

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....p. 1
A fall SLA update from Betsy Vogel.

Announcements.....p. 2
Featured: Library Legislative Day and a newly published career guidebook.

Feature Article.....p. 4
There's no one like a librarian!
Lisa Ross on how to prepare for a leave of absence.

Program Update.....p. 6
The scoop from Diane Gurtner, Program Chair.

September Program Review.....p. 7
Leslie Farrell reviews the September 2006 program at EAA in Oshkosh.

October Program Review.....p. 8
Leah Ujda reviews the October 2006 program at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton.

TechTips.....p. 9
The latest installment from techno-wizard John Cherney.

Meeting Our Members.....p. 10
Meet Heather Miller, Chemist and Librarian at SC Johnson & Son.

Member Update.....p. 11
New members and members' news compiled by Patricia Cervenka.

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SLANT NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Betsy Vogel, SLA-WI Chapter President



Betsy Vogel

The only constant is change. Everything flows. Nothing stands still. Without diving too deeply into philosophy, I just marvel at that aspect of reality. And how exciting that each day we decide how to react to the changes—especially in our profession, especially right now!

Our SLA Global leadership has responded to change proactively by providing members a content-rich website—including our CEO's blog (Listen to Janice Lachance's podcast from Internet Librarian 2006 in Monterrey last month). Click University online learning, and partnering with NewsGator and ITI (publishers of Information Today) to expand our community. Please plug into your member benefits at www.sla.org!

Closer to home, our Indiana colleagues contributed in a big way by hosting the 6th annual Great Lakes Regional Conference early in September. Held every three years, our Hoosier friends hosted an excellent program in the beautiful city of Indianapolis—where sports are king!

The conference center, on the campus of Indiana University at Purdue, features the nation's premier sport art museum, and Indianapolis is also home of NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association). Conference attendees enjoyed sessions presented by NCAA librarians about their massive virtual library project, in addition to the many other networking and educational opportunities.

"Crossroads for Information Professionals" was an excellent conference and we extend our gratitude to our hosts. I am convinced that Indy is one of the best kept secrets of the Midwest and highly recommend a visit!

Some members respond to change by engaging at the chapter level. Contributions of time and energy are rewarded with a local network of support and professional development, and quite frankly, some fine friendships. It has been a pleasure to 'take my turn' as president of our local chapter—an experience I recommend! Please keep our local group moving forward by staying involved. Together, we'll roll with the changes!

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Library Legislative Day: Tuesday, January 23, 2007

On Tuesday, January 23, 2007, the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Educational Media Association host the annual Library Legislative Day at the State Capitol in Madison. WLA and WEMA cordially invite SLA-Wisconsin members to attend!

Since 2007 marks the start of another biennium, with tough budget decisions ahead, it's especially important that attendance be strong. The more library advocates we can bring to the State Capitol, the more likely library issues are to get a fair hearing. Issues will include funding of BadgerLink and statewide contracts (Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Cooperative Children's Book Center, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) and Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan), and funding for public library systems, which impacts the statewide delivery service that some special libraries benefit from.

Especially if you consider yourself a political novice, LLD is a great way to get acquainted with library issues and your state legislators. For those of you with more experience, you know it's a time to solidify relationships and underscore the messages you've communicated year-round. It's also a time to thank legislators for their service.

For more information, plus picture highlights from the 2006 LLD, go to www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/day. We hope you attend Library Legislative Day on January 23!

New Book Available

Rethinking Information Work: A Career Guide for Librarians and Other Information Professionals / Kim Dority; Libraries Unlimited, 2006

Editor's description:

Create the rewarding, engaging, and resilient information career you dreamed of in grad school with this practical yet inspiring step-by-step guide. Today, information work offers you an unprecedented number of career options. Whether you are a student working towards a career in librarianship, a mid-careerist considering the next professional step, or a seasoned information professional looking for new directions; if you're looking for work in the field, this guide can help you sort through the options.

Leading you through a process of planning the information career of your choice, it shows you how to determine what type of work would be most fulfilling to you, explores what types of work are available to those with an LIS-based skill set, and helps you create an action plan for accomplishing your career goals and reaching your professional potential. The author discusses the entire spectrum of information work, revealing a wealth of possibilities you may have never considered. These range from work within traditional, facilities-based librarianship, working in library-related but not necessarily library-based jobs, and working in non-library related positions that utilize the traditional skill sets of the LIS degree, such as research, information organization, training and development, business development, non-profit work, and so on.

Designed as a text, this book can also be used as a self-directed guide. The author takes readers step-by-step through a fascinating process of career exploration and action. Taking into account the inevitable shifting priorities that occur throughout one's career, she emphasizes tools for lifelong career resiliency, rather than a rigid commitment to a single career goal. Thus, this is a book you will turn to again and again throughout your career. With numerous tables, worksheets, lists, and extensive bibliographies of recommended resources for further study, both print and on the web, you have everything you need to begin this exciting journey.

About the author:

G. Kim Dority, adjunct faculty at University of Denver's graduate library school, teaches courses in Information Entrepreneurship and Career Alternatives for Library Science Students and Professionals. Founder and president of G. K. Dority & Associates, an information strategy company, she led the team that designed and created Jones e-global library, an online library for students and other researchers, and was corporate librarian for the National Cable Television Center's information center. In addition, she served as Interim Assistant Director for DU's graduate library school. A longstanding ARBA reviewer, Kim has authored two editions of Guide to Reference Books, as well as numerous journal articles.

FEATURE ARTICLE

There's No One Like a Librarian

by Lisa Ross, Librarian, Cook & Franke, S.C.



Lisa Ross

In many professions, each person's exact job duties are different and the knowledge and skills required are unique to a specific job. In librarianship, this is most definitely true, and the absence of an individual librarian from his/her job leaves a void that can never completely be filled by a substitute. The ways in which a librarian's job duties are handled in the librarian's absence depends on many criteria: the presence (or absence) of other library staff, company or institution policies, financial constraints, and the length of the librarian's absence. A few months ago as I was working with individuals in my company to create a plan for coverage of my duties while I was on maternity leave, the uniqueness of my job became evident to all involved. As Emily Wixson (the chemistry reference & instruction librarian and acting coordinator for member libraries at UW-Madison) so eloquently puts it, "The depth of knowledge a special librarian has of her/his collection and user population is not something that can be out-sourced without affecting library service."

As I surveyed members of the Wisconsin Chapter in preparation for writing this article, the responses seemed to have several common threads, depending mostly on the size of the library staff. Libraries with multiple librarians, or a single librarian and at least one other staff member, are better equipped to handle the absence of a librarian. If librarians share job duties as a matter of course, then it is usually not a problem for one librarian to fill in for another. If job duties are not shared regularly, such as when one librarian specializes in reference and another in technical services, they are usually cross-trained to the extent that essential job functions can be done.

The absence of a solo librarian usually presents a more difficult challenge for the parent institution. In some cases, a non-library staff member gets recruited to help out during an absence. Some solo librarians rely on librarians from other branches or locations of their company to cover for them, at least as much as possible. At least one librarian responding to my request for information has a plan in place for library research to be outsourced during her absence if needed.

The length of an absence, and whether or not it is planned, is also a factor in library coverage. When a librarian is gone for a week of vacation, sick for a few days, or at a conference for a short period of time, it is likely that much of his/her work just goes undone for that time. Other staff may help with the essential tasks, but less urgent work just piles up and waits. With longer absences, extra help may be recruited. When one Wisconsin librarian was on a planned leave for several weeks, a MLIS student was hired temporarily to help out with some of her job duties, while the other librarian in her company took on some additional responsibilities. Another librarian benefited from the assistance of a retired librarian who was hired part-time to help out while an assistant was on maternity leave. When I was planning for maternity leave, my company was fortunate enough to have a part-time employee who was interested in some extra

hours. Because my leave was planned in advance, I was able to provide enough training that she was able to complete many of the more routine aspects of my job. (This enabled me to come back after 10 weeks to find only a few small piles on my desk!) Sometimes staff outside of the library must take on additional responsibilities in the absence of a librarian. A secretary might take on some of the clerical work. Perhaps someone from the IT department could handle web site management that a librarian might do. Accounting department staff might be able to help out with library purchasing.

What can us as librarians do to make things easier on our patrons and coworkers in our absences? The most important things are planning and communicating. If someone is going to be taking over part of our duties, it is helpful to know in advance who will be responsible for what and then provide adequate training. This may mean having librarians cross-trained to handle each others jobs when necessary. It could also mean training a secretary in the routing of journals or a student intern in processing new items. Having a written procedures manual is also of great help to those who must do our jobs when we're gone. And don't forget to leave contact information for vendor representatives who might be able to provide assistance as well as account numbers and login information required to access various web sites or online products.

Communication with our patrons is also a vital part of handling an absence. The information to be communicated and the method of communication will differ from library to library, but our patrons need to be told how they can receive library services even when we're not there. Common methods of communication with patrons include using out-of-office replies with our email and updating our voicemail messages to include information about when we will return and whether or not we will be responding to messages while we're gone. Some librarians may find it helpful to post signs in their libraries with pertinent information. In the case of extended absences, consider distributing a list of who is responsible for various things so library patrons know who to contact with requests.

No matter how what type of library we work in, how many coworkers we might have within our library, or how long we are gone, something will always go undone. There is no one way to make sure our responsibilities are handled adequately in our absence; the solution varies from library to library and institution to institution. Nevertheless, we can learn from each other's solutions and be better equipped to leave our library in the hands of someone else (or of no one) the next time we leave.

PROGRAM UPDATE

A Look at Our Fall Programs

by Diane Gurtner, SLA-WI Chapter President-Elect/Program Chair



Diane Gurtner

It's been a busy fall season with three Wisconsin Chapter programs!

The Summer Fun meeting at the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) was moved to September due to low registration numbers for the August date. We had a good turnout for an interesting meeting. (See the meeting review in this issue by Leslie Farrell one of our new members in the Fox Valley.)

In October we met in Madison for a tour of the Holy Wisdom Monastery grounds and a program about Alternative Careers for Librarians. (See the meeting review in this issue by Leah Ujda, co-chair of the UW-Madison student chapter of SLA.)

The Chapter welcomed SLA President Rebecca Vargha for a visit to Milwaukee on Election Day. Libiamo's Restaurant in the historic Schlitz Brewery Building offered a relaxed setting where many of our members were able to socialize with our association president. Vargha is the School of Information & Library Science librarian at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. She shared her vision of the future for special librarians. In a time when clients are more self-sufficient, we must focus on personalizing information and matching content. Vargha noted that specialized jobs are on the increase, while there has been a decrease in positions advertised. She emphasized that reference interview skills are very important to gather information about what's needed.

"Rebecca's list" of attributes that librarians require in these complex times includes creativity and perceptiveness. Vargha's view of special librarians is as hubs connecting people and information.

My thanks to several of our Milwaukee-area members who facilitated arrangements for Rebecca's visit: Mary Ann Barragry, Patricia Cervenka, and Kathy Fischer, and also to our chapter president Betsy Vogel.

There will be one final program in 2006 - the annual business meeting. It will be held on Monday, December 11 at the Delafield Brewhaus. We'll celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and welcome the new slate of officers and committee leaders. The program announcement has been sent to your email box, or you may visit the calendar for more information.

PROGRAM REVIEW

September Program Review

by Leslie Farrell

The SLA WI chapter fall meeting was held on September 14th in Oshkosh at the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) AirVenture Museum. The museum is home to more than 200 aircraft, countless historic artifacts and aviation related memorabilia. While the museum is a great attraction, the EAA is best known for AirVenture, one of the world's largest aviation events. Held every year during July, the fly-in convention is host to an average of 650,000 aviation enthusiasts. Throughout the week-long event, more than 10,000 aircraft arrive and depart from the field. Attendees from around the world come to learn about airplanes, airplane building, airplane restoring, piloting and all things aviation. There are hundreds of vendor booths, forums, presentations and daily air shows.

Sue Lurvey is the Library/Archives Manager and Ron Twellman is the Curator of Collections for the AirVenture Museum. They were our guides that late summer evening, providing us with a fascinating tour of the library, archives, artifact storage and museum. Our group of a dozen included chapter members from Appleton, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Sheboygan.

We began our tour in the library. Sue has been maintaining the expanding collection since 1985, two years after the present AirVenture Museum was built. Sue handles all aspects of the library services including collection development, management, indexing, reference services and materials lending. She is assisted mostly by volunteers and occasionally a part-time student. The library is located on the lower level of the museum, away from the visitor traffic (and there are windows in the library!). The scope of the collection includes aviation biographies, fiction, aeronautics, homebuilding, aviation history and much more. There are sets of reference tools like Jane's All The Worlds Aircraft, vertical files filled with aviation related articles and manufacturer's brochures, aviation journals like Popular Aviation, thousands of books and manuals, and over 100,000 photographs of aircraft and aviators. The library is open to the public as well as the EAA membership. Sue responds to in-person, phone, fax and email reference requests as well as EAA staff inquiries. Frequent requests include author research, using indexing to find specific articles in EAA and other aviation publications and copies of photographs from the archived collections.

After we concluded the library portion of our tour, we met up with Ron. As Curator of Collections, he is responsible for preserving the museum's collections and artifacts. We began our museum tour by viewing memorabilia from the collection that is now on exhibit for the first time. These items were donated by early EAA members. Next was the Innovations gallery where we saw a replica of SpaceShipOne, the world's first successful civilian-built spacecraft. This exhibit made its debut at the 2006 AirVenture convention. Ron and Sue treated us to a demonstration of the aircraft, which "feathers" its wings upon re-entry to the atmosphere to prevent excessive heating.

All of the museum's exhibits are beautifully designed. There is something of interest for aviation enthusiasts and those of us who aren't well versed in the world of aviation—there are homebuilt,

ultralight, aerobatic, warbird, and vintage aircraft on display. Each exhibit details the unique stories behind the aircraft and their significance. Like tourists on a "behind the scenes" tour, Ron and Sue showed us the small artifact collection where materials that have been donated or purchased are stored. Among the thousands of collected items are flight suits, an autographed copy of Charles Lindbergh's book "We," aircraft radios and headsets, uniforms, and aircraft parts. Several AirVenture volunteers have assisted with the classification and labeling of the plans collection in the library archives, but most of the items have yet to be cataloged. Sue and Ron anticipate tackling that project post-retirement from the AirVenture Museum!

After the tour, our group settled into a conference room for a tasty dinner. The meeting followed and we had an opportunity to introduce ourselves. We also dished about famous (and some infamous) AirVenture attendees, but what happens at AirVenture stays there! Whether you visit during AirVenture or not, the museum is definitely worth the trip to Oshkosh.

PROGRAM REVIEW

October Program Review

by Leah Ujda, 2nd Year Student, UW-Madison SLIS (Co-Chair, UW-Madison SLA Student Chapter)

Two of the Madison area's most lovely outdoor settings were featured at the SLA Wisconsin Chapter meeting on October 17. We met at the Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton where Collections Manager Nancy Sandleback took us on a tour of the grounds and nature trails. As we walked around the Lost Lake and Mendota Prairie Trails, Ms. Sandleback told us about the mission and activities of the Benedictine Women of Madison. She also drew a few laughs and knowing eye-rolls from the crowd with her description of the labyrinth of boxes and papers that she found years ago in the Monastery archives on her first day of work.

After taking in the sights and scenery of the Monastery a car caravan took off for dinner and a presentation at the Mariner's Inn, located on the shore of Lake Mendota. The evening's three speakers addressed the topic of alternative careers for librarians. Former SLA-WI President Sandy Plisch began by describing her personal employment journey through various library and non-library positions. She emphasized the importance of flexibility, creativity, and personal connections during a job hunt. Next, Dorothy Steffens, VP of Web Services at CUNA, shared some exciting and unexpected twists from the story of her career as a librarian. She discussed the value of collaboration and strategic partnerships between librarians and fellow service-oriented information professionals. Finally, Joel Berger, President of the C. Berger Group, told the story of how he ended up running a major library consulting and staffing firm even though he once declared that he would never become a librarian. He particularly encouraged library school students in attendance to be confident about the range of settings where the skills we are practicing and perfecting in class can be applied in the job market.

From the views of the Capitol and Lake Mendota, to the speakers' anecdotes and advice, to the chocolate mousse at dessert, the SLA-WI October meeting was a great success. It was my first meeting, and I look forward to many more!

TECH TIPS

Taking the Red-eye (out)

by John Cherney, Head Librarian and Web Administrator, WisDOT Library



John Cherney

As we approach the holiday season, the opportunities to capture special moments will be multiplied exponentially and although red is a major color of the season, its appearance as the eye color in your photographs can take the joy out of the moment.

I've posted this issue of TechTips as a **PDF for download** (<http://units.sla.org/chapter/cwi/techtip-redeye.pdf>).



before



after

Programs other than Photoshop have more complex red-eye removal tools where you can change the color of the subject's eye (the iris) as well as other aspects, including glint and glare. An interesting note is that the preceding version of Photoshop CS (version 8.0) used a 'Color Replacement tool' to remove red-eye. Though this did give the option of using various colors to replace a subject's iris color, the work involved in using this tool was somewhat more cumbersome and eventually was replaced with CS2's Red-eye Removal Tool. Also, further simplifying the process is that black is the only color now available in Adobe's current red-eye removal tools.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS

Heather Miller, SC Johnson & Son, Racine, Wisconsin

by Bev Butula, Davis & Kuelthau



Heather Miller

We all use Off!®, Windex®, and Pledge®. These are just a few of the products manufactured by SC Johnson. Creating these types of goods takes time and plenty of research. Heather Miller, a chemist and librarian, has taken two part time jobs within the company and created a great full time arrangement.

Heather works part time in the analytical laboratory. She and fellow SLA member Luanne Frey also job-share a full time librarian position.

However, Heather explains that technically they operate as two individual part time positions, each usually handling their requests from start to finish. The SC Johnson library also has a student assistant.

SLA is directly responsible for Heather obtaining her position. She met Luanne at a chapter meeting while still in library school at UW-Milwaukee. When there was an opening at the company for a Sci/Tech librarian, Luanne encouraged Heather to apply. Heather credits Luanne not only for the position but also acknowledges Luanne's great mentoring skills.

The library serves approximately 400 on-campus scientists and engineers. They also occasionally assist researchers located in other locations from around the globe. Their collection consists primarily of Sci/Tech reference books and online subscriptions to MicroPatent, Knovel's online reference collection, and Kirk-Othmer's Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology which are available through the library's intranet site. Soon they will add the Scopus abstract and citation database. Heather's response to the "coolest item in your collection" -- the refrigerator!

She indicates that she loves the variety of the job and shares one of her most unusual reference questions -- How much water vapor does a cow exhale?

They are funded by the R, D & E (Research, Development & Engineering) Division, and all projects must come from someone in that division. Heather indicates that prior to a restructuring 7 years ago they served the entire company, and as a result, received more business type requests.

When in the library, Heather spends her mornings in meetings, handling library business, reviewing reference requests, and finishing reports from the prior day's research. Reference interviews are conducted in person or via email. Occasionally, additional follow-up questions are needed to obtain a missing charge code or project number (that is true in so many of our libraries). Her afternoons are spent conducting her searches, composing email or summary reports, and editing information. When she is wearing her chemist hat, she is in the lab "analyzing products like Raid for the amount of active ingredient. I'll prepare a standard and dilute the sample. Then I'll run the samples on an HPLC (high performance liquid

chromatograph) and compare peak sizes to the standard. Then I enter the data into a spreadsheet for calculations." Good time management skills and the ability to "juggle" things are necessary when working two part-time jobs within the same company.

Heather always loved libraries and also enjoyed chemistry. Her goal was to be a chemical librarian. Prior to library school and her position at SC Johnson, Heather worked as a chemist for 12 years. Her first job was with American Motors in Kenosha analyzing steel car parts. She was first girl scientist in a 20 man lab. Heather states, "It really was cool to see how they started with raw steel to make car parts by forging ring gears, machining crank shafts, tin plating pistons, stamping car doors, etc. At the end of the line an engine floated down into a car body where it was bolted in. Then the car was started and driven off the line."

Some other interesting products Heather has been involved with include: "printing press rollers, fish attractants, water purification tablets for Desert Storm, insect repellents, topical pain relievers, and, the one most interesting to bring up at cocktail parties, the female condom." As a chemist, she became frustrated with irrelevant hits when conducting research or using a search service and realized that library school could help improve her searching skills and, in turn, assist all the other scientists.

When not in the library, Heather is a magician's assistant. She works with her husband "Magic Mike." (She doesn't get sawed in half, though!) She also enjoys singing and has recently returned to square dancing. She reads "Books on tape" while driving. Her favorite movie -- The Princess Bride, because "it's got it all: action-adventure, comedy, romance, intelligent wit, 'true-love,' and a happy ending."

*** On a side note, when returning her questionnaire, Heather stated "This was an interesting exercise. I recommend it to others. I didn't realize how interesting my life was until I wrote it down." We would love to have you be the next SLANT profile and, really, it is fine to volunteer. To volunteer (or to nominate someone else) contact Bev Butula or Lisa Ross.

MEMBER UPDATE

News from SLA-WI members

by Patricia Cervenka, Membership Chair



Patricia Cervenka

Carol Bannen was nominated by the Wisconsin Law Journal as an Unsung Hero of Wisconsin's Legal Community in the law librarian category. On November 10, a luncheon was held to honor all the nominees.

Laura R. LaRose is a Research Specialist with Reinhart Boerner Van Duren.

Julie Stich was interviewed by Lawrence Silver for a Question-and-Answer piece that appeared in the Waukesha Freeman on Sept. 1, 2006. The focus of the Q & A was the new pension reform law, the Pension Protection Act (PPA). Julie also authored a column about the PPA for American City & County magazine. It appeared online (americancityandcounty.com/mag/government_reaping_benefits) and in their October issue.

Headquarters has given us a list of the following new members for September and October:

Maria M. Hernandez
Kristin M. Jacobson
Joseph K. Niese
Michael E. Owens,
Jill A. Peters-Dagel, Lodi, Wisconsin
Bret J. Phillips, Factiva
Susan A. Spiker, Viterbo University
Chris Stape

A Brush with Celebrities
(update from Julie Stich)

The staff of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans' Information Center and Publications Department won a local radio contest -- 94.5 WKTI's Lunch with Lips LaBelle and Debbie Lazaga. We entered the contest with a letter explaining why we desperately needed them to come to our office. Our plea for lunchtime companionship centered around the fact that several of us were being abandoned as our coworkers left to host our Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

Lips and Debbie brought us sub sandwiches, regaled us with amusing on-air anecdotes,

questioned us about employee benefits and instructed us in the fine art of "Office Olympics." We played "Dead or Alive," paper airplane long-distance flying and wastebasket basketball. We won fun prizes stolen from morning show hosts Reitman, Mueller and Amy Taylor's prize closet. (Lips is a naughty boy.)

It was definitely a fun way to liven up a gray Wednesday!



*Group shot with all of us, and Lips Labelle and Debbie Lazaga.
Back row, L-R: Cindy Berg, Julie Miller, Sheila Seymour, Pat Gray, Gayle Ziolecki,
Dee Birschel, Sally Chappell, Pat Krajnak.
Seated, L-R: Lips LaBelle, Debbie Lazaga, Julie Stich, Connie Niles.
Photo taken by BrendaRood from our Public Relations Dept.*