

Special Libraries Association

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Special Libraries Association Volume 24, Number 2 Fall 1998

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Judy Wojcik

I want to thank all the hard-working people involved in planning programs for the Minneapolis Conference in June 1999. They are organizing some exciting presentations which will appeal to our membership. Let me share some details with you. The CE course will be "Alternative Medicine Information Resources" taught by Bonnie Snow, which was arranged by Diane Schmidt and the Professional Development Committee. Diane and her committee members also arranged two tours: a tour of the Minneapolis Zoo, and a tour of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Sanctuary/University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Lori Bronars and the Vendor Relations Committee have planned a Roundtable Discussion during our Continental Breakfast before the exhibits open. Speakers from CISTI, Majors, Elsevier, and BIOSIS will talk about products and services they have to offer us, and we will have a chance to converse with them in a relaxed atmosphere.

Lorri Zipperer and members of the Medical Section have planned "The Role of Information in the Quality of Health Care". The speakers will be Carla Funk of the Medical Library Association and Martin Hatlie of the National Patient Safety Foundation. How often we information professionals get bogged down in daily tasks! This presentation will discuss the "bigger picture" — how information affects the health care system.

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The "Transgenic Organisms" program has three speakers: one on fish, one on agriculture, and one on legal aspects including cloning. Nancy Curtis and Pam Barnard of the Minneapolis Program Committee have been hard at work on this presentation. BIO, LEGAL and FAN are each contributing a speaker. Our speaker who will discuss transgenic fish is Perry Hackett from the University of Minnesota, Department of Genetics and Cell Biology.

Jeanne LaRocco of the Minneapolis Program Committee has planned "CDC on the Web" which will have two speakers. Onnalee Henneberry will discuss web sites for both CDC and National Center for Health Statistics information. Marianne Yaun will discuss CDC toxicology sites. PHARM is our co-sponsor, and they have gotten a contribution from FOI for this program.

What an exciting meeting the 1999 Annual Conference will be! I hope to see you there!

VISIT THE BIOMEDICAL & LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION WEB PAGE

http://nucleus.cshl.org/CSHLlib/blsd/index.htm

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Address Changes

If you have a change of address or phone number, please send this information to SLA so that they can be updated. You can mail those changes to: Membership Department, SLA, 1700 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 or e-mail changes to:christine@sla.org.

Biofeedback

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division Special Libraries Association

Vol. 24, No. 2 Fall 1998

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VENDOR RELATIONS UPDATE

Alesia McManus Member, Vendor Relations Committee Science Reference Librarian, North Carolina State University

OVID'S EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE REVIEWS (EBMR) DATABASE

Healthcare professionals practicing evidence based medicine utilize the medical literature to help them make patient care decisions. Once the relevant literature is identified, the quality of the research is assessed using criteria such as validity and sources of bias. The Evidence Based Medicine Reviews (EBMR) database provides reviews of articles that have met such evidence based criteria. The reviews come from two sources: the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and Best Evidence.

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is prepared by the International Cochrane Collaboration (http://cochrane.co.uk). According to their web site, the International Cochrane Collaboration is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "help people make well-informed decisions about healthcare by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions". Collaborative Review Groups review articles which are then used as the basis of a systematic topic review. The criteria and procedures for selecting articles and preparing reviews can be viewed through a link to the Cochrane handbook (http://www.medlib.com/cochranehandbook/). Comments and criticisms of the reviews can be submitted online via EBMR.

Best Evidence consists of two journals: the ACP Journal Club, a publication of the American College of Physicians, and Evidence Based Medicine, a joint publication with the British Medical Journal Group. The editors of Best Evidence choose articles they consider relevant and methodologically sound. The article reviews include commentary on the value of the article for clinical practice. Again, the selection criteria can be viewed.

These sources are searchable via keyword or phrase. Cochrane Systematic Reviews can be browsed by topic and the issues of the two journals comprising Best Evidence are also browsable. Database coverage is 1991 to the present. There is multi-directional linking between Ovid's Medline and Full Text databases so subscribers can begin a search in Medline and limit a search to EBM (Evidence Based Medicine Reviews) articles. I find Ovid's search interface easy to use but it took me some time to understand the structure of the database and its contents in order to use it effectively. The help screens are thorough but context-sensitive help is not always available. EMBR may be of interest to biomedical researchers as well as clinicians since the articles have been evaluated for quality. It could also be used as a tool for educating students preparing to become healthcare professionals.

NEW DIVISION AWARD APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jo Anne Boorkman Chair, Awards Committee

The SLA Biomedical and Life Sciences Division announces a new award. The Winifred Sewell Prize was recently approved by the Divisions Executive Board and nominations are now being accepted by the Divisions Awards Committee.

WINIFRED SEWELL PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES LIBRARIANSHIP

The WINIFRED SEWELL PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGIES is granted by the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association to a member who has shown leadership and innovation in the development and/or use of advanced technologies in the organization or dissemination of biomedical and life sciences information.

The Prize is named in honor of Winifred Sewell, who has been a member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division since 1946. Miss Sewell was Senior Librarian at Squibb Institute of Medical Research from 1946 until 1961. She was instrumental in the development of MEDLARS as Medical Subject Headings (MESH) Specialist and later served as Deputy Chair of the Bibliographic Services Division and Head of the Drug Literature Program at National Library of Medicine. Miss Sewell served as President of the Special Libraries Association from 1960-61, was President of the Drug Information Association from 1970-71, and will serve as Honorary President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in its 100th anniversary year in 1999-2000. She is the first woman and first librarian to be so honored. In addition, Miss Sewell is a Fellow of the Medical Library Association and is recipient of MLA's Eliot Prize for her book Guide to Drug Information (1977). In 1998 she was inducted into SLA's Hall of Fame at the annual conference in Indianapolis.

The Prize shall consist of an engraved plaque and a check in the amount of \$250.

The conferee shall be selected by the Division's Awards Committee, based on the following criteria:

- * Innovation in developing and applying new technologies
- * Commitment to educating others about new technologies
- * Ongoing and sustained interest in fostering creation or adaptation of emerging technologies to improve access to information in biomedical and life sciences.

The WINIFRED SEWELL PRIZE will be awarded at the annual business meeting of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division at the annual conference, but not necessarily every year.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

4

Complete the attached nomination form. Attach documentation describing the nominee's achievements in information technologies and life sciences librarianship. Include pertinent biographical data for the nominee. Forward the nomination form and description, in confidence, with your name, phone number and e-mail address to the chair of the Division's Awards Committee.

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

The Division Awards Committee is now taking nominations for the **Distinguished Member Award**. Applications, using the Nomination Form are now being accepted until March 15, 1999.

The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division has many distinguished members. This award gives us an opportunity to recognize a for his/her hard work and dedication. Please take a few minutes to read over the selection criteria and then nominate one of your fellow BLSD members for this award.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1. The award honors a member who has been active in the Division for at least the past four (4) years.
- 2. Particular attention will be given to contributions to the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division.
- 3. The following broad criteria will govern the selection process:

Nominees must excel in one or more areas:

- * Outstanding leadership in the Division, at meetings, and/or in committee work
- * Special and notable service to the Division, such as participation in special projects
- * Participation in workshops, seminars, teaching courses, public speaking activities, fund raising
- * Publications and editorial contributions to Biofeedback and/or the professional literature
- * Innovations in the work place
- * Mentoring activities, which result in publicity and acclaim for the profession and/or the Division
- * Other achievements indicting noteworthy dedication to the profession of special librarianship/information science
- 4. The contributions made by the candidate shall have been made over an extended period of time and shall be deemed to have had an enduring effect on the Division and/or the profession.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Complete the Nomination Form in this issue of the newsletter. Attach documentation describing the outstanding professional achievements or contributions to the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA and to special librarianship/information sciences. Include pertinent biographical data for the nominee. Forward the nomination form and description, in confidence, with your name, phone number and e-mail address to the chair of the Awards Committee.

Please use the Division's Nomination Form to submit names for either the Distinguished Member Award or the Winifred Sewell Prize.

SLA BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Nominations must be postmarked no later the	an March 15, 1999 to be considered.
Distinguished Member Award	Winifred Sewell Prize
Date:	
Nominee:	
Position:	
Address:	
Nominated by:	Signature:
Nominators phone:	E-mail address:
·	s person for this award/prize. Include information about award/prize as announced in the call for nominations. eccessary.

Send nominations to the 1998/99 chair of the BLSD Awards Committee:

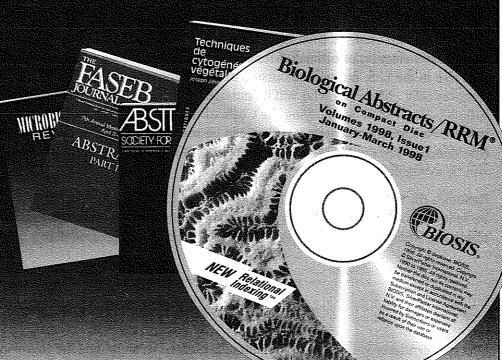
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Biological Abstracts/RRM on CD now contains changes to its indexing designed to make searching easier and the retrieval of records more accurate. In 1998, BIOSIS will also introduce new information to the file, including CAS Registry Numbers® from the Chemical Abstracts Service and Medline's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) disease terminology from the National Library of Medicine. These common terms have been added to facilitate cross-file searches.

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NOMINTIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Lucy M. Rowland Chair

The Division's Executive Board has approved a proposal to allow limited balloting via e-mail in the spring 1999 election of officers. Members who reside outside of the United States, or are members who live in the U.S. but will be outside of the country during the period of the election may vote electronically. Members who will be outside the country during the election must apply prior to the ballots being mailed by notifying the Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee. Electronic ballots, indicating one vote per office, can be sent to the Chair of the Committee (lrowland@arches.uga.edu) during the period of the election. More information about the process will be available on the website.

Resumes for the candidates will be put up on the Division's website later in the year. A message will be sent out to BSDNET-L when that happens. Members who are not signed on to the listsery should check the website (http://nucleus.cshl.org/CSHLlib/BLSD) periodically.

CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Nominations & Elections Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for the Division's Executive Board:

Chair-elect

Barb Butler, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology Virginia Lingle, Hershey Medical Center/Pennsylvania State College of Medicine

Secretary
John Tebo, University of Cincinnati
Tom Turner, Arizona State University

Director

Nancy Kozlowski, North Carolina Biotechnology Center Julia Perez, Michigan State University

Per the approved Procedures, these nominations will be published in the next issue of *Biofeedback* in addition to being posted here. Further nominations by written petition of 20 Division members and written acceptance by the nominee, shall be filed with the Nominations & Election Committee (see address below) by February 1, 1999 to be included on the written ballot.

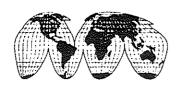
Ballots will be mailed to members in the spring.

The Nominations & Elections Committee: Barbara Schader, Patricia Yocum, Lucy Rowland (Chair)



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SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION 1997-98 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING JUNE 6, 1998

JUNE 6, 1998 MINUTES

Attendance: Larry Kelland Division Chair, Jo Anne Boorkman MLA Liason and incoming Awards Committee Chair, Lori Bronars Vendor Relations Committee Chair, Renee Bush Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, Nancy Curtis Membership Committee Chair, David Duggar Medical Section Chair and Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee Chair, Eleanor MacLean incoming Treasurer and Contributed Papers Session Junior Co-Chair, Annie Malley Indianapolis Program Chair, Fred Roper Division Past Chair and Bylaws Committee Chair, Lucy Rowland, Adam Schiff Director, Doug Macbeth, Diane Schmidt Professional Development Committee Chair, Tom Turner Contributed Papers Session Senior Co-Chair, Janet Cooper Weiss Public Relations Committee Chair, Judy Wojcik Division Chair-elect and Fund Development Committee Chair, and Patricia Yocum Awards Committee Chair.

Call-to-order.

Larry Kelland called the meeting to order at 3 PM.

2 Minutes

10

The minutes of the 1996-97 Executive Board meetings and Annual Business Meeting in Seattle on June 7,8,11 1997 were approved with the following amendments: Fred Roper was in attendance; Eleanor MacLean was Junior Co-Chair of Contributed Papers; Tom Turner was Senior Co-Chair of Contributed Papers.

3 Informational Reports

Executive Board (Kelland)

Kelland reported that the Natural History Caucus Meeting will be held on Monday afternoon. There are advantages for dissolving it as a caucus and beginning it as a section of the division. Without an annual report, the caucus will be defunct.

Larry Wright won the SLA Rose Vormelker Award and Winnifred Sewell was elected to the SLA Hall of Fame. Eleanor MacLean was elected an SLA Fellow.

The BIO web page will link to other favorite biology-related web sites. The Ambassador from the European Community will be welcomed at a reception. Regular communication in addition to formal reports is beneficial. A procedures manual for the division chair is under consideration. Jo Anne Boorkman developed division chair time line which could be incorporated into the BIO Procedures Manual. The SLA MidWinter meeting in Washington DC was 1.5 days in length. Commercialization of the SLA website was discussed, and Peter Moon raised the issue of archiving as the Association goes electronic. The electronic version of *Information Outlook* will be out this Summer, and Who's Who will be coming out in a members-only section on the SLA web page.

Chair-elect (Woicik)

Judy Wojcik is working on committee assignments.

Past Chair (Roper)

Fred Roper reported on the bylaws changes that were voted on and approved by the Executive Board.

Director (Schiff)

Adam Schiff revised the BIO Procedures Manual, including the change of division name and bylaws. He hopes to concentrate on the long range plan next year.

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Treasurer (Chisman)

Janet Chisman's report was received and accepted as submitted.

Committee Reports

Some committee reports were moved to the action/discussion agenda.

BSDNET-I (McManus)

Report was received.

Fund Development (Wojcik)

Committee members raised \$4100 for the Indianapolis Conference. Judy Wojcik recognized the hard work of the committee members: Lynn Labun, Linda Maddux, Michele Lavoie, Jack Cooper, Anna McGowan and Nancy Stimson. Fifty-five letters were mailed out, and eleven contributions were received, mostly unrestricted funds. ADDENDUM: Thanks to Nancy Stimson's efforts in contacting Cambridge Scientific, BIO received an additional \$500 contribution, raising the total contribution for Indianapolis to \$4600.

MLA Liason (Boorkman)

MLA celebrated its 100 year anniversary in Philadelphia this year. Judy Fields and David Bender attended the MLA Annual Conference. Forming an MLA corporate special interest group is

being discussed. Fred Roper won MLA's Marcia C. Noyes Award. Next year, the MLA conference will be in Chicago, and it will be in May prior to Memorial Day.

Medical Section (Duggar)

Three program activities were organized with help from and thanks to: Christina Pope, Nancy Bryant, Teresa Frydryk, Lorri Zipperer Annie Malley, and Tracy McCrimmon. The question of making the secretary's term a two-year term was raised.

Membership (Curtis)

Numbers are looking better since the downward trend has stopped. There is a new brochure for new members and a new one for students. SLA is aware of problems in its roster database.

MacLean said that a new computer system is in the works. A task force was appointed to discuss membership awards. The members of this task force will also write a petition to the SLA Division Cabinet, asking for more accurate membership records. ADDENDUM: Patrician Yocum read the petition at the Division Cabinet Meeting.

Nominations and Elections (Bush)

Annie Malley is chair-elect, Eleanor MacLean is treasurer, and Barb Butler is secretary.

Professional Development (Schmidt)

The marine biology CE course was repeated this year. Schmidt would like CE course suggestions for next year.

Indianapolis Program Committee (Malley)

Members of the committee are: Jack Cooper, Tom Cutshall, Barrie Hayes, Ann Juneau, Stephen Mitchell, Cathy Norton, Tom Turner, and Marjorie Westerfield. Other SLA divisions are involved with our programs which is good news financially.

Minneapolis Program Committee (Wojcik)

Judy Wojcik is looking for more co-sponsors: we have two for Transgenic Organsims and one for CDC on the Web.

Contributed Papers Session (Turner/MacLean)

Indianapolis Conference papers are up on the SLA web page.

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Public Relations (Weiss)

Press releases have been submitted to Information Outlook Janet Weiss is interested to hear what Board members and committee chairs would like to have this committee accomplish.

Student Relations/Career Guidance (Duggar)

David Duggar worked with Nancy Curtis (Membership) on a new brochure for students. Three students accepted free tickets for the Continental Breakfast: Brian Westra from the University of Michigan, Pamela Saales from the University of Kentucky, and E.M. Smigielski from the University of Illinois.

Vendor Relations (Bronars)

A questionnaire has been developed and will be distributed to vendors in Indianapolis. Results may be used for a Roudtable at either the Minneapolis or Philadelphia conferences.

4. Action/Discussion Items

Procedures Manual (Schiff)

The manual has been cleaned up and draft copies passed out to the members present. Thanks to everyone who gave comments on their sections.

Address changes arae to be sent to J. Wojcik who will forward them to John Tebo. Fred Roper said that he hopes the committee roster will continue to be published in the bulletin. The Executive Board rescinded the decision from last year re: changing the date of the bulletin.

A discussion of the BSDNET-l acronym occurred.

The treasurer's term of office will continue to be two years. The length of committee members' term of office was discussed. A two-year term with one renewal was approved.

Committees and sections should prepare or update their portion of the Procedures manual.

The goal is to put the Procedures Manual up on the web page. All officers receive a full copy of the manual, and committee chairs get a copy of their section which they should share with their committee members.

Bylaws (Roper)

Most changes to the Bylaws are for the sake of consistency. Fred Roper explained all the changes.

Awards (Yocum)

Eleanor MacLean was elected to the roster of SLA Fellows. Also, Larry Wright received the Rose L. Vormelker Award and Winnifred Sewell was inducted into the SLA Hall of Fame.

Other anniversaries besides 50 years should be acknowledged. Nancy Curtis suggested 25 year and even 5 year anniversaries should be acknowledged. Kelland appointed a task force to explore awards at Patricia Yocum's suggestion. (This is the task force that drafted the petition to the SLA Division Cabinet, asking for more accurate membership records.)

Kelland thanked chairs and officers for their hard work and support. He adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Bronars

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION 1998-99 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING JUNE 9, 1998 MINUTES

Attendance: Larry Kelland Division Past Chair and Bylaws Committee Chair, Jo Anne Boorkman MLA Liason and Awards Committee Chair, Barbara Butler Secretary, David Duggar Medical Section Past Chair and Membership Committee Chair, Teresa Frydryk Medical Section Secretary, Eleanor MacLean Treasurer and Contributed Papers Session Senior Co-Chair, Annie Malley Division Chair-elect and Fund Development Committee Chair, Geeth Rao Minneapolis Program Committee Chair, Lucy Rowland Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, Adam Schiff Director, Diane Schmidt Professional Development Committee Chair, John Tebo Biofeedback Editor, Tom Turner Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee Chair, Janet Cooper Weiss Public Relations Committee Chair, Judy Wojcik Division Chair, Patricia Yocum Nominations and Elections Committee, Lorri Zipperer Medical Section Chair.

1. Call to Order (Wojcik)

Judy Wojcik called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM.

- 2. Introduction of Executive Board Members, Committee chairs and guests.
- 3. A gift book on Indianapolis was presented to Larry Kelland by Judy Wojcik in appreciation for his work as division chair over the past year.
- 4. Old Business
- a. Division listserv name and Division acronym: options for the listserv acronym are Bionet-I, Biosla, and Biolib. Committee chairs will have the charge of overseeing the name. Division acronym will remain BIO, which is what SLA Headquarters uses.
- b. Awards Committee: The Task Force appointed by Larry Kelland to discuss awards will handle Landmark Member awards. This task force is a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. The Distinguished Member Award will be the responsibility of the Awards Committee. The Task Force will prepare a motion to the Division Cabinet, requesting SLA to monitor membership records for accuracy. ADDENDUM: Patricia Yocum presented the petition at the Division Cabinet Meeting.
- c. Fund Development Committee: Judy Wojcik recommended that at least one member carry over into the next year and that the chair maintain an up-to-date mailing list of companies to whom letters have been mailed. Larry Kelland indicated that the list should contain six key elements for each company: name of representative, position, address, phone, fax and e-mail. Boorkman suggested that these guidelines be incorporated into the Procedures Manual. Judy Wojcik will forward the appropriate text to Adam Schiff.
- d. Student Relations/Career Guidance: David Duggar is encouraging the student member of the committee to help with the *Biofeedback* column. He suggested advertizing free student tickets earlier in the year to encourage attendance at BIO functions. He also suggested following SLA's lead in using student volunteers to help with CE courses. Tom turner will be the new chair of this committee.
- 5. Recommendations from Committee Chairs and Officers:
- a. Awards: Jo Anne Boorkman suggested that the Fund Development Committee seek sponsorship of the Distinguished Members Award. Awards such as a plaque, engraved mug, or engraved pewter bowl were suggested. Jo Anne will draft criteria for a "Lifetime Achievement Award". Judy Wojcik charged the Awards Committee to promote recognition of BIO members for SLA -wide awards. Adam Schiff will incorporate these changes into the Procedures Manual.

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b. Contributed Papers Session: Publishing the Proceedings is not the responsibility of the Publications Committee. Adam Schiff will make sure that the Procedures Manual makes this clear.

- c. Medical Section: David Duggar recommended that the Medical Section has a representative or liason on the Fund Development Committee. Janet Cooper Weiss volunteered.
- d. Long Range Plan: Adam Schiff requested help in updating the Long Range Plan which was last updated in 1993. The current plan will be published in *Biofeedback*, and a call for assistance will go out to the membership.

New Business

- a. Minneapolis Program Committee: three programs are Transgenic Organisms, CDC on the Web, and The Role of Information in the Quality of Health Care. Co-sponsorship is still being arranged.
- b. Philadelphia Program Committee: Annie Malley will tell Judy Wojcik when she has a chair for this committee. The Medical Section is interested in a program on moecular biology. Program suggestions included: field trip to the Natural History Museum (co-sponsor with Natural History Caucus), medical ethics, Year 2000, and medical records (Zipperer). Adam Schiff suggested a trip to the new acquarium at Cauden. Other programs suggestions were urban runoff (Kelland), and New Jersey cancer clusters (Weiss).
- c. Medical Section: Lorri Zipperer is interested in promoting the section. Patricia Yocum suggested putting an article in Information Outlook. Other suggestions: publicize via the listserv and recruit members from PHARM. Lorri Zipperer suggested that we "spotlight" members next year, having them give a a short presentation on their professional roles.
- d. Professional Development: We have an August 1st deadline for the CE course. Topics should be division-oriented rather than SLA-wide in appeal. Suggestions: botany (Schiff), alternative medicine (Weiss), metadata (Kelland), consumer health resources (Weiss), and toxicology (Frydryk).
- e. Public relations: Janet Cooper Weiss mentioned the SLA logo style guide and suggested we survey membership for input. Adam Schiff endorsed further development of the Web Page, including a link to Special Libraries Day (Suggested by Weiss). Lorri Zipperer suggested a bibliography of members' scholarly works be added to the Web Page and that we identify expertise within the division. Eleanor MacLean said that Betty Davis has a list we could update. John Tebo suggested a bibliography column for Biofeedback. Lucy Rowland said that it might be useful to survey other divisions about their PR activities, and Janet Cooper Weiss will do it. Janet suggested a contest for Special Libraries Day which will appear in Biofeedback and the listsery. Judy Wojcik will try to recruit more members for the PR committee.
- f. Publications Committee: No report. There is one member left on the committee from last year and two new members. Jo Anne Boorkman and Barb Butler questioned if this committee needs to exist. Judy Wojcik said that the two new members are interested in having this committee move into a new area: helping members get published. Lorri Zipperer said that the committee could help membership share scholarship. A suggestion was made to have the committee write an article for *Biofeedback*, asking if there is interest in a committee to help members get published and also asking for mentors to come forward who wish to help. Lorri Zipperer suggested that a roundtable could be set up where authors would share their experiences in getting published. A possible ticketed event would be a lunch before the Contributed Papers Session.
- g. Vendor Relations: Judy Wojcik cirulated a suvey compiled by Lori Bornars. Lori has handed copies out to vendors.

Judy Wojcik adjourned the meeting at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Butler

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Susan C. Curtis Government Relations Liaison

The 105th Congress did not support the proposed Title 44 reforms pertaining to the public printing and distribution of federal documents. Senate bill 2288, the Government Publications Reform Act of 1998 was defeated in the face of strong lobbying from non-governmental publishing groups. In a further step the Congress cut funding for the Joint Committee on Printing. After December 31, 1998, the Committee will have no assigned staff and be required to work out of the offices of the House Committee on House Oversight and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

The Congress moreover approved a conference report (105-796) on the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. It is expected that the President will sign the legislation. The purpose of the legislation is to bring the Copyright Act into line with the World Intellectual Property Organization treaties that were adopted in 1996. National library groups remain wary of the legislation's provisions and are continuing to lobby for maintaining a balance between protecting information and providing access to it.

Importantly, the legislation makes no change to the Fair Use Doctrine. Nonprofit libraries, archives and educational institutions will be exempt from criminal prosecution if the institution can show that it had no reason to believe that its actions violated the new law.

The act extends the length of copyright protection from "life + 50 years" to "life + 70 years". Libraries, archives and nonprofit educational institution may, however, treat copyrighted work in its last 20 years of protection as if it were in the public domain for noncommercial uses so long of the institution determines that the work will not be subject to "commercial exploitation." If exploitation is alleged by the copyright owner, use of the material must cease until the accusation can be adjudicated.

Also, libraries are exempt from liability based on the content of a transmission made by a user of the library. If a library stores information location tools or hyperlinks on its server which a copyright holder believes violates his rights, the library will not be liable for prosecution if it disables access to the material quickly.

Authorized institutions will be able to make up to three digital copies of certain categories of copyrighted work. They will be able, moreover, to loan these copies to other authorized institutions. If the digital storage mechanism in use becomes obsolete, the library will be able to preserve the item using a new technology.

The legislation took note of the challenges that copyright present to designers of distance education curriculum. The Register of Copyrights was asked to make recommendations on the matter to determine what level of exemption for distance education classes may need to be enacted.

The conference committee elected to drop the proposal concerning anti-piracy. This proposal had aspired to provide protection for additional collections of information, many of which did not presently receive copyright protection. It is anticipated that this issue will be revived in the next Congress.

In other news, the National Science Foundation is continuing to review the feasibility of establishing a National Institute for the Environment." Rita Colwell, the new head of the NSF, states that while she is not an advocate for an independent agency, she is anxious that more environmental research be funded. She also is calling for more interdisciplinary collaboration. She and Ernest Moniz from the Department of Energy are already working on a multi-agency project for a supercomputing initiative.

The advisory council of the National Human Genome Research Institute has approved a recommendation that the project map at least 90% the human genome by the end of 2001. The recommendation also requests that one-third of the genome be completely sequenced by 2001. It is suggested that an international peer review process be established to verify claims. This recommendation will require sequencers to double or possibly triple their output. The director of the Genome Research Institute, Francis Collins, denies that this initiative is in response to the claim that Celera Genomics, a company led by J. Craig Venter, will complete sequencing the human genome in three years.

Essential Resources in Biotechnology...

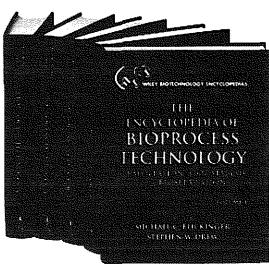
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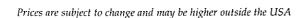
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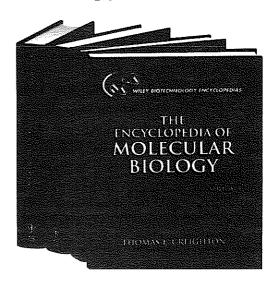
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Tom Turner Chair, Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee

"There's nothing that sets this resume apart from any other resume I've seen so far." Have you ever heard these words before? Possibly not. If you did, the interviewer was being honest, if not especially tactful. But I can assure you that this thought goes through the minds of librarians all the time who are on search committees and evaluating resumes. The job market is usually quite tight, especially for those entry-level positions which are broadly written to allow for submissions by those with a MLS (or equivalent) and no previous professional experience.

The dilemma faced by recent library school graduates in the job market was brought home to me by an experience I recently had. I was on a search committee to fill a half-time reference position at a large university. Applications we received from recent library school graduates got this response from me and the other committee members: "There's nothing that sets this resume apart from any other resume I've seen so far."

It wasn't a matter of our being heartless. The job search committee members have all been in the same boat. But it's our responsibility to hire the best possible librarian for the job. And relevant experience, whether professional or not, plays a crucial factor in making that final cut. If you make the final cut, and get the interview, you can then wow the search committee with your personality and charm. But personality and charm rarely come through in cover letters and resumes. To make that final cut, you need to have relevant experience that meets the qualifications listed in the job advertisement, all of the required and some preferred qualifications.

By understanding how a typical job search committee works you can gain some valuable insights. Prior to looking over the applications, the committee sits down and comes up with a scoring sheet that lists each of the required and preferred qualifications that was listed in the job advertisement. The committee agrees on what criteria an applicant would have to meet to be assigned a specific number of points. For example, if one of the Preferred qualifications was "Library instruction experience," the committee may decide how they define "library instruction experience", and how many years of experience would rate in the point range.

Copies of each application (cover letter and resume) are then distributed to each search committee member, who score each applicant. If an applicant does not meet all of the required qualifications (such as an ALA accredited MLS) they are eliminated from consideration. The search committee meets and discusses the final score tallies, weeds out those applicants that scored poorly, and selects those applicants that scored the highest to invite for an interview.

Why is this important to you as a student member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division? If you're not already out there in the job market, you soon will be, so it's good to understand how the whole hiring process works. While the above may vary somewhat due to the size of the institution, affirmative action guidelines promote a standardized approach that ensures some fairness to the process.

Then how do you make sure your resume and cover letter stand out, especially if you are competing with applicants that have years of real world professional library experience? The truth is that there is no easy answer. People on a search committee who are going through thirty or more cover letters and resumes are going to be looking for some experience or background that makes you stand out from all the rest of the applicants. They will easily discard applications with spelling or grammar mistakes. And while a search committee understands that newly graduated library school students will have limited (or no) prior professional library experience, they will look very carefully at the library related experience you do have. If you're applying for a position in the public services, for example, the search committee will be very interested in internships that you may have had in the public services. Prior paraprofessional library experience is also important here to help you stand out, though relevant non-library experience will also be considered.

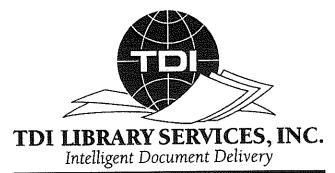
Continued from page 18

When I was in library school, my university library offered library school students opportunities to work in nearly every library department to get real world experience, yet there were always a few students who chose to avoid these valuable opportunities. If your interests lie in biomedical libraries, I suggest you apply for an internship (or paraprofessional position) in one of those libraries. Due to so many people applying for jobs in the library job market, you need all the relevant experience you can get to make your resume and cover letter really stand out.

And, by the way, this happened to me once. When I graduated from library school in 1984, I went through the Placement Center experience at the annual American Library Association Conference that year (a column in itself). I had a public library director (who had spent all of 30 seconds going over my resume) inform me to my face that "There's nothing that sets this resume apart from any other resume I've seen so far." It was hard to convince him otherwise after hearing that (not to mention ego-deflating and downright discouraging).

So, before you send off a resume, ask yourself, "Is there anything here that will set this resume apart from the thirty other resumes they might receive?" And even better, "Did I address as many of the qualifications listed in the job advertisement as I could?" If your answer is "Yes" to both questions, you've got an edge over others applying for that job.

In this column I hope to share the opportunities available to you from the Special Libraries Association and especially the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. And I'll be sharing job advice from other members of our Division. Our thanks goes out to present committee members Tom Cutshall and Barrie Hayes for their insight as well as past chair David Duggar for his dedication and thoroughness.



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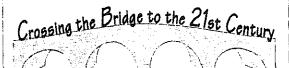


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If you have any queries contact John Latham (john@sla.org) or Colleen Keller (colleen@sla.org) on 1-202-234-4700, ext 639 or 651.

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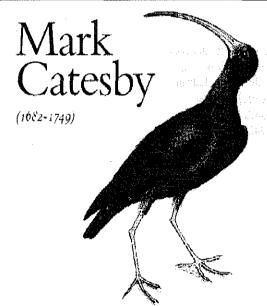
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