bio·feedback ←

NEW OFFICERS

All the Officers and Chairs are interested in your ideas. Please volunteer for the committees. Your suggestions are welcomed. Thank you for your assistance.

Elected

Chair
Doris Bolef, Director
Library of Rush University
600 S. Paulina Street
Chicago, IL 60612
312/942-2271

Chair-Elect
Sandra M. Wood
George T. Harrell Library
Milton S. Hershey Med. Center
Pennsylvania State University
Hershey, PA 17033
717/534-8630

Director
Gretchen Stephens
Veterinary Medical Library
Room 108, Lynn Hall
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Secretary/Treasurer
Ruth E. Ahl
Libraries' Office
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907
317/494-2900

Appointed

Biofeedback Editor
Jean E. Crampon
Southern Illinois University
School of Medicine Library
P.O. Box 3926
Springfield, IL 62708
217/782-2658

Membership Committee Chair
Beth Paskoff
Louisiana State Univ. Library
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
504/388-8511

Long-Range Planning Committee Chair
Elisabeth B. Davis
Biology Library
University of Illinois
407 S. Goodwin
Urbana, IL 61801
217/333-3654

Career Guidance/Public Relations Committee Chair
Karen Horst
St. Luke's Hosp. Med. Library
44 & Wornall
Kansas City, MO 64111
816/932-2333

Division Archivist
Caroline S. Morris
Pennsylvania Hosp. Med. Library
8 & Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215/829-3998

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Presiding: Elisabeth B. Davis

On Tuesday, June 7, 1983, at 5 p.m., in the Division's suite of the Hilton Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, the Annual Business Meeting of the Biological Sciences Division, Special Libraries Association, was called to order by Elisabeth B. Davis, Chair. A total of 33 persons attended. The Board of Director Representative was Jack Leister.

The minutes of the last Business Meeting were approved with the following correction. The Board Liaison person was Dorothy Kasman, not Helene A. Brown. The Treasurer's report was presented by Secretary-Treasurer, Ruth Ahl. The closing balance as of May 31, 1983, was $10,054.85.

The membership report was given by Karen Patrias, Chair of the Committee. At the beginning of the year there were 688 members of the division. While 111 individuals were added to the roll, 149 dropped their membership for a net loss of 38. Therefore, as of April 30, 1983, the Biological Sciences Division had 650 members.

Rebecca Martin, Chair of the Career Guidance and Public Relations Committee, reported on the activities of this past year. This committee was organized for the express purpose of sponsoring and awarding a $250 student stipend for the 1983 SLA Annual Conference. Five applications for the award were received. The winner was Jerri Jazbinschek who was selected on the basis of the essay she submitted to the committee. Her essay will be published in the next issue of the division's newsletter. In addition to the travel stipend, the winner received free room in the division suite and tickets to the division's events.

The Nominating Committee report was given by the Chair, David Self. This year the ballots were sent by first class mail as recommended by the members at last year's conference. Of 688 ballots sent out there was a 32% return rate. Sandra Wood was elected Chair-Elect and Gretchen Stephens was elected Director.

Gretchen Stephens, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, indicated the committee had reviewed and compared the bylaws of the division with those of

Annual Meeting Minutes Con't

SLA including the format and structure and went on to explain the proposed changes. The report of the committee and the proposed changes were also published in the spring issue of the newsletter. It was moved, seconded, and passed that, with the addition of an editorial change, the bylaws be accepted as presented.

A question arose concerning the Nominating Committee acting as tellers for the election of officers. According to the Chair, David Self, the Committee was not aware that this was part of its responsibility but had no objection to performing this function. One could assume that it is the role of the Committee although there is no indication of this in the bylaws. Discussion followed and the consensus emerged that it was too late to make a change in the bylaws at this time, however, for the purpose of clarity, the members might want to define the duties of the Nominating Committee in the bylaws at some future date. In the meantime, the Committee will continue to act as vote tellers.

Under "Old Business" it was announced that the scheduled field trip to the U.S.D.A. Southern Regional Research Center on Thursday, June 9, was cancelled since only nine people signed up for the tour. However, individual tours of the facility could be arranged with the librarian.

One member commented on the success in mailing out the ballots by first class mail and moved that this practice be continued. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously passed.

Turning to new business, Elisabeth Davis thanked the outgoing editor of the newsletter, Beverly Renford, and introduced the new editor of Biofeedback, Jean Crampon of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Library.

Doris Bolef, incoming Chair of the division, discussed some of the plans for the New York meeting. The theme of the Annual Conference will be "Information in the Electronic Revolution." One of the meetings will be a joint program with the Environmental Information and Natural Resources Divisions on the subject of acid rain.* The topic of the second program will be biotechnology. Because of the expressed and expected interest, the program will be cosponsored by the Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Foods and Nutrition, and Pharmaceutical Divisions. Mr. Russell Peterson, President of the Audubon Society, was asked to be the featured speaker at the luncheon.** On Thursday, a tour of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the Ballen Booksellers is being planned. It is hoped that some sponsors can be found to help defray program expenses. A local hospitality committee is being sought so any suggestions of names of persons in the New York area should be submitted to Doris.

Annual Meeting Minutes Con't

In 1985 the SLA Annual Conference is scheduled for Winnipeg. We think it is also the Biological Sciences Division's 50th Anniversary. Special plans will be made to celebrate the event.

A motion to continue the student stipend award was approved.

Elisabeth Davis expressed her thanks to all the committee members and officers for a very good year and a job well done as well as a special welcome to Doris Bolef, incoming Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Ahl
Secretary-Treasurer

*Since the Division meeting, the SLA Conference Committee has chosen this program as a "Headliner" General Session. The Committee is looking for governmental figures as speakers, such as William Ruckelshaus of EPA.
**Unfortunately, he already has other commitments which preclude his being a speaker.

Financial Statement, January 1, 1983, May 31, 1983

Operating Fund

Opening Balance, January 1, 1983

Income
    Total $3,604.46
    Total Available for Expenditures   4,778.96

Expenditures and Disbursements
    Total   2,610.48

Closing Balance   2,168.48

Merrill Lynch Ready Assets Trust Fund

Opening Balance, January 1, 1983

Income
    Total   887.99
    Total Available for Expenditures   8,386.37

Expenditures and Disbursements
    Transfers to Operating Fund   500.00

Closing Balance, May 31, 1983   7,886.37

Summary of Report Submitted by Ruth Ahl, Secretary-Treasurer

Student Award Winner

The Biological Sciences Division sponsored a student member to attend the Annual Conference in New Orleans in June. Division support of the student member included travel stipend (up to $250), accommodations in the Division suite, and tickets to BSD events.

The winning essay was submitted by Jerri Jazbinschek, a student at the University of Illinois, Urbana. Those of us attending the New Orleans conference enjoyed meeting Jerri and hope the BSD will be sponsoring another student next year. The Division thanks Rebecca Martin, Head, Biology Library, University of California, Berkeley, chair and her committee.

Winning Essay

The evaluation of any part of a library collection is a difficult process, but the evaluation of the collection of a specialized library can be even more difficult, especially if this evaluation will consider not only the coverage of the library in its area of specialization, but also its coverage of the related fields for which information is needed to support research on that field. This paper considers a method to evaluate the collection of a library in biology or a related sub-field.

The rather obvious first step in the evaluation of a biological library is to obtain a random sample (300-500) of citations from the most recent year of Biological Abstracts and Biological Abstracts/RRM and see how many of these sources the library has. This is a quick, easy procedure which will indicate how good the library's coverage is in biology. However, researchers in biology need some information from many other fields, such as chemistry, physics, medicine, agriculture, etc., to support their work. One possible method to evaluate the coverage of these items in a biology library is to take the sample of citations from above, or a subset of them if necessary for reasons of time, and obtain copies of each. From these items, a list of items cited can be obtained. Taking into account duplicate citations, this list or a random subset can be compared with the library's holdings and the percent owned by the library can be calculated. This gives, instead of the measure of the library's coverage of biological materials, the coverage of the material needed and thus cited by persons who do research in biology.

In a library of more restricted scope the random sample of citations can be taken from those items whose topics are related to the topics which the library intends to cover. For example, for a botany library the initial sample can be taken from those items in Biological Abstracts and Biological Abstracts/RRM that relate to botany. Online subject searching capabilities allow this process to be easily applied by special libraries whose users have almost any

Winning Essay Con't

level of specificity of subject
interest. A subject search can
be conducted in BIOSIS PREVIEWS
that is general enough to cover
the entire scope of coverage of
the special library but speci-
fic enough to not collect items
not related to the interests of
the library. Then a random
sample of the citations
retrieved by the search can be
used in the evaluation. When
using this method the tester
must rember that if the ma-
terials needed to support
research on the given topic
are to be measured, the cita-
tions obtained from the papers
retrieved by the search must
be considered instead of or as
well as the others. Also, as
the subject area covered gets
narrower, the chances are that
a substantial portion of items
picked up by the search will
have been written by people
who use the library being
tested. This will tend to
produce bias in the test in
favor of the library, since
reasearchers using the library
will tend to cite those items
which they had access to, and
the library will be a major
source of items cited.
Once the raw figures on the
availability of relevant ma-
terial have been obtained, the
types of materials not held
by the library should be
considered. Is the weakness
in technical reports, journal
articles, books, recent mate-
rial, older items, items di-
rectly related to the libra-
ry's needs, etc.? The most
cost effective way to increase
coverage can then be consi-
dered. Options will include
subscribing to new journals,
obtaining new monographs, im-

proving selection procedures
for technical reports, getting
backfiles of important jour-
nals, etc. If the biggest
lack is in material not direct
ly in the scope of the library,
the most effective way to meet
this need may be to improve in
terlibrary loan procedures or
to use the services of a pro-
fessional document delivery
service of some kind.
Special lacks in coverage that
relate to one's own library's
needs may be observed by keep-
ing track of questions asked
which can not be answered,
large amounts of interlibrary
loan requests in a certain
area, etc.
A good biology library should
cover the literature of its
subject well, and the litera-
ture needed by researchers in
biology as well as possible.
If the library is a branch of
a larger library, these rela-
ted needs may be met to a
large extent by other bran-
ches or the main library, but
if it is an independent spe-
cial library it will need to
consider coverage in areas not
directly related to its main
scope.

1984

Student Award

The Career Guidance Committee is pleased to announce that the Biological Sciences Division will be sponsoring a student member to attend the Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association in New York next June. The Division will provide the following support to one student with outstanding potential in this field:

1. Travel stipend (up to $250)

2. Room in the division suite at the conference hotel

3. Tickets to BSD events

4. Opportunity to meet and develop contacts among biological sciences librarians

Selection will be based upon an essay on some aspect of biological sciences librarianship and a letter of reference. The student must be a member of SLA to qualify. Details and applications will be sent to all library schools in January. If you are interested in applying or would like to recommend someone for this award, please write: Karen Horst, Career Guidance Committee Chair, St. Luke's Hospital Medical Library, 44th and Wornall, Kansas City, MO 64111

Advertisers

Biofeedback will be accepting advertisements starting with the next issue. Please let the Business Manager know if you have an advertisement or could suggest a possible advertiser. Write: Gretchen Stephens, Veterinary Medical Library, Room 108, Lynn Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

Specialine

The SLA Employment Clearinghouse Service offers job information for professional librarians through an employment telephone hotline called SpeciaLine. The number is 212/460-9716. Job-seekers can dial this number at any time to hear the latest job openings from all parts of North America. SpeciaLine is updated with new job descriptions every second Friday.

Employers may send their job postings to Ruth Rodriguez, Manager, Membership Records and Services, at the Association Office in New York or call her for additional information at 212/477-9250.

Include: title of position, deadline for applications, description of primary responsibilities, and qualifications, (education, subject specialization, languages, online systems, previous experience, other skills or abilities). Also include your name, organization, address, and zip code. This is a continuing service for members that operates from the Association Office.

Authors

The Editor would like to regularly include articles of interest to Division members as part of Biofeedback. Articles should be no longer than 2-3 double-spaced pages. Please submit at least six weeks prior to publication dates: February 6, 1984, May 7, 1984, and September 10, 1984. If your article is not selected, it will be returned to you.
All contributors please send copy at least six weeks prior to the publication dates above. This is your newsletter, please contribute.

Biological Sciences Division
Special Libraries Association
% Jean E. Crampon
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