contacting Barbara Burton at 1.609.627.2341 or via email at barbara.burton@factiva.com.

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SLA Awards and Honors nominations should be sent directly to the Public Communications Department at SLA's Global Headquarters. To request an award nomination form or a brochure, contact Anthony Blue at 1.202.939.3633 or email: anthony@sla.org.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Special Libraries Association (SLA) is the international association representing the interests of thousands of information professionals in sixty countries. Special librarians are information resource experts who collect, analyze, evaluate, package, and disseminate information to facilitate accurate decision-making in corporate, academic, and government settings. The Association offers a variety of programs and services designed to help its members serve their customers more effectively and succeed in an increasingly challenging environment of information management and technology. SLA is committed to the professional growth and success of its membership.

CHAPTER AWARDS

The Awards Committee will be 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 usually March 1. Awards are presented at the Chapter's annual business meeting in May.

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. It is awarded to one member per year.
3. This award is not necessarily presented every 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.

From: ST. LOUIS
METROPOLITAN
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FIRST CLASS

In This Issue...

Board minutes, San Antonio reports, President's and Past President Messages