
Biofeedback

*Biological Sciences Division
Special Libraries Association*

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Inside

New Editor Takes Over

Call for Nominations

Natural History Caucus

Student Stipend Award Essay

New Members

BSD Member Updates

BSD 1991-92 Committee Roster

New Member Profiles

Chair's Report

Cami L. Loucks

The 1992 San Francisco Conference is really taking shape for our Division. The membership can be proud of the many committees that helped to make the 1992 conference program interesting, enlightening, and entertaining. As of this writing, the following programs are planned:

Sunday, June 7, 1992

Executive Board Meeting, 1991-92: 7:30 am - 9:00 am
Executive Board Meeting, 1992-93: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Open House (Chem, BioS, ERMD): 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Monday, June 8, 1992

Human and Plant Genome Projects: 10:30 am - 1:00 pm
(BioS, Chem, Pharm, FAN)
Chemistry for the Non-Chemist: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
(Chem, BioS)
Open House (BioS, Chem, ERMD): 5:50 pm - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 9, 1992

Biotechnology at Kesterson Reserve: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Annual Meeting, BSD: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Open House (ERMD, Chem, BioS): 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, June 10, 1992

*Disaster Preparedness for Libraries: 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday, June 11, 1992

*Tour at Golden Gate Park: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

*Ticketed events

We are appreciative of the sponsorship we received for the Biotechnology Roundtable from Pergamon Press. And we are actively seeking additional sponsors for that and other events at the conference. If any member is interested in working with a committee to seek sponsorship for our division, please drop me a note or call me at (816) 751-2270.

New Editor Takes Over

Cami L. Loucks, Chair

There are many committees who are deserving praise for their initiatives and commitments to our division, but in this issue I would like to give special appreciation to Steven Sowell, our *Biofeedback* Editor of four years. Steven has done an excellent job of collecting data, meeting deadlines, arranging for better and more cost effective printing, and most of all he has been an inspiration and guide to the various Chairs of the Division over the years. We have been fortunate, indeed, to have had his skills, time and talent. We offer our congratulations as Steven has resumed work in graduate school to obtain a Ph.D. in library science. To our good fortune, Steven has persuaded Adam Schiff, of the California Academy of Sciences, to be his successor as Editor. Steven will still play an active role in the printing and mailing of *Biofeedback*, but please note elsewhere in this issue the new mailing address for items to be published in the next issue.

Natural History Caucus Established

At its Board Meeting, the SLA Board of Directors approved the formation of the Natural History Caucus, effective immediately. The purpose of the Caucus shall be to serve as a forum for issues of interest to information specialists utilizing the literature of natural history. Caucus membership is available to SLA members only. To join, send \$6 to SLA Natural History Caucus, 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-2508.



Call for Nominations

The Nominations and Elections Committee (Lucy Rowland, Chair; Anna McGowan; and Jane Cole) is asking for nominations of members interested in running for the positions of Chair-elect and Secretary-Treasurer of the Division for 1992-93. The committee is presently contacting individuals, but if you are interested in being considered this year, or for future elections, please contact one of the committee members. The nominees selected for each of these posts will be published in the Winter 1992 issue of *Biofeedback* and the election will be held in the early spring.

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Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by Special Libraries Association.

The newsletter is published four times a year: February, May, August, and November. Deadline for submitting materials is the fifteenth of the month prior to publication.

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Student Stipend Award Essay

The Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information

Sheri Tickle Hester

One of the more successful examples of highly productive interactions between information professionals and information users is the Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information (GAIN). This 24-hour service, based at the Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia, is designed to provide medical information via computer to health sciences professionals across Georgia.

This program, which has been in operation since 1985, illustrates how information professionals can effectively respond to the needs of clients. Given that the amount of health sciences information is rapidly growing, and many biomedical facts become outdated quickly, many health sciences professionals (especially in rural areas) lack access to adequate health sciences resources. GAIN provides needed access to biomedical information by linking the GAIN network center minicomputer to microcomputers across Georgia. Through GAIN, health sciences professionals may communicate via electronic mail, receive advice from colleagues listed in a consultants register, review opportunities on the continuing medical education bulletin board, access biomedical literature through an on-line catalog of materials in GAIN health sciences libraries or a subset of MEDLINE (which contains journals available within the GAIN network), and borrow materials from other GAIN members.

The following scenarios delineate some possible uses of GAIN: (1) A physician sends a request for a literature search via electronic mail to a health sciences librarian several miles away. Results of the search are sent back to the physician via electronic mail within a few hours. The physician can then select materials and request them via electronic mail. (2) A physician examines a patient and then uses GAIN to enter MEDLINE to find information on that patient's symptoms, sends requests for the items found in MEDLINE to a health sciences library via electronic mail, and leaves an electronic message for a colleague who has agreed to serve as a GAIN consultant in the area that the patient's symptoms indicate. The GAIN consultant sends a reply back later in the day, and the library materials arrived the next day. Thus, using GAIN, those health sciences professionals that have access to adequate health sciences resources can reduce the time needed to procure information, and those health sciences professionals who do not have

adequate access to health sciences resources are provided with access. Access and the time it takes to access information can both be critical in a medical situation.

GAIN serves as an example of how information professionals can tailor their services to efficiently and quickly meet the needs of information users. In this age of the information explosion and increasing materials costs, GAIN is a successful cooperative venture, a proactive effort on the part of information professionals at Mercer University and across the state of Georgia to better serve health sciences professionals. GAIN should serve as a challenge for biological sciences librarians to anticipate and meet their client's needs through increased cooperative ventures such as resource sharing and networking, utilizing state-of-the-art technology, and assuming leadership in the management of the biological sciences knowledge base.

Sources

Barlett, O., J.A. Rankin, and S.T. Statom. 1988. GAIN: A network of physicians and hospitals in Georgia. *Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia* 77(8):632-7.

Rankin, J.A., J.C. Williams, and D.J. Mishelevich. 1987. Information system linking a medical school with practitioners and hospitals. *Journal of Medical Education* 62:336-343.

Sheri will graduate from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in May, 1992, with a master's degree in library and information science. She currently performs all on-line literature searching for Integrated Laboratory Systems, a company that performs literature-based information analysis for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Toxicology Program, and other Federal agencies.

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Membership Renewal



Membership dues renewal notices for January–December 1992 were mailed in mid-November.

Dues renewal time is a chance for you to make changes in your Division affiliations and also to contribute to the special funds created to further expanding the goals and objectives of the Association. Please contribute, if you can, to the Ron Coplen Memorial Fund, Special Programs Fund, Scholarship Fund, Research Fund, or Building Reserve Fund. Your continued support will allow the work of these funds to grow.

Renew Your Membership Today!

New Member Profiles

April Bennington

April is Public Services Librarian at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She previously was Medical Services Librarian at NASA-Johnson Space Center. April received her M.S. in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Janice Dodd

Janice is part-time librarian at the Berry Botanic Garden in Portland, Oregon. She received her M.L.S. from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut in May 1990. Janice has a B.S. in anthropology/international studies and currently spends her free time coming up to speed botanically.

Daniel Joseph Drazen

Daniel graduated from Rosary College with a Master's in library science in 1976. He earned a B.A. in theology at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 1974. Daniel is currently working as Librarian for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Sylvia A. Graham

Sylvia is a reference librarian at the Henry Ford Hospital Sladen Library in Detroit, Michigan. She received her M.S. in library science from Wayne State University in 1989. Currently she is Bulletin Editor for the Michigan Chapter of SLA and is a Program Committee liaison for SLA and the Metropolitan Detroit Library Group (MDMLG).

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