

BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION, SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

LONG RANGE PLAN: 2000-2005-2010

Prepared by the Ad Hoc Long Range Plan Committee, 1999-2000

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Mission

The mission of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association is to further the objectives of the Association by providing representation and support for those professionals concerned with the provision of information services in the life sciences.

Scope

The scope of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division encompasses all aspects of the life sciences, both pure and applied, including: biology and biochemistry, zoology and botany, microbiology, genetics, biotechnology, evolution, ecology, veterinary and human medicine, health sciences, and other aspects of the life sciences not specifically noted, or encompassed by another SLA Division. The Division promotes the exchange of information and ideas about trends and advances in information storage, retrieval and analysis, collection management, and dissemination in these fields to support research, education, and commercial endeavors.

Division Objectives

In keeping with the Mission and the Bylaws, the Division will:

- nurture a positive collegiality within the Division
- attract new members and retain existing members
- provide opportunities for continuing education and professional development through relevant programs at conferences, and through other currently available venues
- support sections that exist or that may be established within the Division
- encourage increased student interest in librarianship and information services within the scope of the Division
- facilitate communication among Division members through the Division newsletter *Biofeedback* and via the Division's home page and electronic discussion list BSDNET-L
- maintain a sound financial balance between services offered and funds available
- stay abreast of current trends and developments in technology and information processing and delivery

Division Goals, Continuing

1. The Professional Development and Program Committees will develop activities for both conference and non-conference programs with representation from all Division sections and the Natural History Caucus.
2. The Publications Committee will encourage members to write for *Biofeedback* (the Division's newsletter), *Information Outlook* (the Association's magazine), and other relevant publications.
3. Joint programming will be sponsored with other Divisions, Chapters, and Caucuses in the Association and with other related organizations.

4. The Division will provide support for students wishing to attend the Division's programs during the Annual Conference.
5. An ad hoc long range plan committee will be constituted on a regular basis and given sufficient time and resources to conduct a ongoing needs assessment and revision of this Long Range Plan.
6. At the Chapter level, Division members will be encouraged to contact and recruit library school students to join the Division.
7. The Fund Development Committee will develop on-going strategies for securing a financial base for the Division.
8. Members will be encouraged to contribute to the goals of the Division through active membership on committees and programs and through participation in conference activities sponsored by the Division.
9. The Division Bylaws will be reviewed on an annual basis to assure the Division's rules align with Association standards. Bylaws will be considered and formulated to conform to proposals and/or activities of the membership.
10. The Division will provide programs and other opportunities to support new biomedical and life sciences information professionals.

Division Goals, Short Term

1. Increase Division membership to 6% of the total Association membership over the next five years: 2000 through 2005.

Actions:

Continue to contact former members to determine considerations for dropping membership. Invite them to renew Division membership.

When planning conferences and other programs, explore opportunities to partner with other related organizations, and in particular with local or regional chapters of organizations such as the Medical Library Association, International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers, etc.

Division members who are in close proximity to one or more of the library schools will be encouraged to recruit students to join SLA and the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. This will be achieved through direct invitation or working with faculty at the school to promote the Division, its missions and goals.

2. The Fund Development Committee will raise funds to support Division and section projects and Annual Conference programs.

Actions:

Build and maintain a reserve fund equal to the cost of a slate of programs for one annual conference.

Maintain and continue to develop a portfolio that identifies current and potential sponsors and resources for funding that is updated annually.

Increase advertisement revenues in Division publication, *Biofeedback*.

3. Increase participation of entire Division membership in Division and section committees and programs.

Actions:

Work with SLA chapters to support regional meetings of interest to BIO members.

Focus on supporting interests that include librarians among the fields of natural history, zoos, botanical gardens, and related areas.

Publish, annually, a calendar of Division activities and events of interest to the membership in the winter quarterly issue of *Biofeedback*.

Invite members to volunteer to serve on committees through solicitations published in *Biofeedback* and through the Division's electronic discussion list.

Establish an international relations ad hoc or standing committee to focus on recruiting members internationally. Create networks and outreach programs for members, especially in Canada. Create mechanisms to market Association and Division activities in central and eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, South and Central America.

4. An ad hoc committee will be named every third year (2003, 2008) of a five-year cycle to survey the Division membership's needs, concerns, and interests. Information from the survey will be used to revise the Division's Long Range Plan.

Action:

Publish survey results to inform members. Use information to revise Long Range Plan. Disseminate draft of Long Range Plan, request feedback from membership, and revise draft based on feedback.

5. Conduct survey(s) annually to: (1) solicit input and suggestions from members for programming, Division services, etc. (2) evaluate currently offered programs and services.

Action:

Design evaluation and survey instruments (e.g., evaluation forms) and dissemination methods for them, and collect evaluations and input from the membership.

Relay the results of the survey(s) to the appropriate Program Planning Committee and to the Executive Board.

6. Review the bylaws annually to assure that the rules are in accordance with the legal standards outlined in Article XVI of the Association Bylaws.

Action:

If necessary, formulate new bylaws or changes to existing bylaws that conform to the legal standards of the Association and that accommodate recommendations and/or proposals from the membership.

Request assent to bylaws changes by ballot or by vote at the annual Division business meeting.

7. Increase participation of members on the Division's electronic discussion list, BSDNET-L.

Action:

Promote the discussion list through the Division newsletter *Biofeedback*, on the Division home page, and at Division programs at the Annual Conference and elsewhere.

Investigate the feasibility of automatically subscribing new members to BSDNET-L.

8. Continue to develop and increase the use and utility of the Division home page.

Action:

Promote the Division home page through *Biofeedback*, through BSDNET-L, and at Division programs at the Annual Conference and elsewhere.

Maintain the timeliness and accuracy of information on the home page.

Develop a graphically pleasing and easy to navigate set of pages that is browser-independent.

Provide links to resources of use to members and keep these links current.