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Message from the Chair

Nancy Dickenson

It was great to see many of you in Philadelphia at the annual conference. Philadelphia was a great convention city, and I was proud of our division's contribution to the event. DBIO had some outstanding programming that drew in members from across the association. Thanks for that go to program planner, Howard Fuller, for his innovative program ideas. Howard's hard work really paid off. Because of this, he was the recipient of the 2011 Chair's Award. You can read about that in more detail later in this issue.

One of my goals as chair is to increase our outreach to the many members across the United States and around the world unable to come to the conference. I think it is important that all members feel connected and receive value from their membership. That said, the main issues topping the list of discussion items during both the June 11 DBIO Board Meeting and at the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, June 14, revolved around communication. Topics addressed included the DBIO website and SLA association-wide changes to all division and chapter web participation; educational webinars; the development of a division officers' wiki; and a review of our commitment to this publication, *Biofeedback*.

Website

We are so proud of our [DBIO website](#). It is attractive and really useful for members. There are a lot of other SLA chapters and divisions that cannot say the same thing. So the association has developed a new set of web guidelines and is offering a new web hosting service through WordPress. We entered the conference with many concerns about how these new requirements would affect our website. We are making every effort to keep our beautiful website and migrate to the new hosting service. There are still issues to be resolved. Thanks to our webmasters, Claudia Lascar and Monica Kirkwood, who are working to keep our website viable.

(continued next page)

Continuing Education Webinars

We are reaching out to members and providing continuing education through a series of free, or very low cost, webinars. We already had one this spring in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Division. Be on the lookout for announcements of upcoming fall events. The Continuing Education Committee, chaired by Christine Whitaker, deserves kudos for this outreach. Christine would like to add that the CE committee needs more members. So, join in the fun!

Officers' Wiki

Our past chair, Diane Schmidt, is leading the charge to build a wiki for officers and committee chairs. This wiki will allow those of us who are holding positions to share our experience and knowledge with those who are new to offices and those who might be thinking of taking one on. This will be different from the *Recommended Practices* that already exists. Rather, it will be a guide to actual tasks and other practical information.

Biofeedback

Support for *Biofeedback* was unanimous. *Biofeedback* is a good source of revenue for the division and a great way for us all to stay in touch. Editor Susan Kendall and Associate Editor Buzz Haughton do a terrific job, but they need our help. *Biofeedback* depends on the material contributed by all of us, the DBIO members. You are encouraged to send articles to Susan for publication. Articles can be anything that you think would interest biomedical and life science librarians. Book or product reviews are always great. Case studies (how you solved a problem at work) are also good. Be creative. And, for those of us who must publish, *Biofeedback* counts! Be on the lookout for a survey later this year to learn more about members' opinions on *Biofeedback*.

I came away from the conference feeling good about our division. DBIO has the best group of committed people! So, if you have been thinking about getting involved, please do. You will be happy you did. We have a number of committee member and chair positions open (in addition to Continuing Education). More will be available as terms expire at the end of the year. Check out the [website](#) to see where you might fit in and let me (ndickenson@stanfordmed.org) know which spot you would like to claim.

Philadelphia Conference Program Highlights

Two DBIO members, Dorothy Barr, and Becky Miller, agreed to summarize, highlight, and comment on programs from DBIO or other divisions that they attended at the annual conference, and their reports are presented below. Remember that at least some of the full presentations and handouts will eventually be posted on the [SLA website](#), although many were not up yet at time of this writing.

Specify 6: Museums Specimen Database

Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 10:00-11:30

Summarized by Dorothy Barr

Andy Bentley, Ichthyology Collection Manager at the Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas, is a developer of the [Specify 6](#) database, which has been under development for several years (hence the "6"). It allows museums to catalog all their specimens into a database and make them available. Often this information has been limited to handwritten notebooks, so that it has been unavailable to researchers unless they actually came to the institution and collected the data for themselves. Specify 6 allows museum staff to enter pertinent data about their collections into a database so that it is uniformly cataloged and the information is easy to access and associate with the specimens. Since Specify 6 is a freely available database, researchers anywhere can access information about the specimens.

Specify 6 is free and open source; it was developed under an NSF grant beginning in 1987 and has been around about 15 years (the original was dos-based). Currently there is a staff of 12, and it is used in about 375 collections in 26 countries. Over 10 million specimens have been cataloged.

Written in Java so that it is database agnostic, Specify 6 is scalable and highly customizable. Andy gave many details about the database and how is being used in various ways by different organizations.

Science 2.1: New Forms of Scholarly Communication in the Sciences
Wednesday June 15, 2011, 8:00-9:30
Summarized by Dorothy Barr

There were three presenters for this program; first up was Don Hagen of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). He urged participants to think of open, sustainable models. The mission statement of NTIS talks about making technical information perpetually and widely available, and the organization works on dissemination and archiving using an aggregator. The National Archives and Records Administration is their backup. In 2009 they launched an online library. They use themes of science that go across government boundaries – cloud, crowd, and community. This reflects the overall policies of the current administration.

Jean-Claude Bradley of Texas University is a chemistry librarian. He stated that the accepted trusted model, in chemistry even more than in other fields, is flawed and should be replaced with a model based on transparency. He gave examples of differences between “trusted sources” for figures like boiling points. It is important to look at all the data and arrive at the best information. Different “trusted sources” can give different numbers for the same thing. He referred to [Open Notebook Science](#). In contrast to traditionally accepted ideas, there are no actual facts, only data, and assumptions made from those data.

Dorothea Solo, UW-Madison, used the theme “Librarians Love Data.” She outlined several steps to working with data: conceptualize (e.g., National Science Foundation Data Management Planning); create or receive; appraise and select; ingest (e.g., [SWORD](#), a protocol for handing off datasets); preserve (California Digital Library, curation, microservices); store ([LOCKSS](#)); access; and transform (e.g., crowdsourcing). Also one should consider authority control (e.g., [ORCID](#)); citation standards; small-data storage (institutional repositories); campus data policies; embedded librarians; training and consciousness-raising; and data literacy. There are opportunities at the [federal level](#) pulling data from across federal agencies.

So They Say You Have To Publish? Some Editors of Journals for Special Librarians Tell You How It's Done
Monday, June 13, 2011, 2:00-3:30
Summarized by Dorothy Barr

Three journal editors presented at this program. The first was Lisa O'Connor, University of Kentucky, *Journal of Business and Finance Librarianship*. She told participants to first *read* the journal we're interested in to understand what the journal editor wants to publish. Then, rather than take on a big and intimidating project, work incrementally, in bits and pieces. It's increasingly important to think cross-disciplinarily. We should also think carefully about methodology, as that is an important component that editors consider. Finally, develop a thick skin for rejections, because they are bound to come!

Next was Leslie Reynolds, Texas A&M, Editor of *Practical Academic Librarianship*. She suggested keeping a log of ideas for articles and to check out the websites, [A Library Writer's Blog](#) and [Publish, not Perish](#).

Anita Ezzo, Editor of *Journal of Agricultural and Food Information*, discussed the peer review and editing processes and gave practical suggestions, for example, abstracts should be no more than 100 words; tables and figures should always be at the end, not incorporated within the article; all graphics should be submitted separately; and to remember that color graphics may cost the author.

Finally, Tony Stankus gave examples of articles that he, as the editor of *Science & Technology Libraries* would like to see. Possible topics could include rare earth elements; publishing habits of major Asian universities; fMRIs; alternative energy sources like algae; who is publishing in open access journals, and stories about Nobel Prize winners from our institutions at the time the winners are announced in October.

After the presentations and questions, the top fifty institutions whose authors published in peer-reviewed library science journals were announced. The results have been published in *Science & Technology Libraries* 30 (2) as “The affiliations of U.S. Science Librarians in the most prominent journals of science, engineering, agricultural and medical librarianship, 2000-2010” by Amy Hardin and Tony Stankus, p. 143-156.

Collaboration Across Disciplines
Monday, June 13, 2011, 2:00-3:30
Summarized by Becky Miller

Perhaps more aptly named “Tools for Collaboration Across Disciplines,” this session featured five speakers who described tools that could facilitate collaboration among researchers.

Sarah Shreeves, [BibApp](#)

BibApp is open-source software that helps answer the question ‘do you know what your researchers are doing?’. It is designed to be used internally at an institution, and it mines data from various sources (faculty directories, publication lists, OpenURL resolvers, etc.) to look at collaboration trends and publishing patterns. You can search BibApp by topic and also view profiles of researchers. Direct links to institutional repositories are possible, and there are tools for data visualization. In the future, it is hoped that BibApp can be used to look more at collaboration across institutions.

Jan Reichelt, [Mendeley](#)

Mendeley is a combination reference management tool and academic social network. After installing Mendeley and organizing pdfs using groups, tags, filters, and automatically-extracted metadata, a researcher has a searchable database of pdfs. Within Mendeley you can take notes on, comment on, discuss, and share links to the papers. Both public and private groups are possible within Mendeley, and you can see a newsfeed of your research network showing the activity of your collaborators. Through Mendeley you can see what the most popular papers within a discipline are, who is reading/downloading your publications, and what are the trending research topics. As evidence of Mendeley’s popularity, Jan reported that it was recently found to be the third largest OpenURL referrer, above Medline and Scopus.

Michael Warden, [SciVal Suite](#) (Elsevier)

SciVal Experts is a directory of research expertise that uses data from Scopus to create researcher profiles (using both automatic and manual disambiguation of authors). It can be used to identify experts and find collaborators. Another tool, SciVal Funding, extracts and analyzes data about funding opportunities and grant recipients. These data have been used to examine the relationships among funding, research topics, and publications in order to view discrepancies and opportunities.

Ruth Kneale, [FriendFeed](#)

FriendFeed (FF) is an aggregator tool that lets you view multiple social networks in one place. It is useful for crowdsourcing. You can have conversations and pose questions within groups. Ruth shared examples of how FF is being used by librarians, including within the group Library Society of the World.

Kristi Holmes, [VIVO](#)

VIVO is an open-source semantic web application that is currently supported by the National Institutes of Health. VIVO uses verified sources of data, including an institution’s internal data, as well as external data from PubMed, grants databases, etc. Researcher profiles are created, and faculty and administrators can add additional information to the profiles. VIVO can be used to visualize collaborations and map the research efforts of an institution.

Following the presentations a number of interesting questions were raised along the lines of what incentive do researchers have to use the tools, how can the tools be used in non-science fields with different publishing traditions that might not lend themselves to automatic extraction of data, who uses these tools the most, and what sort of copyright issues exist. The panel reported that some researchers are wary of some of these tools due to privacy concerns, and some fear that the tools are being used to assess their research output (despite the tools’ intended use for discovery and collaboration). Administrators tend to have a favorable opinion of the tools that make it easier to keep track of and demonstrate their institution’s research efforts. Mendeley tends to get used more by researchers, since it is integrated within their day-to-day activities of finding and reading papers.

All in all this was an interesting and informative session. Had there been more time, it would have been interesting to hear more on the practical implementation of the tools and on what role librarians could play (implementation, training, publicity, etc.).

Data: The Next Generation - Sci-Tech Division Contributed Papers
Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 12:00-1:30
Summarized by Becky Miller

These papers will be published in [SciTech News](#) and the presentations are now available [online](#).

Christie Peters and Anita Riley (University of Houston) reported on a pilot study they did to assess, through face-to-face interviews, data management needs of (science) researchers at their institution. They found that the researchers were not looking for data storage solutions but were interested in assistance with data management plan (DMP) requirements, understanding the grant proposal process, publication support, and finding data-related services on campus. The librarians found that doing the interviews had a lot of value for them as liaisons, since they got feedback beyond data management issues. Their future plans include initiating conversations with all data service providers on campus, expanding to non-science fields of research, and providing data information literacy training to liaisons first so that data management support becomes a liaison project.

Sarah Oelker (Mount Holyoke College) talked about data management from the perspective of a small liberal arts college by describing her library's experience of being faced with a situation where faculty needed help with a data management plan (DMP). This led the librarians to track down a template and examples, and they eventually developed a DMP website. Their experience led to them reach out to other schools in their 5-college system, then wider on other listservs. They found that there were many resources available and that their experience provided opportunities for collaboration within their college and with colleagues elsewhere.

Andrew Sallans (University of Virginia) spoke about whether DMP advising could be a new business strategy for librarians. He had originally hoped to show that DMP support could lead to financial compensation, but found that that scenario was still in the future. While funding agencies that mandate DMPs expect that it will come at a cost, it is hard to figure out how to account for and calculate the cost. He talked about why the library is an appropriate group to help with data management (neutral, good at relationship-building, service-oriented, knowledgeable about intellectual property). He presented a 3-point service strategy: assessment through data interviews, planning through DMPs, and implementation support. He discussed development of a DMP tool (based on the [DMP Online Tool](#)) that would provide guided preparation for a National Science Foundation DMP. He suggested that, while need for DMP support may taper off once there is an established and widely-used tool, he expects the need for data support and implementation support to remain.

Issues brought up in the question and answer session included the difficulties in dealing with non-standard data (e.g., tissue slides, architecture plans); difficulties in estimating cost; and the challenges of legacy data. Someone raised the point that they had found it more effective to approach individual research groups regarding data literacy / data management rather than to approach whole departments.



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—Outsell, Inc. Insights Report,
September 28, 2010

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From the Medical Section: SLA 2011 Conference Recap and Incoming Medical Section Chair Lisa Chow, Medical Section Chair

The SLA 2011 conference took place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. The conference was within blocks of many attractions such as the Reading Terminal Market, the Liberty Bell, City Hall, and the National Constitution Center, just to name a few.

The Medical Section program, “It’s All Hallway! An Unconference Approach to Professional Development”, featured case studies and best practices of two unconferences: HealthCampNYC, a regional health unconference focused on health literacy and community health, and SLA’s unconference sessions. My fellow panelists (Karen Huffman and Mary Talley) and I spoke to a group of twenty attendees about unconferences, our experiences, and how one can organize one’s own unconference. We also had a mini unconference as a part of the session. Check out the [presentation](#). If you’re interested in organizing an unconference, be sure to also check out the recently published [METRO LibGuide](#).

At the Medical Section business meeting, Amy Donahue was introduced as the incoming Medical Section Chair for 2012. Amy received her MLIS from the University of Washington in June 2007. From 2008-2010 she was an NLM Associate Fellow with projects about disaster information, translational research, EthicShare (an online bioethics community), and librarian involvement in a family medicine student practicum. Amy is now the medical librarian at the brand new Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, Wisconsin. She has been an active member of SLA since 2006 and of MLA since 2008.

At SLA I attended a few interesting sessions on topics such as elevator speeches, design thinking, and “Info-Pro Guerilla Marketing”. Check out my [full conference recap](#).

Medical Library Association Liaison Report Darra Ballance, Liaison to the Medical Library Association

Much content from the Medical Library Association 2011 Annual Conference (May 13-18, Minneapolis, MN) is now online, for example, [synopses of poster sessions](#). Take some time to browse through the posters for some great ideas that you can apply in your own library.

Back in January, I mentioned that if you aren’t interested in, or can’t afford, a membership in MLA, perhaps a membership in one of the regional chapters is for you. On October 5-9, 2011, the Southern Chapter/MLA meeting will be right here in my hometown of Augusta, GA, and my library, the Robert B. Greenblatt MD Library at Georgia Health Sciences University, is the host organization. In 2012 there will be a combined meeting in Baltimore, MD, of the Southern, Mid-Atlantic, Philadelphia Regional, and New York-New Jersey Chapters. Opportunities for learning and networking will abound, so make your travel plans now!

Are you familiar with the [National Network of Libraries of Medicine \(NN/LM\)](#)? Your library can become a Network member in your region for a small fee and receive many benefits, such as continuing education and access to extramural funding from NLM. NN/LM outreach staff may be able to come to your library and present continuing education courses at no cost. Sheila Snow-Croft of the Southeast/Atlantic NN/LM recently presented the course “Grants and Proposal Writing” to our librarians. We received MLA CE credit for this course and enjoyed it thoroughly!

Book Reviews

Photoperiodism: The Biological Calendar

Randy J. Nelson, David L. Denlinger, and David E. Somers, editors

New York: Oxford University Press, 2010

ISBN-13: 9780195335903

Reviewed by Claudia Lascar

P*hotoperiodism: The Biological Calendar* is a multi-authored work that presents the current research on the physiological and behavioral mechanisms used by plants and mammals to adapt to light variations occurring daily and seasonally. The book is divided into three sections, each comprised of seven chapters. Each section begins with an introduction by the section's editor: David E. Somers (Part I), David L. Denlinger (Part II), and Randy J. Nelson (Part III).

Part I: Photoperiodism in Plants and Fungi.

For certain plants, photoperiod exhibits itself in flowering, with a long or short flowering response. In trees, photoperiod has been traditionally connected to growth development, although recent research has shown that flowering is also being controlled by it. The identification of the genes involved in the regulation of flowering and growth responses is underway.

Part II: Photoperiodism in Invertebrates.

Central to the photoperiod in invertebrates is the adaptive advantage, meaning the animals will develop and reproduce in those seasons with favorable conditions of food supply and weather. According to its editor "the content of this invertebrate section is, however, skewed toward insects because it is indeed this taxa that has been exploited most thoroughly for work on photoperiodism" (2010, 169).

Part III: Photoperiodism in Vertebrates

The vertebrates' photoperiod has evolved from plants and invertebrates and is conserved, although in some cases it improves upon these.

In the epilogue, all the editors collaborate on a synthesis of common themes in photoperiodism. They discuss the similarities and differences in approaches to its study and its future directions for research.

There are many books on photoperiodism, but none of them covers simultaneously plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. I think that having this material in the same book is useful for any undergraduate student researching this topic. The introduction to each section provides an historical account of pioneering work done, not only on its designated subject, but also on other related taxa as well. Each chapter summarizes past and present research and experiments. The extensive bibliography and the astute analysis of the editors help increase our understanding of this subject. I recommend this book for purchase for any academic library serving biology students.

The Biogeography of Host-Parasite Interactions
Serge Morand and Boris R. Krasnov, editors
New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
ISBN-13: 9780199561353

Reviewed by Claudia Lascar

According to its distinguished editors, “the first important aim of this book is to provide an overview of recent advances in the investigation of host-parasite relationships in a spatial (and historical) context” (p. 1). .

The Biogeography of Host-Parasite Interactions is divided into five sections, with a total of eighteen chapters, a foreword, an introduction, and a conclusion, and it is written by thirty-eight international experts in the field. The sections are *Historical Biogeography* (Part I), *Ecological Biogeography and Macroecology* (Part II), *Geography of Interactive Populations* (Part III), *Invasion, Insularity, and Interactions* (Part IV), and *Applied Biogeography* (Part V). The book provides a wealth of information in the form of examples, case studies, methods, and a bibliography accompanying each chapter. Advances from phylogenetics, macroecology, geographic information systems, life-history theory, immunoecology, immunogenetics, evolution, landscape epidemiology, community ecology, and evolutionary epidemiology are all presented. The last chapter advocates a marriage between health geography and health ecology, since their approaches complement each other.

I recommend this book to both academic and health libraries since the coverage of the subject matter will attract a broader audience.

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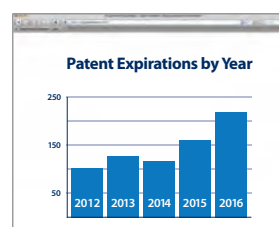
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Member News

Awards

2011 Chair's Award Recipient: Howard Fuller

The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division's Chair's Award is presented annually to a member by the Division Chair. This year, Nancy Dickenson, Division Chair, presented this award and testimonial at the DBIO business meeting in Philadelphia.

Howard Fuller, 2011 Conference Program Planning Chair and longtime SLA/DBIO member, was given the Chair's Award for 2011. He was recognized not only for his many contributions to the division over twenty years, but this year especially for his innovative program ideas and hard work ironing out program details, despite a challenging online planning process. For the first time, SLA honored a DBIO program as a "Spotlight Session", and another was designated as "Need to Know." The Spotlight Session, "Design Thinking," was streamed to online attendees. Both drew members from a range of divisions and increased the visibility of our division across the association.

Howard joined SLA in 1991. He has been Medical Section Chair (2002-2003) and Chair of the Career Guidance and Employment Committee (2007-2009). He has also had stints on the Fund Development and Program Planning Committees. In addition, Howard was co-chair and program chair for the Gay and Lesbian Issues Caucus from 1998-2001.

Currently Director of Library Services for Heald College in San Francisco, Howard has worked at the Stupski Foundation, Stanford University Medical Center, and the American Bar Association. Presenting the award to Howard, Chair Nancy Dickenson said that "Howard was a mentor to me at work at Stanford Health Library, teaching me all I know about being a medical librarian. When I needed someone to serve as program planner, I immediately thought of Howard. I knew I could depend on him to get the job done with energy, creativity, and good humor. I was right."

The certificate Howard received reads:

*For meritorious service in the face of challenge...
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Creativity in the face of redundancy
Patience in the face of uncooperative online planners.*

2011 DBIO Distinguished Member Award Recipient: Tony Stankus

The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division's Distinguished Member Award is given annually by the DBIO Awards Committee to a DBIO member who has demonstrated distinction and exemplary service to the division and the profession. At the DBIO business meeting in Philadelphia, Michele Tennant, Chair of the Awards Committee, presented the 2011 DBIO Distinguished Member award to Tony Stankus, and read the following testimonial.

Tony has served DBIO and the association in numerous capacities over many years. He has served at the chapter level as a member of numerous committees, including as member of the Professional Awards Committee and Program Planning Committee for the Boston Chapter, and on the Student Awards Committee, Program Planning Committee, and as President-elect for the Rhode Island Chapter. For the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division he has served as Director, Secretary, and Blogmaster.

Not only has Tony provided outstanding service to SLA, he is also a recognized scholar, having published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, over 150 scholarly articles and book chapters, and numerous blog posts. Tony has a distinguished record of teaching and mentoring, having received the 2005 SLA association level Vornelker Award "for exceptional service in the area of mentoring students and/or working professionals".

In addition to the Vornelker award, Tony has received the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award from the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Crusader of the Year (an award for alumni from the College of the Holy Cross), and the Special Librarian of the Year award from the Rhode Island chapter in 2007. He was named an SLA Fellow in 2009.

Many of Tony's contributions to SLA have been high-profile, including work with the DBIO *Top 100 Journals* poll and program at the 2009 annual conference and the "So They Say You Have to Publish" program at the conference this year.

Landmark Anniversaries for Division Members

Dorothy Barr, Membership Committee Chair

Current DBIO membership stands at 539.

The following SLA DBIO members celebrated landmark anniversaries of their membership in the Division this year:

50 years

Robert Clarke, Hialeah FL
Marian Wittenberger, Scottsdale AZ

35 years

Jean Crampon, Los Angeles CA
Sara Katsch, Denver CO
Janette Schueller, Seattle WA

20 years

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John Tebo, Cincinnati OH

Congratulations to all these folks on their long-standing membership in the Division!

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