



# PER Bulletin

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## Letter from the Chair

Daran Bishop

Welcome to the August 2005 issue of the **PER Bulletin**. You may have missed the **Bulletin** during the past year. As mentioned in the recent Letter to the Membership, while circumstances resulted in an extraordinarily quiet year for the PER Division, we are back on track for 2005/06 and have some exciting plans for the SLA Conference in Baltimore.

The theme of the 2006 Conference is "Where Tradition and Transformation Converge" – a reflection of how our past and traditions influence our future. This theme is particularly fitting to information professionals in the energy industry as we have become masters of transformation in order to survive in an industry marked by extreme highs and lows, mergers and acquisitions, rapid technological innovation, downsizing, and outsourcing

Your Executive Board is busy working on a slate of programs which currently include the ever popular Energy Roundtable, the Standards Update (co-sponsored with the Engineering Division) and the Technical Intelligence program (co-sponsored with the Competitive Intelligence Division). More

information on these programs will be provided in later **Bulletins**.

We are most excited, however, about our Anniversary Reception which celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Petroleum Division from the former Petroleum Section of the Sci-Tech Division. It is also the 30th Anniversary of the transformation of the former Petroleum Division into the Petroleum & Energy Resources Division. We are in the early planning stages and could use your ideas on how to make the reception a memorable one. Marlene Vogelsang is heading up the planning for the reception and could use some assistance. She is especially interested in information regarding local venues and caterers. If you can help or have some suggestions, please contact Marlene at [mxv6@pge.com](mailto:mxv6@pge.com) or 415-973-7206.

Finally, a huge "thank you" to Gina Williamson for her role in keeping the PER Division afloat during the last two years, first as Chair in 2003/2004 then as Past Chair in 2004/2005. I am particularly grateful that she has agreed to serve as Acting Past Chair for 2005/2006. Gina's tireless efforts, along with those of Rob Rogers, Marlene Vogelsang, Richard Todd, John Galloway, Sarah Paciorek, Jan Heagy and Joyce Fedeczko have enabled PER to recover, regroup and mount an impressive Conference program.

Daran Bishop  
Chair, SLA PER Division

## From The Editor...

Jan Heagy

The 2006 Conference theme, "Where Tradition and Transformation Converge" – a reflection of how our past and traditions influence our future is a perfect framework for volume 27 of the **PER Bulletin**.

I hope that the member profiles and history in this issue will inspire everyone to contribute their stories of the past, share traditions, and suggest visions of the future through the **PER Bulletin**.

Feel free to send articles, suggestions for topics and notices to me for inclusion in our next issue.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Jan Heagy

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## Meet the Leadership – PER Chair

Daran Bishop

My name is Daran Bishop, and I am the 2005-2006 Chair of the PER Division. The Chair is responsible for the direction of the Division and oversees program planning for the SLA Annual Conference. Prior to becoming Chair, I served as Chair Elect for two short months until the Chair had to unexpectedly resign. Prior to that, I served as Membership Committee Chair for the past two years. As you can imagine, I'm doing quite a bit of learning on the job. Thankfully, PER's exceptional Executive Board has proven to be an excellent knowledge base to which I can turn.

I have been a member of the PER Division since graduating in 1985 from the University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Library & Information Science. The best thing about being a member of PER is the network of innovative and knowledgeable information professionals that make up the PER membership. I have never encountered a reference question so difficult that another PER member wasn't able to point me in the right direction for an answer. Similarly, some of my greatest successes at work were based on activities discussed by other PER members at Conference. I consider the PER membership one of my greatest professional resources.

I currently head Marathon Oil's Library Information Center which serves Marathon's upstream business and technical professionals. I've been with Marathon for 18 years and have seen my share of downsizing, rightsizing and outsourcing. Strangely enough, each time the Library staff has decreased, our responsibilities have increased. "Doing more with less" is truly the mantra of the energy industry information professional.

Not to date myself too much, but when I first joined Marathon, we still used an acoustic coupler to dial in to Dialog and had a "computer room" in which a single computer terminal was shared by the entire Library staff! Those days are a not-so-fond memory, and I'll take email, intranets and OPACs any day over printed indices and card catalogs.

On a personal note, I have lived in Houston, Texas most of my life. My husband and I are the “parents” of three dogs and one cat. We currently have two lab-mix youngsters who share a single brain cell and one octogenarian cocker spaniel that holds the younger dogs in complete contempt. Our cat, as is the nature of cats, considers herself of a much higher caste than the dogs (and us for that matter) and only leaves her ivory tower to put the dogs in their place. I enjoy reading (pretty much anything), taking nature hikes and watching way too much television (*Lost*, *The Daily Show* and *Deadwood* are current favorites).

**PER Member Profile - An interview with Ann Coppin by Daran Bishop**

**Name:** Ann Coppin  
**Company:** Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
**Position:** Technical Librarian  
**Years with Company:** 2 years as of Fall 2005  
**PER Member since:** 1975

**1. What do you like most about your job?**

I really like working with the scientists, engineers, and staff at JPL. You never know what type of question you will be asked which makes it challenging and fun.

**2. What do you like least about your job?**

The only drawback to my current job is the commute (41-48 miles one way), but the job is well worth the commute.

**3. How do you describe your job to others?**

When I'm on the reference desk, I can be answering questions from anyone – from the staff at JPL to phone calls and emails from the general public anywhere in the world. The questions that I get vary widely in complexity from detailed questions from JPL staff requiring

literature searches to general information questions from the public. This variety of questions makes it fun. In addition to reference, I do collection development in the earth, planetary and space sciences. I also work on special projects. In the last year, I oversaw the addition of shelving to the library. I'm currently working on developing consultation relationships with JPL's earth and planetary sciences staff. I meet with key people in these departments and find out what they're doing and how the library can help. Basically, I serve as the liaison between the library and these organizations.

**4. What is the one resource you use at work that you can't live without?**

NASA's Aeronautics and Space Database and JPL's intranet are the two resources I could not do without. The public versions of both are at <http://www.sti.nasa.gov> and <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/>.

**5. What is one thing that most people don't know about you?**

I have an MS in Geology in addition to my MLS. This has been of tremendous value in my job.

**6. What is your proudest professional accomplishment?**

Everything boils down to that I enjoy getting information and people together and can do it well.

**7. What is your proudest personal accomplishment?**

I've raised a daughter and son. My daughter is a high school physics teacher in the process of changing jobs. She will continue working in the area of physics. My son is currently an architecture student at USC.

**8. What career, other than your present one, would you most like to have?**

Geologist. – either planetary or dealing with structure/tectonics/earthquakes. These areas of geology have always interested me.

**9. What is your favorite guilty pleasure?**

Reading science fiction. My favorite authors are David Webber, Mercedes Lackey, James Hogan, Lois Bujold, and Anne McCaffrey.

**10. What is the most interesting item in your office?**

A photograph of myself and my husband standing next to a live cheetah at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. This last June we went on the Cheetah Run Safari where you get to see the cheetahs up close and watch them run. Afterwards, we got to stand next to a live cheetah.

**11. What is your favorite technological invention?**

The automobile – it gets me where I need to go.

**12. What are you currently reading?**

*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Before I started it, I went back and re-read the previous books in the series. So far, I'm enjoying it.

**13. What is your dream vacation?**

My dream vacation would be to stay in the High Sierras and go fishing. Perhaps take a side trip to Mt. St. Helens.

**PER through the Decades – Notes from the Archives**

Jan Heagy

As the Division archivist, I am particularly excited about the 2006 Conference theme, "Where Tradition and Transformation Converge" – a reflection of how our past and traditions influence our future.

The archives contain a wealth of information regarding our past and our traditions.

1933 was also a quiet year for PER. However, in the decades that followed PER produced many interesting conference programs and some great publications.

To get an idea of where we were, I looked at the papers presented and the issues discussed at the annual conference in past decades. Here are some highlights.

**1955 – Papers / Presentations**

"Information on Fuels, Lubricants, and Engines – Ethyl Corporation Services." B. H. Weil and P.L. Brown, Ethyl Corporation Research Laboratories.

"Shortcomings of Petroleum Periodicals" Kate C. Ornsen, Sun Oil Company.

"Gaps in Petroleum Reference Sources." Katherine Karpenstein, Standard Oil Company of California.

**1955 Hot Topics**

The lack of petroleum reference resources and statistical data were a primary concern.

The Petroleum Section compiled a "List of Needed Petroleum Reference Sources." This list was sent to library schools as suggested topics for student theses and to publishers in "the hope that they might be interested in taking up some of these items."

**1965 – Papers / Presentations**

"Foreign Patents – Acquisition and Organization." John H. Graham, Esso Research and Engineering Company.

"Petroleum Legislation Company – What It Is – What It Does." Gordon H. Barrows, Petroleum Legislation Company.

[Platt's Oilgram News Service history] Abstract of a talk by C.B. Squire, Platt's Oilgram News Service.

### **1965 Hot Topics**

Should the Petroleum Section of the Science and Technology Division be dissolved and a new Petroleum Division established?

The Section conducted a survey of information retrieval systems as used by section members and the size and type of staff involved. Eleven respondents used some type of computer based system and thirty-seven used manual card files. Some respondents used a combination of both.

### **1975 –Papers / Presentations**

"On-Line Bibliographic Systems: Past, Present and Future." Joseph Becker, Becker and Hayes, Inc.

"Impact of On-Line Bibliographic Services." Dr. Carlos A. Cuadra, System Development Corp.

"The Commercial Data Base Publishing Industry & Its Move to On-Line Distribution." Dr. Vincent E. Guillano, Arthur D. Little, Inc.

### **1975 Hot Topics**

Comparisons of manual and online resources, user reaction to online resources, and the place of online bibliographic systems in the spectrum of information services captured our attention.

### **1985 – Papers / Presentations**

"Statistics as a Resource for Management." Marilyn Stark, Colorado School of Mines and Marriot Smart, Cyprus Minerals.

"Impact of the Electronic Office on Libraries." Camille Stryck, Amoco Corp., Betty Bears, Amoco Corp.

"Geographic and Cartographic Information in Canada." Hugh Larimer, University of Manitoba-Winnipeg, Sid Hanson, Surveys and Mapping Branch Manitoba, T. R. Weir, University of Manitoba-Winnipeg.

### **1985 Hot Topics**

The Petroleum & Energy Resources Division ***Bibliography of Petroleum Information Resources*** project was underway. Editor Marilyn Stark and reviewed progress at the annual meeting.

### **1995 – Papers / Presentations**

"Copyright in the 1990's: A Panel Discussion." Huw Morgan, Infomart/Dialog, Sunny Handa, McGill University, Lorna Rees-Potter, McGill University.

"A Look at Our Futures: The Lotus Corporation's Virtual Library." Walter Stine, Lotus Information Resource Group.

"Value of Libraries Research: How It's Used." Evelyn Brownlee, DuPont Company and Mary Ann Whitney, Chevron Services Company.

### **1995 Hot Topics**

The merger of the Petroleum & Energy Resources Division with the Public Utilities Division was finalized.

Turning challenges such as the information explosion, changing technology and corporate downsizing into opportunities was a roundtable topic that generated a lot of interest.

### **Sponsorship Update**

Marlene Vogelsang

Each one of us has the opportunity to work with our vendors to provide products and services that support services in our libraries and information centers. As Business Development Chair, I also have the pleasure of developing relationships with vendors to support the activities of the division. That support typically is financial sponsorship of our events and activities at annual conference.

Some of our most recent sponsors include Deb Brown, at Thomson ISI; Tony Sadaat at EOS International; and Sharon Oakes at Mindbranch. Their support has been both gracious and generous. It has been a pleasure working with each of them.

At this summer's conference in Toronto, I met with Don Chatten, an Elsevier representative, and some of his management, to begin discussions on how Elsevier might become more involved and support our division. Our discussion included possible local or regional meetings/workshop/webcast sponsorship and using Elsevier contacts to locate industry experts as speakers.

I will be contacting these and other possible sponsors soon to request support for our events and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception next year. If you have any other suggestions for possible sponsors (and thanks to all of you who have sent names/contact info in the past) please let me know as soon as possible. These organizations often plan their budgets early and the sooner we can contact them the better! If you are willing to "make the call" to a vendor that you know well, that would work, too.

You can contact me at [mxv6@pge.com](mailto:mxv6@pge.com) or 415-973-7206 if you have ideas for sponsors or suggestions on "creative sponsorship" opportunities.

**D-PER Photos – Toronto 2005**  
Marlene Vogelsang



Sylvie Haxaire, Rob Rogers, Gina Williamson, Richard Todd, John Galloway



Gina Williamson and Glenn Reidway



Gina Williamson and Marlene Vogelsang fearless at the Falls



Gina braves Niagara Falls



DPER meets in Toronto

Sylvie Haxaire, Rob Rogers, Gina Williamson, Richard Todd, Marlene Vogelsang, John Galloway

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